

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATION BILL, 2021

BACKGROUND

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies appropriations bill provides necessary funding for the planning, design, construction, alteration, and improvement of military facilities worldwide. It also finances the cost of military family housing and the U.S. share of the NATO Security Investment Program. In addition, the bill provides funding, including environmental remediation, for base closures and realignments authorized by law. The bill provides resources to the Department of Veterans Affairs for veterans benefits and healthcare and funding for U.S. cemeteries and battlefield monuments both in the United States and abroad, including the American Battle Monuments Commission and Arlington National Cemetery. Additionally, the bill funds the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims and the Armed Forces Retirement Homes.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends new budget authority totaling \$272,711,977,650 for fiscal years 2021 and 2022 for military construction, family housing, base closure, and veterans healthcare and benefits, including fiscal year 2022 advance appropriations for veterans medical care and appropriated mandatories, and related agencies. This includes \$151,423,617,552 in mandatory funding and \$121,288,360,098 in discretionary funding, of which \$12,493,988,000 is designated as emergency funding and \$349,762,000 is designated as Overseas Contingency Operations funding. The table at the end of the report displays the Committee recommendation in comparison with the current fiscal year and the President’s fiscal year 2021 request. The following table shows total budget authority available for fiscal year 2021.

APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

	Budget request	Senate recommendation
New budget authority .....	\$269,566,262,098	\$272,711,977,650
Previous advances provided for fiscal year 2021 for medical care .....	87,636,650,000	87,636,650,000
Previous advances provided for fiscal year 2021 for appropriated mandatories .....	130,955,164,000	130,955,164,000
Less advances provided for fiscal year 2022 for medical care .....	– 94,183,260,000	– 94,183,260,000
Less advances provided for fiscal year 2022 for appropriated mandatories .....	– 145,311,218,000	– 145,311,218,000
Total appropriations for fiscal year 2021 .....	248,663,598,098	251,809,313,650

The Committee is aware of the impact the COVID–19 pandemic has had on agency operations across the Federal Government. To date, Congress has provided over \$2,900,000,000,000 in emergency supplemental relief in order to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID–19. The Committee continues to monitor agency needs directly related to COVID–19 and, to the extent necessary, will seek to address them in future supplemental appropriations vehicles. Accordingly, funding recommended in the Committee’s regular fiscal year 2021 appropriations bill is focused on annual funding needs unrelated to the COVID–19 pandemic.

#### OVERVIEW AND SUMMARY OF BILL

The Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies appropriations bill funds an array of programs that are vital to America’s military personnel and their families, and to the Nations’ veterans. For U.S. military forces and their families worldwide, the bill funds critical infrastructure, ranging from mission essential operational and training facilities, such as command and control centers, airfield improvements, and ranges, to key quality-of-life facilities, including barracks, family housing, child care centers, schools, and hospitals.

For America’s 19.2 million veterans, the bill provides the necessary funding for veterans benefits and healthcare, from prescription drugs and clinical services to the construction of hospitals and other medical facilities throughout the Nation.

The bill also funds veterans cemeteries in the United States, as well as four independent agencies—the American Battle Monuments Commission, the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, Arlington National Cemetery, and the Armed Forces Retirement Homes.

TITLE I  
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The fiscal year 2021 budget request for military construction and family housing totals \$7,813,563,000. The Committee recommends \$8,064,000,000, which is \$250,437,000 above the President's budget request.

REPROGRAMMING GUIDELINES

The following reprogramming guidelines apply for all military construction and family housing projects. A project or account (including the sub-elements of an account) which has been specifically reduced by the Congress in acting on the budget request is considered to be a congressional interest item and as such, prior approval is required. Accordingly, no reprogrammings to an item specifically reduced below the threshold by the Congress are permitted.

The reprogramming criteria that apply to military construction projects (25 percent of the funded amount or \$2,000,000, whichever is less) continue to apply to new housing construction projects and to improvements over \$2,000,000. To provide the services the flexibility to proceed with construction contracts without disruption or delay, the costs associated with environmental hazard remediation such as asbestos removal, radon abatement, lead-based paint removal or abatement, and any other legislated environmental hazard remediation may be excluded, provided that such remediation requirements could not be reasonably anticipated at the time of the budget submission. This exclusion applies to projects authorized in this budget year, as well as projects authorized in prior years for which construction has not been completed.

Furthermore, in instances where prior approval of a reprogramming request for a project or account has been received from the Committee, the adjusted amount approved becomes the new base for any future increase or decrease via below-threshold reprogrammings (provided that the project or account is not a congressional interest item as defined above).

In addition to these guidelines, the services are directed to adhere to the guidance for military construction reprogrammings and notifications, including the pertinent statutory authorities contained in Department of Defense [DoD] Financial Management Regulation 7000.14-R and relevant updates and policy memoranda.

REAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

The Committee recommends a continuation of the following general rules for repairing a facility under "Operation and Maintenance" account funding:

- Components of the facility may be repaired by replacement, and such replacement may be up to current standards or code.
- Interior arrangements and restorations may be included as repair, but additions and new facilities must be performed as military construction projects.
- Such projects may be done concurrent with repair projects, as long as the final conjunctively funded project is a complete and usable facility.
- The appropriate Service Secretary shall submit a 21-day notification prior to carrying out any repair project with an estimated cost in excess of \$7,500,000.

The Department is directed to continue to report on the real property maintenance backlog at all installations for which there is a requested construction project in future budget requests. This information is to be provided on the form 1390. In addition, for all troop housing requests, the form 1391 is to continue to show all real property maintenance conducted in the past 2 years and all future requirements for unaccompanied housing at that installation.

#### INCREMENTAL FUNDING

In general, the Committee supports full funding for military construction projects. However, it continues to be the practice of the Committee to provide incremental funding for certain large projects, despite administration policy to the contrary, to enable the services to more efficiently allocate military construction dollars among projects that can be executed in the year of appropriation. Therefore, the Committee has recommended incremental funding for five projects.

#### OTHER MATTERS

*Military Construction Funding.*—The Committee is disappointed that military construction requests continue to lack the level of investment needed to ensure both current and future force readiness. The fiscal year 2021 military construction budget fails to request adequate funding and in fact is \$3.4 billion less than the anemic fiscal year 2020 request, including reductions of more than fifty percent to the Army and Air Force military construction accounts. The Committee understands that limited resources and competing priorities often result in decisions that underfund infrastructure projects; however, decisions resulting in the continued underfunding of infrastructure will result in disastrous outcomes as facilities deteriorate and resources for repair or replacement are not available. Additionally, major acquisition programs that ignore infrastructure requirements will put further strain on inadequately equipped and aging facilities which are foundational to force readiness. DoD owns and operates a facility and real estate portfolio of over 550,000 facilities on more than 5,000 sites worldwide with a combined plant replacement value greater than \$1 trillion, yet this year's request is less than 1.2 percent of the Department's total request.

Combined with the long list of deferred recapitalization projects, the increased complexity of facilities needed to support today's weapons systems are putting further strain on the budget. Buildings today are more complex in design and function than tradi-

tional construction projects. The Committee is concerned that reversing years of underfunding while simultaneously trying to accommodate the initiatives needed to provide ready and resilient installations that enable a platform for global operations is not viable without additional investment. Further, the Department is preparing to program several large and expensive recapitalization projects, which could cannibalize the entire military construction program if additional resources are not sought. As demand outpaces funding, the list of legitimate but unaffordable construction projects will continue to grow. The Committee urges the Secretary of Defense and Service Secretaries to ensure adequate funding for military construction in its planning, programming, and budgeting processes.

*Strategic Construction in the Indo-Pacific Region.*—The Committee continues to believe that military construction can be a strategic asset to enhance posture and deter near-peer competitors. Furthermore, the Committee supports efforts to execute emergent requirements and accelerate construction investments in the Indo-Pacific Command [INDOPACOM] region. The Committee also believes there can be a significant return on investment for small dollar, dual use infrastructure that supports joint and multilateral exercises and enables power projection, particularly in the Western Pacific, and encourages INDOPACOM to continue to align these resources accordingly. Therefore, the Committee provides \$10,000,000 in planning and design for projects in INDOPACOM that support National Defense Strategy objectives to sustain joint force military advantages and deter adversaries from aggression against our national interest, and encourages the Department to leverage existing authorities to enable rapid execution of emergent requirements.

*Military Installation Resilience.*—The Committee continues to support efforts to improve the resilience of military installations, pursuant to definitions under 10 U.S.C. 2801 and in support of installation master plan development, especially to reduce the requirements for new military construction following a natural disaster. As such, the Committee encourages installations to develop plans that take into account current and future risks from extreme weather and severe changes in environmental conditions. Additionally, the Committee directs the Department to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Naval Facilities Engineering Command to incorporate military installation resilience best practices into master planning institute curriculum development. The Committee believes that each of the services should prioritize and commit funding to projects that improve the resilience of military installations and their missions, and notes the need to ensure that infrastructure and facilities remain operational against natural and manmade threats. The Committee believes such investments are critical to installation readiness and therefore provides \$4,000,000 in planning and design funding for the Army and Air Force, and \$7,000,000 in planning and design funding for the Navy and Marine Corps to continue to develop projects, conduct studies and analyses, and update Unified Facilities Criteria, that will directly enhance military installation resilience.

*Defense Access Roads.*—The Committee continues to encourage DoD and the Department of Transportation to use its authorities

under the Defense Access Roads program to enhance military installation resilience by protecting roadways that are critical to the national defense from all hazards. The Committee notes that this includes authorities provided in the fiscal year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (Public Law 116–92) that allow for prioritization of the reconstruction or enhancement of, or improvements to, those roads to ensure the continued effective use of the roads, regardless of current or projected increases in mean tides, recurrent flooding, or other weather-related conditions or natural disasters; and the replacement of existing highways and highway connections that are shut off from general public use by necessary closures, closures due to mean sea level fluctuation and flooding. Not later than 90 days after enactment of this act, the Committee directs each of the Service Secretaries concerned to certify and provide the guidance available to installation commanders explaining how to assess defense access road deficiencies described in section 2808 of Public Law 116–92 and the process for sponsoring projects to address these deficiencies. The Committee expects the military services to ensure installation commanders are appropriately prioritizing projects for sponsorship that mitigate risks to defense access roads with preventive intervention.

*Child Development Centers.*—The Committee recognizes the importance that access to childcare plays in improving quality of life for servicemembers and their families. As of June 2020, the Department identified a requirement for 124 unfunded child development centers across the United States. In order to begin to address the significant capacity shortfall, the bill provides nearly \$200,000,000 for construction of unfunded child development centers, as appropriated in Sections 124 and 131. Additionally, the Committee is aware that childcare access shortfalls sometimes require collaboration across multiple military departments, as in the case of tenant commands, to appropriately identify gaps and requirements. The Committee encourages the Services to coordinate and work together when individual processes leave out units due to tenant relationships, to ensure all childcare requirements are identified.

*Pacific Training Lands.*—The Committee recognizes the importance of State of Hawaii-leased lands to DoD’s training mission in the Pacific. The Committee is also aware that, as early as 2029, DoD leases to State of Hawaii lands will expire and that the military services are in active discussions with the State about opportunities to retain access to these lands for continued joint and combined force training. The Committee recommends that DoD consider taking a broad and comprehensive approach, potentially through a joint program office, to negotiating new arrangements with the State of Hawaii that recognizes and prioritizes the State’s unique cultural, historical, and environmental needs, and the specific interests of the Native Hawaiian community. The Committee believes that coordinating negotiations across the services will help DoD implement a common approach and engage in consistent outreach with state and community leaders in a manner that ensures that stakeholder interests are uniformly represented in any land retention agreements reached between the military services and the State of Hawaii.

*Fire and Emergency Services.*—The Committee remains concerned about the state of infrastructure supporting fire and emergency services. While funds have been dedicated to improve and upgrade fire and emergency vehicles, the same attention has not been given to the buildings that hold them. For example, the fire trucks at Kingsville Naval Air Station have been upgraded and are now ten feet too long for the fire building. Similarly, Naval Station Bethesda operates a fire station built more than 70 years ago that cannot accommodate modern vehicles and will be rendered unusable without new fire suppression systems. Other installations, such as Grand Forks Air Force Base, require additional fire stations to provide full firefighting capability for the entire base, especially the outskirts and furthest edges of runways. The Committee urges the Services to adequately prioritize projects that support fire protection emergency services and, where possible, leverage local community and private sector partnerships that can augment fire and emergency services capacity and capabilities.

*Federal, State and Local Intelligence Collaboration.*—Several states utilize National Guard Bureau [NGB] facilities for intelligence analysis and fusion centers. As previously indicated in Senate Report 115–130 and Senate Report 115–269, the Committee remains supportive of such collaborative co-location projects, particularly as it relates to the NGB’s Joint Force Headquarters Analysis Cells concept. The Committee urges the Department and the NGB to prioritize needed workplace replacement projects, including Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility projects to conduct State and Federal intelligence analysis, in the fiscal year 2022 and future budget submissions.

*Additive Manufacturing and Ultra-High Performance Concrete.*—The Committee is aware of the promise of additive manufacturing’s potential to rapidly produce customized, sustainable lightweight materials and parts to meet the infrastructure needs of the Department while significantly reducing delivery time, transportation and storage. The Committee supports the Department’s collaboration with federally designated research universities to accelerate research investments and collaborate across academia and industry to develop additive manufacturing techniques and processes, in particular Ultra-High-Performance Concrete, to help create resilient and sustainable installations.

*Military Construction Funding Initiatives.*—The bill includes funding to address important unfunded priorities included in DoD’s unfunded priority lists provided to Congress. This includes an additional \$240,000,000 for the Army, \$94,900,000 for the Navy and Marine Corps, \$95,700,000 for the Air Force, \$35,500,000 for Defense-Wide, \$49,835,000 for the Army National Guard, \$29,500,000 for the Air National Guard, \$2,500,000 for the Army Reserve, \$12,800,000 for the Navy Reserve, and \$25,000,000 for the Air Force Reserve. All additional funding is reserved for projects that were included in the unfunded priority lists submitted to Congress.

*Rescissions.*—The Committee recommends an administrative provision rescinding prior year unobligated funds due to cancelled projects or those rendered extraneous due to the decision to relocate command elements of Marine Corps Special Operations Command. Additionally, to provide the Defense Health Agency avail-

able funding to complete previously authorized and funded projects necessary to improve bio-defense laboratory capabilities, the bill includes Section 132 that would rescind and re-appropriate available Defense-Wide funding.

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION OVERVIEW

Appropriations, 2020 <sup>1</sup> .....	\$8,799,344,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	6,462,171,000
Committee recommendation .....	6,146,486,000

<sup>1</sup> Excludes \$6,228,675,000 in emergency funds provided in title V of division F of Public Law 116-94.

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION ACCOUNTS—PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The military construction appropriation provides for acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for the Department of Defense. This appropriation also provides for facilities required as well as funds for infrastructure projects and programs required to support bases and installations around the world.

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

Appropriations, 2020 .....	\$1,178,499,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	650,336,000
Committee recommendation .....	650,336,000

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$650,336,000 for the Army for fiscal year 2021. This amount is \$528,163,000 below the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and equal to the budget request. Further detail of the Committee's recommendation is provided in the State table at the end of this report.

*Pacific Firefighting Support.*—The Committee remains concerned about the conditions of firefighting facilities from which Federal firefighters, Army Forestry Technicians, Army Wildland Firefighters and Emergency Service Technicians work to support military installations in the State of Hawaii, including training that is important to military readiness. In particular, the Committee is aware that the substandard condition of a facility designated and built by Federal employees as a temporary firehouse facility for the U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii Directorate of Emergency Services, Fire and Emergency Services Division on Oahu poses a risk to training and readiness for U.S. Army Hawaii. Within 90 days of enactment of this act, the Secretary of the Army shall provide the Committee with a plan to replace the current facility with a permanent firehouse station facility, including the timeline and projected costs. The plan shall also include an interim solution to address the substandard working conditions of the above-referenced Federal employees until a permanent firehouse station facility is constructed, including any necessary actions required to address recruitment and retention of fire, forestry, wildland and emergency service staff.

*Mobilization Force Generation Installations.*—The Committee appreciates the information provided in the Army's report "Rapid De-



ployment Requirements—Rail and Transportation Logistics Infrastructure” but remains concerned that installations with major deployment missions, including Mobilization Force Generation Installations, still lack sufficient logistics infrastructure to support rapid deployment requirements. For example, Fort Bliss has only one railhead connection point for its deployment and redeployment activities. Mobility is a critical enabler to force projection and Army readiness and the Committee urges the Army to prioritize rail and transport infrastructure in its fiscal year 2022–2026 future years defense program.

*Tactical Equipment Maintenance Facilities.*—The Committee is concerned that existing tactical equipment maintenance facilities are not sufficient to support maintenance and readiness operations of a modern combined arms armored battalion. Some installations have outdated vehicle maintenance facilities that were built for different types of equipment and unit configurations, are severely undersized, and lack needed electrical and communication support. The Committee urges the Army to plan and program sufficient funding to address maintenance facility shortfalls in its fiscal year 2022–2026 future years defense program.

*Range Expansion.*—The Committee is concerned that the Army lacks adequate testing and range space to test new long-range precision fires. The Army is currently in discussions with Yuma Proving Grounds to expand the range and its airspace to provide additional capability to test new increased range and capacity fires. The Committee encourages the Army to continue this planning and provide necessary resources in future budgets to support this expansion.

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

Appropriations, 2020 <sup>1</sup> .....	\$2,449,632,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	1,975,606,000
Committee recommendation .....	1,754,436,000

<sup>1</sup> Excludes \$3,477,000,000 in emergency funds provided in title V of division F of Public Law 116–94.

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$1,754,436,000 for Navy and Marine Corps military construction for fiscal year 2021. This amount is \$695,196,000 below the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and \$221,170,000 below the budget request. Further detail of the Committee’s recommendation is provided in the State table at the end of this report.

*Naval Shipyard Modernization.*—The Committee supports the Department’s Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Plan [SIOP]. The Committee continues to believe the Navy’s assessment of public shipyard dry dock capacity is particularly important, as it identifies 68 deferred maintenance availabilities under the status quo, 67 of which are restored upon making the public shipyard dry dock investments within the timeframe recommended by the plan. Accordingly, the Secretary of the Navy is urged to prioritize the timely funding of public shipyard infrastructure, and in particular dry dock and shore infrastructure necessary to support critical maintenance of surface and submarine fleets by public shipyards.

*Planning and Design.*—The Committee previously expressed its concern that the Navy’s process to identify, plan, and budget for requirements to provide adequate shore facilities and infrastructure to support the deployment of new weapons systems is flawed. The late addition of large scale and high cost infrastructure harms not only the successfulness of the late to need project, but the entire program as existing resources are re-prioritized to support late adds. The Committee appreciates that fact of life changes and unforeseen circumstances can cause valid disruptions to the program, but remains frustrated at the lack of planning and wherewithal to appropriately program multibillion dollar projects and communicate effectively with the Committees of jurisdiction. The Committee is supportive of the Pearl Harbor dry dock replacement project and therefore provides an additional \$45,000,000 in planning and design to begin critical path design efforts, and encourages the Department to work with and, where necessary, educate stakeholders on military construction to ensure success to future projects, program offices and the overall military construction program.

*Entry Control Points.*—The Committee is aware that the Navy has military installations with entry control points that do not meet current design standards. Some installations have Pass/Identification offices inside their perimeters, posing a significant security challenge and allowing visitors to pass the security perimeter without validation of their credentials. The Committee encourages the Navy to prioritize force protection projects, including access control points, within its construction program and to utilize unspecified minor construction, where appropriate, to improve force protection capabilities.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

Appropriations, 2020 <sup>1</sup> .....	\$1,687,230,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	767,132,000
Committee recommendation .....	716,799,000

<sup>1</sup>Excludes \$2,605,200,000 in emergency funds provided in title V of division F of Public Law 116–94.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$716,799,000 for the Air Force in fiscal year 2021. This amount is \$970,431,000 below the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and \$50,333,000 below the budget request. Further detail of the Committee’s recommendation is provided in the State table at the end of this report.

*Ground Based Strategic Deterrence.*—As part of its fiscal year 2021 budget submission, the Air Force provided the congressional defense committees with a legislative proposal to carry out the activities associated with the recapitalization of the Nation’s ground based nuclear missile systems. The legislative proposal for ground based strategic deterrence [GBSD] as envisioned would allow for the use of research, development, test and evaluation [RDT&E] funding for planning and design activities, and would utilize procurement funding to replace the existing launch control and launch facilities both in lieu of military construction funding. The Committee appreciates the enormous undertaking required to execute

the GBSD program, which entails replacement of the Minuteman missile fleet, and replacement of 450 launch facility sites and 45 launch center sites across five states. While supportive of the plan to date, the Committee does not support the legislative proposal at this time.

While the Committee recognizes that there could be schedule risk in using a traditional military construction approach, the Committee believes that the legislative proposal is not the only option and encourages the Air Force to continue to evaluate and present suggestions to adjust current military construction regulations to improve the program. For example, the Committee supports efforts to group projects, whether by installation, air wing, or other grouping, and expects the Air Force to designate a way forward for ease of management and execution. The Committee also supports efforts to utilize an approach where the single prime vendor may be designated to execute military construction projects in coordination with the Army Corps of Engineers. Due to the scale of this endeavor and the importance of maintaining our nuclear deterrence, the Secretary of the Air Force shall designate a senior leader to plan, coordinate and execute the military construction, RDT&E, and procurement functions with the ability to impact each appropriation as needed. Finally, the Secretary of the Air Force is directed to submit to the congressional defense committees not later than 180 days after enactment of this act a detailed report outlining the replacement plan for the launch control and launch facilities while maintaining the required readiness posture.

*Air Force Space Situational Awareness.*—The Committee notes the importance of the Air Force's space tracking mission on Maui, which provides a critical capability to tracking, identifying, and characterizing space objects of interest. The Committee is aware that the Air Force plans to begin consolidating its mission support activities from rented space to permanent construction in Kihei, Maui. This proposed permanent facility construction would meet Air Force mission needs, increase anti-terrorism and force protection, and align with the Air Force's obligation of fiscal year 2020 planning and design funds for a consolidated presence in west Maui. Not later than 90 days after enactment of this act, the Committee directs the Air Force to submit a report to the congressional defense committees describing its current approach, timeline, and budgetary needs to support this consolidation effort; an explanation of how the proposed consolidation preserves the Air Force space tracking mission on Maui; a notional plan outlining the Air Force's expected community engagement and outreach with state and county stakeholders to ensure adequate protection of historical, cultural, and environmental resources; and an assessment of how the planned consolidation complements existing or planned Department of Air Force and DoD activities on Maui and in the State of Hawaii.

*Weapons Generation Facilities.*—The Committee continues to recognize the importance of the Weapons Generation Facility [WGF] modernization program but is concerned that execution delays and cost overruns continue to impact the schedule of future projects. The Committee directs the Department to continue to provide quarterly updates on projects associated with the WGF modernization

program, including the status of planning and estimated timelines for projects not yet in the design phase.

*Air Education and Training Command.*—The Air Education and Training Command [AETC] plays a critical role in training the Air Force’s new Airmen and next generation of leaders. To accomplish its missions, the AETC needs adequate facilities, including dormitories, classrooms, dining halls, flight simulators, and medical units. The Committee is aware that critical projects remain unfunded at several AETC installations and recommends that the Air Force prioritize needed AETC projects in future budget submissions.

*Security Gates.*—The Committee remains concerned about deficient security gates at Air Force Global Strike Command installations, particularly as the Air Force plans to make significant investments in strategic weapons systems and weapons generation facilities at these bases. The Committee urges the Air Force to plan and program sufficient funding to address security gate deficiencies at these installations in its fiscal year 2022–2026 future years defense program.

*Tinian Development Program.*—The Committee supports the Air Force’s Tinian Divert Infrastructure Improvements program and has recommended funding in line with work in progress curves. At the same time, the Committee remains concerned with how the Air Force is anticipating and addressing construction market conditions, particularly related to access to a reliable skilled workforce, accessibility of remote work sites, availability of materials, and other factors that will impact schedule and cost. The Committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a briefing on steps taken to attract workforce, account for unique market conditions, ensure reliable access to construction sites and otherwise limit mobilization costs, and any other relevant steps taken no later than 90 days after enactment of this act.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2020 <sup>1</sup> .....	\$2,362,529,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	2,027,520,000
Committee recommendation .....	1,968,338,000

<sup>1</sup> Excludes \$77,175,000 in emergency funds provided in title V of division F of Public Law 116–94.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$1,968,338,000 for projects considered within the Defense-Wide account in fiscal year 2021. This amount is \$394,191,000 below the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and \$59,182,000 below the budget request. Further detail of the Committee’s recommendation is provided in the State table at the end of this report.

*Hawaii Defense Radar.*—The Committee continues to support the Homeland Defense Radar-Hawaii [HDR–H] and recognizes its importance to protecting Hawaii and the continental United States from current and future missile threats. The Committee is also aware that the radar is necessary to the Missile Defense Agency’s

[MDA] layered defense for the Indo-Pacific region and as such appropriated planning and design funds in fiscal years 2019 and 2020 for the project. MDA subsequently programmed \$23,900,000 of these funds for this purpose. However, the Committee remains concerned that MDA has not made sufficient and timely progress in its environmental review of potential locations to site HDR–H which has led to delays in the military construction elements of the program. The Committee is specifically concerned about the lack of information about the candidacy of the Pacific Missile Range Facility [PMRF] on the island of Kauai as an alternative site, including Department of the Navy [DON] concerns about potentially locating the radar at this training range. The Committee directs the Director of MDA to submit a report to the congressional defense committees not later than 30 days after the enactment of this act regarding the viability of PMRF as an alternative site for HDR–H. The report shall include the following:

- An explanation of how MDA is coordinating with DON to validate PMRF as an alternative site, including an assessment of how placement of a radar will interact with training range operations at PMRF;
- An explanation of how MDA is coordinating with local stakeholders to validate that siting of a radar at PMRF will not create risks to community interests, including environmental and cultural resources, and critical infrastructure;
- A certification that the Secretary of the Navy supports inclusion of PMRF as an alternative site for HDR–H, notwithstanding unknown limitations that cannot be reasonably evaluated without completion of a full environmental review;
- An assessment, based on the public comments received to date, of the community’s response to the revised MDA environmental impact statement that includes PMRF as an alternative site; and
- An estimated timeline for completion of the HDR–H environmental review and issuance of a record of decision.

*Energy Resilience and Conservation Investment Program [ERCIP].*—The Committee supports DoD’s investments in energy efficiency, renewable energy systems, and energy security, including through ERCIP, however, the Committee is concerned that funding requested for the program has not increased since fiscal year 2014 and decreased in this year’s request. Therefore, the Committee recommends an increase of \$60,818,000 above the request for ERCIP and encourages the Department to prioritize funding for energy-related projects, including renewable energy projects, to mitigate risk to mission-critical assets and promote energy security and efficiency at military installations.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Appropriations, 2020 <sup>1</sup> .....	\$210,819,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	321,437,000
Committee recommendation .....	321,437,000

<sup>1</sup>Excludes \$66,000,000 in emergency funds provided in title V of division F of Public Law 116–94.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$321,437,000 for Military Construction, Army National Guard for fiscal year 2021. This amount is \$110,618,000 above the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and equal to the budget request. Further detail of the Committee’s recommendation is provided in the State table at the end of this report.

*Army National Guard Readiness Centers.*—Facilities that fail to meet modern safety and security standards, contain hazardous materials, and do not account for the needs of soldiers in the modern Army, particularly female soldiers, are an obstacle to training, readiness, recruitment and retention. The Committee directs the Army to maintain the pace of readiness center replacement as submitted in its fiscal year 2020 future years defense plan for the Army National Guard.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Appropriations, 2020 .....	\$164,471,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	64,214,000
Committee recommendation .....	64,214,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$64,214,000 for Military Construction, Air National Guard for fiscal year 2021. This amount is \$100,257,000 below the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and equal to the budget request. Further detail of the Committee’s recommendation is provided in the State table at the end of this report.

