



July 19, 2005

Press Contacts:

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Jenny Manley (202) 224-6404

Appropriations Subcommittee Reports FY 2006 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Spending Bill

WASHINGTON, DC – The Senate Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee today approved the fiscal year 2006 spending bill. This bill provides \$___ billion for military construction activities and \$___ for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Highlights of the bill are below:

FY 2005 Appropriation: \$___ billion

President's FY 2006 Request: \$___ billion

Subcommittee Recommendation: \$___ billion

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION: \$___ billion (___% of the total bill), including:

- \$___ billion for Active Duty construction
- \$___ million for Guard and Reserve construction
- \$___ billion for barracks construction
- \$___ million for hospitals and medical/dental facilities

FAMILY HOUSING: \$___ billion (___% of the total bill), including:

- \$___ billion to fully fund family housing construction and construction improvements, supporting 18 privatization projects and eliminating over ___ inadequate housing units.
- \$___ billion for operation and maintenance of existing units.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: Overall, the bill recommends over \$___ billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). With collections, the bill provides almost \$___ billion. Of this amount, \$___ billion is for mandatory programs and almost \$___ billion (including collections) is for discretionary programs.

- Medical Care – For medical care activities, the bill recommends \$___ billion, with collections (\$___). This level is \$___ over the FY05 level and \$___ billion over the budget request. The bill does not include the proposed fees included in the budget request. The bill also contains a new \$___ million “Prosthetics and integrative Health Care Initiative” to treat returning soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan who have lost limbs in combat.
- Construction – For construction programs, the bill recommends the budget request levels of \$___ million for major construction and \$___ million for minor construction. Of these funds, \$___ million of major construction and \$___ million of minor construction are designated for the “Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services” or CARES program.
- Other highlights include:
 - \$___ million for medical and prosthetic research (+\$___ million over budget request)
 - an additional \$___ for VBA operatin expenses to prevent staff reductions in processing disability claims benefits
 - the budget request level of \$___ million for state home construction

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