

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND
 RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2015

APRIL 17, 2014.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of
 the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. CULBERSON, from the Committee on Appropriations,
 submitted the following

R E P O R T

together with

MINORITY VIEWS

[To accompany H.R. 4486]

The Committee on Appropriations submits the following report in
 explanation of the accompanying bill making appropriations for
 military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and re-
 lated agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and
 for other purposes.

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PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to support our military and their families and provide the benefits and medical care that our veterans have earned for their service to our Nation. This is accomplished through the programs funded in the bill, which provide the facilities and infrastructure needed to house, train, and equip our military personnel to defend this Nation, both in the United States and abroad; provide the housing and military community infrastructure that supports a good quality of life for them and their families; and allow the military to maintain an efficient and effective base structure. The bill also funds programs to ensure that all veterans receive the benefits and medical care that they have earned as a result of the sacrifices they have made in their service to our country. Finally, the bill funds four related agencies that provide support to our Nation's heroes: the American Battle Monuments Commission, Cemeterial Expenses, Army (including Arlington National Cemetery), the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home.

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The scale of the Nation's debt and the continuing annual deficit weighed heavily on the Committee as it formulated this bill. A driving force behind the Committee recommendations was the bipartisan, bicameral discretionary budget caps established for fiscal year 2015. As part of the fiscal year 2014 appropriations, Congress provided an additional \$1,200,000,000 to the Veterans Health Administration in advance funding for fiscal year 2015. This exceeds the increase provided for non-security accounts within the discretionary budget cap, requiring the additional funds to be offset by reductions in other non-security activities. Similarly, it was essential that the Committee carefully review military construction activities and judge their merit against all security needs. As a result, the Committee recommendation continues essential support for servicemembers and veterans but does not provide funds for projects or activities that lacked sufficient justification or amounts in excess of expected obligations for the fiscal year. Where it was

prudent, the Committee recommendation rescinds prior year funding that is no longer needed for the purpose for which it was appropriated while leaving sufficient resources to close out contracts.

The Committee recommends \$165,012,275,000 in budget authority for the fiscal year 2015 programs and activities funded in the bill. The fiscal year 2015 recommendation is an increase of \$7,023,706,000 above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level and \$397,696,000 below the President's request. Included in this amount is \$93,512,828,000 in mandatory budget authority and \$71,499,447,000 in discretionary budget authority.

The programs funded in the bill for the Department of Defense address the priorities of the Department's Agencies and the Services for numerous facility challenges that they face. The funds provided support new construction, family housing, continued cleanup of military bases closed during previous Base Realignment and Closure rounds, resource the military's global re-stationing and force re-structure plans, and ensure that our military personnel and their families' quality of life is preserved within the constraints of the fiscal 2015 discretionary budget cap for security accounts.

The total recommended funding level for military construction and family housing is \$6,557,447,000, which is \$3,250,553,000 below the fiscal year 2014 enacted level and the same as the budget request. During hearings, the Department testified that while this budget reduction assumes some risk, the Services chose to take risk in the military construction program in order to reduce risk in readiness accounts. The Services also noted that many factors are currently under review, such as force structure and European basing, which may impact construction needs. The Committee, while concerned by the reduction, acknowledges the merit of these issues. The Committee also acknowledges that the success of the Housing Privatization Program has dramatically reduced the need for family housing construction. Additionally, Congress has provided substantial funding in recent years through BRAC construction projects in excess of \$24,000,000,000 and through funding initiatives for Guard and Reserve construction, barracks, hospitals and schools.

Although the fiscal year budget request is a considerable reduction, the due diligence of the Department, the Services and the Committee will enable the military construction program to sustain the pause.

The total funding level for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Veterans Affairs is \$158,221,261,000, an increase of 7.0 percent over the fiscal year 2014 enacted level. Of the total, \$93,512,828,000 is provided for mandatory benefit programs and \$64,708,433,000 is allocated to discretionary programs such as medical care, claims processing, and construction. Discretionary funding increases by 2.3 percent. In addition to funds for fiscal year 2015, of which \$55,634,227,000 have already been appropriated in advance, the Committee recommendation includes \$58,662,202,000 in advance appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for the three health care accounts of the Department.