*Corrosion Control Facilities.*—The Committee is concerned about dual use fuel cell maintenance and corrosion control facilities supporting both Active and Guard requirements. While it is sometimes optimal to share facilities and reduce resources, sometimes these arrangements do not adequately meet the needs of all stakeholders. For example, at Little Rock Air Force Base, corrosion control and fuel cell maintenance supporting Guard activities is being accomplished with the shared use of active duty host owned facilities on a space available basis, making it difficult to schedule and accomplish required maintenance actions. Continued maintenance delays can negatively impact readiness and mission accomplishment and requirements will only increase as mission sets continue to grow. Therefore, the Committee expects the Air Force and Air National Guard leadership to prioritize facilities for fuel systems maintenance and corrosion control to adequately support Guard requirements in future budget requests.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY RESERVE

Appropriations, 2020 <sup>1</sup> .....	\$60,928,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	88,337,000
Committee recommendation .....	88,337,000

<sup>1</sup> Excludes \$3,300,000 in emergency funds provided in title V of division F of Public Law 116-94.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$88,337,000 for Military Construction, Army Reserve for fiscal year 2021. This amount is

\$27,409,000 above the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and equal to the budget request. Further detail of the Committee's recommendation is provided in the State table at the end of this report.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY RESERVE

Appropriations, 2020 .....	\$54,955,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	70,995,000
Committee recommendation .....	70,995,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$70,995,000 for Military Construction, Navy Reserve for fiscal year 2021. This amount is \$16,040,000 above the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and equal to the budget request. Further detail of the Committee's recommendation is provided in the State table at the end of this report.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE RESERVE

Appropriations, 2020 .....	\$59,750,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	23,117,000
Committee recommendation .....	23,117,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$23,117,000 for Military Construction, Air Force Reserve for fiscal year 2021. This amount is \$36,633,000 below the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and equal to the budget request. Further detail of the Committee's recommendation is provided in the State table at the end of this report.

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

SECURITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM

Appropriations, 2020 .....	\$172,005,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	173,030,000
Committee recommendation .....	173,030,000

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization [NATO] appropriation provides for the U.S. cost share of the NATO Security Investment Program for the acquisition and construction of military facilities and installations (including international military headquarters) and for related expenses for the collective defense of the NATO Treaty area.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$173,030,000 for the NATO Security Investment Program for fiscal year 2021. This amount is \$1,025,000 above the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE ACCOUNT

Appropriations, 2020 .....	\$398,526,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	300,447,000
Committee recommendation .....	315,447,000

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Section 2711 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 112–239) consolidated the Base Closure Account 1990 and the Base Closure Account 2005 into a single Department of Defense Base Closure Account. The Base Closure Account provides for cleanup and disposal of property consistent with the four closure rounds required by the base closure acts of 1988 and 1990, and with the 2005 closure round required by the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10 U.S.C. 2687 note).

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends a total of \$315,447,000 for the Department of Defense Base Closure Account for fiscal year 2021. This amount is \$83,079,000 below the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and \$15,000,000 above the budget request. Funds provided for fiscal year 2021 are for environmental cleanup and ongoing operations and maintenance.

*Perfluorooctane Sulfonate [PFOS] and Perfluorooctanoic Acid [PFOA].*—The Committee provides \$7,500,000 in additional funds for identification, mitigation, and clean-up costs across DoD for PFOS and PFOA. DoD is directed to provide a spend plan for these additional funds to the Committee no later than 30 days after enactment of this act.

*Additional Support for Remedial Activities.*—The Committee recognizes that the services have active costs associated with caretaking, environmental clean-up, property management, and other ongoing remedial actions at dozens of realigned or closed installations. Understanding that funding requested in fiscal year 2021 does not fully cover the known requirements and that limited prior-year carryover, particularly for the Army, has reduced flexibility in recent years, the Committee provides \$7,500,000 to carry out additional activities under the services’ Base Closure Accounts. The Committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Service Secretaries, to provide a spend plan for these additional funds to the Committee no later than 30 days after enactment of this act.

FAMILY HOUSING OVERVIEW

Appropriations, 2020 .....	\$1,324,002,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	1,351,392,000
Committee recommendation .....	1,324,392,000

FAMILY HOUSING ACCOUNTS—PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Family Housing appropriation provides funds for military family housing construction activities, operation and maintenance, the Family Housing Improvement Fund, and the Homeowners Assistance Program. Construction accounts provide funding for new construction, improvements and the Federal Government share of housing privatization. Operation and maintenance accounts fund costs associated with the maintenance and leasing of military family housing, including utilities, services, management, and furnishings.



COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$1,324,392,000 for Family Housing Construction, Operations and Maintenance, and the Department's family housing improvement fund for fiscal year 2021. This amount is \$390,000 above the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and \$27,000,000 below the budget request.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

Appropriations, 2020 .....	\$141,372,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	119,400,000
Committee recommendation .....	119,400,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$119,400,000 for Army Family Housing Construction in fiscal year 2021. This amount is \$21,972,000 below the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and equal to the budget request. Further detail of the Committee's recommendation is provided in the State table at the end of this report.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY

Appropriations, 2020 .....	\$357,907,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	367,142,000
Committee recommendation .....	340,142,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$340,142,000 for family housing operation and maintenance, Army, for fiscal year 2021. This amount is \$17,765,000 below the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and \$27,000,000 below the budget request. This funding level is below the budget request because costs associated with renovation of General Officer Quarters at Fort McNair were determined to be potentially excess to need, and the Committee is awaiting an Army review of maintenance and repair plans for senior officer housing at the installation.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

Appropriations, 2020 .....	\$47,661,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	42,897,000
Committee recommendation .....	42,897,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$42,897,000 for Family Housing Construction, Navy and Marine Corps. This amount is \$4,764,000 below the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and equal to the budget request. Further detail of the Committee's recommendation is provided in the State table at the end of this report.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

Appropriations, 2020 .....	\$317,870,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	346,493,000
Committee recommendation .....	346,493,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$346,493,000 for family housing operation and maintenance, Navy and Marine Corps, in fiscal year 2021. This amount is \$28,623,000 above the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

Appropriations, 2020 .....	\$103,631,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	97,214,000
Committee recommendation .....	97,214,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$97,214,000 for Family Housing Construction, Air Force, in fiscal year 2021. This amount is \$6,417,000 below the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and equal to the budget request. Further detail of the Committee’s recommendation is provided in the State table at the end of this report.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE

Appropriations, 2020 .....	\$295,016,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	317,021,000
Committee recommendation .....	317,021,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$317,021,000 for family housing operation and maintenance, Air Force, in fiscal year 2021. This amount is \$22,005,000 above the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE

Appropriations, 2020 .....	\$57,000,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	54,728,000
Committee recommendation .....	54,728,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$54,728,000 for family housing operation and maintenance, Defense-Wide, for fiscal year 2021. This amount is \$2,272,000 below the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FAMILY HOUSING IMPROVEMENT FUND

Appropriations, 2020 .....	\$3,045,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	5,897,000
Committee recommendation .....	5,897,000

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Family Housing Improvement Fund appropriation provides for the Department of Defense to undertake housing initiatives and to provide an alternative means of acquiring and improving military family housing and supporting facilities. This account provides seed money for housing privatization initiatives.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$5,897,000 for the Family Housing Improvement Fund in fiscal year 2021. This amount is \$2,852,000 above the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MILITARY UNACCOMPANIED HOUSING  
IMPROVEMENT FUND

Appropriations, 2020 .....	\$500,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	600,000
Committee recommendation .....	600,000

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Military Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund appropriation provides for the Department of Defense to undertake housing initiatives and to provide an alternative means of acquiring and improving military unaccompanied housing and supporting facilities. This account provides seed money for housing privatization initiatives.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$600,000 for the Military Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund in fiscal year 2021. This amount is \$100,000 above the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

Sec. 101. The Committee includes a provision that restricts payments under a cost-plus-a-fixed-fee contract for work, except in cases of contracts for environmental restoration at base closure sites.

Sec. 102. The Committee includes a provision that permits the use of funds for the hire of passenger motor vehicles.

Sec. 103. The Committee includes a provision that permits the use of funds for defense access roads.

Sec. 104. The Committee includes a provision that prohibits construction of new bases inside the continental United States for which specific appropriations have not been made.

Sec. 105. The Committee includes a provision that limits the use of funds for purchase of land or land easements.

Sec. 106. The Committee includes a provision that prohibits the use of funds to acquire land, prepare a site, or install utilities for any family housing except housing for which funds have been made available.

Sec. 107. The Committee includes a provision that limits the use of minor construction funds to transfer or relocate activities among installations.

Sec. 108. The Committee includes a provision that prohibits the procurement of steel unless American producers, fabricators, and manufacturers have been allowed to compete.

Sec. 109. The Committee includes a provision that prohibits payments of real property taxes in foreign nations.

Sec. 110. The Committee includes a provision that prohibits construction of new bases overseas without prior notification.

Sec. 111. The Committee includes a provision that establishes a threshold for American preference of \$500,000 relating to architect and engineering services for overseas projects.

Sec. 112. The Committee includes a provision that establishes preference for American contractors for military construction in the United States territories and possessions in the Pacific, and on Kwajalein Atoll, or in countries bordering the Arabian Gulf.

Sec. 113. The Committee includes a provision that requires notification of military exercises involving construction in excess of \$100,000.

Sec. 114. The Committee includes a provision that permits funds appropriated in prior years to be available for construction authorized during the current session of Congress.

Sec. 115. The Committee includes a provision that permits the use of expired or lapsed funds to pay the cost of supervision for any project being completed with lapsed funds.

Sec. 116. The Committee includes a provision that permits obligation of funds from more than one fiscal year to execute a construction project, provided that the total obligation for such project is consistent with the total amount appropriated for the project.

Sec. 117. The Committee includes a provision that permits the transfer of funds from Family Housing Construction accounts to the DoD Family Housing Improvement Fund and from Military Construction accounts to the DoD Military Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund.

Sec. 118. The Committee includes a provision that provides transfer authority to the Homeowners Assistance Fund.

Sec. 119. The Committee includes a provision that requires all acts making appropriations for military construction be the sole funding source of all operation and maintenance for family housing, including flag and general officer quarters, and limits the repair on flag and general officer quarters to \$35,000 per unit per year without prior notification to the congressional defense committees.

Sec. 120. The Committee includes a provision that provides authority to expend funds from the "Ford Island Improvement" account.

Sec. 121. The Committee includes a provision that allows the transfer of expired funds to the Foreign Currency Fluctuation, Construction, Defense Account.

Sec. 122. The Committee includes a provision that allows the reprogramming of military construction and family housing construction funds among projects and activities within the account in which they are funded.

Sec. 123. The Committee includes a provision that prohibits the use of funds in this title for planning and design and construction of projects at Arlington National Cemetery.

Sec. 124. The Committee includes a provision providing additional funds for unfunded military construction priorities.

Sec. 125. The Committee includes a provision rescinding unobligated balances from various Military Construction accounts.

Sec. 126. The Committee includes a provision defining the congressional defense committees.

Sec. 127. The Committee includes a provision prohibiting the use of funds in this title to close or realign Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The provision is intended to prevent the closure or transfer of the installation out of the possession of the United States, and maintain the Naval Station's long-standing regional security and migrant operations missions.

Sec. 128. The Committee includes a provision regarding the consolidation or relocation of a U.S. Air Force RED HORSE Squadron outside of the United States.

Sec. 129. The Committee includes a provision directing all amounts appropriated to military construction accounts be immediately available and allotted for the full scope of authorized projects.

Sec. 130. The Committee includes a provision providing additional funding for Military Installation Resilience.

Sec. 131. The Committee includes a provision providing additional funding for child development center construction.

Sec. 132. The Committee includes a provision rescinding and re-appropriating available funding from the Defense-Wide construction account to make necessary funding available for previously authorized and appropriated Defense Health Agency projects.

## TITLE II

### DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

#### SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommendation includes \$243,119,951,650 for the Department of Veterans Affairs [VA] for fiscal year 2021, including \$138,730,563,552 in mandatory spending and \$104,389,388,098 in discretionary spending, of which \$12,493,988,000 is designated as emergency spending. The Committee also recommends \$94,183,260,000 in advance appropriations for veterans medical care for fiscal year 2022 and \$145,311,218,000 in advance appropriations for appropriated mandatories for fiscal year 2022.

#### DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Veterans Administration was established on July 21, 1930, as an independent agency by Executive Order 5398, in accordance with the act of July 3, 1930 (46 Stat. 1016). This act authorized the President to consolidate and coordinate Federal agencies specially created for or concerned with the administration of laws providing benefits to veterans, including the Veterans' Bureau, the Bureau of Pensions, and the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. On March 15, 1989, the Veterans Administration was elevated to Cabinet-level status as the Department of Veterans Affairs.

VA's mission is to serve America's veterans and their families as their principal advocate in ensuring they receive the care, support, and recognition they have earned in service to the Nation. As of September 30, 2019, there were an estimated 19.2 million living veterans, with 19.1 million of them residing in the United States and Puerto Rico. There were an estimated 22.6 million dependents (spouses and dependent children) of living veterans in the United States and Puerto Rico, and there were about 616,000 survivors of deceased veterans receiving VA survivor benefits in the United States and Puerto Rico. Thus, approximately 42.3 million people, or 12.7 percent of the total estimated resident population of the United States and Puerto Rico, were recipients or potential recipients of veterans benefits from the Federal Government. VA's operating units include the Veterans Benefits Administration, Veterans Health Administration, National Cemetery Administration, and staff support offices.

The Veterans Benefits Administration [VBA] provides an integrated program of nonmedical veterans benefits. VBA administers a broad range of benefits to veterans and other eligible beneficiaries through 56 regional offices; three Pension Management Centers; six Fiduciary Hubs; three Educational Regional Processing Offices; eight Regional Loan Centers; one Insurance Center; eight

National Call Centers; three Decision Review Operations Centers; and a records processing center in St. Louis, Missouri. The benefits provided include compensation for service-connected disabilities; pensions for wartime, needy, and totally disabled veterans; vocational rehabilitation assistance; educational and training assistance; home buying assistance; estate protection services for veterans under legal disability; information and assistance through personalized contacts; and six life insurance programs.

The Veterans Health Administration develops, maintains, and operates a national healthcare delivery system for eligible veterans; carries out a program of education and training of healthcare personnel; conducts medical research and development; and furnishes health services to members of the Armed Forces during periods of war or national emergency. A system consisting of 148 VA Hospitals; 11 Health Care Centers; 219 Multi-Specialty Community-Based outpatient clinics; 536 Primary Care Community-Based outpatient clinics; 322 Outpatient Services Sites; 134 community living centers; 114 mental health residential rehabilitation treatment programs; 300 readjustment counseling Vet Centers; and 80 Mobile Vet Centers is maintained to meet the VA's medical mission.

The National Cemetery Administration provides for the interment of the remains of eligible deceased servicemembers and discharged veterans in any national cemetery with available grave space; permanently maintains these graves; provides headstones and markers for the graves of eligible persons in national and private cemeteries; administers the grant program for aid to States in establishing, expanding, or improving State veterans cemeteries; and provides certificates to families of deceased veterans recognizing their contributions and service to the Nation. In 2021, cemetery activities will encompass 156 national cemeteries, which includes 11 cemeteries transferred from the Department of the Army, and 33 soldiers' lots and monuments and their maintenance as national shrines.

Staff support offices include the Office of Inspector General, Board of Veterans Appeals, and General Administration offices, which support the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Under Secretary for Benefits, Under Secretary for Health, Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, and General Counsel.

*Transition from Active Duty to Civilian Life.*—The Committee recognizes there can be a number of challenges encountered as servicemembers enter and transition out of the military. The network of support surrounding that servicemember is a critical component to ease these transitions, and informing loved ones of programs and services available ensures that servicemembers are supported throughout their lives. The ability of transitioning servicemembers, veterans, and their families to access resources through community-built networks, including through public-private partnerships, is critical to ensure the support they need in their civilian lives. The Committee encourages the Department, in consultation with the Departments of Defense and Labor, to partner with community non-profit programs, including faith-based programs, that provide wraparound employment and counseling services to veterans and their families, including high-risk veterans, to ensure they have a successful transition to civilian life. The De-

partment shall provide an update on these efforts to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 180 days of enactment of this act.

*Veteran Data Analytics.*—The Committee is supportive of the work carried out by the Department for the continuous improvement of the veteran experience by utilizing data analytics and data governance, in addition to other capabilities. While veteran insights gathered by VA and other organizations are currently used for evidence-based policy decisionmaking and high-level analysis, making the data more timely and operationally relevant is required to better integrate with Veterans Experience Office data and Veterans Benefits Administration operations. With this in mind, the Committee supports efforts to transform the veteran's experience by providing customized lifetime communication and outreach through various channels of communication to ensure veterans receive information regarding eligible services and benefits from VA in a manner most receptive and meaningful. The Secretary shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress detailing how it measures effectiveness of current outreach to veterans, how integration of data and analytics improved outreach and response from veterans, and how the development of analytics and data infrastructure can be implemented to better target when in a veteran's life to present information and how best to get the information to them.

*Waste, Fraud and Abuse Prevention System.*—The Committee is aware the Department continues to face challenges preventing fraud, waste, and abuse [FWA]. In January 2019, a VA-established FWA panel issued a report with six specific recommended actions, including recommendations for VA to expand the use of data analytics and predictive modeling capabilities across the enterprise, to create a holistic view of FWA and provide comprehensive prevention solutions. In examining best practices, the Committee notes the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Fraud Prevention Systems [FPS] has made progress in reducing FWA and there may be lessons learned, possibly including undertaking an enterprise-wide approach. The Committee encourages the Department to establish a FPS, within the VA Central Office, for the Veterans Health Administration to use predictive modeling and other analytics to identify and prevent FWA beginning in fiscal year 2022. Furthermore, the Committee directs the Department to submit to the Committees on Appropriations and Veterans' Affairs of both Houses of Congress a report no later than 180 days after enactment of this act on the status of FPS integration, including recommendations on expanding the FPS tool enterprise wide.

*Asset and Infrastructure Review [AIR] Commission.*—The John S. McCain III, Daniel K. Akaka, and Samuel R. Johnson VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks [MISSION] Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–182) established an Asset and Infrastructure Review Commission and a process for realigning and modernizing facilities of the Veterans Health Administration in order to better meet veterans' healthcare needs. The Committee is hopeful that this Commission, which will be established in 2022, will take into account recent accessibility changes within VA and among community providers, as well as



through VA's emergency response role. The Committee expects that the Department will not accelerate the establishment of the Commission, or its work, but will abide by the timeline established by the MISSION Act. Moreover, the Committee directs the Department to provide to the Committees on Appropriations and Veterans' Affairs of both Houses of Congress, within 90 days of enactment of this act, a report on the status and progress in developing the criteria and completing the market assessments.

*Medical Facilities Realignment.*—Concern remains that VA medical care realignments are being approached in an ad hoc manner by each individual Veterans Integrated Service Network rather than on a comprehensive basis by VA Central Office. Moreover, such an approach may lead to inequitable and inefficient distribution of medical resources throughout the Nation. Before VA makes any decision to relocate, close, or diminish services at an existing facility, or proceeds with any such realignment already underway, consideration must be given to the impact such action would have on veterans, especially tribal veterans or veterans in rural or highly rural areas, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Treatment Programs, and other Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Programs. VA must adhere to a clear and transparent process that engages all parties from the onset and is consistent with a national realignment strategy. The bill maintains a provision prohibiting the use of funds to close medical facilities in the absence of a national realignment strategy.

*Security Infrastructure.*—The Committee is concerned security infrastructure in Department medical facilities is below acceptable readiness standards and recommends that security and communications technology upgrades at VA facilities be addressed across the Department beginning in fiscal year 2021. An essential task is to conduct a thorough review of the IT security architecture and consider utilizing proven technologies, including but not limited to real-time video surveillance. The Committee directs the Department to conduct a system-wide security and communication technology review and submit a report detailing its findings to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 270 days of enactment of this act.

*Use of Authority to Convert Non-Medical Services to Contract Performance by Native Hawaiian Organizations or Indian Tribes.*—Section 237 of Division F of Public Law 116–94 maintained VA's authority to convert activities or functions of VBA, VHA, and NCA to contractor performance by businesses that are at least 51 percent owned by one or more Indian tribes as defined in section 5304(e) of title 25, United States Code, or one or more Native Hawaiian Organizations as defined in section 637(a)(15) of title 15, United States Code. Due to the lack of utilization of the Native Hawaiian contracting authority, the Committee is concerned that the Department has not done a sufficient job at making eligible communities aware of the opportunity. The Department is directed, within 120 days of enactment of this act, to provide to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a plan for providing information to relevant communities about their eligibility for this opportunity.

*Center for Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander and U.S.-Affiliated Pacific Islander Health.*—The Committee recognizes the significant contributions of Native Hawaiian [NH], Pacific Islander [PI], and U.S.-Affiliated Pacific Islander [USAPI] servicemembers in the U.S. military and the high number of NH/PI/USAPI veterans. NH/PI/USAPI veterans have challenges accessing care due to island geography and travel time, in addition to issues with health disparities and high rates of poverty. The Department is directed to provide the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress with a feasibility study on the establishment of a VA Center for Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and U.S.-Affiliated Pacific Islander Health to focus on research, service, and education to improve the lives of NH, PI, and USAPI veterans.

*Unobligated Balances of Expired Discretionary Funds.*—The Committee directs the Secretary to submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress quarterly reports detailing all unobligated balances of expired discretionary funds by fiscal year.

VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

Appropriations, 2020 <sup>1</sup> .....	\$128,679,347,609
Advance Appropriations, 2021 .....	130,955,164,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	7,892,091,098
Committee recommendation, 2021 .....	11,141,420,650
Budget estimate, advance appropriations, 2022 .....	145,311,218,000
Committee recommendation, advance appropriations, 2022 .....	145,311,218,000

<sup>1</sup>Excludes \$13,000,000 in emergency funds provided in title X of division B of Public Law 116-136.

ADMINISTRATION OVERVIEW

The Veterans Benefits Administration is responsible for the payment of compensation and pension benefits to eligible service-connected disabled veterans, as well as education benefits and housing loan guarantees.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

In fiscal year 2020, the Committee provided \$130,955,164,000 in advance appropriations for the Veterans Benefits Administration for fiscal year 2021. This included \$118,246,975,000 for Compensation and Pensions; \$12,578,965,000 for Readjustment Benefits; and \$129,224,000 for Veterans Insurance and Indemnities.

For fiscal year 2021, the Committee recommends an additional \$6,110,251,552 for Compensation and Pensions and \$2,148,000 for Veterans Insurance and Indemnities, as requested by the administration. Additionally, the Committee recommendation includes \$204,400,000 for the Veterans Housing Benefit Program Fund administrative expenses; \$33,826 for the Vocational Rehabilitation Loans Program account, with \$424,272 for administrative expenses; \$1,163,000 for the Native American Veteran Housing Loan Program account; and \$3,160,000,000 for the General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration account.

The Committee recommendation also provides \$145,311,218,000 in advance appropriations for the Veterans Benefits Administration’s mandatory accounts for fiscal year 2022.

COMPENSATION AND PENSIONS  
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2020 .....	\$110,457,083,000
Advance Appropriations, 2021 .....	118,246,975,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	2,813,922,000
Committee recommendation, 2021 <sup>1</sup> .....	6,110,251,552
Budget estimate, advance appropriations, 2022 .....	130,227,650,000
Committee recommendation, advance appropriations, 2022 .....	130,227,650,000

<sup>1</sup>The Committee recommendation reflects an updated estimate provided by the Administration.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Compensation is payable to living veterans who have suffered impairment of earning power from service-connected disabilities. The amount of compensation is based upon the impact of disabilities on a veteran's earning capacity. Death compensation or dependency and indemnity compensation is payable to the surviving spouses and dependents of veterans whose deaths occur while on active duty or result from service-connected disabilities. A clothing allowance may also be provided for veterans with a service-connected disability who use a prosthetic or orthopedic device. In fiscal year 2021, the Department estimates it will obligate \$115,761,451,000 for payments to 5,267,797 veterans, 456,463 survivors, and 1,266 dependents receiving special benefits.

Pensions are an income security benefit payable to needy wartime veterans who are precluded from gainful employment due to non-service-connected disabilities which render them permanently and totally disabled. The Veterans Education and Benefits Expansion Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-103), restored the automatic presumption of permanent and total non-service-connected disability for purposes of awarding a pension to veterans age 65 and older, subject to the income limitations that apply to all pensioners. Death pensions are payable to needy surviving spouses and children of deceased wartime veterans. The rate payable for both disability and death pensions is determined on the basis of the annual income of the veteran or their survivors. In fiscal year 2021, the Department estimates that the Pensions program will provide benefits to 231,183 veterans and 161,325 survivors totaling \$4,944,460,000.

The Compensation and Pensions program funds certain burial benefits on behalf of eligible deceased veterans. These benefits provide the purchase and transportation costs for headstones and markers, graveliners, and pre-placed crypts; and provide partial reimbursement for privately purchased outer burial receptacles. In fiscal year 2021, the Department estimates the Compensation and Pensions program will obligate \$354,986,000 providing burial benefits. This funding will provide 69,864 burial allowances, 29,887 burial plot allowances, 43,524 service-connected death awards, 450,500 burial flags, 344,577 headstones or markers, 71,535 graveliners or reimbursement for privately purchased outer burial receptacles, and 333 caskets and urns for the internment of the remains of veterans without next of kin.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

In fiscal year 2020, the Committee provided an advance appropriation of \$118,246,975,000 for fiscal year 2021 for the Compensation and Pensions account. The Committee recommendation includes an additional \$6,110,251,552 for Compensation and Pensions for fiscal year 2021. The additional appropriation coupled with the advance appropriation provided for fiscal year 2021 provides the Department with total budget authority of \$124,357,226,552.

The Committee recommendation includes an advance appropriation of \$130,227,650,000 for Compensation and Pensions for fiscal year 2022, as requested.

The Department’s execution of the Compensation and Pensions account in fiscal year 2020 was extremely troubling. First, VA seemed unaware of period of availability constraints for a portion of their funding until the month that the fiscal year ended. Second, although aware of an error on their part that led to a further period of availability constraint, VBA took no action to address it or to make accounting adjustments early enough to prevent the possibility of payments to veterans being delayed in fiscal year 2021. While Congressional action prevented veteran payments from being impacted, the Department must be more attentive to ensure that this needless risk is not repeated in the future. The Department is directed to provide to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a plan to address the required accounting adjustments and reconciliation related to fiscal year 2020 benefit payments no later than 60 days after enactment of this act.

*Gulf War Veterans Claims for Service-Connected Disability Compensation.*—The Committee continues to be concerned by the Department’s continued high rates of denial of Gulf War veterans’ claims for undiagnosed illnesses and chronic multi-symptom illnesses. The Committee directs the Department to submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 180 days after enactment of this act on VA’s efforts to improve the grant rate for Gulf War illness disability claims as defined in the July 2017 Government Accountability Office [GAO] report “Gulf War Illness: Improvements Needed for VA to Better Understand, Process, and Communicate Decisions on Claims” [GAO–17–511], the effectiveness of such efforts, its training for claims examiners and raters, and its responsiveness to the needs of veterans suffering from Gulf War illness. The Committee further directs the Department to include in the report the advisability and feasibility of eliminating the deadline for filing Gulf War presumptive claims under 38 CFR 3.317.

READJUSTMENT BENEFITS

Appropriations, 2020 .....	\$14,065,282,000
Advance Appropriations, 2021 .....	12,578,965,000
Budget estimate, advance appropriations, 2022 .....	14,946,618,000
Committee recommendation, advance appropriations, 2022 .....	14,946,618,000

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Readjustment Benefits appropriation finances the education and training of veterans and servicemembers under chapters 21,

30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 39, 41, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code. These benefits include the All-Volunteer Force Educational Assistance Program (Montgomery GI bill) and the Post 9/11 Educational Assistance Program, including changes through the Forever GI bill. Basic benefits are funded through appropriations made to the readjustment benefits account and by transfers from the Department of Defense. This account also finances vocational rehabilitation, specially adapted housing grants, specially adapted automobile grants for certain disabled veterans, and educational assistance allowances for eligible dependents of those veterans who died from service-connected causes or who have a total permanent service-connected disability, as well as dependents of servicemembers who were captured or missing in action.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

In fiscal year 2020, the Committee provided an advance appropriation of \$12,578,965,000 for the Readjustment Benefits account for fiscal year 2021.

The Committee recommendation includes an advance appropriation of \$14,946,618,000 for Readjustment Benefits for fiscal year 2022.

*Adaptive Automobile Grants.*—The Department shall provide a report on the feasibility and advisability, including a cost estimate, for providing an eligible individual with an additional adaptive automobile grant or other conveyance if 10 years have elapsed since the date on which the eligible individual received the immediately previous such automobile grant, other conveyance, or assistance. This report shall be provided to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 270 days of enactment of this act.

VETERANS INSURANCE AND INDEMNITIES

Appropriations, 2020 .....	\$128,960,000
Advance Appropriations, 2021 .....	129,224,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	2,148,000
Committee recommendation, 2021 .....	2,148,000
Budget estimate, advance appropriations, 2022 .....	136,950,000
Committee recommendation, advance appropriations, 2022 .....	136,950,000

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Veterans Insurance and Indemnities appropriation consists of the former appropriations for military and naval insurance, applicable to World War I veterans; National Service Life Insurance, applicable to certain World War II veterans; servicemen’s indemnities, applicable to Korean conflict veterans; and veterans mortgage life insurance to individuals who have received a grant for specially adapted housing.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

In fiscal year 2020, the Committee provided an advance appropriation of \$129,224,000 for fiscal year 2021 for the Veterans Insurance and Indemnities account. The recommendation for fiscal year 2021 includes an additional \$2,148,000. The additional appropriation coupled with the advance appropriation provided for fiscal year

2021 provides the Department with total budget authority of \$131,372,000.

The Committee recommendation includes an advance appropriation of \$136,950,000 for Veterans Insurance and Indemnities for fiscal year 2022.

#### VETERANS HOUSING BENEFIT PROGRAM FUND

	Program account	Administrative expenses
Appropriations, 2020 .....	\$701,000,000	\$200,337,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	1,663,000,000	204,400,000
Committee recommendation .....	1,663,000,000	204,400,000

#### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Veterans Housing Benefit Program Fund provides for all costs associated with VA's direct and guaranteed housing loan programs, with the exception of the Native American Veteran Housing Loan Program.

VA loan guaranties are made to servicemembers, veterans, reservists, and unremarried surviving spouses for the purchase of homes, condominiums, and manufactured homes, and for refinancing loans. VA guarantees part of the total loan, permitting the purchaser to obtain a mortgage with a competitive interest rate, even without a downpayment, if the lender agrees. VA requires a downpayment be made for a manufactured home. With a VA guaranty, the lender is protected against loss up to the amount of the guaranty if the borrower fails to repay the loan.

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends such sums as may be necessary, estimated to be \$1,663,000,000, for funding subsidy payments, and \$204,400,000 for administrative expenses for fiscal year 2021. Bill language limits gross obligations for direct loans for specially adapted housing to \$500,000.

#### VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

	Program account	Administrative expenses
Appropriations, 2020 .....	\$57,729	\$401,880
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	33,826	424,272
Committee recommendation .....	33,826	424,272

#### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Vocational Rehabilitation Loans Program account covers the cost of direct loans for vocational rehabilitation of eligible veterans and, in addition, includes administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct loan program. Loans of up to \$1,260 (based on the indexed chapter 31 subsistence allowance rate) are currently available to service-connected disabled veterans enrolled in vocational rehabilitation programs, as provided under 38 U.S.C. chapter 31, when the veteran is temporarily in need of additional assistance. Repayment is made in monthly installments, without interest, through deductions from future payments of compensation,

pension, subsistence allowance, educational assistance allowance, or retirement pay. Virtually all loans are repaid in full and most in less than 1 year.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$33,826 for program costs and \$424,272 for administrative expenses for the Vocational Rehabilitation Loans Program account. The administrative expenses may be paid to the General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration account. Bill language is included limiting program direct loans to \$2,469,522. It is estimated VA will make 2,376 loans in fiscal year 2021, with an average amount of \$1,040.

NATIVE AMERICAN VETERAN HOUSING LOAN PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Appropriations, 2020 .....	\$1,186,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	1,163,000
Committee recommendation .....	1,163,000

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Native American Veteran Housing Loan Program is authorized by 38 U.S.C. chapter 37, section 3761 to provide direct loans to Native American veterans living on trust lands. The loans are available to purchase, construct, or improve homes to be occupied as veteran residences or to refinance a loan previously made under this program in order to lower the interest rate.

Veterans pay a funding fee of 1.25 percent of the loan amount, although veterans with a service-connected disability are exempt from paying the fee. Before a direct loan can be made, the veteran's tribal organization must sign a memorandum of understanding with VA regarding the terms and conditions of the loan. The Native American Veteran Housing Loan Program began as a pilot program in 1993 and was made permanent by the Veterans Housing Opportunity and Benefits Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-233).

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$1,163,000 for administrative expenses associated with this program. This is equal to the budget request.

GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES, VETERANS BENEFITS  
ADMINISTRATION

Appropriations, 2020 <sup>1</sup> .....	\$3,125,000,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	3,207,000,000
Committee recommendation .....	3,160,000,000

<sup>1</sup> Excludes \$13,000,000 in emergency funds provided in title X of division B of Public Law 116-136.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The General Operating Expenses [GOE], VBA account provides funding for VBA to administer entitlement programs such as service-connected disability compensation, education benefits, and vocational rehabilitation services.

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$3,160,000,000 for the GOE, VBA account, which is \$35,000,000 above the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and \$47,000,000 below the budget request. The Committee has included bill language to make available through September 30, 2022, up to 10 percent of the GOE, VBA account.

*Open Air Burn Pit Claims.*—The Committee is deeply concerned about the devastating effects that open air burn pits have had on veterans who deployed to areas such as Iraq, Afghanistan, and Southwest Asia theater of operations after 9/11. As a direct result of their exposure to toxins, chemicals, and airborne hazards from the open air burn pits, otherwise healthy veterans have seen a number of significant illnesses. The Committee directs the Secretary to provide a report on the rate of denial of benefit claims related to burn pits exposure. The report should include information on all conditions for which veterans filed a benefits claim related to their burn pits exposure, aggregated information on the locations veterans are claiming for burn pit exposure, and the causes for claims denials. This report should be provided to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 180 days of enactment of this act.

*Blue Water Navy.*—The Committee appreciates the Department's effort to implement and execute the Blue Water Navy [BWN] Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 (Public Law 116–23). The Committee directs VA to report on how appropriated funds were spent or planned to be spent by fiscal year, including the number of full-time equivalents [FTE] allocated to work BWN claims, the number of BWN claims received by categories (financial hardship, terminal illness, etc.), the number of appeals received, the average amount of time it takes to process a BWN claim, and any other financial and statistical information relevant to the processing of BWN claims. The Department is directed to submit this report on a quarterly basis to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

*Efforts to Combat Veteran Underemployment.*—The Committee recognizes that this generation of military veterans are the best trained in world history, and while veterans are able to gain employment after leaving service, the jobs that many veterans are able to acquire do not match the full advanced training and capabilities the veteran possesses. Further, a significant percentage of veterans leave their first job within 1 year of civilian employment. Therefore the Committee encourages VA, in conjunction with Department of Labor, to review efforts to combat veteran underemployment, and to provide a report to the Committees on Appropriation of both Houses of Congress within 180 days of enactment of this act.

*Veterans Benefit Counselors.*—The Committee recognizes that many states with high populations of veterans and military families have a great need for benefit counselors who can assist VA beneficiaries in navigating the types of benefits available to them. The Secretary shall submit a report detailing the feasibility of an effort to fund veteran benefit counselor positions within State Departments of Veterans Affairs, as well as any projected cost savings



as a result of this initiative, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 90 days of enactment of this act.

*Solid Start Study.*—VA's Solid Start outreach program fosters a relationship between the VA and transitioning servicemembers to increase their awareness of earned benefits and diminish barriers to VA mental healthcare. The Committee urges VA, in consultation with the Department of Defense, to conduct a study on the feasibility of, and resources necessary for, expansion of the Solid Start program to include all healthcare eligible veterans, no matter when they transitioned out of service, to ensure more veterans are aware of their earned benefits and diminish barriers to VA mental healthcare. The Committee further encourages the Department to enable Solid Start agents to provide information to veterans about their eligibility for healthcare and other benefits that are operated outside of VBA.

*VetSuccess on Campus.*—The VetSuccess on Campus program, which places Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors and a Vet Center Outreach Coordinator on college campuses to assist student veterans, servicemembers, and qualified dependents, currently supports 104 schools across the country. The Committee strongly encourages VA to continue to support this program and expand to additional schools.

*GI Bill Apprenticeships and On-the-Job Training.*—Apprenticeships and on-the-job training [OJT] programs are important tools in teaching veterans valuable skills and aiding veterans in securing employment after transitioning from military service. However, these programs are largely underutilized by veterans in comparison to traditional academic programs. The Committee urges VA to take additional actions to promote awareness and increased utilization of these programs, including continued coordination and support to State Approving Agencies [SAAs] and programs which may incentivize increased participation by employers. The Committee recommends additional support and resources be provided to SAAs for the purpose of increasing awareness and utilization of apprenticeships and OJT. The Department is encouraged to explore options to expand the program in the future, while ensuring proper oversight of SAA contracts.

*Flight Training Approval Process.*—The Committee directs the Department to conduct a comprehensive review of its current approval process of flight training programs for 9/11 GI Bill benefits within 180 days of the enactment of this act. During the review, the Committee recommends that VA consult with the Federal Aviation Administration, Part 141 pilot schools and other institutions accredited by the Aviation Accreditation Board International in order to develop a simplified and streamlined approval process. Within 60 days of completion, the Department shall report the outcomes of the review to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

*Expansion of Benefits to Laotian and Hmong Special Guerilla Unit Veterans.*—The Committee notes the distinguished service of members of Laotian and Hmong Special Guerilla Units and others who served as part of irregular forces in support of the United States during the Vietnam War Era. The Committee directs the Department of Veterans Affairs to assess the feasibility and advis-

ability, including a cost estimate, of expanding eligibility to VA benefits to individuals determined by the Secretary to have served honorably in these units in support of the United States during the Vietnam War. This review should be submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 1 year after enactment of this act.

VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

Appropriations, 2020 <sup>1</sup> .....	\$80,355,800,000
Advance appropriations, 2021 .....	87,636,650,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	3,115,268,000
Committee recommendation, 2021 <sup>2</sup> .....	11,569,118,000
Budget estimate, advance appropriations, 2022 .....	94,183,260,000
Committee recommendation, advance appropriations, 2022 .....	94,183,260,000

<sup>1</sup> Excludes \$60,000,000 in emergency funds provided in title VI of division A of Public Law 116–127, and \$17,238,000,000 in emergency funds provided in title X of division B of Public Law 116–136.

<sup>2</sup> Includes \$10,769,118,000 designated as emergency funding.

ADMINISTRATION OVERVIEW

The Veterans Health Administration [VHA] is home to the United States’ largest integrated healthcare system consisting of 148 VA Hospitals; 11 Health Care Centers; 219 Multi-Specialty Community-Based outpatient clinics; 536 Primary Care Community-Based outpatient clinics; 322 Outpatient Services Sites; 134 community living centers; 114 mental health residential rehabilitation treatment programs; 300 readjustment counseling Vet Centers; and 80 Mobile Vet Centers.

The Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Care Collections Fund [MCCF] was established by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (Public Law 105–33). In fiscal year 2004, Public Law 108–199 allowed the Department to deposit first-party and pharmaceutical co-payments, third-party insurance payments and enhanced-use collections, long-term care co-payments, Compensated Work Therapy Program collections, Compensation and Pension Living Expenses Program collections, and Parking Program fees into the MCCF.

The Parking Program provides funds for the construction, alteration, and acquisition (by purchase or lease) of parking garages at VA medical facilities authorized by 38 U.S.C. 8109. The Secretary is required under certain circumstances to establish and collect fees for the use of such garages and parking facilities. Receipts from the parking fees are to be deposited into the MCCF and are used for medical services activities.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

In fiscal year 2020, the Committee provided \$87,636,650,000 in advance appropriations for VA’s medical care accounts for fiscal year 2021. This included \$56,158,015,000 for Medical Services, \$17,131,179,000 for Medical Community Care, \$7,914,191,000 for Medical Support and Compliance, and \$6,433,265,000 for Medical Facilities.

For fiscal year 2021, the Committee recommends an additional \$5,594,318,000 for Medical Services, \$3,847,180,000 for Medical Community Care, \$886,235,000 for Medical Support and Compliance, and \$441,385,000 for Medical Facilities, designated as emer-

gency funding. The bill includes a provision to rescind a portion of the funds provided as an advance appropriation for fiscal year 2021. Additionally, the Committee recommendation includes \$800,000,000 for Medical and Prosthetic Research. Medical Care Collections are estimated to be \$4,403,000,000 in fiscal year 2021. The Committee recommendation also provides \$94,183,260,000 in advance appropriations for VA's medical care accounts for fiscal year 2022.

*Care for All Veterans.*—The Committee recognizes the invaluable role of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the nation's largest integrated healthcare system, in serving the unique needs of veterans. The Committee believes that a strong and fully resourced Veterans Health Administration is necessary to effectively serve our nation's veterans. Veterans overwhelmingly report they are satisfied with the care they receive at VA medical centers, community-based outpatient clinics, and Vet Centers. Research has consistently shown that VA produces as good or better health outcomes for its patients than private sector healthcare. Furthermore, VA healthcare facilities play a critical role in training our nation's healthcare workforce, conducting lifesaving medical research, providing nationwide emergency preparedness support, and innovating many best practices in healthcare delivery. The Secretary is directed to conduct an analysis and provide a report and cost projection to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress including the total cost of providing all necessary healthcare to all eligible veterans within VHA. The report should include costs for the required infrastructure, staffing, and other supportive services necessary to accomplish that goal, and should be provided to the Committees within 270 days of enactment of this act.

*Sexual Harassment and Assault at VA Facilities.*—Women veterans from around the country have provided anecdotal evidence of harassment and assault by fellow veterans while at VA healthcare facilities. The Committee notes the lack of availability of comprehensive data. The Committee directs the Government Accountability Office to conduct a report on incidents of reported sexual harassment and assault at VA facilities and provide recommendations to address this issue to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 1 year after enactment of this act.

*Innovative Research Partnership Demonstration.*—The Committee is aware that new models of interdisciplinary research require intense collaboration among multiple fields in order to discover critical therapies, diagnostic agents, and novel genomic analyses ready for precision application at the bedside and in the exam room. The Department would benefit from these partnerships to conduct research in these high risk fields, including the development and use of current edge therapies, such as radiopharmaceuticals. Therefore, the Committee recommends VA dedicate \$50,000,000 over 5 years to establish a multiyear research partnership demonstration program with one or more public research universities to enable the Department to lease space within a cutting edge, state-owned research property and facility. Within 30 days of enactment of this act the Department shall provide to the Committee on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an implemen-

tation plan, including cost estimate, for a demonstration program to pursue these partnerships. The plan should focus on institutions with existing affiliations with the Department and deemed to be a high quality opportunity; set aside the criteria of seeking a segregated “VA space”; and identify and propose resolution of any barriers to implementation. The Department is encouraged to focus on public universities located in states without a VA Center of Innovation.

*Women’s Health Care Facilities Improvements.*—The Committee believes with the growing number of women veterans that VA needs to continue to invest in women’s healthcare at a rate consistent with their demand for services. The Committee recognizes the need for continued development and retrofitting of existing medical facilities with fixtures, materials, and other outfitting measures to support the provision of care to women veterans in an environment most supportive to them. The Committee urges VA to develop a plan that addresses deficiencies in the environment of care for women veterans at existing medical facilities and work with Congress to implement the plan where feasible. The Committee reminds VA of the annual reporting requirement included in the Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying Public Law 116–94.

*Veterans Health Administration Staffing Model.*—It is critical that the Veterans Health Administration develop a staffing model that covers every critical need occupation so that it can better understand, and more quickly address, its staffing needs. While VA has made some progress in creating staffing models, it does not yet have operational staffing models that cover all critical need occupations. The Department is directed to provide to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 180 days of enactment of this act, an operational staffing model, or a summary of efforts undertaken to create such a model and a plan for its completion. In addition, the Committee continues to direct VA’s Office of Inspector General [OIG] to review VHA’s progress in developing this comprehensive staffing model, including the timeline for implementation.

*Establishing a Standard of Veterans Health Care.*—The Committee is encouraged by VHA’s efforts to stand up the Integrated Clinical Communities [ICC] and the VHA Modernization Lane of Effort “Reducing Unwarranted Variation Across Integrated Clinical and Operations Service Lines.” ICCs are suited to review VHA Healthcare software applications operating under VistA and needed until the stand-up of the new electronic health record. ICC efforts could establish standards of care and safety creating an enterprise wide High Reliability Organization. The Committee directs the Secretary to provide a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 90 days after enactment of this act, outlining the VHA plans to evaluate and incorporate these Information Technology healthcare applications to standardize care and safety across the VHA enterprise.

*Expansion of the Civilian Health and Medical Program of VA [CHAMPVA].*—The Committee directs VA to provide a report on the feasibility and advisability, including cost estimates for providing medical care under CHAMPVA to eligible children up to age

26 regardless of student or marital status. The Department should provide this report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 270 days after enactment of this act.

*Maternal Fetal Medicine via Telehealth.*—The Committee recognizes VA's leadership in expanding access to telehealth for rural veterans. The Committee also recognizes the need to expand access to maternal fetal medicine [MFM] system wide, but especially for rural veterans. Based on successful examples of MFM programs run by academic institutions, there is further potential for VA to partner with universities to expand access to maternal and perinatal care via telehealth to veterans and their families. Therefore, the Committee encourages VA to partner with universities to expand access to maternal and perinatal care via telehealth. This would be particularly effective for academic institutions in states that serve a high percentage of veterans and their families in rural, isolated communities. The Department is directed to provide a report describing VA's efforts, existing or planned, to support these academic partnerships to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 90 days after enactment of this act.

*Reduce the Misuse of Drug Therapies.*—The Committee urges VA to implement a comprehensive medical selection, adherence, compliance and digital education program for veterans suffering from mental health issues, including post-traumatic stress disorder [PTSD] and the long-term side-effects of increased exposure to traumatic brain injury, through the utilization of cutting-edge, off-the-shelf technology and pharmacy management protocols to reduce suicide, relapse and hospital visits.

*Alternative Treatments.*—The Committee recognizes that the United States is in the midst of a drug epidemic fueled by prescription opioids. The veteran population is particularly susceptible to substance abuse given high rates of chronic pain and service-related injuries. Alternative treatments for pain management have been shown to be effective in reducing pain and reliance on prescription opioids. The Committee encourages VA to expand the use of alternative treatments to pain management in its delivery of healthcare services. The Committee also urges the VA to integrate treatments such as acupuncture into VA medical centers and clinics through licensed VA professionals or on a contract basis.

*National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.*—The National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder [NCPTSD] is the Federal Government's foremost center of expertise on evidence-based treatment of post-traumatic stress. The Committee continues to support the mission and work of the NCPTSD and has provided \$40,000,000 to continue the center's advancement of the clinical care and social welfare of America's veterans who have experienced trauma or suffer from PTSD through research, education, and training in the science, diagnosis, and treatment of PTSD and stress-related disorders. The Committee supports the priorities for NCPTSD as described in the Congressional budget submission.

## MEDICAL SERVICES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2020 <sup>1</sup> .....	\$51,411,165,000
Advance appropriations, 2021 .....	56,158,015,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	497,468,000
Committee recommendation, 2021 <sup>2</sup> .....	5,594,318,000
Budget estimate, advance appropriations, 2022 .....	58,897,219,000
Committee recommendations, advance appropriations, 2022 .....	58,897,219,000

<sup>1</sup> Excludes \$30,000,000 in emergency funds provided in title VI of division A of Public Law 116-127, and \$14,432,000,000 in emergency funds provided in title X of division B of Public Law 116-136.

<sup>2</sup> Designated as emergency funding.

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Medical Services account provides for medical services for eligible enrolled veterans and other beneficiaries in VA healthcare facilities, including VA medical centers and VA outpatient clinics.

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

In fiscal year 2020, the Committee provided an advance appropriation of \$56,158,015,000 for fiscal year 2021 for the Medical Services account. The recommendation for fiscal year 2021 includes an additional \$5,594,318,000 designated as emergency funding. The additional appropriation coupled with the advance appropriation provided for fiscal year 2021 (less a rescission) provides the Department with total budget authority of \$56,655,483,000, which is equal to the request. In addition, VA has the authority to retain co-payments and third-party collections.

The Committee recommendation also includes an advance appropriation of \$58,897,219,000 for Medical Services for fiscal year 2022, equal to the budget request.

## PREVENTING VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

The Committee remains strongly supportive of VA's homeless prevention programs. As such the recommendation includes \$1,905,769,000 to support these programs, this is \$17,261,000 more than the request. This total includes funding for the Supportive Services for Veterans Families [SSVF] Program; the Housing and Urban Development—Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing [HUD-VASH] Program case management, the Grant and Per Diem Program [GPD]; and the Veterans Justice Outreach [VJO] Program.

*Supportive Services for Veterans Families.*—Through grants to private non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives, SSVF is designed to rapidly re-house homeless veteran families and prevent homelessness for those at imminent risk due to a housing crisis. VA provides grants to all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. The Committee provides \$420,000,000 for grant awards in fiscal year 2022 and expects the Department to expand to other locations to address gaps in services, as appropriate. Further, due to current economic conditions and increase in housing insecurity due to global factors, the Department is urged to ensure that veterans who have received SSVF support from any funding source in fiscal years 2020 and 2021 can continue to receive support in fiscal year 2022, if needed.

The Department is directed to provide a plan to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 120 days of enactment of this act, for ensuring grant recipients and veterans will not face an abrupt reduction in support from VA at the end of fiscal year 2021, despite continued needs.

*Homeless Women Veterans.*—The Committee is aware that the number of homeless women veterans is on the rise and that VA undertook an analysis on the limitations of current VA programs to address homelessness for women veterans, and is developing a plan to address the deficiencies. In accordance with the recommendations made, the Committee directs the Secretary to ensure that an appropriate amount of SSVF grants are awarded to organizations that provide services to support women veterans. Within 120 days of enactment of this act, the VA shall provide the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress with a report describing changes it has made to SSVF grant section criteria to ensure organizations receiving grant funding are providing better support to women veterans.

*HUD-VASH.*—The Committee remains concerned about the high number of HUD-VASH staffing vacancies at VA Medical Centers nationwide. Due to the integrated nature of HUD-VASH funding and services of rental assistance vouchers paired with case management, the Committee recommends that VA's budget for case managers be increased commensurate with any increases in availability of new housing vouchers, with an established and appropriate funding level to support at least one case manager for each 25 veterans served.

The Department, in consultation with HUD, is directed to provide a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress that includes the following information: (1) the number of case managers with temporary or permanent appointments, full and part time status, and the number of vacant case manager positions by VA Medical Center and state; (2) the number of vouchers requested by and the number of vouchers awarded to Public Housing Agencies by VA Medical Center and state; (3) the rate of voucher utilization by VA Medical Center and state; (4) an explanation of any barriers to full utilization of vouchers, such as an inadequate stock of affordable housing, insufficient number of case managers, landlord refusal of vouchers, and reservation for prioritization of high acuity veterans; (5) whether localities that have approved exceptions to the fair market rent have better utilization rates; (6) whether outcomes differ for veterans who are case managed by local contractors or VA Medical Center staff; and (7) a summary of veteran outcomes in terms of sustained vs. unsustained housing placements, connection to employment/income, healthcare, other benefits by VA Medical Center. The report shall further outline efforts VA is taking to increase hiring and retention, including through the use of incentives and educational loan forgiveness; and what proactive steps the VA might take to fill the case management workforce pipeline. The report shall include a feasibility assessment of individual VA Medical Centers developing workforce training partnerships with community colleges or universities. This report shall be provided to the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Military Construction, Veterans Af-

fairs and Related Agencies and the Subcommittees on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies no later than 270 days after enactment of this act.

*Retribution of Unallocated HUD–VASH Voucher Funds.*—The Committee is concerned about the high number of unutilized HUD–VASH vouchers nationwide, despite a persistently large population of chronically homeless veterans who are currently experiencing homelessness. To the extent that vouchers are going unused because of insufficient referrals from VA, Public Housing Agencies shall not be punished by HUD or restricted from future HUD–VASH allocations. The Committee encourages the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, to issue waivers where necessary to prevent such penalization. To assist Congress in effectively targeting resources to help this vulnerable population, VA, in consultation with HUD, shall submit a report to the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies and the Subcommittees on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies recommending possible methods to redistribute unallocated HUD–VASH voucher funds. The report shall include a determination of the feasibility of issuing a new solicitation of participation for unallocated HUD–VASH vouchers and should be provided to the Committees no later than 270 days after enactment of this act.

*Homeless Providers GPD Program.*—The Committee agrees with the goal of ending veteran homelessness by ensuring veterans access to permanent, affordable housing of their choice. However, the Committee recognizes that service-intensive transitional housing provided through VA’s GPD Program is an important programmatic option, particularly in areas with low vacancy rates, limited housing stock, and high market rates, and that substance-free and service-intensive housing may be a critical step for veterans at risk of relapse into substance abuse. The most appropriate mix of housing services for veterans should be determined locally through a collaborative process including local housing partners, service providers, and VA. The Department should continue to make funding available for GPD beds based on a collaborative process with local housing partners, the local VA Medical Centers and the Continuums of Care. The Department is directed to submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 180 days after enactment of this act on the Department’s plan to ensure continued access to transitional housing assistance for veterans, particularly in rural or highly rural areas, once the Department has determined that veteran homelessness is at or near “functional zero”. The Committee recommendation includes \$270,000,000 for the GPD program, which is \$4,861,000 more than the request.

*Veterans Justice Outreach Program.*—The goal of the VJO Program is to prevent homelessness, and to avoid the unnecessary criminalization of mental illness and extended incarceration among veterans. This is accomplished by ensuring that eligible veterans encountered by police, and in jails or courts, have timely access to VA services including mental health, substance abuse, and homeless programs. In 2019, the VJO program provided services to over



49,800 justice-involved veterans, supported over 508 Veterans Treatment Courts and other veteran-focused court programs, and partnered with legal providers to offer 170 pro-bono legal clinics to veterans on site at local VA hospitals.

*Veteran Treatment Courts.*—The Committee is supportive of the work done by Veteran Treatment Courts [VTC] on behalf of our nation's veterans and their families. In an attempt to understand the positive impacts VTCs have, VA shall produce a report, in coordination with the Department of Justice, on the feasibility of sharing information between Departments on veterans in the justice system, including sex, age, time of service, whether deployed, education, type of offense, sentence, completion of VTC, completion of sentence, and recidivism. The Committee understands that additional efforts have been made to assist veterans who are parents and this report should include details about this type of programming. The report shall also assess whether this type of information sharing may help leaders become more aware of the effectiveness of VTCs, and make decisions related to allocation of additional support and resources. This report shall be provided to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 270 days of enactment of this act.

#### TELEHEALTH SERVICES

The Committee recommendation includes \$1,329,566,000 to sustain and increase telehealth capacity, including in rural and highly rural areas. VA and DoD have long been leaders in the field of emerging technology and medicine. For VA, telehealth creates a bridge between rural and urban centers, allowing the Department to expand access to care in areas where services are limited. Telehealth also allows care to be provided more effectively and efficiently for veterans closer to home and also through direct in-home access to providers. While VA continues to lead the healthcare industry in the expansion of in-home telehealth and remote patient monitoring services, these services are often limited by the lack of broadband service in remote and rural areas.

In 2020, VA expanded telehealth access for veterans significantly. While these efforts were borne out of necessity, the Committee believes that the resulting benefits to veterans warrant these efforts becoming more permanent. Within 180 days of enactment of this act, the Department is directed to provide to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report on the expansion of telehealth undertaken in 2020, any lessons learned, and the feasibility of making these changes permanent.

*Access to Telehealth.*—The Secretary is directed to provide to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 120 days of enactment of this act a report that details: (1) the breakdown by county of where VA has given veteran patients tablets and Internet service and the rationale behind any prioritization determinations, and (2) steps VA is taking to provide veterans with access to telehealth services in areas where broadband speed is below that required for telehealth services, including areas where there is no broadband Internet service at all.

*Telehealth Report.*—The Committee appreciates the Department's efforts to conduct telehealthcare and understands the value that

telehealth holds for both the veteran and the Department. Telehealth is an important path to healthcare for patients who cannot travel to a VA facility, who live in rural areas where a VA medical facility is not available, or who face other barriers to accessing in-person care. To this point, it is important that the Committee has a thorough understanding of the current and future state of VA's telehealth program. The Committee directs the Government Accountability Office to develop a report on the Department's current telehealth capabilities and anticipated needs. The report shall include sections outlining the VA's telehealth infrastructure capabilities, future needs based on anticipated trends in telehealthcare, VA's public and private partnerships with telehealth providers, impacts on community care, efforts to provide telehealthcare for veterans who lack reliable broadband access, and telehealth educational tools for veterans. This report shall be provided to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 270 days after enactment of this act.

#### MENTAL HEALTH/PREVENTING VETERANS SUICIDE

The Committee provides \$10,257,500,000 for mental health programs, equal to the request, including \$1,939,329,000 for suicide prevention and treatment programs, of which \$312,635,000 is for suicide prevention outreach.