The following table compares amounts recommended in the bill to the President's request and amounts appropriated in fiscal year 2014:

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2014
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2015
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request

TITLE I - DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE					
Military construction, Army.....	1,104,875	539,427	526,427	-578,448	-13,000
Military construction, Navy and Marine Corps.....	1,629,690	1,018,772	998,772	-630,918	-20,000
Military construction, Air Force.....	1,052,796	811,774	719,551	-333,245	-92,223
Military construction, Defense-Wide.....	3,445,423	2,061,890	2,021,690	-1,423,733	-40,200
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total, Active components.....	7,232,784	4,431,863	4,266,440	-2,966,344	-165,423
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Military construction, Army National Guard.....	314,740	126,920	126,920	-187,820	---
Military construction, Air National Guard.....	119,800	94,663	94,663	-25,137	---
Military construction, Army Reserve.....	156,560	103,946	103,946	-52,614	---
Military construction, Navy Reserve.....	29,000	51,528	51,528	+22,528	---
Military construction, Air Force Reserve.....	45,659	49,492	49,492	+3,833	---
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total, Reserve components.....	665,759	426,549	426,549	-239,210	---
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total, Military construction.....	7,898,543	4,858,412	4,692,989	-3,205,554	-165,423
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program.....	199,700	199,700	199,700	---	---
Family housing construction, Army.....	27,408	78,609	78,609	+51,201	---
Family housing operation and maintenance, Army.....	512,871	350,976	350,976	-161,895	---
Family housing construction, Navy and Marine Corps....	73,407	16,412	16,412	-56,995	---
Family housing operation and maintenance, Navy and Marine Corps.....	379,444	354,029	354,029	-25,415	---

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AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2015
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Family housing construction, Air Force.....	76,360	---	---	-76,360	---
Family housing operation and maintenance, Air Force...	388,598	327,747	327,747	-60,851	---
Family housing operation and maintenance, Defense-Wide.....	55,845	61,100	61,100	+5,255	---
Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund.....	1,780	1,662	1,662	-118	---
Total, Family housing.....	1,515,713	1,190,535	1,190,535	-325,178	---
Chemical demilitarization construction, Defense-Wide..	122,536	38,715	38,715	-83,821	---
Department of Defense Base Closure Account.....	451,357	270,085	270,085	-181,272	---
Military Construction - fiscal year 2014 (Sec. 127)...	---	---	125,000	+125,000	+125,000
Military Construction - fiscal year 2015 (Sec. 128)...	---	---	245,000	+245,000	+245,000
Military Construction, Army (Sec. 129).....	-200,000	---	-79,577	+120,423	-79,577
Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps (Sec.131).....	-12,000	---	---	+12,000	---
Military Construction, Air Force.....	-39,700	---	---	+39,700	---
Military Construction, Defense-Wide.....	-14,000	---	---	+14,000	---
Military Construction, Air National Guard.....	-14,200	---	---	+14,200	---
42 USC 3374 (Sec. 131).....	-99,949	---	-100,000	-51	-100,000
NATO Security Investment Program (Sec. 130).....	---	---	-25,000	-25,000	-25,000
Total, title I, Department of Defense.....	9,808,000	6,557,447	6,557,447	-3,250,553	---
Appropriations.....	(10,187,849)	(6,557,447)	(6,762,024)	(-3,425,825)	(+204,577)
Rescissions.....	(-379,849)	---	(-204,577)	(+175,272)	(-204,577)

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(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
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TITLE II - DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS					
Veterans Benefits Administration					
Compensation and pensions.....	71,476,104	78,687,709	78,687,709	+7,211,605	---
Readjustment benefits.....	13,135,898	14,761,862	14,761,862	+1,625,964	---
Veterans insurance and indemnities.....	77,567	63,257	63,257	-14,310	---
Veterans housing benefit program fund:					
(indefinite).....	---	---	---	---	---
(Limitation on direct loans).....	(500)	(500)	(500)	---	---
Administrative expenses.....	158,430	160,881	160,881	+2,451	---
Vocational rehabilitation loans program account.....	5	10	10	+5	---
(Limitation on direct loans).....	(2,500)	(2,877)	(2,877)	(+377)	---
Administrative expenses.....	354	361	361	+7	---
Native American veteran housing loan program account..	1,109	1,130	1,130	+21	---
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total, Veterans Benefits Administration.....	84,849,467	93,675,210	93,675,210	+8,825,743	---
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Veterans Health Administration					
Medical services:					
Advance from prior year.....	(43,557,000)	(45,015,527)	(45,015,527)	(+1,458,527)	---
Current year request.....	40,000	367,885	---	-40,000	-367,885

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AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2015
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Advance appropriation, FY 2016.....	45,015,527	47,603,202	47,603,202	+2,587.675	---
Subtotal.....	45,055,527	47,971,087	47,603,202	+2,547.675	-367,885
Medical support and compliance:					
Advance from prior year.....	(6,033,000)	(5,879,700)	(5,879,700)	(-153,300)	---
Advance appropriation, FY 2016.....	5,879,700	6,144,000	6,144,000	+264,300	---
Subtotal.....	5,879,700	6,144,000	6,144,000	+264,300	---
Medical facilities:					
Advance from prior year.....	(4,872,000)	(4,739,000)	(4,739,000)	(-133,000)	---
Current year request.....	85,000	---	---	-85,000	---
Advance appropriation, FY 2016.....	4,739,000	4,915,000	4,915,000	+176,000	---
Subtotal.....	4,824,000	4,915,000	4,915,000	+91,000	---
Medical and prosthetic research.....	585,664	588,922	588,922	+3,258	---
Medical care cost recovery collections:					
Offsetting collections.....	-2,485,000	-3,065,000	-3,065,000	-580,000	---
Appropriations (indefinite).....	2,485,000	3,065,000	3,065,000	+580,000	---
Subtotal.....	---	---	---	---	---
DoD-VA Joint Medical Funds (transfers out).....	(-254,257)	(-252,366)	(-252,366)	(+1,891)	---
DoD-VA Joint Medical Funds (by transfer).....	(254,257)	(252,366)	(252,366)	(-1,891)	---

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AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2015
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
DoD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund (Transfer out).....	(-15,000)	(-15,000)	(-15,000)	---	---
DoD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund (by transfer).....	(15,000)	(15,000)	(15,000)	---	---
Total, Veterans Health Administration.....	56,344,891	59,619,009	59,251,124	+2,906,233	-367,885
Appropriations.....	(710,664)	(956,807)	(588,922)	(-121,742)	(-367,885)
Advance appropriations, FY 2016.....	(55,634,227)	(58,662,202)	(58,662,202)	(+3,027,975)	---
Advances from prior year appropriations.....	(54,462,000)	(55,634,227)	(55,634,227)	(+1,172,227)	---
National Cemetery Administration					
National Cemetery Administration.....	250,000	256,800	256,800	+6,800	---
Departmental Administration					
General administration.....	327,591	321,591	321,591	-6,000	---
Board of Veterans Appeals.....	88,294	94,294	94,294	+6,000	---
General operating expenses, VBA.....	2,465,490	2,494,254	2,514,254	+48,764	+20,000
Information technology systems.....	3,703,344	3,903,344	3,870,552	+167,208	-32,792
Office of Inspector General.....	121,411	121,411	121,411	---	---
Construction, major projects.....	342,130	561,800	561,800	+219,670	---
Construction, minor projects.....	714,870	495,200	495,200	-219,670	---
Grants for construction of State extended care facilities.....	85,000	80,000	80,000	-5,000	---

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COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2014
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2015
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Grants for the construction of veterans cemeteries....	46,000	45,000	45,000	-1,000	---
Total, Departmental Administration.....	7,894,130	8,116,894	8,104,102	+209,972	-12,792
Administrative Provisions					
Prior Year Rescissions (Sec. 233).....	-182,000	---	-38,000	+144,000	-38,000
Section 225					
Medical services.....	1,400,000	1,400,000	1,400,000	---	---
(Rescission).....	-1,400,000	-1,400,000	-1,400,000	---	---
Medical support and compliance.....	100,000	100,000	100,000	---	---
(Rescission).....	-150,000	-100,000	-100,000	+50,000	---
Medical facilities.....	250,000	250,000	250,000	---	---
(Rescission).....	-250,000	-250,000	-250,000	---	---
Total, Administrative Provisions.....	-232,000	---	-38,000	+194,000	-38,000
Total, title II.....	149,106,488	161,667,913	161,249,236	+12,142,748	-418,677
Appropriations.....	(95,454,261)	(104,755,711)	(104,375,034)	(+8,920,773)	(-380,677)
Rescissions.....	(-1,982,000)	(-1,750,000)	(-1,788,000)	(+194,000)	(-38,000)
Advance appropriations, FY 2016.....	(55,634,227)	(58,662,202)	(58,662,202)	(+3,027,975)	---
Advances from prior year appropriations.....	(54,462,000)	(55,634,227)	(55,634,227)	(+1,172,227)	---
(Limitation on direct loans).....	(3,000)	(3,377)	(3,377)	(+377)	---

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2014
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2015
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Discretionary.....	(64,416,919)	(68,155,085)	(67,736,408)	(+3,319,489)	(-418,677)
Advances from prior year less FY 2016 advances.....	-1,172,227	-3,027,975	-3,027,975	-1,855,748	---
Net discretionary.....	(63,244,692)	(65,127,110)	(64,708,433)	(+1,463,741)	(-418,677)
Mandatory.....	(84,689,569)	(93,512,828)	(93,512,828)	(+8,823,259)	---
Total mandatory and net discretionary.....	147,934,261	158,639,938	158,221,261	+10,287,000	-418,677

TITLE III - RELATED AGENCIES

American Battle Monuments Commission

Salaries and expenses.....	63,200	70,100	75,000	+11,800	+4,900
Foreign currency fluctuations account.....	14,100	1,900	1,900	-12,200	---
Total, American Battle Monuments Commission.....	77,300	72,000	76,900	-400	+4,900