*Suicide Prevention Outreach Grants/Use of Machine Learning Software to Prevent Veteran Suicide.*—The Committee believes that given the growing amount of data available, VHA should continue to use cutting edge commercial off the shelf tools to prevent veteran suicide. As such, the Committee strongly encourages the Department, in coordination with the Office of Mental Health and the Office of Suicide Prevention, to explore the use of cloud agnostic automated machine learning capabilities to rapidly provide predictive analysis to stop suicides before they occur. In examining the value and effectiveness of such tools the VA should consult with current data analytical firms and other government agencies currently using predictive analytics to best understand their effectiveness and apply them to help prevent veteran suicide.

*Veterans Crisis Line.*—The Committee is concerned by reports that veterans who call or text the Veterans Crisis Line [VCL] without sharing their location or other personal information are sometimes unable to be accurately located using the tools available to VCL responders. Approximately 4.5 percent of all VCL calls result in a dispatch of emergency services due to immediate risk. The Committee appreciates the VCL's attention to the recommendations as indicated in the Office of the Inspector General's report on the follow-up review of VCL published on July 31, 2019 [VA OIG 18–03390–178]. In particular, the Committee urges VCL to support continued actions to implement geolocation capabilities in order to ensure accurate emergency dispatch to persons at risk of imminent harm to self or others, similar to those of 911 call centers.

*Veterans Suicide Prevention.*—The Committee affirms that the incidence of depression, combat stress, and suicide among members and veterans of the Armed Forces is a significant public health issue. In addition, the Committee remains concerned by the number of veteran suicides occurring on VA campuses across the na-

tion. There is a need for a comprehensive approach to suicide prevention, including partnerships with local community organizations to support veterans. The Department is directed to submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 60 days after enactment of this act detailing the Department's suicide prevention strategy, including the use of faith-based programming; steps the Department is taking to target interventions with at-risk veterans before they are at a crisis point; and the effectiveness of actions taken to date.

*National Guard and Reservist Access to Mental Health Services.*—This Committee acknowledges the importance of providing mental healthcare to all those who have taken the oath in service to our country and recognize that all members of the National Guard and Reserves may benefit from access to mental health services provided by VA, including suicide prevention services.

#### OPIOID SAFETY INITIATIVES AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER CARE

To continue to build upon opioid reduction efforts and safety initiatives, the Committee recommendation includes \$503,600,000 for Opioid Prevention and Treatment programs at VA, equal to the budget request. This includes \$382,848,000 for prevention and treatment programs and \$120,812,000 to continue implementation of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–198).

*Comprehensive Substance Use Disorder Program.*—The Committee recognizes the ongoing work of VA to reduce substance use disorders among veterans. The Committee is aware of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration studies that conclude that 90 percent of people that commit suicide suffer from depression, substance use disorders, or both. Veterans face unique health and mental health challenges and the suicide rate among veterans continues to be unacceptable. The Committee supports new and innovative solutions to address these issues, efforts to intervene early with at-risk veterans, and programs that provide veterans and their families with the tools they need to meet these challenges. The Committee recognizes the importance of programs that utilize harm reduction techniques and offer confidential education information that can reduce substance use, relapse, hospital visits, and suicide. The Committee strongly recommends VA consider a comprehensive, evidence-based and confidential Internet-based substance abuse education, peer coaching, and case management program. VA shall provide a status report on the progress made towards developing such a program nationwide to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 180 days of enactment of this act.

*Office of Patient Advocacy.*—The Committee urges the Department to prioritize continued implementation of the reforms made to the patient advocacy program as required by the Jason Simcakoski Memorial and Promise Act [Title IX, Public Law 114–198]. The Committee believes that the law's establishment of the Office of Patient Advocacy will ensure that patient advocates put the interests of the veterans they serve first, not the interests of the facility. Accordingly, within 90 days of enactment of this act, the Committee directs VA to provide an updated report to the Com-

mittees on Appropriations and Veterans' Affairs of both Houses of Congress on its progress implementing the relevant sections of Public Law 114–198, and the specific training and instructions Patient Advocates are given how to escalate a concern outside of a VA facility when they believe a VA facility is not acting in the best interest of the veteran.

*At-home Drug Disposal.*—In 2019, over 125 million prescriptions, representing 80 percent of outpatient prescriptions were mailed directly to the veterans' homes. While extremely helpful to veterans, this method can contribute to the prevalence of excess, expired, unused, and unwanted prescriptions remaining in veterans' medicine cabinets. The Committee is concerned that current drug take-back efforts are insufficient and the drug mail-back program represents an opportunity for drug diversion. The Committee is aware of commercially available at-home drug disposal products that meet Drug Enforcement Administration guidelines for rendering a controlled substance non-retrievable, which could serve as a safe, effective, and economical alternative to the mail-back program. The Committee encourages the Department to evaluate and provide a report on the benefits of co-dispensing at-home drug disposal products for post-surgical patients as a part of the Opioid Overdose Education & Naloxone Distribution program and drug-take back activities of the Department. The report should be provided to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 180 days of enactment of this act.

#### LONG-TERM CARE

*Long-Term Care.*—The Committee provides \$10,559,783,000 as requested by the Department for long-term care. This includes \$7,082,001,000 for institutional care and \$3,477,782,000 for non-institutional care. The Committee is aware of the aging veteran population and supports long-term care that focuses on facilitating veteran independence, enhancing quality of life, and supporting the family members of veterans. As such, the Committee supports the Department's efforts to broaden veterans' options regarding non-institutional long-term care support and services, and to accommodate veterans' preferences in receiving home based services, as well as community-based care, residential settings, nursing homes, and other services. The Committee acknowledges that the veteran population faces unique health risks and that each veteran requires an individualized approach to care, and encourages VA to continue cooperation with community, State, and Federal partners to expand and grow these programs.

*Long-Term Care Projections.*—The Committee directs VA to conduct a study and prepare a report on the current and projected needs for VA long-term care programs, to include both institutional and non-institutional care. The Department shall also conduct a cost-benefit analysis to determine the feasibility of incorporating assisted living models into the VA's long-term care options, particularly to aid veterans with traumatic brain injury [TBI] or early-stage dementia, in an effort to delay the need for costlier nursing home care. Specific attention should be paid to long-term care options in rural areas, long-term care program suitability for women veterans, and workforce needs to provide long-term care to vet-

erans. The report shall be provided to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 270 days of enactment of this act.

*Long-Term Care for Veterans with Severe Traumatic Brain Injury.*—The Committee notes the increasing prevalence of deployment-related TBI. This continues to demonstrate the longstanding need for providing adequate long-term specialty care for veterans suffering from severe TBIs, as well as the need for new and innovative treatment options to curb the effects of these injuries. The Committee further notes the GAO report entitled “Veterans’ Use of Long-Term Care is Increasing, and VA Faces Challenges in Meeting the Demand” [GAO–20–284] reached a similar conclusion. The Committee remains concerned about the Department’s inability to articulate a plan to provide such care to veterans with severe TBIs. The Committee directs the Department to consider entering into contracts for such care and to develop a plan for providing long-term care for severe TBI survivors in non-VA facilities, and make the plan available to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 120 days after enactment of this act. This report should include an examination of VA’s current capacity to meet the long-term residential care needs of veterans with severe TBI, including in rural areas; VA’s projected demand for such care over, at a minimum, the next two decades; VA’s plan for increasing current capacity to meet demand, including in rural areas; and the barriers that exist to carrying out that plan.

*Hospice Care for Veterans.*—Public Law 115–244 directed VA to undertake a pilot program to develop techniques, best practices, and support mechanisms to improve end-of-life care for combat veterans and Vietnam-era veterans. The Committee believes there is more work to be done to address the unique needs of these veterans, and that VA should work with non-profit hospice care providers with Vietnam veteran-centric programming to improve care in the near term, including work with State Hospice Associations. The Committee also directs VA to provide the Committee on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report, not later than 90 days after enactment of this Act, on the status of such efforts.

#### RURAL HEALTHCARE

*Office of Rural Health.*—Veterans residing in rural and remote areas face unique barriers to receiving high-quality mental health, primary healthcare, and specialty care services. While enhanced community care programs offer veterans increased flexibility to obtain care close to home, often this same gap in services exists in the private market in rural and remote communities. Over the past 10 years, the Office of Rural Health [ORH] and its Rural Health Initiative has played a critical role in assisting VA in its efforts to increase access to care. Therefore the Committee recommendation includes \$300,000,000 for ORH and the Rural Health Initiative. This is equal to fiscal year 2020 enacted and \$30,000,000 above the budget request.

*Rural Health Continuity of Care.*—The Committee notes the Access Received Closer to Home [ARCH] pilot program was highly successful in some areas in providing healthcare services to veterans who live in the rural and highly rural States in which it op-

erated. As the Department completes implementation of the Veterans Community Care Program established by the MISSION Act (Public Law 115–182), the Committee encourages the Secretary to sustain continuity of care for rural veterans through provider agreements, based on previous models such as the ARCH program, to ensure veterans do not experience a lapse in existing healthcare access during the transition. The Committee continues to support enabling the Department to enter into provider agreements with non-VA long-term care providers, including skilled nursing facilities, as appropriate.

#### CAREGIVERS

The Committee recommendation includes \$1,195,486,000 for VA's Caregivers Program, equal to the budget request. The Committee expects VA to dedicate this funding to the program and not to divert the resources to other areas, and notes that notification should be provided to the Committee of any reprogramming of this funding. In order to ensure proper budgetary oversight, the Department is directed to report to the Committees on Appropriations quarterly obligations for the Caregivers Program.

*Caregivers Program.*—The Caregivers Program was enhanced as part of the MISSION Act (Public Law 115–182), and the Department is expected to fully staff the program, including ensuring that the Caregiver Coordinators at each Medical Center are fully resourced and, to the maximum extent possible, assigned designated caregiver duties as their chief and only responsibility. Though already significantly behind schedule, expansion of the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers to veterans of all eras must proceed expeditiously, including the hiring and training of sufficient staff to manage the workload and ensuring the program receives the highest quality leadership in the Department's capacity. The Department must communicate any changes to the program in a timely manner to veterans and their families. The Committee has concerns with the Department's Final Rule related to limits on eligibility or the scope of services that were not specifically authorized by statute. Those changes could adversely impact caregivers who are still eligible for the program, as well as those who may no longer be eligible. The Committee, however, commends the Department for correcting its interpretation and taking steps to begin covering veterans whose disabilities are a result of service-connected illness.

The Committee directs VA to provide to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress quarterly updates on expansion of the Program for the next fiscal year, including the number of downgrades, terminations, and denials of eligibility under the Department's new regulations. The Committee further directs the Department to provide a detailed accounting of the impacts of the Department's changes to the tier structure and stipend calculations, including the number of caregivers who will see reductions in their benefits. The Department is further directed to continue providing quarterly projections and monthly expenditure reports for the Caregivers Program to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

The Committee recognizes that many caregivers for severely wounded veterans face a reduction in outside earnings, resulting in difficulties meeting financial obligations, including student loan debt held by the caregiver. Within 180 days of enactment of this act, the Department must provide to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, a summary of the findings from the survey completed in fiscal year 2020 of caregivers who seek the financial planning services required under the MISSION Act (Public Law 115–182), and the plan that was developed to monitor this issue.

#### WOMEN VETERANS HEALTHCARE

*Women Veterans.*—Women represent 16 percent of today’s active duty force and 19 percent of National Guard and Reserves. The percent of women veterans as a percent of the total veteran population is projected to increase from 6 percent in 2020 to approximately 16 percent in 2040. Accordingly, women veterans are enrolling in VA healthcare at record levels, with the number of women veterans using VA healthcare tripling since 2001. With the upward trend of women serving in all branches of the Armed Forces, VA must continue to aggressively expand efforts that address the current barriers to gender-specific healthcare services and plan accordingly for the type and length of the treatment needs of women veterans. The Committee continues to believe VA must be poised to address the changing demographic of today’s and tomorrow’s veterans in order to fulfill its mission. Toward this end, the Committee recommendation includes \$625,691,000 for fiscal year 2021, equal to the budget request, to support gender-specific healthcare services. The Department is directed to submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 90 days after enactment of this act a spend plan detailing planned activities related to care for women veterans.

*Barriers to Women’s Care.*—The Committee supports the Department’s efforts to address the healthcare needs of women veterans. It is imperative that the Department is equipped with the personnel and services to provide quality healthcare for these veterans. The VA Office of Women’s Health Services’ 2015 report titled “Barriers to Women’s Care” cited nine areas that should be improved for women’s care in the VA. They included challenges related to communication, outreach about Women Services, driving distance, location, availability of appointments, access to childcare, gender sensitivity, mental healthcare, and access to safe and comfortable facilities. The Committee directs the Department to provide a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, within 180 days of enactment of this act, detailing the corrective actions taken to address each of the challenges outlined in the Barriers to Women’s Care report.

*Women’s Health Care Programs.*—The Committee supports robust funding for the Women Veterans Health Care Mini Residency Program in order to train clinicians to provide primary and emergency healthcare to women veterans and to ensure that all female veterans have access to healthcare professionals with specialized women’s healthcare training. The Committee also supports expanding the number of full-time or part-time women’s healthcare pro-

viders at each VA medical facility to provide training on the needs of women veterans. Further, the Committee supports the creation of an Office of Women's Health within VHA, tasked to develop and implement standards of care for women veterans; monitor, identify, and rectify deficiencies in care provision; and oversee the distribution of resources related to women veterans' health programming.

#### CLINICAL WORKFORCE

*Hiring and Credentialing.*—The Committee strongly encourages VA to expand the Military Transition and Training Advancement Course nationally in order to facilitate the recruitment of separating military personnel who served in the healthcare field. The Committee welcomes progress toward the speedy and timely transfer of licensed personnel between facilities within the VHA system. Recognizing the value of the Intermediate Care Technicians program, the Committee directs the Department to provide the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress with a list of VHA medical facilities engaged in Intermediate Care Technicians program implementation within 60 days after enactment of this act.

*Orthotics & Prosthetics Workforce Pilot Program.*—The Committee remains concerned by the sustainability of the orthotics and prosthetics workforce treating veterans, particularly given an aging workforce with imminent retirements as well as a lack of availability of advanced degree programs necessary to train new professionals. The Committee encourages VA to explore ways to enhance its Residency Program and develop the pipeline of talent moving into this area of clinical workforce.

*Critical Staffing Shortages.*—The Committee is aware of a growing shortage of healthcare and support professionals in rural and highly rural areas. To improve recruitment and retention initiatives for healthcare providers and support personnel in rural and highly rural areas the Committee urges the Department to appropriately prioritize the hiring of positions that the Office of Inspector General has designated as having critical occupational staffing shortages, including human resource professionals, police officers and security personnel, housekeepers, and clinical support personnel.

*Physician Assistants.*—The Committee is concerned VA may not be fully utilizing existing authorities to hire and retain Physician Assistants. The Committee directs the Department to accelerate the rollout of competitive pay for Physician Assistants, and to plan on how to better utilize the Health Professional Scholarship Program and Education Debt Reduction Program. In addition, the Committee believes VA would benefit from the creation of a staffing plan on how to utilize Physician Assistants within the Department and directs VA to develop such a model. The report and staffing plan should be provided no later than 270 days after enactment of this act.

#### OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

*Intimate Partner Violence Program.*—The Committee supports VA's efforts to expand its Intimate Partner Violence Program to all sites, and its plans to screen all veterans for Intimate Partner Vio-



lence and provide the appropriate resources. The Committee directs the Department to fully resource the Intimate Partner Violence Program at \$21,512,000 in fiscal year 2021 and continue to include it as a program of interest with budget detail in the justifications accompanying future fiscal year budget submissions.

*Veterans Exposed to Open Burn Pits and Airborne Hazards.*—In order to provide full and effective medical care, it is essential for the Department to better understand the impacts exposure during service has had on the health of veterans. Therefore the Committee includes \$5,000,000 to carry out responsibilities and activities of the Airborne Hazards and Burn Pits Center of Excellence.

*Adaptive Sports.*—The Committee includes \$27,048,000 for National Veterans Sports Programs, including \$16,000,000 for adaptive sports programs. Veterans have shown marked improvements in mental and physical health from participating in adaptive sports and recreational therapy and veterans have expressed the need for these activities to be included in the healthcare services VA offers. The Committee also recognizes that adaptive sports and recreational therapy provide a low-cost alternative to other healthcare services that produce similar health outcomes. The Committee applauds the efforts of community providers of these grants, especially in rural areas, who have been able to utilize this key program in successfully reintegrating veterans back into their communities. The Department is directed to report on the feasibility and cost associated with expanding access to recreational therapy options to all veterans enrolled in VA healthcare. This report must be provided to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 180 days of enactment of this act.

*Dental Services.*—The Committee notes the importance of dental services for veterans. The Committee directs the Department to conduct an assessment on the feasibility of ensuring that at least one VA Medical Center in each state is capable of providing all dental services to eligible veterans and the costs and advisability of expanding dental service eligibility beyond current eligibility requirements. This review should be submitted to the Committee on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 270 days after enactment of this act.

*Access to Child Care.*—Due to the fact that veterans have identified child care during treatment as a barrier to accessing healthcare, the Committee directs the Department to conduct a survey of any existing contracts or other agreements related to child care that have been entered into at individual VA Medical Centers and Vet Centers. The Department should provide the results of this survey, along with an assessment of the feasibility and advisability, and cost estimate, for expanding these agreements to additional locations, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 270 days after enactment of this act.

*Advanced Platform Technology [APT] Center.*—The Committee applauds VHA for the progress being made to provide our nation's veterans with new assistive and restorative technologies that address sensory, motor, or cognitive deficits, as well as limb loss. The APT Center has effectively utilized a partnership model to leverage local and national research expertise to drive dramatic progress in

diverse areas including artificial lung development, wound healing, and neurally-connected sensory prosthesis. The Committee supports these commendable efforts.

*Surgical Workflow Solutions.*—The Committee is aware that some VA Medical Facilities have been or are pursuing a surgical workflow solution that provides access to surgical facilities, to coordinate patient, staff and surgical resources, and to adhere to surgical safety standards. Within existing funds, the Committee encourages VHA to standardize these services across all VA medical surgical facilities to enhance Veterans safety and improve surgical care. Within 180 days of enactment of this act, the VA is directed to provide a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress on the benefits of implementing a standard of care for surgical services.

*Surgical Bleed Management.*—The Committee understands that intraoperative bleeding may be a significant problem in the VA medical system that results in unnecessary post-surgery complications, extended lengths of hospital stays, and readmissions. The Committee is aware of an innovative intraoperative bleed management program that utilizes a newly developed bleed scale adopted by a VA Medical Center in conjunction with academic partners. The Committee encourages VHA to consider implementing an intraoperative bleed management program that utilizes a bleed scale.

*Lovell Federal Health Care Center.*—The Committee recognizes the innovative collaboration between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense at the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center Demonstration Project, established in 2010 under Public Law 111–84. Given the unique nature of this joint facility, the Committees notes that the Lovell Federal Health Care Center has significant potential to improve access, quality, and cost-effectiveness of healthcare delivery to veterans, servicemembers, and their families, and already serves as a valuable site demonstrating comprehensive cooperation and interoperability between VA and DoD. The important work of this integration effort must continue as the two Departments continue to roll out their respective electronic health record programs.

*Pilot Programs for Agritherapy.*—The Committee provides \$5,000,000 to continue a pilot program to train veterans in agricultural vocations, while also tending to behavioral and mental health needs with behavioral healthcare services and treatments by licensed providers at no fewer than three locations.

*Hospital-Acquired Pressure Ulcers and Pressure Injuries [HAPUI].*—The Committee notes pressure ulcers and pressure injuries have been reported to be 52 percent more prevalent in VA hospitals than in non-VA hospitals. Most of the HAPUI's are preventable with the application of evidence-based protocols. In the Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2020, the Committee provided direction for the Department to take steps to implement the Standardized Pressure Injury Prevention Protocol [SPIPP], a protocol included in the 2019 International Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Prevention and Treatment of Pressure Ulcers/Injuries. The Committee renews its direction for the VA to

take tangible steps to implement the SPIPP. The Committee directs the Department to submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 90 days after enactment of this act detailing the steps taken and planned to implement across the VHA medical system to reduce the incidence of pressure ulcers and pressure injuries for VA patients.

*Readjustment Counseling.*—The Department's Vet Centers and Mobile Vet Centers provide important readjustment counseling services. The Department also partners with organizations that provide outdoor experiences for veterans as part of a continuum of care to support veterans in developing a community of support to treat combat-related injuries, including those related to behavioral health. The Committee directs the Department to submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 180 days after enactment of this Act to highlight best practices of Vet Centers, including partnerships to provide outdoor experiences, and to include a plan to disseminate the findings, as well as incorporate into criteria for additional sites. The report should also evaluate the standardization of the current application and selection process for these organizations across each district and based on these findings, provide recommendations to create selection standardization across each district in order to create a level playing field for all organizations offering outdoor experiences to Veterans.

*Utilization Reporting.*—The Committee urges the Department to restore regular reporting throughout the year of healthcare and benefits utilization, including by Gulf War and post-9/11 war veterans, and to publish these reports on the Department's website.

*Obsolete Personal Radio Paging Systems.*—Not later than 120 days after the passage of this bill, the Secretary shall furnish to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report that details: (1) the current status of Personal Radio Paging Systems at VA Medical Centers [VAMCs] including which facilities are equipped with obsolete and unsupported equipment in need of replacement; and (2) steps taken to upgrade obsolete paging equipment and maintain existing paging equipment for operations over the next 10 years.

*Ventilator Support.*—The Secretary shall assess the feasibility and costs of ensuring at least one VA facility in each State have the proper staffing and ventilator equipment to deliver year-round Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis [ALS] ventilator support. This effort is to ensure that every ALS patient has access to life sustaining Non-Invasive Ventilators.

*Veterans Transportation Service.*—The Committee directs VA to include an analysis of the healthcare costs impacted by non-emergency medical transportation, the impact of the Veterans Transportation Service [VTS] on missed appointment rates at facilities utilizing the program, lodging benefits for long-distance travel, and VTS' impact on health outcomes for veterans in a report to Congress to ensure that this service is improving VA's ability to provide quality care in a cost-effective manner. The Department is directed to provide this report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 180 days of enactment of this act.

*Health Navigator Services.*—The Department is directed to provide a report on the feasibility and advisability, including a cost analysis, of implementing health navigator services throughout VHA for veteran beneficiaries. The Department is directed to provide this report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 180 days of enactment of this act.

*Domiciliary Care Claims for Veterans with Early-Stage Dementia.*—Changes in VA’s processing and treatment of domiciliary care claims has led to some veterans with early-stage dementia who were earlier ruled eligible for VA domiciliary care to now be deemed ineligible. The Committee is supportive of actions taken by the Secretary to provide limited programmatic equitable relief for veterans who would have been or had been previously deemed eligible for domiciliary care. The Committee urges VA to take further actions to ensure this vulnerable population continues to receive care at suitable State Veterans Homes, including the use of any programmatic or administrative authorities that may be available to the Secretary.

*Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy.*—The Committee appreciates that the Department provided participants the option to extend the hyperbaric oxygen therapy demonstration project through fiscal year 2021. The Committee also recommends the Department allow for the treatment of veterans suffering from TBI under this demonstration project. The Department shall report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 60 days of the enactment of this act their findings on the short and long-term outcomes of veterans who completed treatment under the demonstration project to date.

*Support for Vet Centers.*—Vet Centers across the country provide a broad range of counseling, outreach, and referral services to veterans and their families, including individuals with problematic discharges. The Committee believes Vet Centers are critical to veterans in every state, and the Department should fully staff and support them. VA should seek opportunities to hire additional counselors and establish additional mobile vet centers.

*VA Transplant Centers.*—The Committee reminds the Department of the annual reporting requirement included in Senate Report 115–269 accompanying the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2019. This report should be provided to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than March 31 of each year.

MEDICAL COMMUNITY CARE

Appropriations, 2020 <sup>1</sup> .....	\$15,279,799,000
Advance appropriations, 2021 .....	17,131,179,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	1,380,800,000
Committee recommendation, 2021 <sup>2</sup> .....	3,847,180,000
Budget estimate, advance appropriations, 2022 .....	20,148,244,000
Committee recommendations, advance appropriations, 2022 .....	20,148,244,000

<sup>1</sup>Excludes \$30,000,000 in emergency funds provided in title VI of division A of Public Law 116–127, and \$2,100,000,000 in emergency funds provided in title X of division B of Public Law 116–136.

<sup>2</sup>Designated as emergency funding.

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Medical Community Care account provides for medical services for eligible enrolled veterans and other beneficiaries that is purchased from and provided by non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities and providers, including contract hospitals, State homes, and outpatient services.

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

In fiscal year 2020, the Committee provided an advance appropriation of \$17,131,179,000 for fiscal year 2021 for the Medical Community Care account. The recommendation for fiscal year 2021 includes an additional \$3,847,180,000 designated as emergency funding. The additional appropriation coupled with the advance appropriation provided for fiscal year 2021 (less a rescission) provides the Department with total budget authority of \$18,511,979,000, which is equal to the request.

The Committee recommendation also includes an advance appropriation of \$20,148,244,000 for Medical Community Care for fiscal year 2022.

*Community Care Modeling.*—The Committee notes that the Department has made consistently inaccurate projections related to utilization of community care, which impacts their annual budget requests. Due to these inaccuracies, it has been necessary for Congress to repeatedly provide additional dollars outside the annual budget process, or to approve reprogramming requests for significant amounts of funding, shortchanging Congressional priorities in other areas. Therefore, prior to submission of the fiscal year 2022 budget request, the department is directed to report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress when and how they have modified processes according to the recommendations laid out in GAO’s report entitled “Additional Steps Could Help Improve Community Care Budget Estimates” [GAO–20–669].

*MISSION Act Reporting.*—The Committee is concerned that Congress does not have appropriate and timely information from VA to provide adequate oversight of the Veterans Community Care Program. The Department is directed to provide to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress quarterly reports on the expenditures related to the MISSION Act for the prior fiscal year and the current fiscal year, and estimates for expenditures related to the MISSION Act for the next five fiscal years. These reports should include costs broken out by account, with categories for costs of MISSION Act-affected community care, caregiver expansion, urgent care, and other efforts. These reports should also include: (1) the number of veterans served by each authority for care outlined in section 1703(d) of title 38, United States Code (the Department does not offer the care, the Department does not operate a full-service medical facility in the State in which the covered veteran resides, etc.); (2) the cost of such care broken out by the authorities in section 1703(d); and (3) the timeliness of care, on average.

In addition, the Department is directed to submit monthly reports to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress identifying available resources, obligations, authorizations,

and anticipated funding needs for the remainder of the fiscal year. This should include detail on the timing of authorization of care and the obligation of funds.

Furthermore, the Committee directs the Department to provide data on the number of referrals and completed appointments in the community by facility, the number of referrals and completed appointments in-house by facility, and the timeliness of referrals, from the point a veteran's provider needs follow-up care to completed appointment, in the community and in VA by facility. This data is to be provided to the Committees on Appropriations and Veterans' Affairs of both Houses of Congress on a monthly basis.

*Timeliness of Payments.*—The Committee supports VA's efforts to ensure timely reimbursement for non-VA healthcare providers. Now that VA has awarded Community Care Network contracts across five of the six regions, the Committee encourages the Department to provide stronger oversight and improve timely payment to community care partners. The Committee remains concerned about the backlog of provider claims at the Department under the Community Care Program. Delays in payments to providers for care performed in the community undermine the future success of the Community Care Program. While the Department has made significant progress on this effort during 2020, no later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary is directed to submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House and Senate on the Department's plan to fully eliminate the backlog in provider claims. The report shall include the number of outstanding claims nationally and within each Veterans Integrated Service Network, the date by which the Department determines it will eliminate the backlog, additional resources the Department may need to eliminate the backlog, and a plan to ensure that future backlogs are prevented, or addressed within a reasonable timeline if they occur.

*Recording of Obligations.*—In fiscal year 2019, in coordination with the Office of Management and Budget, VA began to record obligations for community care at the time of payment to providers, rather than the prior practice of obligating at the time of authorization for care. This change in accounting practice did not affect the cost or quality of care. Earlier this year, VA determined its revised accounting practice was not allowed under current law and legislative language was required to continue the practice. In the absence of a legislative remedy, VA indicated it must revert back to the prior accounting practice, which would create a shortfall in the Medical Community Care account and require additional appropriations to maintain the Veterans Community Care program. However, the Administration failed to request the legislative remedy or funds to address this shortfall.