U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims

Salaries and expenses.....	35,408	31,386	31,386	-4,022	---
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COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR 2014
AND BUDGET REQUESTS AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL FOR 2015
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request

Department of Defense - Civil					
Cemeterial Expenses, Army					
Salaries and expenses.....	65,800	45,800	61,881	-3,919	+16,081
Armed Forces Retirement Home - Trust Fund					
Operation and maintenance.....	66,800	62,400	62,400	-4,400	---
Capital program.....	1,000	1,000	1,000	---	---
Total, Armed Forces Retirement Home.....	67,800	63,400	63,400	-4,400	---

Total, title III.....	246,308	212,586	233,567	-12,741	+20,981
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Grand total.....	159,160,796	168,437,946	168,040,250	+8,879,454	-397,696
Appropriations.....	(105,888,418)	(111,525,744)	(111,370,625)	(+5,482,207)	(-155,119)
Rescissions.....	(-2,361,849)	(-1,750,000)	(-1,992,577)	(+369,272)	(-242,577)
Advance appropriations, FY 2015.....	(55,634,227)	(58,662,202)	(58,662,202)	(+3,027,975)	---
Advances from prior year appropriations.....	(54,462,000)	(55,634,227)	(55,634,227)	(+1,172,227)	---
(By transfer).....	(269,257)	(267,366)	(267,366)	(-1,891)	---
(Transfer out).....	(-269,257)	(-267,366)	(-267,366)	(+1,891)	---
(Limitation on direct loans).....	(3,000)	(3,377)	(3,377)	(+377)	---
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MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT INITIATIVES

The Committee believes the effective stewardship of taxpayer dollars is of the highest priority. In the interest of eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse in Federal programs, the Committee has and will continue to use public hearings, briefings, and information requests, and reviews by the Government Accountability Office and the Inspectors General to promote strong financial and program management, oversight and leadership at the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other agencies under the jurisdiction of this bill.

The fiscal year 2015 appropriations Act and the accompanying report address management challenges of the Federal agencies funded herein, including directives to strengthen financial and program management, eliminate redundancy, and improve implementation and oversight of initiatives that support the mission of this bill. The Committee will use every means at its disposal to reduce mismanagement that results in waste, fraud, and abuse.

Department of Defense (DOD).—In addition to the notification and reporting requirements for military construction programs contained in Title 10, United States Code, the Committee's recommendations include several provisions requiring the Department of Defense to report on various aspects of military construction programs, or to provide notification to the Committee when certain actions are taken. The Committee also retains prior approval authority for any reprogramming of funds exceeding a specific threshold.

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).—With the \$158,221,261,000 provided for the VA in this bill and the increase in the number of veterans seeking VA medical services, the Committee believes it is important to strengthen its tools to monitor spending as well as the skills and operating procedures of the VA workforce. The following initiatives demonstrate the Committee's oversight focus:

VA electronic health record.—The Committee continues to feel it is critical to closely track VA's development of its VistA Evolution electronic health record. In the aftermath of the DOD and VA decision not to pursue a single integrated health record, it becomes doubly important to ensure that the two health records are designed in a way that permits interoperability between the two systems. The Committee continues the practice of the fiscal year 2013 and 2014 bills to include language requiring the VA to provide information on the VistA Evolution system before release of 75 percent of the funding provided. The fiscal year 2015 directive requires information to track the implementation of the system as described in the documents VA provided to fulfill the 2014 bill language directive. The Committee does not intend to delay the progress of developing the health record, but believes continuing oversight is necessary to ensure that the health record will have the capabilities and interoperability promised in the VA documents. The Committee also requires specific information on the planned interoperability capability of VistA Evolution, to be provided to the Committee by July 31, 2014.

Disability claims backlog reduction.—In addition to fully funding the administration request of \$173,318,000 for the Veterans Benefits Management System, the paperless information technology system designed to speed processing, the Committee provides

\$20,000,000 in additional funding for digital scanning of health and benefits files, the centralized mail initiative, and staff overtime to increase workforce capacity to reduce the backlog. The Committee bill continues the aggressive monthly reporting requirements from each specific regional office on claims processing performance and quarterly reports on remediation efforts at the poorest performing regional offices.

Excessive overhead in medical services funding.—The Committee has heard concerns from Members that the VA retains too much of the funding provided by Congress at headquarters and at the regional health networks instead of allowing it to flow through to the medical centers. The Committee is monitoring the allocation process VA uses, mandating that VA provide information annually identifying the use of all funding retained at headquarters, as well as the funding retained by each network and for which purposes. In addition, the Committee is requesting regular budget information to better identify administrative expenses that are hidden in medical services appropriations.

Stricter control of construction funding.—The VA historically has allowed billions of dollars for its major construction projects to remain unobligated for years at a time while VA completes designs, negotiates with contractors, and complies with local, State, and Federal paperwork. The Committee continues bill language limiting the availability of these funds to five years, which is the same period of time the Committee makes Military Construction funding available. The Committee understands that this limitation has already forced modifications to the VA construction process and anticipates that it will generate more efficient construction that will better serve veterans.

Bid savings and project scope control.—In the past, the VA has had considerable flexibility in allocating funding for major construction projects. The Committee continues bill language requiring the VA to notify the Committee of all bid savings totaling \$5,000,000 or more, or five percent, whichever is less, within 14 days of the contract, as well as the proposed use of the funds. Additionally, the VA is not permitted to make any change in the scope of major construction projects. With these tools, the Committee expects to gain more control of construction funding that is no longer needed for its original purposes.

Notification of change in use of funds.—To ensure that the Committee is informed of and approves of changes in planned uses of medical services funds, the bill continues a reprogramming requirement for significant changes in funding of non-model initiatives.

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION OVERVIEW

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level (including rescissions)	\$9,808,000,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	6,557,447,000
Committee recommendation in the bill (including rescissions)	6,557,447,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	(3,250,553,000)
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	— — —

Military construction accounts provide funds for new construction, construction improvements, planning and design, and host nation support. Projects funded by these accounts include facilities for operations, training, maintenance, research and development, supply, medical care, and force protection, as well as unaccompanied housing, utilities infrastructure, and land acquisition.

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 reprogramming to an item specifically reduced below the threshold by the Congress is permitted, except that the Department of Defense may seek reprogramming for appropriated increments.

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, if 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. Planning and design costs associated with military construction and family housing projects may also be excluded from these guidelines. In instances where prior approval to a reprogramming request for a project or account has been received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, the adjusted amount approved becomes the new base for any future increase or decrease via below-threshold reprogramming (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 reprogramming actions and notifications, including the pertinent statutory authorities contained in Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation 7000.14–R and relevant updates and policy memoranda. The Committee further encourages the Office of the Director of National Intelligence to use a format similar to that used by the Office of the Secretary of Defense to submit reprogramming requests.

Facilities Sustainment, Restoration and Modernization (FSRM).—The Department of Defense is directed to continue describing on form 1390 the backlog of FSRM requirements at installations with future construction projects. For troop housing requests, form 1391 should describe any FSRM conducted in the past two years. Likewise, future requirements for unaccompanied housing at the corresponding installation should be included. Additionally, the forms should include English equivalent measurements for projects presented in metric measurement. Rules for funding repairs of facilities under the Operation and Maintenance accounts are described below:

(1) components of the facility may be repaired by replacement. Such replacement can be up to current standards or codes;

(2) interior arrangements and restorations may be included as repair;

(3) additions, new facilities, and functional conversions must be performed as military construction projects. Such projects may be done concurrently with repair projects as long as the final conjunctively funded project is a complete and usable facility; and

(4) the appropriate service secretary shall notify the appropriate committees 21 days prior to carrying out any repair project with an estimated cost in excess of \$7,500,000. The Committee strongly encourages the services and defense agencies to indicate the plant replacement value of the facility to be repaired on each such notification.

Quarterly summary of notifications.—The Committee directs the services and the Office of the Secretary of Defense (on behalf of itself and defense agencies) to continue to submit a quarterly report listing all notifications that have been submitted to the Committees during the preceding three-month period.

Work in Progress or Planned (WIP) curve.—The Committee directs the services and the Office of the Secretary of Defense (on behalf of itself and defense agencies) to submit a WIP curve for each project requested in a budget submission over \$100,000,000 with the 1391 justification to the congressional defense committees.

Transfer of funds to and from the Foreign Currency Fluctuations, Construction, Defense Account.—The Committee directs the Department of Defense to submit a quarterly report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress on the transfer of funds from military construction and family housing accounts to the Foreign Currency Fluctuations, Construction, Defense account. The report shall specify the amount transferred to the Foreign Currency account from each military construction and/or family housing account, and all other accounts for which an appropriation is provided in this Act, during the preceding fiscal quarter, and the amounts transferred from the Foreign Currency account to the above accounts during the same period. This report shall be submitted no later than 30 days after the close of each fiscal quarter. In addition, the Department of Defense shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 7 days of transferring any amount in excess of \$10,000,000 to or from the Foreign Currency account.

Bid savings.—The Committee has ascertained from cost variation notices required by 10 U.S.C. 2853 that the Department of Defense continues to have bid savings on previously appropriated military construction projects. The Committee's recommendation therefore includes rescissions to the Army construction account and NATO Security Investment Program. As a result of bid savings, the Committee directs the Secretary of Defense to continue to submit 1002 reports on military construction bid savings at the end of each fiscal quarter to the Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies of both the House and Senate.