The Committee directs the Administration to transmit a formal request for a legislative change to address the recording of obligations for community care. In addition, no later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Department, in consultation with the Office of Management and Budget, shall submit a report to the President and the Congress, similar to the report required pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1351, detailing how, under the prior accounting practice, the expenditures or obligations would have exceeded

the amount available in fiscal year 2019 and fiscal year 2020 in the Medical Community Care appropriation. The report shall also include an explanation as to how the Department plans to avoid incurring obligations for the Medical Community Care appropriation in excess of its available budgetary resources in fiscal year 2021 and future fiscal years.

*Assessment on Walk-in and Urgent Care Access.*—The Committee supports continued efforts to ensure that our nation’s veterans can access timely care, including urgent care services, in their communities. Section 105 of the MISSION Act requires that the Secretary develop procedures to allow certain veterans to access walk-in care through community providers, and provides that walk-in clinics that have entered into contracts or other agreements with the VA are eligible to participate. Because of regional disparities that have created barriers to accessing authorized walk-in care, the Committee urges the Department to consider the broadest application of urgent care in allowing eligible veterans access to these services.

*Access to Community Dental Care.*—The Committee is aware of significant deficiencies in access to community dental care in certain regions following the transition to new third party administrators under the MISSION Act. The Committee directs VA to take actions necessary to increase the number of dental care providers available to veterans in the community to ensure veterans have adequate access to convenient and timely dental care.

*Support for State Veterans Homes.*—State Veterans Homes provide support and care for veterans and families of veterans across the nation. The Committee directs the Department to conduct a review of ways to improve its oversight of State Veterans Homes. The Department shall include in this review an assessment of the feasibility and advisability of additional oversight of the day-to-day operations of State Veterans Homes, if the level of Departmental support is appropriate, and what the anticipated cost of increased oversight would be. This review should be submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 270 days after enactment.

*Veterans Care Agreements.*—The Committee continues to support the Department’s efforts to broaden veterans’ options regarding long-term care support and services. As the Department continues to implement the Community Care Network across all regions, the Committee urges the Department to continue the use of Veterans Care Agreements or local contracts with non-VA long-term care providers. The Committee urges the Department to work with the Departments of Labor and Health and Human Services to streamline to the greatest extent possible Federal requirements pertaining to veterans and skilled nursing facilities and remove any unnecessary, duplicative requirements.

*Decision Support Tool.*—The Committee appreciates that the Department implemented a Decision Support Tool to track eligibility of veterans to receive care in the community, and that user feedback has been largely positive. VA is encouraged to update the system periodically based on user feedback and other system needs.

*Certified Non-Physician Surgical Assistants.*—The Committee suggests that VHA explore ways to contract directly with inde-

pendent certified non-physician surgical assistants to assist at surgery in the context of the Veterans Community Care Program.

MEDICAL SUPPORT AND COMPLIANCE

Appropriations, 2020 <sup>1</sup> .....	\$7,337,956,000
Advance appropriations, 2021 .....	7,914,191,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	300,000,000
Committee recommendation, 2021 <sup>2</sup> .....	886,235,000
Budget estimate, advance appropriations, 2022 .....	8,403,177,000
Committee recommendations, advance appropriations, 2022 .....	8,403,117,000

<sup>1</sup>Excludes \$100,000,000 in emergency funds provided in title X of division B of Public Law 116-136.

<sup>2</sup>Designated as emergency funding.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Medical Support and Compliance account provides funds for management, security, and administrative expenses within the VA healthcare system, in addition to providing costs associated with the operation of VA medical centers and clinics, Veterans Integrated Service Network [VISN] offices, and the VHA Central Office in Washington, DC. This appropriation also covers Chief of Staff and Facility Director operations, quality of care oversight, legal services, billing and coding activities, procurement, financial management, security, and human resource management.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

In fiscal year 2020, the Committee provided an advance appropriation of \$7,914,191,000 for fiscal year 2021 for the Medical Support and Compliance account. The recommendation for fiscal year 2021 includes an additional \$886,235,000 designated as emergency funding. The additional appropriation coupled with the advance appropriation provided for fiscal year 2021 (less a rescission) provides the Department with total budget authority of \$8,214,191,000, which is equal to the request.

The Committee recommendation also includes an advance appropriation of \$8,403,117,000 for Medical Support and Compliance for fiscal year 2022.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

Appropriations, 2020 <sup>1</sup> .....	\$6,141,880,000
Advance appropriations, 2021 .....	6,433,265,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	150,000,000
Committee recommendation, 2021 <sup>2</sup> .....	441,385,000
Budget estimate, advance appropriations, 2022 .....	6,734,680,000
Committee recommendations, advance appropriations, 2022 .....	6,734,680,000

<sup>1</sup>Excludes \$606,000,000 in emergency funds provided in title X of division B of Public Law 116-136.

<sup>2</sup>Designated as emergency funding.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Medical Facilities account provides funds for the operation and maintenance of the VA healthcare system's vast capital infrastructure. This appropriation provides for costs associated with utilities, engineering, capital planning, leases, laundry, groundskeeping, housekeeping, facility repair, and property disposition and acquisition.



COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

In fiscal year 2020, the Committee provided an advance appropriation of \$6,433,265,000 for fiscal year 2021 for the Medical Facilities account. The recommendation for fiscal year 2021 includes an additional \$441,385,000 designated as emergency funding. The additional appropriation coupled with the advance appropriation provided for fiscal year 2021 (less a rescission) provides the Department with total budget authority of \$6,583,265,000, which is equal to the request.

The Committee recommendation also includes an advance appropriation of \$6,734,680,000 for Medical Facilities for fiscal year 2022.

*Reducing Airborne Infections in VA Facilities.*—The Committee recognizes that airborne bacteria and viruses remain a significant source of healthcare-associated infections at healthcare facilities. Although High Efficiency Particulate Air [HEPA] filters are widely used, airborne transmission still accounts for a significant portion of healthcare-associated infections. The Committee directs VA to consider the feasibility and advisability of implementing a solution, including the use of off-the-shelf technology, which has the potential to capture and destroy airborne contaminants, and provide a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 120 days of enactment of this act.

*VA Energy Savings Performance Contract.*—The Committee strongly encourages the Department to provide sufficient resources to run the Energy Savings Performance Contract and Utility Energy Service Contract programs effectively and efficiently to reduce energy costs and improve facilities for veterans.

*Rate of Return on Alternative Energy Investments.*—The Committee is concerned about VA’s procurement of alternative energy and the potential for the technology to be obsolete before full return on investment is achieved. The Committee encourages the Secretary to ensure that any new alternative energy project has a return on investment in 10 years or less.

*Scoring Process for Leases.*—The Committee expresses frustration with the delays in funding for leased facilities exacerbated by the Congressional Budget Office’s scoring process for leased facilities.

MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH

Appropriations, 2020 .....	\$800,000,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	787,000,000
Committee recommendation .....	800,000,000

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Medical and Prosthetic Research account provides funds for medical, rehabilitative, and health services research. Medical research supports basic and clinical studies that advance knowledge leading to improvements in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases and disabilities. Rehabilitation research focuses on rehabilitation engineering problems in the fields of prosthetics, orthotics, adaptive equipment for vehicles, sensory aids, and re-

lated areas. Health services research focuses on improving the effectiveness and economy of the delivery of health services.

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$800,000,000 for the Medical and Prosthetic Research account. This is equal to the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and \$13,000,000 above the budget request.

The Committee remains highly supportive of this program, and recognizes its importance both in improving healthcare services to veterans and recruiting and retaining high quality medical professionals in the Veterans Health Administration.

Through the Department's research and development program, VA has implemented a comprehensive research agenda to develop new treatments and tools for clinicians to ease the physical and psychological pain of men and women returning from war zones, to improve access to VA healthcare services, and to accelerate discoveries and applications, especially for neurotrauma, sensory loss, amputation, polytrauma, and related prosthetic needs. The Committee encourages VA to continue its research into developing novel approaches to restoring veterans with amputation, central nervous system injuries, loss of sight or hearing, or other physical and cognitive impairments to full and productive lives.

*Respiratory Illnesses.*—The Department is directed to submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 180 days after enactment of this act on the current status and findings of the Gulf War Registry and the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry, as well as information on other research and development activities the Department is conducting to explore the health outcomes of veterans with service in the Persian Gulf, Iraq, and Afghanistan, including as they relate to Gulf War Illness and to respiratory illnesses such as chronic cough, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, constrictive bronchiolitis, and pulmonary fibrosis. The Department should include any research and surveillance efforts that evaluate the current incidence and prevalence of respiratory illnesses among servicemembers and veterans.

*Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substance Exposure.*—The Committee is concerned about the exposure of veterans to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances [PFAS] during their military service and how these chemicals may have affected their health and what resources are available to them. PFAS chemicals have been found in the drinking water at more than 600 military installations nationwide, and their long-term cumulative effects on human health is not yet known. The Committee encourages VA to establish and maintain a registry for veterans who may have been exposed to PFAS due to exposure to Aqueous Firefighting Foam during their military service and develop a public information campaign to inform eligible individuals about the registry.

*Radio Frequency Exposure.*—Thousands of veterans have served on ships and installations utilizing high frequency radar systems. The Committee is concerned about the deleterious health effects of such long-term Radio Frequency exposure. The Committee urges the Department to study and conduct research into whether there

is a connection between rates of brain damage and cancer and the potential Radio Frequency exposure during a veteran's service.

*Enewetak Atoll Registry Research.*—Thousands of veterans served on the Enewetak Atoll to clean up the island following its use for nuclear weapons testing. There are many instances of veterans who conducted the cleanup suffering serious health problems, such as brittle bones, cancers, and birth defects in their children. The Committee urges the Department to study whether there is a connection between certain illnesses and the potential exposure of individuals to radiation related to service at Enewetak Atoll between January 1, 1977, and December 31, 1980.

*Karshi-Khanabad Toxic Exposure Study.*—The Committee understands that Karshi-Khanabad (K2) Airbase in Uzbekistan was a deserted, former-Soviet Union military base that was utilized by DoD to support operations during the initial invasion into Afghanistan. The Committee understands that Veterans who served at K2 may be reporting unusually high incidents of rare cancers, assertions include exposure to missile propellant, fuels, toxic chemicals, chemical weapons, and depleted uranium. The Committee supports additional analysis and research regarding the health effects of Veterans who may have experienced exposure to harmful toxicants at K2. The Committee encourages VA to work with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and the Department of Defense to collect data, research, and analyze any causation or correlation between exposure to toxicants at K2 and cancer or other diseases or illnesses experienced by veterans who served at K2 between October 7, 2001 and November 21, 2005.

*Research Partnerships.*—In order to further the Department's research goals, VA is directed to provide a report on the feasibility and advisability of enhancing research efforts in locations where existing small VA research programs could align with a co-located academic partner, in geographic areas that are typically underrepresented among Federal research investments. This report should be provided to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 270 days after enactment of this act.

*VA Cancer Moonshot Contribution.*—The Committee supports the Department's contribution utilizing advances in genomic science to provide targeted treatment to veterans. The Department has identified prostate cancer, triple-negative breast cancer, and colorectal cancer as areas of priority. Due to the prevalence of various skin cancers among servicemembers, the Committee directs that skin cancer be included as well.

*Molecular Diagnostics.*—The Committee believes that every veteran with cancer deserves the highest quality and most medically advanced diagnosis and treatment available. Molecular diagnostics, including microarray and next generation sequencing, performed at the first occurrence of cancer can provide medical providers and patients with vital information regarding the specific tumor type and its drivers, which can lead to the most accurate precision medicine for cancer patients. Therefore, the Committee directs the Department to conduct an assessment of feasibility and advisability, including a cost estimate, of providing molecular diagnostics at the time of diagnosis as well as at the time of tumor recurrence for all cancer patients in VHA. The Department should provide a report

of this assessment, along with a summary of the extent to which this treatment is currently in use, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 270 days after enactment of this Act.

*Access to Clinical Trials.*—The Committee commends the Department for its ongoing partnerships between VA medical centers and National Cancer Institute [NCI]-designated comprehensive cancer centers and looks forward to full implementation of the direction provided in support of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2020, to support oncology clinical trial collaborations specially focused on VA medical centers in states with large veterans populations that have not been included in programs such as NAVIGATE. In furtherance of this effort, the Committee encourages the Department to support such partnerships including through the provision of staffing support for management of clinical-trial protocols, the appointment of oncologists jointly employed by VA medical centers and NCI-designated comprehensive cancer centers, and other efforts to assure that VA oncologists are granted sufficient time to engage in clinical research.

*Veteran Access to Clinical Trials and Medical Research.*—Medical research is an important aspect of the Department's programs, and the Committee is highly supportive of efforts to advance Department research priorities via partnerships with government agencies. The Committee is concerned that VAMCs that have historically received lower levels of VA research funding may not possess the research readiness to support the meaningful participation of area veterans in clinical trials and related studies. The Committee understands there is an Office of Research and Development [ORD] plan to increase Veterans' access to clinical trials but there are concerns that the plan may exacerbate disparities in the research readiness and levels of research engagement across VAMCs. The Department is directed to submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 180 days of enactment of this act a report that indicates the geographic and programmatic research status of VAMCs, including: (1) current research capabilities, (2) fiscal levels of annual research support, and (3) annual levels of research engagement. For each VAMC the report should contain, but not be limited to: the status of ORD research authorization; staffing levels of VAMC personnel administratively supporting the VAMC research program and personnel conducting research; the number of veterans in the service areas; a general characterization of VAMC service area (e.g., urban, rural); the total annual appropriation of intramural and extramural research funds; the annual distribution of Veterans Equitable Resource Allocation [VERA] research funds; a VERA per veteran metric; the number of Veterans participating in VA funded clinical trials; and the number of active clinical trials conducted.

*Gulf War Illness Studies.*—The Committee urges the Department to consistently utilize the term, "Gulf War illness." The Committee recommends that the Department continue to conduct epidemiological studies regarding the prevalence of Gulf War illness, morbidity, and mortality in Persian Gulf War veterans, and directs the Department to publish disease-specific morbidity and mortality

data related specifically to Persian Gulf War veterans. The Committee urges the Department to focus on recent Gulf War illness treatment research findings and ongoing Gulf War illness treatment research direction to expedite development and clinical implementation of effective treatments, preventions, and cures for Gulf War illness. Furthermore, the Committee encourages VA to strengthen the training of primary, specialty, and mental healthcare providers on Gulf War illness, its clinical manifestations, and promising potential treatments. The Committee directs the Department to submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 180 days after enactment of this act on the progress of research related to the incidence and prevalence of brain cancer in Gulf War veterans.

*Canine Research.*—The Committee maintains the Administrative Provision included in Public Law 116–94 related to VA animal research. Given the findings of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine in their report on the Necessity, Use, and Care of Laboratory Dogs at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department is directed to provide to the Committees of both Houses of Appropriations, within 180 days of enactment of this act, a report outlining their efforts to address each of the recommendations in this study.

#### MEDICAL CARE COST RECOVERY COLLECTIONS

##### MEDICAL CARE COLLECTION FUND

Appropriations, 2020 .....	\$3,729,000,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	4,403,000,000
Committee recommendation .....	4,403,000,000

##### MEDICAL CARE COLLECTION FUND—REVENUES APPLIED

Appropriations, 2020 .....	–\$3,729,000,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	–4,403,000,000
Committee recommendation .....	–4,403,000,000

##### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Medical Care Collection Fund [MCCF] was established by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (Public Law 105–33). In fiscal year 2004, Public Law 108–199 allowed the Department of Veterans Affairs to deposit first-party and pharmacy co-payments; third-party insurance payments and enhanced-use collections; long-term care co-payments; Compensated Work Therapy Program collections; and Parking Program fees into the MCCF. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs has the authority to transfer funds from the MCCF to the Medical Services and Medical Community Care accounts.

##### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommendation includes the authority to retain co-payments and third-party collections, estimated to total \$4,403,000,000 in fiscal year 2021.

## NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION

Appropriations, 2020 .....	\$329,000,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	360,000,000
Committee recommendation .....	352,000,000

## ADMINISTRATION OVERVIEW

The National Cemetery Administration [NCA] was established in accordance with Public Law 93–94, the National Cemeteries Act of 1973. It has a four-fold mission: to provide for the interment in any national cemetery of the remains of eligible deceased servicemembers and discharged veterans, together with their spouses and certain dependents, and permanently maintain their graves; to provide headstones for, and to mark graves of, eligible persons in national, State, and private cemeteries; to administer the grant program for aid to States in establishing, expanding, or improving State veterans cemeteries; and to administer the Presidential Memorial Certificate Program.

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$352,000,000 for the National Cemetery Administration. This is an increase of \$23,000,000 above the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and \$8,000,000 below the budget request. The appropriated funding for NCA should be used to maintain existing cemeteries and to activate newly completed cemeteries.

The Committee has included bill language to make available through September 30, 2022, up to 10 percent of the National Cemetery Administration appropriation.

*Rural Initiative Cemeteries.*—The Committee recognizes that the NCA Rural Initiative cemeteries were envisioned as small sites with limited features and infrastructure to maximize the availability of burial space. While the Committee applauds NCA for expanding this benefit to previously underserved veteran populations, the Committee is concerned that a lack of supporting infrastructure (such as wind screens, public restrooms, and storage facilities) at the rural initiative sites may detract from cemetery operations and committal services, possibly impacting veterans and their loved ones. In order to better serve these veterans and their communities, the Committee recommends NCA assess the potential for permanent infrastructure enhancements at each of the rural initiative national cemetery sites, based on location-specific needs, and provide a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress on the findings of this assessment no later than 180 days after enactment of this act. The Committee also encourages NCA to enter into state, local or private partnerships to address the need for additional land and/or infrastructure to support and improve cemetery operations and committal services at Rural Initiative national cemeteries, as appropriate.

*Natchez National Cemetery.*—The Committee commends the National Cemetery Administration’s rapid response to the erosion and sinkholes at the Natchez National Cemetery.

*Western New York Cemetery.*—In fiscal year 2020, the Committee appropriated the additional \$10,000,000 requested by VA in order

to complete delivery of the full scope of the Western New York National Cemetery as described in the fiscal year 2017 budget proposal, including a columbarium and burial sites, a permanent Honor Guard building, two permanent committal shelters, a permanent maintenance complex, Memorial walls, a Memorial walkway, a completed loop road and roadways, utilities, and fencing/landscaping. As the Committee has provided the funding requested by VA to complete this project as described, VA is expected to deliver the full scope.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

Appropriations, 2020 <sup>1</sup> .....	\$8,388,526,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	10,286,000,000
Committee recommendation <sup>2</sup> .....	10,163,911,000

<sup>1</sup> Excludes \$2,318,500,000 in emergency funds provided in title X of division B of Public Law 116-136.

<sup>2</sup> Includes \$1,724,870,000 designated as emergency funding.

ADMINISTRATION OVERVIEW

Departmental Administration provides for the administration of veterans benefits through the Veterans Benefits Administration, the executive direction of the Department, several top level supporting offices, and the Board of Veterans Appeals.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$10,163,911,000 for Departmental Administration. The amount is composed of \$365,911,000 for General Administration; \$190,000,000 for the Board of Veterans Appeals; \$4,912,000,000 for Information Technology Systems; \$2,627,000,000 for the Veterans Electronic Health Record; \$228,000,000 for the Office of Inspector General; \$1,316,000,000 for Construction, Major Projects; \$390,000,000 for Construction, Minor Projects; \$90,000,000 for Grants for Construction of State Extended Care Facilities; and \$45,000,000 for Grants for the Construction of State Veterans Cemeteries.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2020 <sup>1</sup> .....	\$355,911,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	413,000,000
Committee recommendation .....	365,911,000

<sup>1</sup> Excludes \$6,000,000 in emergency funds provided in title X of division B of Public Law 116-136.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The General Administration account provides funding for the Office of the Secretary, six assistant secretaries, and three independent staff offices.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$365,911,000 for General Administration. This amount is \$10,000,000 above the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and \$47,089,000 below the budget request. The Com-

mittee has included bill language to make available through September 30, 2022, up to 10 percent of the General Administration appropriation.

The Committee provides funding for General Administration in the amounts specified below:

[In thousands of dollars]

Office	Fiscal year 2021 budget request	Committee recommendation
Office of the Secretary .....	17,059	15,000
Office of General Counsel .....	121,187	117,000
Office of Management .....	71,054	64,000
Office of Human Resources & Administration/Office of Operations, Security & Preparedness .....	110,744	97,061
Office of Enterprise Integration .....	30,081	29,130
Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs .....	15,931	14,000
Office of Congressional & Legislative Affairs .....	8,966	7,000
Veterans Experience Office <sup>1</sup> .....	11,556	.....
Office of Accountability & Whistleblower Protection .....	26,422	22,720
Total .....	413,000	365,911

<sup>1</sup> The Veterans Experience Office will continue to be funded through reimbursements.

The Secretary may alter these allocations if the Committees have been notified and written approval is provided.

*Emergency Preparedness.*—The Committee directs VA to examine its emergency preparedness and response procedures, policies, and legislative authorities. VA should analyze the effectiveness of the VHA Office of Emergency Management, including its structure and relationships with VA and VHA leadership, VISN leadership, and VAMC leadership. The Committee also directs VA to review and report on any vulnerabilities of its supply chain, and make recommendations for strengthening to improve preparedness for instances of a nationwide response. This report should include the operation and management of the VA All Hazards Emergency Cache program. Lastly, the Committee instructs VA to examine its authorities within Public Law 107–287, Department of Veterans Affairs Emergency Preparedness Act of 2002, and identify any recommended additions or changes to the law to improve VA’s response capabilities for global pandemics. The Department should provide a report on its findings to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 180 days after enactment of this act.

#### BOARD OF VETERANS APPEALS

Appropriations, 2020 .....	\$182,000,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	198,000,000
Committee recommendation .....	190,000,000

#### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

As set forth in section 7101(a) of title 38 United States Code, the Board of Veterans Appeals is responsible for making final decisions on claims for veterans benefits presented to the Board for appellate review. The vast majority of the Board’s workload derives from benefit claims initiated by the Veterans Benefits Administration’s



Regional Offices. The appellate process has multiple steps, most of which occur at the local Regional Office level. If a veteran is not satisfied with the Regional Office determination, he or she may appeal to the Board for a final agency decision. The Board adjudicates appeals covering all areas of veterans benefits, including service connection, increased disability ratings, total disability ratings, pensions, insurance benefits, educational benefits, home loan guaranties, vocational rehabilitation, waivers of indebtedness, fee basis medical care, and dependency and indemnity compensation.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$190,000,000 for the Board of Veterans Appeals, which is \$8,000,000 above fiscal year 2020 enacted level and \$8,000,000 below the budget request. The Committee has included bill language to make available through September 30, 2022, up to 10 percent of the Board of Veterans Appeals appropriation.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS

Appropriations, 2020 <sup>1</sup> .....	\$4,371,615,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	4,912,000,000
Committee recommendation <sup>2</sup> .....	4,912,000,000

<sup>1</sup> Excludes \$2,150,000,000 in emergency funds provided in title X of division B of Public Law 116-136.

<sup>2</sup> Includes \$540,385,000 designated as emergency funding.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Information Technology [IT] Systems appropriation, along with reimbursements, funds the costs of all IT staff salaries and expenses, the operations and maintenance of all existing information technology systems, and the development of new projects and programs designed to improve the delivery of service to veterans. This appropriation also funds the costs associated with the Office of Information and Technology which oversees the functions highlighted above.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$4,912,000,000, of which \$540,385,000 is designated as emergency funding, for the Information Technology Systems account. This amount is \$540,385,000 above the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and equal to the budget request. The Committee recommendation includes \$1,211,238,000 for staff salaries and expenses, \$3,205,216,000 for operation and maintenance of existing programs, and \$495,546,000 for program development.

The Committee has appropriated the Information Technology Systems account as three subaccounts. This funding structure enhances the Committee's ability to ensure funds are executed in a manner consistent with the Department's budget submission. The Committee has provided sufficient flexibility within the subaccounts by way of authorized carryover amounts and reprogramming authority to give the Office of Information Technology as much flexibility as possible to accomplish its mission and goals, while ensuring proper accountability and oversight.

The Committee is aware that an aging IT infrastructure and antiquated systems have contributed to issues affecting veterans, their families, and third parties with whom VA has agreements; and that the Department continues to identify significant costs to support new and critical initiatives. Additionally, the Department has reported its inability to comply with requirements that have been passed into law due to lack of appropriate IT systems. While the Committee will continue to work with the Department to ensure current IT projects are appropriately resourced, the Committee believes the Department's Information Technology Programs budget submission document is in need of significant improvement. Similar to efforts the Committee directed for improvements to Volume IV, Construction and Long Range Plan, the Committee directs the Department to improve the type, quality, and organization of information in the IT budget submission starting with the fiscal year 2022 request. This should include a section detailing every existing funded IT project and every project awaiting funding, in ranked order.

#### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

[In thousands of dollars]

Project	Fiscal year 2021 budget request	Committee recommendation
<b>Clinical Applications</b>		
Supply Chain Management .....	67,120	67,120
My HealtheVet .....	3,200	3,200
Healthcare Administration Systems .....	11,160	11,160
Health Data Interoperability .....	8,423	8,423
Research .....	3,120	3,120
Beneficiary Travel .....	2,540	2,540
Registries .....	200	200
Subtotal Clinical Applications .....	95,763	95,763
<b>Health Management Platform</b>		
Community Care .....	21,190	21,190
Patient Record System .....	7,750	7,750
Digital Health Platform .....	9,867	9,867
Purchased Care .....	8,410	8,410
Telehealth .....	5,600	5,600
Pharmacy .....	11,010	11,010
Subtotal Health Management Platform .....	63,827	63,827
<b>Benefits Systems</b>		
Veterans Customer Experience .....	66,296	66,296
Benefits Systems .....	20,630	20,630
Colmery Act .....	27,230	27,230
Veterans Benefits Management .....	39,230	39,230
Benefit Appeals .....	6,000	6,000
Other Benefit IT Systems .....	830	830
Subtotal Benefits Systems .....	160,216	160,216
<b>Memorial Affairs</b>		
Memorials Automation .....	15,130	15,130
Subtotal Memorial Affairs .....	15,130	15,130
<b>Other IT Systems</b>		
Financial and Acquisition Management Modernization .....	93,070	93,070
Human Resources .....	13,980	13,980
General Counsel .....	4,000	4,000

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

Project	Fiscal year 2021 budget request	Committee recommendation
Other Corporate IT Systems .....	3,500	3,500
Subtotal Other IT Systems .....	114,550	114,550
Cyber Security		
Cyber Security .....	11,380	11,380
Subtotal Cyber Security .....	11,380	11,380
Information/Infrastructure Management		
Data Integration and Management .....	34,680	34,680
Subtotal Information/Infrastructure Management .....	34,680	34,680
Total IT Development .....	495,546	495,546

*Website Accessibility.*—The Committee recognizes that, based on information reported by VA, not all veterans can access the electronic and information technology made available through by Department. The Committee expects that the survey of kiosks referenced in the prior year report has been completed, and if not, should be complete within 180 days of the passage of this act. The Committee further directs the Department to conduct a review to determine progress made in furthering its information technology systems' compliance with 29 U.S.C. § 794. The study should encompass the Department's websites, including files attached to those websites, web based applications, and kiosks that are used to check in for scheduled appointments at the Department's medical facilities. Ninety days after completion of the study, the Department shall report to the Committee on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a list of technology not in compliance with 29 U.S.C. § 794 (d), a plan to bring each piece of technology listed into compliance, and any barriers that exist to doing so, including barriers related to staffing.

*Improved Digital Service Delivery.*—The Committee supports the Department's efforts to modernize its internal and external digital services consistent with the requirements of the 21st Century IDEA (Public Law 115–336), and urges VA to implement the requirements in a timely manner to improve digital service delivery for veterans and internal workflows. Specifically, the Committee encourages the Department to modernize and secure its paper-based forms to ensure they are mobile responsive to help achieve cost savings and workflow efficiencies. The Committee directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 180 days of enactment a report that provides an update on implementation, including the portion of forms updated for mobile devices, specific forms pending update, and experience of veterans using mobile devices to date.