Facilities management, life-cycle costs, and construction method alternatives.—The Committee believes that the military construction program best serves both our military personnel and the taxpayers when projects are open to competitive bidding from contrac-

tors representing the widest possible range of construction methods. To that end, the Committee urges the Department of Defense and the execution agents for military construction, principally the Army Corps of Engineers and the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, to ensure that requests for proposals or qualifications do not arbitrarily foreclose, discourage, or privilege any type of construction method. The Committee continues to encourage a level playing field for both traditional construction methods and alternative methods such as permanent modular construction. The Committee also encourages DOD to evaluate the regular use of carbon fiber grid precast concrete technology in military construction projects.

The Committee is also concerned by the recent report from the Government Accountability Office (GAO-10-436) indicating that varying services' attitudes toward the life-cycle costs of different construction methods were based more on pre-formed opinions, personal experiences, and anecdotal evidence rather than quantitative information or analyses. The Committee therefore urges DOD and the services to conduct further research regarding comparative life-cycle costs for differing types of construction, establish clear goals and benchmarks, and ensure these standards are communicated to contracting officials. Until such an empirical basis is established, the Committee urges DOD and the services to carefully reconsider blanket use of any new life-cycle approaches that depart from prior, standard practices.

Life cycle costs and facility window technologies.—The Committee supports the Department of Defense's goal to promote cost-effective installations by reducing building energy use within the DOD, and is aware that advanced window technologies, such as electrochromic windows, can be a key part of achieving such goals. The Committee is aware of the need to provide additional support to sustain, restore and modernize the building stock of the DOD and believes that deployment of demonstrated building envelope efficiency technologies can further both goals. The Committee understands that such efficiency technologies have a higher upfront cost, making deployment difficult even when such technologies payback quickly. As part of the Department's funding for installation sustainment, restoration, and modernization, the Committee supports building envelope efficiency technologies when these technologies are justified through life-cycle-cost assessments and continue to follow existing Buy America requirements.

Defense Access Roads FYDP.—The Committee is concerned about the lack of future planning for Defense Access Roads (DAR) and transportation infrastructure needs around bases beyond fiscal year 2014. The Committee urges the Secretary of Defense to work with the Secretary of Transportation to prioritize DAR certified roads and projects in the outyears 2015–2018, specifically examining bases in communities that have contributed to transportation infrastructure that benefits bases and report to the congressional defense committees no later than 30 days after enactment of this Act on its findings.

Defense Access Roads project timeline.—The Committee is very concerned about the lack of use of the Defense Access Roads program within the Department of Defense. The Committee has heard of many worthwhile road construction/expansion projects in and

around military installations that are in great need of funding. These projects would provide a great benefit to the installations and the surrounding communities. Therefore, the Committee directs the Department to review needed projects around military installations as well as a timeline on when those projects will be completed and report back to the Committee not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act. If the Department cannot provide a timeline, they should explain how the program can be changed to meet those requirements.

Facility closures.—The Committee is concerned that the Department of Defense will authorize the closure of military installations under Title 10 USC 2687, without adequate Congressional consultation. The Department is reminded that only Congress can authorize a Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) round. Therefore, the Committee directs the Secretary of Defense to consult with the Committee in advance of any use of title 10 USC 2687.

Military construction priorities.—The Committee is concerned that the Department of Defense does not give the highest priority to projects that directly impact the safety and health of our servicemembers. The Committee believes that the Department of Defense should consider more than the mission requirements and training objectives of installations when prioritizing MILCON projects. The safety and health of our servicemembers is and will always be the top priority of this Committee. The Committee requests the Department submit a report to the Committee along with its annual budget submission that prioritizes projects that impact health and safety of our servicemembers.

Dining facilities deficiencies.—The Committee is aware of serious infrastructure deficiencies at dining facilities at Joint Bases. The failure or unavailability of a dining facility would result in mission stoppage at certain Joint Base facilities, many of which use dining facilities constructed several decades ago as temporary structures. Further, relative to the total cost of training operations and in the context of critical training missions, the Committee believes that replacing severely deficient dining facilities is an appropriate, cost-effective method of preserving the mission capabilities at Joint Bases. The Committee strongly encourages the Department of Defense and each Service which oversees Joint Bases to take into consideration the necessity of reducing risk of mission stoppage by investing in the replacement of dining facilities that have deficiencies in infrastructure that cause health and safety issues.

Air traffic control towers.—Air traffic control towers are a critical component of safe and efficient operation at Air Force and Army installations with aviation assets. These facilities ensure the safety of service members and the aircraft they operate, while preventing collisions which would also be dangerous for surrounding communities near Air Force or Army bases. The Committee strongly encourages the Air Force and the Army to prioritize the funding of replacement air traffic control towers where existing facilities may have obstructed views of their airfields or where structural, mechanical, or electrical components of a facility are severely deficient and impact its full operations.

Aging infrastructure.—The Committee recognizes the need to fully support the Department of Defense's (DOD) requirement to replace the aging infrastructure at installations deemed critical in

executing the current Defense Strategic Guidance. These installations support missions critical to our Nation’s military pivot to the Pacific region and our Nation’s reliance on these installations’ ability to execute their assigned missions will undoubtedly increase in the future. This further highlights the necessity of DOD to ensure that such installations infrastructure is fully capable to support service requirements.

Real property utilization. The Committee is concerned that the Department of Defense (DOD) is not be updating in a timely fashion its non BRAC Real Property Inventory Database, creating a significant obstacle to DOD’s ability to maximize the utility of existing real property and to reduce taxpayer expenses. To address this concern, the Committee urges the Secretary of Defense to report to the Committee no later than 90 days after enactment of this Act on (1) the Department’s strategy for maximizing utilization of existing facilities, progress implementing this strategy, and obstacles to implementing this strategy; (2) efforts of DOD’s to systematically collect, process, and analyze data on real property utilization to aid in the planning and implementation of the strategy referred to in (1); (3) the number of underutilized Department facilities, to be defined as facilities rated less than 66 percent utilization, and unutilized DOD’s facilities, to be defined as facilities rated at zero percent utilization, in the Real Property Inventory Database of DOD; (4) any mitigating factors for why facilities in the Database may be listed as zero percent utilization; (5) the annual cost of maintaining and improving underutilized and unutilized DOD facilities; and (6) efforts of the DOD to dispose of underutilized and unutilized facilities. The report may include a classified annex if necessary to fully describe the matters listed above.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY
(INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$1,104,875,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	539,427,000
Committee recommendation in the bill	526,427,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	(578,448,000)
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	(13,000,000)

The Committee recommendation includes a rescission of bid savings under Administrative Provisions.

Army Privatized Lodging Program.—While the Committee has been supportive of the Army’s Privatized Lodging Program (PAL), the Committee is very concerned that the Army has not been as forthcoming when communicating with local communities regarding economic and related impacts of such facilities. There is a concern of local Hoteliers that these facilities will gain an unfair advantage by being able to offer rooms on Army bases to the general public while also benefiting from the Army policy of directing some transient soldiers to stay at on-post facilities when possible. The Committee believes that the Army needs to better address these concerns and therefore directs the Secretary of the Army to develop a proactive outreach and communication program with local communities with respect to the impact of both new and existing lodging facilities. The Department of the Army is directed to submit an

outreach plan for such a program not later than 90 days after enactment of this bill.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$1,629,690,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	1,018,772,000
Committee recommendation in the bill	998,772,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	(630,918,000)
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	(20,000,000)

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$1,052,796,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	811,774,000
Committee recommendation in the bill	719,551,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	(333,245,000)
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	(92,223,000)

Air education and training command.—The Committee recognizes the important role that Air Education and Training Command (AETC) plays in recruiting, training, and educating Airmen. A key mission set filled by AETC is the initial and follow-on flight training for pilots and aircrews. This includes Initial Flight Screening, Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training, Euro-NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) Joint Jet Pilot Training, Undergraduate Remotely-Piloted Aircraft (RPA) Training, and Undergraduate Combat Systems Officer Training among other programs. The Committee has been made aware of adverse impacts to aircraft, facilities, equipment, and operations due to flooding and deficiencies in infrastructure at AETC. The Committee encourages the Air Force to consider the impact these infrastructure deficiencies have on AETC's ability to train Airmen and to prioritize investments within the military construction account.

Space launch infrastructure.—The Committee recognizes the national importance of having a safe, secure, reliable, and modern space launch range infrastructure to support the national security space mission. The Committee is aware that there are a number of aging facilities, with structural and technological deficiencies, that are indispensable hubs for command, telemetry, and radar support for U.S. space launch capabilities as well as warfighters down-range. The Committee is concerned that the current condition of the aging facilities, such as the Range Communications Facility at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, the Air Force Space Command's number one current mission MILCON project for fiscal years 2013–2016 and the impact such conditions may have on the ability of U.S. Air Force Space Command to meet its mission and operational requirements until such facilities are recapitalized. The Committee urges the Air Force to prioritize resources and future requests to Congress, as appropriate, to ensure that U.S. space launch range capabilities are in a safe, secure, and reliable condition.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$3,445,423,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	2,061,890,000
Committee recommendation in the bill	2,021,690,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	(1,423,733,000)
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	(40,200,000)

Reductions.—The Committee recommendation includes a reduction to Missile Defense Agency’s planning and design of \$20,000,000 and contingency construction of \$9,000,000, the budget request. This account has not been used since 2008.