*Transforming Business Systems.*—The Committee appreciates the Department's efforts to transform business systems, particularly efforts to modernize its inventory and supply chain management information technology systems. It is clear that the Depart-

ment needs a system capable of tracking and reporting medical supply inventories at the enterprise level, not merely the individual facility level, and efficiently accounting for transfers of supplies between facilities. The Generic Inventory Package, which has been in use for nearly 30 years, lacks these essential capabilities. The Committee recognizes that the Department has undertaken implementation of Defense Medical Logistics Standard Support [DMLSS], and its successor LogiCole, through the Veterans Affairs Logistic Redesign [VALOR] Program but this system has not been fully deployed yet at any site. The Committee notes that the rollout of the DMLSS system at Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center and VA Medical Centers in Spokane and Puget Sound was delayed by over a year and suffered from technical integration challenges. Given the significant variations that exist as to VistA instances, software, technology infrastructure, and supply chain practices at VA medical facilities across the country, the Committee remains concerned whether implementation of DMLSS or LogiCole is achievable and will satisfy all capability needs throughout the Department's many facilities and organizational components in a timely fashion. Therefore, the Committee directs the Government Accountability Office to report to the appropriate Congressional committees within 180 days of enactment on the VALOR program's ability and realistic timeline to meet these needs and field all capabilities throughout the enterprise. Further, the Committee directs VHA, in conjunction with VA's Offices of Acquisition, Logistics, and Construction, and Information and Technology, to provide the following VALOR program documentation reflecting the Department's intended acceleration of implementation, necessary to establish a project baseline to the Committees on Appropriations and Veterans' Affairs of both Houses of Congress within 90 days of the passage of this Act. This should include: (1) a project management plan, including a description of the project's scope; (2) lifecycle cost estimate; (3) integrated master schedule; (4) functional requirements and quality metrics; and (5) discussion of risks. VA is also directed to provide quarterly updates to the Committees on the project's progress relative to its scope, cost, schedule and quality baselines.

*Report on the Veterans Affairs Logistic Redesign Program.*—The Committee supports the Department's quick action to devise solutions to unprecedented medical supply chain challenges. Therefore, the Committee directs the Department to provide to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, within 90 days of enactment of this act, a report detailing all new procedures or policies concerning the medical supply chain, inventory management, or procurement instituted beginning in March 2020 and their current status. The report shall also detail the anticipated level of demand for medical supplies throughout VHA absent any emergency declaration, and the resulting effects on the medical supply chain, inventory management, or procurement operations.

*Implementation of the OPEN Government Data Act at the VA.*—The Committee encourages the Secretary to provide appropriate resources to fully implement the requirements under Title II of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act (Public Law 115–435).

*5G Capabilities.*—In 2020, the Department of Veterans Affairs turned on the nation’s first 5G wireless hospital. The VHA Innovation Ecosystem aims to establish centers at high profile VA hospitals that are ideal for expanding new technology breakthroughs. Due to the positive impacts on veterans as well as surrounding areas, the Committee urges the Department to continue to seek opportunities to upgrade and equip facilities to be 5G capable, and to budget appropriately for these efforts.

#### VETERANS ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD

Appropriations, 2020 .....	\$1,500,000,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	2,627,000,000
Committee recommendation, 2021 <sup>1</sup> .....	2,627,000,000

<sup>1</sup> Includes \$1,184,485,000 designated as emergency funding.

#### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Veterans Electronic Health Record [EHR] account funds all activities related to the acquisition, implementation, preparation, development, interface, management, rollout, and maintenance of a new EHR. The EHR solution and implementation will include program management; an enterprise-wide EHR system; change management; training; testing; deployment services; sustainment; and other solutions encompassing the entire range of EHR requirements.

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$2,627,000,000, of which \$1,184,485,000 is designated as emergency funding, for the Veterans EHR. This is \$1,127,000,000 above the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and equal to the budget request. While the Committee remains supportive of replacing VA’s current EHR with the same system being acquired by DoD, frustrations continue with the delays in execution, as well as with the Department’s poor communication. Given the schedules and costs associated with any acquisition of this size and magnitude, it is important for the Department to provide regular implementation updates. Therefore, the bill continues strict quarterly reporting of obligations, expenditures, and deployment schedule by facility. The Department is directed to continue quarterly briefings to review timelines, performance milestones, costs, implementation, and change management progress. In addition, the Committee included a statutory proviso that makes 25 percent of funding contingent upon the Secretary providing a certification by July 1, 2021, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of any changes to the deployment schedules.

The Committee continues to direct GAO to perform quarterly performance reviews of the VA EHR deployment to keep the Committees on Appropriations and Veteran’s Affairs of both Houses of Congress apprised of VA’s progress.

*Staffing Levels.*—The Committee is concerned that staffing levels at facilities where EHR is set to deploy are inadequate. Having less than the necessary staffing may put access to care for veterans at risk because it is expected and normal for productivity to decrease in the initial months of learning the new EHR system, as was the

case with the Military Health System Genesis. Therefore, the Department is directed to submit a detailed plan to the Committees on Appropriation of both Houses of Congress no later than 180 days after enactment of this act to describe how they are ensuring each VHA facility has adequate staffing to meet veteran care needs during the period of each site go-live. Given that clinical buy-in is also critical to the success of EHR modernization, the Department shall also include plans for how they will continue to solicit and incorporate staff feedback during and after EHR deployment.

*Enterprise-wide Planning.*—The Committee is concerned about the lack of enterprise-wide planning related to EHR infrastructure needs and inclusion in future budget submissions. Within 9 months of enactment, VA shall provide to the Committees on Appropriation of both Houses of Congress a report detailing the remaining VHA, EHR, and if relevant, Information Technology Systems account funding that will be required to fulfill the EHR infrastructure needs through the end of nationwide deployment as well as a schedule for the execution of supporting infrastructure projects. The information in this report should be broken down on a facility-by-facility basis, even if based on preliminary estimates.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Appropriations, 2021 .....	\$210,000,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	228,000,000
Committee recommendation .....	228,000,000

<sup>1</sup>Excludes \$12,500,000 in emergency funds provided in title X of division B of Public Law 116-136.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Office of Inspector General [OIG] was established by the Inspector General Act of 1978 and is responsible for the audit, investigation, and inspection of all Department of Veterans Affairs programs and operations.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$228,000,000 for OIG. This is \$18,000,000 above the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and equal to the budget request. The Committee has included bill language to make available through September 30, 2022, up to 10 percent of the OIG appropriation.

The Committee continues to support OIG and maintains a provision to support timely access to any records, documents, or other materials available to the Department or agency of the United States Government over which such Inspector General has responsibilities. Similarly, the Committee strongly encourages OIG to undertake and complete investigations in a timely manner, including sharing information with the Department, the Department of Justice, or other entities as appropriate.

CONSTRUCTION, MAJOR PROJECTS

Appropriations, 2020 .....	\$1,235,200,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	1,373,000,000
Committee recommendation .....	1,316,000,000

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Construction, Major Projects account provides for constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities (including parking projects) under the jurisdiction or for the use of VA, including planning, architectural and engineering services, needs assessment, and site acquisition where the estimated cost of a project is more than the amount set forth in 38 U.S.C. 8104(a)(3)(A). Proceeds realized from Enhanced Use Lease activities may be deposited into the Construction, Major Projects and Construction, Minor Projects accounts.

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,316,000,000 for the construction of major projects. This is \$80,800,000 above the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and \$57,000,000 below the budget request.

The following table reflects the President's budget request for major construction projects and the corresponding Committee recommendations.

## MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

[In thousands of dollars]

Location and description	Fiscal year 2021 budget request	Committee recommendation
Veterans Health Administration (VHA):		
American Lake, WA: Construction of New Specialty Care Building 201 .....	94,340	94,340
Long Beach, CA: Mental Health & Community Living Center .....	50,000	50,000
Canandaigua, NY: Construction and Renovation .....	30,000	30,000
Alameda, CA: Community Based Outpatient Clinic & National Cemetery .....	152,868	152,868
San Diego, CA: SCI and Seismic Building 11 .....	21,260	21,260
Livermore, CA: Realignment and Closure of the Livermore Campus .....	143,270	143,270
Dallas, TX: Spinal Cord Injury .....	78,500	78,500
Tulsa, OK: Construct Inpatient Facility .....	120,000	120,000
Advance Planning and Design Fund: Various Stations .....	117,781	117,781
Asbestos: Various Stations .....	15,000	15,000
Construction & Facilities Management Staff: Various Stations .....	102,719	102,719
Hazardous Waste .....	2,000	2,000
Judgment Fund: Various Stations .....	25,000	25,000
Non-Departmental Federal Entity Project Management Support: Various Stations .....	79,350	79,350
Seismic Corrections Initiative: Various Stations .....	237,198	180,198
<b>Total VHA .....</b>	<b>1,269,286</b>	<b>1,212,286</b>
National Cemetery Administration (NCA):		
San Antonio, TX: Ft. Sam Houston Expansion .....	56,000	56,000
San Diego, CA: Miramar Phase 2 Expansion .....	31,000	31,000
Advance Planning Fund: Various Stations .....	2,000	2,000
NCA Land Acquisition Fund: Various Stations .....	5,000	5,000
<b>Total NCA .....</b>	<b>94,000</b>	<b>94,000</b>
General Administration/Staff Offices		
Department Advance Planning and Design Fund for Major Construction .....	9,714	9,714
<b>Total Construction, Major Projects .....</b>	<b>1,373,000</b>	<b>1,316,000</b>

*Permanent Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Unit.—The Committee understands Veterans Integrated Service Network 1*

proposed to construct a 24-bed facility at Togus VA Medical Center based upon the results of a critical needs analysis and market assessment. The Committee urges the Department to quickly evaluate this request to ensure veterans are able to receive adequate mental health and substance use treatment.

*West Los Angeles VA Campus.*—The Committee is aware that as the West Los Angeles VA campus adds at least 1,200 units of new housing for homeless veterans, significant upgrades must be made to the campus’ utility infrastructure. Therefore the Committee directs VA to continue prioritizing funding for implementation of the master plan, and particularly to utility infrastructure upgrades.

*Reuse of Former Departmental Land.*—The Department is one of the largest property holders in the Federal Government and as such is regularly involved in disposal of property that can no longer serve VA’s mission of delivering healthcare, benefits and memorial affairs to America’s veterans. When Federal property is transferred to state, local, or other entities, the VA should make reasonable efforts to prepare the property so that local communities can reuse such property without an unreasonable financial burden being placed on local taxpayers. Without such preparation, communities, particularly those in rural areas with low tax bases, are faced with the risks of long-term financial debt to finance property improvements or blighted properties. The Committee encourages the Department to use existing resources to properly prepare VA land slated for disposal, including through the demolition of buildings that have exceeded their service life and are unsafe.

CONSTRUCTION, MINOR PROJECTS

Appropriations, 2020 .....	\$398,800,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	400,000,000
Committee recommendation .....	390,000,000

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Construction, Minor Projects account provides for constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities (including parking) under the jurisdiction or for the use of VA, including planning, assessment of needs, architectural and engineering services, and site acquisition, where the estimated cost of a project is equal to or less than \$20,000,000. Public Law 106–117, the Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act of 1999, gave VA authority to make capital contributions from minor construction in enhanced-use leases. Proceeds realized from enhanced-use lease activities may be deposited into the Construction, Major Projects and Construction, Minor Projects accounts.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$390,000,000 for minor construction. This is \$8,800,000 below the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and \$10,000,000 below the budget request.

The recommendation includes \$233,995,000 for the Veterans Health Administration, \$86,030,000 for the National Cemetery Administration, \$26,475,000 for the Veterans Benefits Administration, and \$43,500,000 for staff offices and the Office of Information and Technology. The Department is directed to provide an expenditure



plan to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress no later than 30 days after enactment of this act for the amount appropriated for minor construction.

#### GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF STATE EXTENDED CARE FACILITIES

Appropriations, 2020 <sup>1</sup> .....	\$90,000,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	90,000,000
Committee recommendation .....	90,000,000

<sup>1</sup>Excludes \$150,000,000 in emergency funds provided in title X of division B of Public Law 116-136.

#### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This account is used to provide grants to assist States in acquiring or constructing State home facilities for furnishing domiciliary or nursing home care to veterans, and to expand, remodel, or alter existing buildings for furnishing domiciliary, nursing home, or hospital care to veterans in State homes. The grant may not exceed 65 percent of the total cost of the project. Public Law 102-585 granted permanent authority for this program, and Public Law 106-117 provided greater specificity in directing VA to prescribe regulations for the number of beds for which grant assistance may be furnished. This program has been a successful partnership between States and VA in meeting the long-term care needs of elderly veterans for decades.

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$90,000,000 for Grants for Construction of State Extended Care Facilities. This is equal to the budget request.

#### GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF VETERANS CEMETERIES

Appropriations, 2020 .....	\$45,000,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	45,000,000
Committee recommendation .....	45,000,000

#### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Public Law 105-368 amended title 38 U.S.C. 2408 and established authority to provide aid to States for establishment, expansion, and improvement of State veterans cemeteries, which are operated and permanently maintained by the States. This statutory change increased the maximum Federal share from 50 percent to 100 percent in order to fund construction costs and initial equipment expenses when the cemetery is established. States remain responsible for providing the land and for paying all costs related to operation and maintenance of the cemeteries, including the costs for subsequent equipment purchases.

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$45,000,000 for Grants for Construction of State Veterans Cemeteries. This is equal to the budget request.

## ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS AND RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS)

Sec. 201. The Committee includes a provision which outlines transfer authority and responsibilities for the Veterans Benefits Administration.

Sec. 202. The Committee includes a provision which outlines transfer authority and responsibilities for the Veterans Health Administration.

Sec. 203. The Committee includes a provision which outlines the use of funds appropriated for salaries and expenses.

Sec. 204. The Committee includes a provision mandating that only construction funds may be used for land procurement or the construction of any new hospital or home.

Sec. 205. The Committee includes a provision allowing for reimbursements to the Medical Services account.

Sec. 206. The Committee includes a provision allowing for payments of prior year obligations.

Sec. 207. The Committee includes a provision which allows for the use of funds for prior year obligations.

Sec. 208. The Committee includes a provision which allows for payments from the National Service Life Insurance Fund.

Sec. 209. The Committee includes a provision which outlines the use of funds from enhanced-use lease proceeds.

Sec. 210. The Committee includes a provision which provides for funds for the Office of Resolution Management, the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication, and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

Sec. 211. The Committee includes a provision which requires disclosure of third-party reimbursement information.

Sec. 212. The Committee includes a provision which allows for the transfer of revenue derived from enhanced-use leases into the construction accounts.

Sec. 213. The Committee includes a provision which outlines authorized uses for Medical Services account funds.

Sec. 214. The Committee includes a provision which allows funds in the Medical Care Collection Fund to be transferred into the Medical Services and Medical Community Care accounts.

Sec. 215. The Committee includes a provision which allows eligible veterans in the State of Alaska to obtain medical care services.

Sec. 216. The Committee includes a provision which allows for the transfer of funds into the construction accounts.

Sec. 217. The Committee includes a provision requiring the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit quarterly financial reports.

Sec. 218. The Committee includes a provision outlining transfer authority for the Information Technology Systems account.

Sec. 219. The Committee includes a provision allowing for the transfer of funds from certain accounts to the Joint Department of Defense/Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, as authorized by Public Law 111-84.

Sec. 220. The Committee includes a provision allowing for the transfer of funds from certain advance appropriation accounts to the Joint Department of Defense/Department of Veterans Affairs

Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, as authorized by Public Law 111–84.

Sec. 221. The Committee includes a provision allowing for the transfer of certain funds deposited in the Medical Care Collections Fund to the Joint Department of Defense/Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, as authorized by Public Law 111–84.

Sec. 222. The Committee includes a provision directing a minimum of \$15,000,000 be transferred from Medical Services, Medical Support and Compliance, and Medical Facilities to the Department of Defense/Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund, as authorized by section 8111 of title 38, United States Code.

Sec. 223. The Committee includes a provision prohibiting funds available to the Department in this or any other act from being used to replace the current system by which VISNs select and contract for diabetes monitoring supplies and equipment.

Sec. 224. The Committee includes a provision requiring notification of all bid savings for major construction projects.

Sec. 225. The Committee includes a provision restricting scope increases for major construction projects above that specified in the original project justification.

Sec. 226. The Committee includes a provision requiring the Department to submit reports relating to the Veterans Benefits Administration on claims processing at Regional Offices.

Sec. 227. The Committee includes a provision requiring VA to notify the Committee 15 days prior to any organizational changes within VA of 25 or more FTE.

Sec. 228. The Committee includes a provision requiring the Secretary to report to the Committees each quarter about any single national outreach and awareness marketing campaign exceeding \$1,000,000.

Sec. 229. The Committee includes a provision permitting the transfer to the Medical Services account of fiscal year discretionary 2021 appropriated funds.

Sec. 230. The Committee includes a provision permitting the transfer of funds between GOE, VBA and BVA.

Sec. 231. The Committee includes a provision prohibiting the reprogramming of funds in excess of \$7,000,000 among major construction projects or programs.

Sec. 232. The Committee includes a provision mandating certain professional standards for the veterans crisis hotline.

Sec. 233. The Committee includes a provision prohibiting the use of funds to close medical facilities in the absence of a national realignment strategy.

Sec. 234. The Committee includes a provision requiring VA to use the mammography screening guidelines announced by the Secretary on May 10, 2017.

Sec. 235. The Committee includes a provision allowing the use of Medical Services funding for assisted reproductive technology treatment and adoption reimbursement for veterans and their spouses if the veteran has a service-connected disability that results in being unable to procreate without such fertility treatment.

Sec. 236. The Committee includes a provision prohibiting any funds to be used to contract out any functions performed by more than 10 employees without a fair competition process.

Sec. 237. The Committee includes a provision pertaining to Native Hawaiian small businesses.

Sec. 238. The Committee includes a provision directing the discontinuation of the usage of Social Security numbers within VA.

Sec. 239. The Committee includes a provision pertaining to the certification of marriage and family therapists.

Sec. 240. The Committee includes a provision prohibiting the transfer of funds from the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund to any other VA account.

Sec. 241. The Committee includes a provision regarding a childcare program.

Sec. 242. The Committee includes a provision prohibiting funds to be used to restrict an individual's ability to speak with a Member of Congress or his or her staff.

Sec. 243. The Committee includes a provision requiring certain data to be included in the budget justifications for the Construction, Major account.

Sec. 244. The Committee includes a provision prohibiting the use of funds to deny the Inspector General timely access to information, unless a provision of law expressly refers to the Inspector General and expressly limits such access.

Sec. 245. The Committee includes a reference to a provision in the 2017 appropriations act identifying information which may be used to verify the status of coastwise merchant seamen who served during World War II for the purposes of eligibility for medals, ribbons, or other military decorations.

Sec. 246. The Committee includes a provision ensuring particular ratios of veterans to FTE position within any VA program of rehabilitation.

Sec. 247. The Committee includes a provision prohibiting funding from being used in a manner that would increase wait times for veterans at medical facilities.

Sec. 248. The Committee includes a provision prohibiting the use of funds in fiscal year 2021 to convert any program which received specific purpose funds in fiscal year 2020 to a general purpose-funded program without the approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days prior to any such action.

Sec. 249. The Committee includes a provision prohibiting the use of canines in VA research unless: the scientific objectives of the study can only be met by using canines; the study has been directly approved by the Secretary; and the study is consistent with the revised VA canine research policy document released in December, 2017.

Sec. 250. The Committee includes a provision prohibiting the closure of the CBOC in Bainbridge, New York until the Secretary submits a completed market area assessment to the Committee on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

Sec. 251. The Committee includes a provision directing VA to submit a plan to reduce the chances that clinical mistakes by VA

employees will result in adverse events that require institutional or clinical disclosures.

Sec. 252. The Committee includes a provision rescinding funds from the fiscal year 2021 advances appropriations to the Veterans Health Administration.

Sec. 253. The Committee includes a provision rescinding funds.

Sec. 254. The Committee includes a provision to allow fiscal year 2021 and 2020 “Medical Community Care” funds to be used to cover obligations that otherwise would be paid by the Veterans Choice Fund, if necessary.

Sec. 255. The Committee includes a provision indicating any amounts designated as an emergency requirement in this Act shall only be available if the President subsequently so designates all such amounts.

Sec. 256. The Committee includes a provision indicating any amounts designated as an emergency requirement in this Act and subsequently so designated by the President will retain such designation if transferred.

TITLE III  
RELATED AGENCIES

AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

OVERVIEW

The American Battle Monuments Commission [ABMC] was established by Congress in 1923 and is responsible for the following: designing, constructing, operating, and maintaining permanent American cemeteries in foreign countries; establishing and maintaining U.S. military memorials, monuments, and markers where American Armed Forces have served overseas since April 6, 1917, the date of the United States entry into World War I, and within the United States when directed by public law; and controlling the design and construction of permanent U.S. military monuments and markers by other U.S. citizens and organizations, both public and private, and encouraging their maintenance. ABMC administers, operates, and maintains 26 permanent American military cemeteries, 30 Federal memorial, monuments, and markers, and 8 non-Federal memorials located in 17 foreign countries, the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Midway Atoll, the British Dependency of Gibraltar, and the United States of America.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2020 .....	\$84,100,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	75,100,000
Committee recommendation .....	82,100,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$82,100,000 for the Salaries and Expenses account. This amount is \$2,000,000 below the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and \$7,000,000 above the budget request. The recommendation includes an additional \$7,000,000 to bolster the Commission's maintenance and infrastructure program, including the interpretive program. The additional funds will restore the reduction proposed in the budget request for this program and provide additional funds to execute deferred maintenance and capital projects, not only to maintain the cemeteries and monuments honoring America's war dead, but also to preserve and communicate these veterans' stories of courage and sacrifice.

*American Battle Monuments Commission.*—In the Fiscal Year 2019 Appropriations bill, Congress provided additional funding to ABMC to address priority infrastructure projects, which was allocated in part towards the construction of the Honolulu interpretive center at the National Memorial Cemetery of Pacific. The ABMC spend plan indicated that the funding would be fully obligated by

the end of the fiscal year. After lengthy delays due to a lack of consensus between ABMC and the National Cemetery Administration, ABMC, in cooperation with NCA, initiated an evaluation of potential sites. The Committee understands that ABMC is in the process of finalizing its siting analysis and recommendation and expects a final report before the end of the calendar year. The Committee urges ABMC to prioritize stakeholder engagement and ensure feedback is duly incorporated into its final recommendation so that this project can be carried out expeditiously.

FOREIGN CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS

The Committee includes in the accompanying act, as proposed by the administration, such sums as necessary for the Foreign Currency Fluctuations account. Funding the account in this manner allows the Commission to maintain cemeteries regardless of the volatility of foreign currency fluctuations.

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

OVERVIEW

The United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims was established by the Veterans’ Judicial Review Act of 1988 (Public Law 100–687). The Court is an independent judicial tribunal with exclusive jurisdiction to review decisions of the Board of Veterans Appeals. It has the authority to decide all relevant questions of law; interpret constitutional, statutory, and regulatory provisions; and determine the meaning or applicability of the terms of an action by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. It is authorized to compel action by the Secretary. It is authorized to hold unconstitutional or otherwise unlawful and set aside decisions, findings, conclusions, rules, and regulations issued or adopted by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Board of Veterans Appeals, or the Chairman of the Board that are found to be arbitrary or capricious. The Court’s principal office location is Washington, DC; however, it is a national court, empowered to sit anywhere in the United States.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2020 .....	\$35,400,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	38,900,000
Committee recommendation .....	37,100,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$37,100,000 for the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. This amount is \$1,700,000 above the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and \$1,800,000 below the budget request, which reflects the reduction of the chambers renovation project as alternative solutions were identified.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—CIVIL  
CEMETERIAL EXPENSES, ARMY

OVERVIEW

The Secretary of the Army is responsible for the administration, operation, and maintenance of Arlington National Cemetery [ANC] and the Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery. In addition to its principal function as a national cemetery, Arlington hosts more than 3,000 public wreath laying ceremonies, and approximately 3.5 million visitors annually.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2020 .....	\$80,800,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	70,800,000
Committee recommendation .....	81,100,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends \$81,100,000 for the Salaries and Expenses account. This amount is \$300,000 above the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and \$10,300,000 above the budget request.

The Committee previously expressed concern that ANC's operating account has been held artificially flat for a number of years, and reiterates this action is beginning to have deleterious effects on the Cemetery's performance and ability to meet its mission.

Arlington historically performs over 7,000 burial services each year for veterans and family members and an average of 27–30 each weekday. With this heavy workload, ANC cannot be under-resourced, and accordingly, the Committee has provided an additional \$10,300,000 to correct this problem.

This Committee remains unwavering in its support for the Cemetery and the successful completion of the Cemetery's truly unique and honored mission. Accordingly, the Secretary of the Army is again directed to include this increase in the Cemetery's baseline budget and ensure future budget requests provide ample resources for Arlington National Cemetery.

ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME

OVERVIEW

The Armed Forces Retirement Home [AFRH] is an independent agency that was created in 1991 by the merging of the United States Soldiers' and Airmen's Home in Washington D.C. and the United States Naval Home in Gulfport, Mississippi. AFRH operates and maintains the two communities to provide affordable resident services and care to retired and former enlisted servicemembers and their spouses.

TRUST FUND

Appropriations, 2020 <sup>1</sup> .....	\$75,300,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	70,300,000
Committee recommendation .....	75,300,000

<sup>1</sup> Excludes \$2,800,000 in emergency funds provided in title X of division B of Public Law 116–136.



## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends authority to expend \$75,300,000 from the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund to operate and maintain the Armed Forces Retirement Home-Washington, DC, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home-Gulfport, Mississippi. This amount is equal to the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and \$5,000,000 above the budget request, and is intended to complete high priority capital projects currently under design as well as operations and maintenance requirements.

The Committee recognizes the critical role of AFRH operations and the importance of delivering uninterrupted healthcare to its residents. Therefore, the Committee supports the request for 2-year availability of funds.

## ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

Sec. 301. The Committee includes a provision making available funds as authorized by 10 U.S.C. 4727.

TITLE IV  
OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Appropriations, 2020 .....	\$644,526,000
Budget estimate, 2021 .....	349,762,000
Committee recommendation .....	349,762,000

The Committee recommends title IV, Overseas Contingency Operations, for military construction projects related to the Global War on Terrorism and the European Deterrence Initiative that were requested by the Administration in the Fiscal Year 2021 Overseas Contingency Operations budget request.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

The Committee recommends \$15,873,000 for Military Construction, Army, as requested in the Fiscal Year 2021 Overseas Contingency Operations budget request, for military construction and planning and design in support of Overseas Contingency Operations and the European Deterrence Initiative.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

The Committee recommends \$70,020,000 for Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps, as requested in the Fiscal Year 2021 Overseas Contingency Operations budget request, for military construction and planning and design in support of the European Deterrence Initiative.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

The Committee recommends \$263,869,000 for Military Construction, Air Force, as requested in the Fiscal Year 2021 Overseas Contingency Operations budget request, for military construction and planning and design in support of Overseas Contingency Operations and the European Deterrence Initiative.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

Sec. 401. The Committee includes a provision which provides the contingent emergency designation for the Overseas Contingency Operations accounts.

Sec. 402. The Committee includes a provision which requires the Department of Defense to provide a future year defense program for the European Deterrence Initiative to the congressional defense committees.

TITLE V  
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 501. The Committee includes a provision that prohibits the obligation of funds beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided.

Sec. 502. The Committee includes a provision that prohibits the use of funds for programs, projects, or activities not in compliance with Federal law relating to risk assessment, the protection of private property rights, or unfunded mandates.

Sec. 503. The Committee includes a provision that encourages the expansion of E-commerce technologies and procedures.

Sec. 504. The Committee includes a provision that specifies the congressional committees that are to receive all reports and notifications.

Sec. 505. The Committee includes a provision that limits funds from being transferred from this appropriations measure to any instrumentality of the United States Government without authority from an appropriations act.

Sec. 506. The Committee includes a provision regarding the posting of congressional reports on agency Web sites.

Sec. 507. The Committee includes a provision prohibiting the use of funds to establish or maintain a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography, except for law enforcement investigation, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

Sec. 508. The Committee includes a provision prohibiting the use of funds for the payment of first-class travel by an employee of the executive branch.

Sec. 509. The Committee includes a provision prohibiting the use of funds in this act for any contract where the contractor has not complied with E-Verify requirements.

Sec. 510. The Committee includes a provision prohibiting the use of funds in this act by the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs for the purchase or lease of a new vehicle except in accordance with Presidential Memorandum-Federal Fleet Performance, dated May 24, 2011.

Sec. 511. The Committee includes a provision prohibiting the use of funds in this Act to construct facilities on military installations that do not meet resiliency standards.

Sec. 512. The Committee includes a provision limiting the construction of facilities in the United States, its territories, or possessions for the purposes of housing individuals detained at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

## PROGRAM, PROJECT, AND ACTIVITY

In fiscal year 2021, for purposes of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (Public Law 99–177) or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Reaffirmation Act of 1987 (Public Law 100–119), the following information provides the definition of the term “program, project, and activity” for departments, agencies and programs under the jurisdiction of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies subcommittee. The term “program, project, and activity” shall include the most specific level of budget items identified in the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2021, the House and Senate Committee reports, and the conference report and accompanying joint explanatory statement of managers of the committee of conference.

If a sequestration order is necessary, in implementing the Presidential order, departments, and agencies shall apply any percentage reduction required for fiscal year 2021 pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 99–177 or Public Law 100–119 to all items specified in the justifications submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and House of Representatives in support of the fiscal year 2021 budget estimates, as amended, for such departments and agencies, as modified by congressional action, and in addition, for the Department of Defense, Military Construction, the definition shall include specific construction locations as identified in the explanatory notes.

COMPLIANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 7, RULE XVI, OF THE  
STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE

Paragraph 7 of rule XVI requires that Committee reports accompanying general appropriations bills identify each recommended amendment which proposes an item of appropriation which is not made to carry out the provisions of an existing law, a treaty stipulation, or an act or resolution previously passed by the Senate during that session.

The Committee recommends funding for the following programs which currently lack authorization:

*Title I: Department of Defense*

- Military Construction, Army
- Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps
- Military Construction, Air Force
- Military Construction, Defense-Wide
- Military Construction, Army National Guard
- Military Construction, Air National Guard
- Military Construction, Army Reserve
- Military Construction, Navy Reserve
- Military Construction, Air Force Reserve
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program
- Department of Defense Base Closure Account
- Family Housing Operation and Maintenance, Army
- Family Housing Operation and Maintenance, Navy and Marine Corps

Family Housing Operation and Maintenance, Air Force  
 Family Housing Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide  
 Family Housing Construction, Army  
 Family Housing Construction, Navy and Marine Corps  
 Family Housing Construction, Air Force  
 Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund  
 Department of Defense Military Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund

*Title II: Department of Veterans Affairs*

Veterans Benefits Administration  
 Veterans Health Administration  
 National Cemetery Administration  
 Departmental Administration

*Title III: Related Agencies*

American Battle Monuments Commission  
 U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims  
 Cemeterial Expenses, Army  
 Armed Forces Retirement Home

COMPLIANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 7(c), RULE XXVI OF THE  
 STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE

Pursuant to paragraph 7(c) of rule XXVI, on September 00, 2020, the Committee ordered favorably reported a bill (S. 0000) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021, and for other purposes, provided, that the bill be subject to amendment and that the bill be consistent with its budget allocation, and provided that the Chairman of the Committee or his designee be authorized to offer the substance of the original bill as a Committee amendment in the nature of a substitute to the House companion measure, by a recorded vote of 00–00, a quorum being present. The vote was as follows:

COMPLIANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 12, RULE XXVI OF THE  
 STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE

Paragraph 12 of rule XXVI requires that Committee reports on a bill or joint resolution repealing or amending any statute or part of any statute include “(a) the text of the statute or part thereof which is proposed to be repealed; and (b) a comparative print of that part of the bill or joint resolution making the amendment and of the statute or part thereof proposed to be amended, showing by stricken-through type and italics, parallel columns, or other appropriate typographical devices the omissions and insertions which would be made by the bill or joint resolution if enacted in the form recommended by the committee.”

The Committee bill as recommended contains no such provisions.

## MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT LISTING BY LOCATION

[In thousands of dollars]

Installation and project	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Committee recommendation compared to budget estimate
ALABAMA			
AIR NATIONAL GUARD: MONTGOMERY REGIONAL AIRPORT BASE: F-35 SIMULATOR FACILITY .....	11,600	11,600	.....
DEFENSE-WIDE: ANNISTON ARMY DEPOT: DEMILITARIZATION FACILITY .....	18,000	18,000	.....
TOTAL ALABAMA .....	29,600	29,600	.....
ALASKA			
DEFENSE-WIDE: FORT GREELY: COMMUNICATIONS CENTER .....	48,000	48,000	.....
TOTAL, ALASKA .....	48,000	48,000	.....
ARIZONA			
ARMY: YUMA PROVING GROUND: READY BUILDING .....	14,000	14,000	.....
DEFENSE-WIDE: FORT HUACHUCA: LABORATORY BUILDING .....	33,728	33,728	.....
YUMA: SOF HANGAR .....	49,500	49,500	.....
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD: TUCSON: NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER .....	18,100	18,100	.....
TOTAL, ARIZONA .....	115,328	115,328	.....
CALIFORNIA			
NAVY: CAMP PENDLETON: 1ST MARDIV OPERATIONS COMPLEX .....	68,530	68,530	.....
1 MEF CONSOLIDATED INFORMATION CENTER (INC 2) .....	37,000	37,000	.....
LEMOORE: F-35C HANGAR 6 PHASE 2 (MOD 3/4) .....	128,070	53,000	- 75,070
F-35C SIMULATOR FACILITY & ELECTRICAL UPGRADE .....	59,150	59,150	.....
SAN DIEGO: PIER 6 REPLACEMENT .....	128,500	63,500	- 65,000
TWENTYNINE PALMS: WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT .....	76,500	76,500	.....
DEFENSE-WIDE: BEALE AFB: BULK FUEL TANK .....	22,800	22,800	.....
TOTAL, CALIFORNIA .....	520,550	380,480	- 140,070
COLORADO			
ARMY: FORT CARSON: PHYSICAL FITNESS FACILITY .....	28,000	28,000	.....
AIR FORCE: SCHRIEVER AFB: CONSOLIDATED SPACE OPERATIONS FACILITY .....	88,000	88,000	.....

## MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT LISTING BY LOCATION—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

Installation and project	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Committee recommendation compared to budget estimate
DEFENSE-WIDE:			
FORT CARSON:			
SOF TACTICAL EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE FACILITY .....	15,600	15,600	.....
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD:			
PETERSON AFB:			
NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER .....	15,000	15,000	.....
TOTAL, COLORADO .....	146,600	146,600	.....
FLORIDA			
DEFENSE-WIDE:			
HURLBURT FIELD:			
SOF COMBAT AIRCRAFT PARKING APRON-NORTH .....	38,310	38,310	.....
SOF SPECIAL TACTICS OPS FACILITY (23 STS) .....	44,810	44,810	.....
ARMY RESERVE:			
GAINESVILLE:			
ECS TEMF/WAREHOUSE .....	36,000	36,000	.....
TOTAL, FLORIDA .....	119,120	119,120	.....
GEORGIA			
ARMY:			
FORT GILLEM:			
FORENSIC LABORATORY .....	71,000	71,000	.....
FORT GORDON:			
ADV INDIVIDUAL TRAINING BARRACKS CPLX, PH3 .....	80,000	80,000	.....
TOTAL, GEORGIA .....	151,000	151,000	.....
HAWAII			
ARMY:			
WHEELER ARMY AIR FIELD:			
AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE HANGAR .....	89,000	89,000	.....
NAVY:			
JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM:			
WATERFRONT IMPROVEMENTS WHARVES S1, S11-13, S20-21 .....	48,990	48,990	.....
WATERFRONT IMPROVEMENTS WHARVES S8-S10 .....	65,910	65,910	.....
TOTAL, HAWAII .....	203,900	203,900	.....
INDIANA			
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD:			
SHELBYVILLE:			
NATIONAL GUARD/RESERVE CENTER BUILDING ADD ALT .....	12,000	12,000	.....
TOTAL, INDIANA .....	12,000	12,000	.....
KENTUCKY			
DEFENSE-WIDE:			
FORT KNOX:			
VAN VOORHIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL .....	69,310	69,310	.....
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD:			
FRANKFORT:			
NATIONAL GUARD/RESERVE CENTER BUILDING .....	15,000	15,000	.....
TOTAL, KENTUCKY .....	84,310	84,310	.....

## MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT LISTING BY LOCATION—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

Installation and project	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Committee recommendation compared to budget estimate
LOUISIANA			
ARMY:			
FORT POLK:			
INFORMATION SYSTEMS FACILITY .....	25,000	25,000	.....
TOTAL, LOUISIANA .....	25,000	25,000	.....
MAINE			
NAVY:			
KITTERY:			
MULTI-MISSION DRYDOCK 1 EXTENSION PH1 .....	160,000	160,000	.....
TOTAL, MAINE .....	160,000	160,000	.....
MARYLAND			
DEFENSE-WIDE:			
BETHESDA NAVAL HOSPITAL:			
MEDCEN ADDITION/ALTERATION (INC 4) .....	180,000	80,000	- 100,000
FORT MEADE:			
NSAW RECAPITALIZE BUILDING (INC 3) .....	250,000	250,000	.....
AIR NATIONAL GUARD:			
JOINT BASE ANDREWS:			
F-16 MISSION TRAINING CENTER .....	9,400	9,400	.....
NAVY RESERVE:			
REISTERSTOWN—CAMP FRETTERD MILITARY RESERVATION			
RESERVE TRAINING CENTER .....	39,500	39,500	.....
TOTAL, MARYLAND .....	478,900	378,900	- 100,000
MASSACHUSETTS			
ARMY RESERVE:			
DEVENS RESERVE FORCES TRAINING AREA:			
AUTOMATED MULTIPURPOSE MACHINE GUN RANGE .....	8,700	8,700	.....
TOTAL, MASSACHUSETTS .....	8,700	8,700	.....
MISSISSIPPI			
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD:			
BRANDON:			
NATIONAL GUARD VEHICLE MAINTENANCE SHOP .....	10,400	10,400	.....
TOTAL, MISSISSIPPI .....	10,400	10,400	.....
MISSOURI			
DEFENSE-WIDE:			
FORT LEONARD WOOD:			
HOSPITAL REPLACEMENT (INC 3) .....	40,000	40,000	.....
ST LOUIS:			
NGA WEST (N2W) COMPLEX PHASE (INC 2) .....	119,000	119,000	.....
TOTAL, MISSOURI .....	159,000	159,000	.....
MONTANA			
AIR FORCE:			
MALMSTROM AFB:			
WEAPONS STORAGE AND MAINTENANCE FACILITY (INC 2) .....	25,000	25,000	.....
TOTAL, MONTANA .....	25,000	25,000	.....



## MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT LISTING BY LOCATION—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

Installation and project	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Committee recommendation compared to budget estimate
NEBRASKA			
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD: NORTH PLATTE: NATIONAL GUARD VEHICLE MAINTENANCE SHOP .....	9,300	9,300	.....
TOTAL, NEBRASKA .....	9,300	9,300	.....
NEVADA			
NAVY: FALLON: RANGE TRAINING COMPLEX, PHASE 1 .....	29,040	29,040	.....
TOTAL, NEVADA .....	29,040	29,040	.....
NEW JERSEY			
AIR FORCE: JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST: MUNITIONS STORAGE AREA .....	22,000	22,000	.....
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD: JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST: NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER .....	15,000	15,000	.....
TOTAL, NEW JERSEY .....	37,000	37,000	.....
NEW MEXICO			
DEFENSE-WIDE: KIRTLAND AFB: ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING .....	46,600	46,600	.....
TOTAL, NEW MEXICO .....	46,600	46,600	.....
NORTH CAROLINA			
NAVY: CAMP LEJEUNE: II MEF OPERATIONS CENTER REPLACEMENT (INC 2) .....	20,000	20,000	.....
DEFENSE-WIDE: FORT BRAGG: SOF GROUP HEADQUARTERS .....	53,100	53,100	.....
SOF MILITARY WORKING DOG FACILITY .....	17,700	17,700	.....
SOF OPERATIONS FACILITY .....	43,000	43,000	.....
ARMY RESERVE: ASHEVILLE: ARMY RESERVE CENTER/LAND .....	24,000	24,000	.....
TOTAL, NORTH CAROLINA .....	157,800	157,800	.....
OHIO			
DEFENSE-WIDE: WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB: HYDRANT FUEL SYSTEM .....	23,500	23,500	.....
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD: COLUMBUS: NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER .....	15,000	15,000	.....
TOTAL, OHIO .....	38,500	38,500	.....

## MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT LISTING BY LOCATION—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

Installation and project	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Committee recommendation compared to budget estimate
OKLAHOMA			
ARMY:			
MCALESTER APP:			
AMMUNITION DEMOLITION SHOP .....	35,000	35,000	.....
TOTAL, OKLAHOMA .....	35,000	35,000	.....
OREGON			
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD:			
HERMISTON:			
ENLISTED BARRACKS, TRANSIENT TRAINING .....	9,300	9,300	.....
TOTAL, OREGON .....	9,300	9,300	.....
PENNSYLVANIA			
ARMY:			
CARLISLE BARRACKS:			
GENERAL INSTRUCTION BUILDING (INC 2) .....	38,000	38,000	.....
TOTAL, PENNSYLVANIA .....	38,000	38,000	.....
SOUTH CAROLINA			
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD:			
JOINT BASE CHARLESTON:			
NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER .....	15,000	15,000	.....
TOTAL, SOUTH CAROLINA .....	15,000	15,000	.....
TENNESSEE			
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD:			
MCMINNVILLE:			
NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER .....	11,200	11,200	.....
TOTAL, TENNESSEE .....	11,200	11,200	.....
TEXAS			
AIR FORCE:			
JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO:			
BMT RECRUIT DORMITORY 8 (INC 2) .....	36,000	36,000	.....
T-X ADAL GROUND BASED TRNG SYS SIM .....	19,500	19,500	.....
DEFENSE-WIDE:			
FORT HOOD:			
FUEL FACILITIES .....	32,700	32,700	.....
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD:			
FORT WORTH:			
AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE HANGAR ADDITION/ALT .....	6,000	6,000	.....
VEHICLE MAINTENANCE SHOP ADDITION/ALT .....	7,800	7,800	.....
AIR NATIONAL GUARD:			
JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO:			
F-16 MISSION TRAINING CENTER .....	10,800	10,800	.....
AIR FORCE RESERVE:			
FORT WORTH:			
F-35A SIMULATOR FACILITY .....	14,200	14,200	.....
TOTAL, TEXAS .....	127,000	127,000	.....

## MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT LISTING BY LOCATION—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

Installation and project	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Committee recommendation compared to budget estimate
UTAH			
AIR FORCE:			
HILL AFB:			
GBSD MISSION INTEGRATION FACILITY (INC 2) .....	68,000	68,000	.....
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD:			
NEPHI:			
NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER .....	12,000	12,000	.....
NAVY RESERVE:			
HILL AFB:			
NAVAL OPERATIONAL SUPPORT CENTER .....	25,010	25,010	.....
TOTAL, UTAH .....	105,010	105,010	.....
VIRGINIA			
ARMY:			
HUMPHREYS ENGINEER CENTER:			
TRAINING SUPPORT FACILITY .....	51,000	51,000	.....
NAVY:			
NORFOLK:			
E-2D TRAINING FACILITY .....	30,400	30,400	.....
MH60 & CMV-22B CORROSION CONTROL & PAINT FACILITY .....	17,671	17,671	.....
AIR FORCE:			
JOINT BASE LANGLEY-EUSTIS:			
ACCESS CONTROL POINT MAIN GATE WITH LAND ACQ .....	19,500	19,500	.....
DEFENSE-WIDE:			
JOINT EXPEDITIONARY BASE LITTLE CREEK-STORY:			
SOF DCS OPERATIONS FAC AND COMMAND CENTER .....	54,500	54,500	.....
SOF NSWG-2 NSWTG CSS FACILITIES .....	58,000	58,000	.....
TOTAL, VIRGINIA .....	231,071	231,071	.....
WASHINGTON			
DEFENSE-WIDE:			
JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD:			
FUEL FACILITIES (LEWIS MAIN) .....	10,900	10,900	.....
FUEL FACILITIES (LEWIS NORTH) .....	10,900	10,900	.....
MANCHESTER:			
BULK FUEL STORAGE TANKS PHASE 1 .....	82,000	82,000	.....
TOTAL, WASHINGTON .....	103,800	103,800	.....
WISCONSIN			
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD:			
APPLETON:			
NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER ADD/ALT .....	11,600	11,600	.....
ARMY RESERVE:			
FORT MCCOY:			
SCOUT RECONNAISSANCE RANGE .....	14,600	14,600	.....
TOTAL, WISCONSIN .....	26,200	26,200	.....
CONUS UNSPECIFIED			
DEFENSE-WIDE:			
CONUS UNSPECIFIED:			
TRAINING TARGET STRUCTURE .....	14,400	14,400	.....
TOTAL, CONUS CLASSIFIED .....	14,400	14,400	.....

## MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT LISTING BY LOCATION—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

Installation and project	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Committee recommendation compared to budget estimate
BAHRAIN ISLAND			
NAVY:			
SW ASIA:			
SHIP TO SHORE UTILITY SERVICES .....	68,340	68,340	.....
TOTAL, BAHRAIN ISLAND .....	68,340	68,340	.....
GERMANY			
DEFENSE-WIDE:			
RHINE ORDNANCE BARRACKS:			
MEDICAL CENTER REPLACEMENT (INC 9) .....	200,000	200,000	.....
TOTAL, GERMANY .....	200,000	200,000	.....
GREECE			
NAVY:			
SOUDA BAY:			
COMMUNICATION CENTER .....	50,180	50,180	.....
TOTAL, GREECE .....	50,180	50,180	.....
GUAM			
NAVY:			
ANDERSON AFB:			
ORDNANCE OPERATIONS ADMIN .....	21,280	21,280	.....
JOINT REGION MARIANAS:			
BACHELOR ENLISTED QUARTERS H (INC 2) .....	80,000	53,900	— 26,100
BASE WAREHOUSE .....	55,410	55,410	.....
CENTRAL FUEL STATION .....	35,950	35,950	.....
CENTRAL ISSUE FACILITY .....	45,290	45,290	.....
COMBINED EOD FACILITY .....	37,600	37,600	.....
DAR BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS .....	40,180	40,180	.....
DAR ROAD STRENGTHENING .....	70,760	70,760	.....
DISTRIBUTION WAREHOUSE .....	77,930	77,930	.....
INDIVIDUAL COMBAT SKILLS TRAINING .....	17,430	17,430	.....
JOINT COMMUNICATION UPGRADE .....	166,000	66,000	— 100,000
AIR FORCE:			
JOINT REGION MARIANAS:			
STAND OFF WEAPONS COMPLEX, MSA 2 .....	56,000	56,000	.....
AIR NATIONAL GUARD:			
JOINT REGION MARIANAS:			
SPACE CONTROL FACILITY 5 .....	20,000	20,000	.....
TOTAL, GUAM .....	723,830	597,730	— 126,100
JAPAN			
NAVY:			
YOKOSUKA:			
PIER 5 (BERTHS 2 AND 3) (INC 2) .....	74,692	74,692	.....
DEFENSE-WIDE:			
YOKOSUKA:			
KINNICK HIGH SCHOOL .....	30,000	.....	— 30,000
DEF FUEL SUPPORT POINT TSURUMI:			
FUEL WHARF .....	49,500	49,500	.....
TOTAL, JAPAN .....	154,192	124,192	— 30,000

## MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT LISTING BY LOCATION—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

Installation and project	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Committee recommendation compared to budget estimate
MARIANA ISLANDS			
AIR FORCE:			
TINIAN:			
AIRFIELD DEVELOPMENT, PHASE 1 (INC 2) .....	20,000	20,000	.....
FUEL TANKS W/ PIPELINE/HYDRANT SYSTEM (INC 2) .....	7,000	.....	- 7,000
PARKING APRON (INC 2) .....	15,000	15,000	.....
TOTAL, MARIANA ISLANDS .....	42,000	35,000	- 7,000
PUERTO RICO			
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD:			
FORT ALLEN:			
NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER .....	37,000	37,000	.....
TOTAL, PUERTO RICO .....	37,000	37,000	.....
QATAR			
AIR FORCE:			
AL UDEID:			
CARGO MARSHALLING YARD .....	26,000	26,000	.....
TOTAL, QATAR .....	26,000	26,000	.....
SPAIN			
NAVY:			
ROTA:			
MH-60R SQUADRON SUPPORT FACILITIES .....	60,110	60,110	.....
TOTAL, SPAIN .....	60,110	60,110	.....
VIRGIN ISLANDS			
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD:			
ST CROIX:			
ARMY AVIATION SUPPORT FACILITY (AASF) .....	28,000	28,000	.....
CST READY BUILDING .....	11,400	11,400	.....
TOTAL, VIRGIN ISLANDS .....	39,400	39,400	.....
NATO SECURITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM .....	173,030	173,030	.....
WORLDWIDE UNSPECIFIED			
ARMY:			
HOST NATION SUPPORT .....	39,000	39,000	.....
PLANNING AND DESIGN .....	129,436	129,436	.....
MINOR CONSTRUCTION .....	50,900	50,900	.....
SUBTOTAL, ARMY .....	219,336	219,336	.....
NAVY:			
PLANNING AND DESIGN .....	165,710	210,710	+ 45,000
MINOR CONSTRUCTION .....	38,983	38,983	.....
SUBTOTAL, NAVY .....	204,693	249,693	+ 45,000
AIR FORCE:			
PLANNING AND DESIGN .....	296,532	253,199	- 43,333
MINOR CONSTRUCTION .....	68,600	68,600	.....
SUBTOTAL, AIR FORCE .....	365,132	321,799	- 43,333
DEFENSE-WIDE:			
ENERGY CONSERVATION INVESTMENT PROGRAM .....	142,500	197,789	+ 55,289

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT LISTING BY LOCATION—Continued  
 [In thousands of dollars]

Installation and project	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Committee recommendation compared to budget estimate
PLANNING AND DESIGN:			
DEFENSE-WIDE .....	10,647	20,647	+ 10,000
DEFENSE-WIDE ERCIP .....	14,250	19,779	+ 5,529
DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY .....	64,406	64,406	.....
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION AGENCY .....	27,746	27,746	.....
NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY .....	10,303	10,303	.....
SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND .....	32,624	32,624	.....
SUBTOTAL, DEFENSE-WIDE .....	302,476	373,294	+ 70,818
UNSPECIFIED MINOR CONSTRUCTION:			
DEFENSE-WIDE .....	3,000	3,000	.....
DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY .....	20,000	20,000	.....
DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY .....	9,726	9,726	.....
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION AGENCY .....	8,000	8,000	.....
MISSILE DEFENSE AGENCY .....	4,922	4,922	.....
SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND .....	17,698	17,698	.....
THE JOINT STAFF .....	5,840	5,840	.....
SUBTOTAL, UNSPECIFIED MINOR CONSTRUCTION .....	69,186	69,186	.....
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD:			
PLANNING AND DESIGN .....	29,593	29,593	.....
MINOR CONSTRUCTION .....	32,744	32,744	.....
AIR NATIONAL GUARD:			
PLANNING AND DESIGN .....	3,414	3,414	.....
MINOR CONSTRUCTION .....	9,000	9,000	.....
ARMY RESERVE:			
PLANNING AND DESIGN .....	1,218	1,218	.....
MINOR CONSTRUCTION .....	3,819	3,819	.....
NAVY RESERVE:			
PLANNING AND DESIGN .....	3,485	3,485	.....
MINOR CONSTRUCTION .....	3,000	3,000	.....
AIR FORCE RESERVE:			
PLANNING AND DESIGN .....	3,270	3,270	.....
MINOR CONSTRUCTION .....	5,647	5,647	.....
SUBTOTAL, WORLDWIDE UNSPECIFIED .....	1,729,490	1,816,975	+ 87,485
FAMILY HOUSING, ARMY			
ITALY:			
VICENZA:			
FAMILY HOUSING NEW CONSTRUCTION (130 UNITS) .....	84,100	84,100	.....
KWAJALEIN:			
REPLACEMENT CONSTRUCTION (24 UNITS) .....	32,000	32,000	.....
PLANNING AND DESIGN .....	3,300	3,300	.....
SUBTOTAL, CONSTRUCTION .....	119,400	119,400	.....
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE:			
UTILITIES ACCOUNT .....	41,183	41,183	.....
SERVICES ACCOUNT .....	8,135	8,135	.....
MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT .....	39,716	39,716	.....
MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNT .....	526	526	.....
FURNISHINGS ACCOUNT .....	18,004	18,004	.....
LEASING .....	123,841	123,841	.....
MAINTENANCE OF REAL PROPERTY .....	97,789	70,789	- 27,000
PRIVATIZATION SUPPORT COSTS .....	37,948	37,948	.....
SUBTOTAL, OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE .....	367,142	340,142	- 27,000

## MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT LISTING BY LOCATION—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

Installation and project	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Committee recommendation compared to budget estimate
FAMILY HOUSING, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS			
JAPAN:			
YOKOSUKA:			
CONSTRUCTION PLANNING AND DESIGN (66 UNITS) .....	37,043	37,043	.....
PLANNING AND DESIGN .....	3,128	3,128	.....
PLANNING AND DESIGN FOR USMC/DPRI GUAM .....	2,726	2,726	.....
SUBTOTAL, CONSTRUCTION .....	42,897	42,897	.....
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE:			
UTILITIES ACCOUNT .....	58,429	58,429	.....
SERVICES ACCOUNT .....	16,743	16,743	.....
MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT .....	51,006	51,006	.....
MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNT .....	350	350	.....
FURNISHINGS ACCOUNT .....	17,977	17,977	.....
LEASING .....	62,658	62,658	.....
MAINTENANCE OF REAL PROPERTY .....	85,630	85,630	.....
PRIVATIZATION SUPPORT COSTS .....	53,700	53,700	.....
SUBTOTAL, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE .....	346,493	346,493	.....
FAMILY HOUSING, AIR FORCE			
JAPAN:			
KADENA:			
CONSTRUCTION IMPROVEMENTS (117 UNITS) .....	94,245	94,245	.....
PLANNING AND DESIGN .....	2,969	2,969	.....
SUBTOTAL, CONSTRUCTION .....	97,214	97,214	.....
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE:			
UTILITIES ACCOUNT .....	43,173	43,173	.....
MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT .....	64,732	64,732	.....
SERVICES ACCOUNT .....	7,968	7,968	.....
FURNISHINGS ACCOUNT .....	25,805	25,805	.....
MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNT .....	2,184	2,184	.....
LEASING .....	9,318	9,318	.....
MAINTENANCE OF REAL PROPERTY .....	140,666	140,666	.....
PRIVATIZATION SUPPORT COSTS .....	23,175	23,175	.....
SUBTOTAL, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE .....	317,021	317,021	.....
FAMILY HOUSING, DEFENSE-WIDE			
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE:			
NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY:			
UTILITIES ACCOUNT .....	13	13	.....
FURNISHINGS ACCOUNT .....	82	82	.....
LEASING .....	12,996	12,996	.....
MAINTENANCE OF REAL PROPERTY .....	32	32	.....
DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY:			
UTILITIES ACCOUNT .....	4,100	4,100	.....
FURNISHINGS ACCOUNT .....	645	645	.....
LEASING .....	36,860	36,860	.....
SUBTOTAL, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE .....	54,728	54,728	.....
DOD MILITARY UNACCOMPANIED HOUSING IMPROVEMENT FUND .....	600	600	.....
DOD FAMILY HOUSING IMPROVEMENT FUND .....	5,897	5,897	.....
BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE			
BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE ACCOUNT .....	300,447	315,447	+ 15,000

## MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT LISTING BY LOCATION—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

Installation and project	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Committee recommendation compared to budget estimate
TOTAL, BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE .....	300,447	315,447	+ 15,000
ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS			
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY (Sec 124) .....		240,000	+ 240,000
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS (Sec 124) .....		94,900	+ 94,900
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE (Sec 124) .....		95,700	+ 95,700
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE (Sec 124) .....		35,500	+ 35,500
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD (Sec 124) .....		49,835	+ 49,835
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR NATIONAL GUARD (Sec 124) .....		29,500	+ 29,500
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY RESERVE (Sec 124) .....		2,500	+ 2,500
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY RESERVE (Sec 124) .....		12,800	+ 12,800
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE RESERVE (Sec 124) .....		25,000	+ 25,000
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, MILITARY INSTALLATION RESILIENCE (Sec 130) .....		15,000	+ 15,000
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE (rescission) (Sec 132) .....		- 131,000	- 131,000
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE (Sec 132) .....		131,000	+ 131,000
CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS (Sec 131) .....		32,200	+ 32,200
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE (rescission) (Sec 125) .....		- 9,975	- 9,975
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE (rescission) (Sec 125) .....		- 29,838	- 29,838
RECAP			
ARMY .....	650,336	650,336	.....
NAVY AND MARINE CORPS .....	1,975,606	1,754,436	- 221,170
AIR FORCE .....	767,132	716,799	- 50,333
DEFENSE-WIDE .....	2,027,520	1,968,338	- 59,182
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD .....	321,437	321,437	.....
AIR NATIONAL GUARD .....	64,214	64,214	.....
ARMY RESERVE .....	88,337	88,337	.....
NAVY RESERVE .....	70,995	70,995	.....
AIR FORCE RESERVE .....	23,117	23,117	.....
NATO .....	173,030	173,030	.....
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE ACCOUNT (BRAC) .....	300,447	315,447	+ 15,000
FAMILY HOUSING, ARMY .....	486,542	459,542	- 27,000
CONSTRUCTION .....	(119,400)	(119,400)	.....
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE .....	(367,142)	(340,142)	(-27,000)
FAMILY HOUSING, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS .....	389,390	389,390	.....
CONSTRUCTION .....	(42,897)	(42,897)	.....
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE .....	(346,493)	(346,493)	.....
FAMILY HOUSING, AIR FORCE .....	414,235	414,235	.....
CONSTRUCTION .....	(97,214)	(97,214)	.....
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE .....	(317,021)	(317,021)	.....
FAMILY HOUSING, DEFENSE-WIDE .....	54,728	54,728	.....
CONSTRUCTION .....			.....
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE .....	(54,728)	(54,728)	.....
DOD FAMILY HOUSING IMPROVEMENT FUND .....	5,897	5,897	.....
DOD UNACCOMPANIED HOUSING IMPROVEMENT FUND .....	600	600	.....
ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS .....		593,122	+ 593,122
RESCISSION .....			.....
GRAND TOTAL .....	7,813,563	8,064,000	+ 250,437



## OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS

[In thousands of dollars]

	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Committee recommendation compared to budget estimate
GERMANY			
AIR FORCE:			
RAMSTEIN:			
EDI: RAPID AIRFIELD DAMAGE REPAIR STORAGE .....	36,345	36,345	.....
SPANGDAHLEM AB:			
EDI: RAPID AIRFIELD DAMAGE REPAIR STORAGE .....	25,824	25,824	.....
TOTAL, GERMANY .....	62,169	62,169	.....
ROMANIA			
AIR FORCE:			
CAMPPIA TURZII:			
EDI: DANGEROUS CARGO PAD .....	11,000	11,000	.....
EDI: ECAOS DABS-FEV STORAGE COMPLEX .....	68,000	68,000	.....
EDI: PARKING APRON .....	19,500	19,500	.....
EDI: POL INCREASE CAPACITY .....	32,000	32,000	.....
TOTAL, ROMANIA .....	130,500	130,500	.....
SPAIN			
NAVY:			
ROTA:			
EDI: EOD BOAT SHOP .....	31,760	31,760	.....
EDI: EXPEDITIONARY MAINTENANCE FACILITY .....	27,470	27,470	.....
TOTAL, SPAIN .....	59,230	59,230	.....
WORLDWIDE UNSPECIFIED			
PLANNING AND DESIGN:			
ARMY .....	11,903	11,903	.....
NAVY .....	10,790	10,790	.....
AIR FORCE .....	54,800	54,800	.....
TOTAL, PLANNING AND DESIGN .....	77,493	77,493	.....
MINOR CONSTRUCTION			
ARMY .....	3,970	3,970	.....
AIR FORCE .....	16,400	16,400	.....
TOTAL, MINOR CONSTRUCTION .....	20,370	20,370	.....
RECAP			
ARMY [OCO] .....	15,873	15,873	.....
NAVY AND MARINE CORPS [OCO] .....	70,020	70,020	.....
AIR FORCE [OCO] .....	263,869	263,869	.....
GRAND TOTAL .....	349,762	349,762	.....

**COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL  
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021**  
(In thousands of dollars)

Item	2020 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2020 appropriation	Budget estimate
<b>TITLE I— DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE</b>					
Military Construction, Army .....	1,178,499	650,336	650,336	- 528,163	.....
Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps .....	2,449,632	1,975,606	1,754,436	- 695,196	- 221,170
Military Construction, Air Force .....	1,682,230	767,132	716,799	- 970,431	- 50,333
Military Construction, Defense-Wide .....	2,362,529	2,027,520	1,968,338	- 394,191	- 59,182
Total, Active components .....	7,677,890	5,420,594	5,089,909	- 2,587,981	- 330,685
<b>Military Construction, Army National Guard</b>					
Military Construction, Air National Guard .....	210,819	321,437	321,437	+ 110,618	.....
Military Construction, Army Reserve .....	164,471	64,214	64,214	- 100,257	.....
Military Construction, Navy Reserve .....	60,928	88,337	88,337	+ 27,409	.....
Military Construction, Air Force Reserve .....	54,955	70,995	70,995	+ 16,040	.....
Total, Reserve components .....	597,500	231,117	231,117	- 36,633	.....
Total, Reserve components .....	550,923	568,100	568,100	+ 17,177	.....
<b>North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program</b>					
Department of Defense Base Closure Account .....	172,005	173,030	173,030	+ 1,025	.....
Total, Military Construction .....	398,526	300,447	315,447	- 83,079	+ 15,000
Total, Military Construction .....	8,799,344	6,462,171	6,146,486	- 2,652,858	- 315,685
<b>Family Housing Construction, Army</b>					
Family Housing Operation and Maintenance, Army .....	141,372	119,400	119,400	- 21,972	.....
Family Housing Construction, Navy and Marine Corps .....	357,907	367,142	340,142	- 17,765	- 27,000
Family Housing Operation and Maintenance, Navy and Marine Corps .....	47,661	42,897	42,897	- 4,764	.....
Family Housing Construction, Air Force .....	317,870	346,493	346,493	+ 28,623	.....
Family Housing Operation and Maintenance, Air Force .....	103,631	97,214	97,214	- 6,417	.....
Family Housing Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide .....	295,016	317,021	317,021	+ 22,005	.....
Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund .....	57,000	54,728	54,728	- 2,272	.....
Total, Family Housing Construction .....	3,045	5,897	5,897	+ 2,852	.....

	500	600	600	600	+ 100	
Department of Defense Military Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund .....						
Total, Family Housing .....	1,324,002	1,351,392	1,324,392		+ 390	- 27,000
Administrative Provisions .....						
Untunded Requirements—Services:						
Military Construction, Army (Sec 124) .....	79,500		240,000		+ 160,500	+ 240,000
Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps (Sec 124) .....	374,529		94,900		- 279,629	+ 94,900
Military Construction, Air Force (Sec.124) .....	288,200		95,700		- 192,500	+ 95,700
Military Construction, Army National Guard (Sec 124) .....	155,000		49,835		- 105,165	+ 49,835
Military Construction, Air National Guard (Sec 124) .....	57,000		29,500		- 27,500	+ 29,500
Military Construction, Defense-Wide (rescission) (Sec 132) .....			- 131,000		+ 131,000	- 131,000
Military Construction, Defense-Wide (Sec 132) .....			131,000		+ 131,000	+ 131,000
Military Construction, Army Reserve (Sec 124) .....			2,500		+ 2,500	+ 2,500
Military Construction, Navy Reserve (Sec 124) .....			12,800		+ 12,800	+ 12,800
Military Construction, Air Force Reserve (Sec 124) .....	24,800		25,000		+ 200	+ 25,000
Military Construction, Defense-Wide (Sec 124) .....	66,880		35,500		- 31,380	+ 35,500
Military Construction—Military Installation Resilience (Sec 130) .....	75,000		15,000		+ 25,000	+ 15,000
NATO Security Investment Program (rescission) (Sec.125) .....	- 25,000					
Family Housing Support and Management Costs (Sec.127) .....	140,800				- 140,800	
Military Construction, Defense-Wide (Sec 125) (rescission) .....	- 45,055				+ 15,217	- 29,838
Child Development Centers (Sec 131) .....			32,200		+ 32,200	+ 32,200
Military Construction, Air Force (rescission) (Sec 125) .....			- 9,975		- 9,975	- 9,975
Subtotal, Untunded Requirements—Services .....	1,191,654		593,122		- 598,532	+ 593,122
Total, Administrative Provisions .....	1,191,654		593,122		- 598,532	+ 593,122
Total, Title I, Department of Defense .....	11,315,000	7,813,563	8,064,000		- 3,251,000	+ 250,437
Appropriations .....	(11,385,055)	(7,813,563)	(8,234,813)		(- 3,150,242)	(+ 421,250)
Rescissions .....	(- 70,055)		(- 170,813)		(- 100,758)	(- 170,813)
TITLE II—DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS .....						
Veterans Benefits Administration .....						
Compensation and pensions:						
Budget year request .....	1,439,931	2,813,922	6,110,252		+ 4,670,321	+ 3,296,330
Advance from prior year appropriations .....	109,017,152	118,246,975	118,246,975		+ 9,229,823	

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL  
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021—Continued

(In thousands of dollars)

Item	2020 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2020 appropriation	Budget estimate
Total, Compensation and pensions available in fiscal year 2021	110,457,083	121,060,897	124,357,227	+ 13,900,144	+ 3,296,330
Advance appropriations	118,246,975	130,227,650	130,227,650	+ 11,980,675	.....
Less appropriations from prior year advances	-109,017,152	-118,246,975	-118,246,975	-9,229,823	.....
Total, Compensation and pensions appropriated in this bill	119,686,906	133,041,572	136,337,902	+ 16,650,996	+ 3,296,330
Readjustment benefits:					
Budget year request	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Advance from prior year appropriations	14,065,282	12,578,965	12,578,965	-1,486,317	.....
Total, Readjustment benefits available in fiscal year 2021	14,065,282	12,578,965	12,578,965	-1,486,317	.....
Advance appropriations	12,578,965	14,946,618	14,946,618	+ 2,367,653	.....
Less appropriations from prior year advances	-14,065,282	-12,578,965	-12,578,965	+1,486,317	.....
Total, Readjustment benefits appropriated in this bill	12,578,965	14,946,618	14,946,618	+ 2,367,653	.....
Veterans insurance and indemnities:					
Budget year request	17,620	2,148	2,148	-15,472	.....
Advance from prior year appropriations	111,340	129,224	129,224	+ 17,884	.....
Total, Veterans insurance and indemnities available in fiscal year 2021	128,960	131,372	131,372	+ 2,412	.....
Advance appropriations	129,224	136,950	136,950	+ 7,726	.....
Less appropriations from prior year advances	-111,340	-129,224	-129,224	-17,884	.....
Total, Veterans insurance and indemnities appropriated in this bill	146,844	139,098	139,098	-7,746	.....
Veterans housing benefit program fund:					
Credit subsidy:					
Direct	-7,000	-18,000	-18,000	-11,000	.....

Guaranteed .....	708,000	1,681,000	1,681,000	+ 973,000	.....
Subtotal (Credit subsidy) .....	701,000	1,663,000	1,663,000	+ 962,000	.....
(Limitation on direct loans) .....	(500)	(500)	(500)	.....	.....
Administrative expenses .....	200,377	204,400	204,400	+ 4,023	.....
Vocational rehabilitation loans program account .....	58	34	34	- 24	.....
(Limitation on direct loans) .....	(2,008)	(2,470)	(2,470)	(+ 462)	.....
Administrative expenses .....	402	424	424	+ 22	.....
Native American veteran housing loan program account .....	1,186	1,163	1,163	- 23	.....
General operating expenses, VBA .....	3,125,000	3,207,000	3,160,000	+ 35,000	- 47,000
Total, Veterans Benefits Administration .....	136,440,738	153,203,309	156,452,639	+ 20,011,901	+ 3,249,330
Appropriations .....	(5,485,574)	(7,892,091)	(11,141,421)	(+ 5,655,847)	(+ 3,249,330)
Advance appropriations .....	(130,955,164)	(145,311,218)	(145,311,218)	(+ 14,356,054)	.....
Advances from prior year appropriations .....	(123,193,774)	(130,955,164)	(130,955,164)	(+ 7,761,390)	.....
Veterans Health Administration					
Medical services (MS):	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Budget year request .....	.....	497,468	.....	.....	- 497,468
Budget year request (emergency) .....	.....	.....	5,594,318	+ 5,594,318	+ 5,594,318
Advance from prior year .....	51,411,165	56,158,015	56,158,015	+ 4,746,850	.....
Advance from prior year (rescission) (Sec 252) (non-add) .....	.....	.....	(- 5,096,850)	(- 5,096,850)	(- 5,096,850)
Total, MS available in fiscal year 2021 .....	51,411,165	56,655,483	61,752,333	+ 10,341,168	+ 5,096,850
Total, MS available in fiscal year 2021 (including Sec 252) .....	51,411,165	56,655,483	56,655,483	+ 5,244,318	.....
Advance appropriations .....	56,158,015	58,897,219	58,897,219	+ 2,739,204	.....
Less appropriations from prior years .....	- 51,411,165	- 56,158,015	- 56,158,015	- 4,746,850	.....
Total, MS appropriated in this bill .....	56,158,015	59,394,687	64,491,537	+ 8,333,522	+ 5,096,850
Medical community care (MCC):	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Budget year request .....	4,521,400	1,380,800	.....	- 4,521,400	- 1,380,800
Budget year request (emergency) .....	.....	.....	3,847,180	+ 3,847,180	+ 3,847,180
Advance from prior year .....	10,758,399	17,131,179	17,131,179	+ 6,372,780	.....
Advance from prior year (rescission) (Sec 252) (non-add) .....	.....	.....	(- 2,466,380)	(- 2,466,380)	(- 2,466,380)
Veterans Choice Fund (by transfer) .....	(615,000)	.....	.....	(- 615,000)	.....

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL  
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021—Continued

(In thousands of dollars)

Item	2020 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2020 appropriation	Budget estimate
Total, MCC available in fiscal year 2021 .....	15,279,799	18,511,979	20,978,359	+ 5,698,560	+ 2,466,380
Total, MCC available in fiscal year 2021 (including Sec 252) .....	15,894,799	18,511,979	18,511,979	+ 2,617,180	.....
Advance appropriations .....	17,131,179	20,148,244	20,148,244	+ 3,017,065	.....
Less appropriations from prior years .....	- 10,758,399	- 17,131,179	- 17,131,179	- 6,372,780	.....
Total, MCC appropriated in this bill .....	21,652,579	21,529,044	23,995,424	+ 2,342,845	+ 2,466,380
Medical support and compliance (MSC):					
Budget year request .....	98,800	300,000	.....	- 98,800	- 300,000
Budget year request (emergency) .....	.....	.....	886,235	+ 886,235	+ 886,235
Advance from prior year .....	7,239,156	7,914,191	7,914,191	+ 675,035	.....
Advance from prior year (rescission) (Sec 252) (non-add) .....	.....	.....	(- 586,235)	(- 586,235)	(- 586,235)
Total, MSC available in fiscal year 2021 .....	7,337,956	8,214,191	8,800,426	+ 1,462,470	+ 586,235
Total, MSC available in fiscal year 2021 (including Sec 252) .....	7,337,956	8,214,191	8,214,191	+ 876,235	.....
Advance appropriations .....	7,914,191	8,403,117	8,403,117	+ 488,926	.....
Less appropriations from prior years .....	- 7,239,156	- 7,914,191	- 7,914,191	- 675,035	.....
Total, MSC appropriated in this bill .....	8,012,991	8,703,117	9,289,352	+ 1,276,361	+ 586,235
Medical facilities (MF):					
Budget year request .....	.....	150,000	.....	.....	- 150,000
Budget year request (emergency) .....	.....	.....	441,385	+ 441,385	+ 441,385
Advance from prior year .....	6,141,880	6,433,265	6,433,265	+ 291,385	.....
Advance from prior year (rescission) (Sec 252) (non-add) .....	.....	.....	(- 291,385)	(- 291,385)	(- 291,385)
Total, MF available in fiscal year 2021 .....	6,141,880	6,583,265	6,874,650	+ 732,770	+ 291,385

Total, MF available in fiscal year 2021 (including Sec 252)	6,141,880	6,583,265	6,583,265	6,583,265	+ 441,385	.....
Advance appropriations	6,433,265	6,734,680	6,734,680	6,734,680	+ 301,415	.....
Less appropriations from prior years	- 6,141,880	- 6,433,265	- 6,433,265	- 6,433,265	- 291,385	.....
<b>Total, MF appropriated in this bill</b>	<b>6,433,265</b>	<b>6,884,680</b>	<b>7,176,065</b>	<b>7,176,065</b>	<b>+ 742,800</b>	<b>+ 291,385</b>
<b>Medical and prosthetic research</b>	<b>800,000</b>	<b>787,000</b>	<b>800,000</b>	<b>800,000</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>+ 13,000</b>
<b>Medical care cost recovery collections:</b>						
Offsetting collections	- 3,729,000	- 4,403,000	- 4,403,000	- 4,403,000	- 674,000	.....
Appropriations (indefinite)	3,729,000	4,403,000	4,403,000	4,403,000	+ 674,000	.....
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>.....</b>
Medical Care Collections Fund (MCCF) (transfer out) (Sec 214)	(- 446,000)	(- 784,000)	(- 784,000)	(- 784,000)	(- 338,000)	.....
Medical Community Care and Medical Services (by transfer) (Sec 214)	(446,000)	(784,000)	(784,000)	(784,000)	(- 338,000)	.....
VA medical funds (transfer out) (Sec 219)	(- 314,409)	(- 322,932)	(- 322,932)	(- 322,932)	(- 8,523)	.....
DoD-VA Joint Medical Facility Demonstration Fund (by transfer) (Sec 219)	(314,409)	(322,932)	(322,932)	(322,932)	(+ 8,523)	.....
MCCF to DoD-VA Joint Medical Facility Demonstration Fund (transfer out) (Sec 221)	(- 17,000)	(- 18,000)	(- 18,000)	(- 18,000)	(- 1,000)	.....
DoD-VA Joint Medical Facility Demonstration Fund (by transfer) (Sec 221)	(17,000)	(18,000)	(18,000)	(18,000)	(- 1,000)	.....
VA Medical Care Funds (transfer out) (Sec 222)	(- 15,000)	(- 15,000)	(- 15,000)	(- 15,000)	.....	.....
DoD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund (by transfer) (Sec 222)	(15,000)	(15,000)	(15,000)	(15,000)	.....	.....
<b>Total, Veterans Health Administration</b>	<b>93,056,850</b>	<b>97,298,528</b>	<b>105,752,378</b>	<b>105,752,378</b>	<b>+ 12,695,528</b>	<b>+ 8,453,850</b>
Appropriations (budget year)	(5,420,200)	(3,115,268)	(800,000)	(800,000)	(- 4,620,200)	(- 2,315,268)
Emergency Appropriations (budget year)	.....	.....	(10,769,118)	(10,769,118)	(+ 10,769,118)	(+ 10,769,118)
Advance appropriations (FY 2022)	(87,636,650)	(94,183,260)	(94,183,260)	(94,183,260)	(+ 6,546,610)	.....
Advances from prior year appropriations	(75,550,600)	(87,636,650)	(87,636,650)	(87,636,650)	(+ 12,086,050)	.....
(By transfer)	(1,407,409)	(1,139,932)	(1,139,932)	(1,139,932)	(- 267,477)	.....
(Transfer out)	(- 792,409)	(- 1,139,932)	(- 1,139,932)	(- 1,139,932)	(- 347,523)	.....
<b>National Cemetery Administration</b>	<b>329,000</b>	<b>360,000</b>	<b>352,000</b>	<b>352,000</b>	<b>+ 23,000</b>	<b>- 8,000</b>
Departmental Administration	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
General administration	355,911	413,000	365,911	365,911	+ 10,000	- 47,089
Board of Veterans Appeals	182,000	198,000	190,000	190,000	+ 8,000	- 8,000
Information Technology Systems (IT Systems)	4,371,615	4,912,000	4,371,615	4,371,615	.....	- 540,385
Emergency appropriations	.....	.....	540,385	540,385	+ 540,385	+ 540,385
<b>Subtotal, IT Systems</b>	<b>4,371,615</b>	<b>4,912,000</b>	<b>4,912,000</b>	<b>4,912,000</b>	<b>+ 540,385</b>	<b>.....</b>

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL  
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021—Continued  
(In thousands of dollars)

Item	2020 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2020 appropriation	Budget estimate
Veterans Electronic Health Record (EHR)	1,500,000	2,627,000	1,442,515	-57,485	-1,184,485
Emergency appropriations			1,184,485	+1,184,485	+1,184,485
Subtotal, EHR	1,500,000	2,627,000	2,627,000	+1,127,000	
Office of Inspector General	210,000	228,000	228,000	+18,000	
Construction, major projects	1,235,200	1,373,000	1,316,000	+80,800	-57,000
Construction, minor projects	398,800	400,000	390,000	-8,800	-10,000
Grants for construction of State extended care facilities	90,000	90,000	90,000		
Grants for the construction of Veterans cemeteries	45,000	45,000	45,000		
Total, Departmental Administration	8,388,526	10,286,000	10,163,911	+1,775,385	-122,089
Appropriations	(8,388,526)	(10,286,000)	(8,439,041)	(+50,515)	(-1,846,959)
Emergency appropriations			(1,724,870)	(+1,724,870)	(+1,724,870)
Administrative Provisions					
Medical Support and Compliance (rescission) (Sec 252)	-10,000		-586,235	-576,235	-586,235
DOD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund (rescission) (Sec 253)	-15,949			+15,949	
Veterans Electronic Health Record (rescission) (Sec 253)	-70,000			+70,000	
Medical and Prosthetic Research (rescission) (Sec 253)	-50,000			+50,000	
Board of Veterans Appeals (rescission) (Sec 253)	-8,000			+8,000	
National Cemetery Administration (rescission) (Sec 253)	-1,000			+1,000	
Medical Services (rescission) (Sec 252)	-350,000			-4,746,850	-5,096,850
Medical Community Care (rescission) (Sec 252)				-2,466,380	-2,466,380
Medical Facilities (rescission) (Sec 252)				-291,385	-291,385
Medical Services (rescission) (Sec 253)				-200,000	-200,000
Information Technology Systems (rescission) (Sec 253)				-57,462	-57,462
Total, Administrative Provisions	-504,949		-8,698,312	-8,193,363	-8,698,312



Total, Title II, Department of Veterans Affairs	237,710,165	261,147,837	264,022,616	+ 26,312,451	+ 2,874,779
Appropriations	(19,623,300)	(21,653,359)	(20,732,462)	(+ 1,109,162)	(- 920,897)
Emergency appropriations			(12,493,988)	(+ 12,493,988)	(+ 12,493,988)
Rescissions			(- 8,698,312)	(- 8,193,363)	(- 8,698,312)
Advance Appropriations:	(- 504,949)				
(Mandatory)	(130,955,164)	(145,311,218)	(145,311,218)	(+ 14,356,054)	
(Discretionary)	(87,636,650)	(94,183,260)	(94,183,260)	(+ 6,546,610)	
(By transfer)	(1,407,409)	(1,139,932)	(1,139,932)	(- 267,477)	
(Transfer out)					
(Limitation on direct loans)	(- 792,409)	(- 1,139,932)	(- 1,139,932)	(- 347,523)	
Advances from prior year appropriations:	(2,508)	(2,970)	(2,970)	(+ 462)	
(Mandatory)	(123,193,774)	(130,955,164)	(130,955,164)	(+ 7,761,390)	
(Discretionary)	(75,550,600)	(87,636,650)	(87,636,650)	(+ 12,086,050)	
Total, available this fiscal year	217,862,725	240,245,173	243,119,952	+ 25,257,227	+ 2,874,779
(Mandatory)	(125,352,325)	(135,434,234)	(138,730,564)	(+ 13,378,239)	(+ 3,296,330)
(Discretionary)	(92,510,400)	(104,810,939)	(104,389,388)	(+ 11,878,988)	(- 421,551)
TITLE III—RELATED AGENCIES					
American Battle Monuments Commission	84,100	75,100	82,100	- 2,000	+ 7,000
US Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims	35,400	38,900	37,100	+ 1,700	- 1,800
Department of Defense—Civil					
Cemeterial Expenses, Army	80,800	70,800	81,100	+ 300	+ 10,300
Armed Forces Retirement Home—Trust Fund					
Operation and maintenance	41,300	42,300	44,300	+ 3,000	+ 2,000
Capital program	12,000	6,000	9,000	- 3,000	+ 3,000
Payment from General Fund	22,000	22,000	22,000		
Total, Armed Forces Retirement Home	75,300	70,300	75,300		+ 5,000
Total, Title III, Related Agencies	275,600	255,100	275,600		+ 20,500

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL  
 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021—Continued  
 [In thousands of dollars]

Item	2020 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2020 appropriation	Budget estimate
<b>TITLE IV—OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS</b>					
Overseas Contingency Operations					
Military Construction, Army .....	33,800	.....	.....	-33,800	.....
Military Construction, Air Force .....	66,000	.....	.....	-66,000	.....
Military Construction, Defense-Wide .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Subtotal, Overseas Contingency Operations .....	99,800	.....	.....	-99,800	.....
European Deterrence/Reassurance Initiative					
Military Construction, Army .....	78,168	15,873	15,873	-62,295	.....
Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps .....	94,570	70,020	70,020	-24,550	.....
Military Construction, Air Force .....	325,988	263,869	263,869	-62,119	.....
Military Construction, Defense-Wide .....	46,000	.....	.....	-46,000	.....
Subtotal, European Deterrence / Reassurance Initiative .....	544,726	349,762	349,762	-194,964	.....
Total, Overseas Contingency Operations .....	644,526	349,762	349,762	-294,764	.....
<b>TITLE V—NATURAL DISASTER RELIEF</b>					
Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps (emergency) .....	3,477,000	.....	.....	-3,477,000	.....
Military Construction, Air Force (emergency) .....	2,605,200	.....	.....	-2,605,200	.....
Military Construction, Defense-Wide (emergency) .....	77,175	.....	.....	-77,175	.....
Military Construction, Army National Guard (emergency) .....	66,000	.....	.....	-66,000	.....
Military Construction, Army Reserve (emergency) .....	3,300	.....	.....	-3,300	.....
Total, Title V, Natural Disaster Relief (emergencies) .....	6,228,675	.....	.....	-6,228,675	.....

OTHER APPROPRIATIONS				
CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021				
Medical Services (Emergency Transfer to Canteen Service Revolving Fund) .....				- 140,000
Canteen Service Revolving Fund (Emergency Transfer from Medical Services) .....		- 140,000		+ 140,000
OTHER APPROPRIATIONS				
SECOND CORONAVIRUS PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2020 (P L 116-127 DIV A)				
Department of Veterans Affairs				
Medical Services (emergency) .....	30,000			- 30,000
Medical Community Care (emergency) .....	30,000			- 30,000
Total, Second Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020 .....	60,000			- 60,000
EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS FOR CORONAVIRUS HEALTH RESPONSE AND AGENCY OPERATIONS (P L 116-136 DIV B)				
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS				
Veterans Benefits Administration				
General Operating Expenses (emergency) .....	13,000			- 13,000
Veterans Health Administration				
Medical Services (emergency) .....	14,432,000			- 14,432,000
Medical Community Care (emergency) .....	2,100,000			- 2,100,000
Medical Support and Compliance (emergency) .....	100,000			- 100,000
Medical Facilities (emergency) .....	606,000			- 606,000
Total, Veterans Health Administration .....	17,238,000			- 17,238,000
Departmental Administration				
General Administration (emergency) .....	6,000			- 6,000
Information Technology Systems (emergency) .....	2,150,000			- 2,150,000
Office of Inspector General (emergency) .....	12,500			- 12,500
Grants for Construction of State Extended Care Facilities (emergency) .....	150,000			- 150,000
Total, Departmental Administration .....	2,318,500			- 2,318,500

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL  
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021—Continued  
[In thousands of dollars]

Item	2020 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2020 appropriation	Budget estimate
Total, Department of Veterans Affairs .....	19,569,500	.....	.....	-19,569,500	.....
RELATED AGENCIES					
Armed Forces Retirement Home .....	2,800	.....	.....	-2,800	.....
Payment from General Fund (emergency) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total, Emergency Appropriations for Coronavirus Health Response and Agency Operations .....	19,572,300	.....	.....	-19,572,300	.....
Total, Other Appropriations .....	19,632,300	.....	.....	-19,632,300	.....
Grand total .....	275,806,266	269,566,262	272,711,978	-3,094,288	+3,145,716
Appropriations .....	(31,283,955)	(29,722,022)	(29,242,875)	(-2,041,080)	(-479,147)
Emergency appropriations .....	(25,860,975)	.....	(12,493,988)	(-13,366,987)	(+12,493,988)
Rescissions .....	(-575,004)	.....	(-8,869,125)	(-8,294,121)	(-8,869,125)
Advance appropriations .....	(218,591,814)	(239,494,478)	(239,494,478)	(+20,902,664)	.....
Overseas contingency operations .....	(644,526)	(349,762)	(349,762)	(-294,764)	.....
Advances from prior year appropriations .....	(198,744,374)	(218,591,814)	(218,591,814)	(+19,847,440)	.....
(By transfer) .....	(1,407,409)	(1,139,932)	(1,139,932)	(-267,477)	.....
(Transfer out) .....	(-792,409)	(-1,139,932)	(-1,139,932)	(-347,523)	.....
(Limitation on direct loans) .....	(2,508)	(2,970)	(2,970)	(+462)	.....

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