Transfer of funds.—The accompanying bill provides transfer authority to the Secretary of Defense to allow the transfer of funds to such appropriations of the Department of Defense available for military construction or family housing as the Secretary may designate.

DODEA school construction.—The Committee fully supports the fiscal year 2015 request for the construction of seven schools in the United States and overseas. The Committee however, is concerned that the changes that are occurring across the Department of Defense associated with force structure reductions may impact whether funding is needed at an installation or if it is determined not to be an enduring installation. The Committee therefore directs the Director of the Department of Defense Education Activity (DODEA) to report on the status of DODEA funding and provide by location any funding that has been placed on hold for any reason to the congressional defense committees 90 days after enactment of this Act.

Energy Conservation Investment Program.—The Committee believes that as new construction and retrofit projects are undertaken at facilities to improve building energy efficiency and achieve the objectives prescribed in statutes, executive orders, and initiatives, the Department of Defense is encouraged to utilize new and underutilized, low-cost energy efficient technologies that provide the best value to taxpayers through minimal lifecycle costs. The Deputy Under Secretary for Installations and Environment shall report to the congressional defense committees on the Department’s plan to implement these technologies across the Department of Defense within 60 days of enactment of this Act.

Special Operations Command resiliency and human performance centers.—The Committee’s recommendation does not include funding for the Human Performance Center. The Committee is concerned that these facilities are redundant in nature to existing medical facilities, clinics and gymnasiums located at the installations.

Defense Health Agency budget submission for fiscal year 2015.—The fiscal year 2015 budget submission included funding for five hospitals. Within the request the Defense Health Agency deliberately underfunded the Fort Bliss Hospital Replacement, Increment 6 and fully funded Rhine Ordnance Barracks Medical Center Replacement in Germany. Based on the Work In Progress curve (WIP curve) of the Medical Center Replacement in Germany the Committee has reduced the request in Germany by \$70,000,000 and provided that funding for the Fort Bliss Hospital.

GUARD AND RESERVE ITEM OF INTEREST

Enforcement of border security.—Recognizing the need to bolster resources for the enforcement of border security, the Committee encourages the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard to consider, design, and construct facilities adjacent to our southwestern border that will support National Guard activities and house and support defense assets used by Customs and Border Protection and other law enforcement agencies for the terrestrial, maritime, and aerial surveillance of those borders, to include aircraft hangars suitable for unmanned aerial systems.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$314,740,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	126,920,000
Committee recommendation in the bill	126,920,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	(187,820,000)
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	---

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$119,800,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	94,663,000
Committee recommendation in the bill	94,663,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	(25,137,000)
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	---

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY RESERVE

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$156,560,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	103,946,000
Committee recommendation in the bill	103,946,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	(52,614,000)
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	---

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY RESERVE

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$29,000,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	51,528,000
Committee recommendation in the bill	51,528,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	22,528,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	---

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE RESERVE

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	45,659,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	49,492,000
Committee recommendation in the bill	49,492,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	3,833,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	---

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION SECURITY INVESTMENT
PROGRAM

(INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$199,700,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	199,700,000
Committee recommendation in the bill	199,700,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	---
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	---

The Committee recommendation includes a rescission under Administrative Provisions.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program (NSIP) consists of annual contributions by NATO member countries. The program finances the costs of construction needed to support the roles of the major NATO commands. The investments cover facilities such as airfields, fuel pipelines and storage, harbors, communications and information systems, radar and navigational aids, and military headquarters, both within NATO nations and for “out of area” operations such as Afghanistan.

The U.S. occasionally has been forced to temporarily delay the authorization of projects due to shortfalls in U.S. obligation authority. The Committee directs the Secretary of Defense to notify the Committee within 14 days of the U.S. taking action to temporarily delay the authorization of projects, or to temporarily withhold funds from previously authorized projects, due to shortfalls in U.S. obligation authority.

FAMILY HOUSING OVERVIEW

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$1,515,713,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	1,190,535,000
Committee recommendation in the bill	1,190,535,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	(325,178,000)
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	---

Family housing construction accounts provide funds for new construction, construction improvements, the Federal government costs for family housing privatization projects, and planning and design. The operation and maintenance accounts provide funds to pay for maintenance and repair, furnishings, management, services, utilities, leasing, interest, mortgage insurance, and miscellaneous expenses.

The decrease below the 2014 enacted level is due partly to the Department of Defense’s success in implementing the Military Housing Privatization Initiative on military installations and the reduced requirement for appropriated construction and operating costs. The Committee encourages the Department, where feasible, to utilize energy efficient, environmentally friendly, and easily deployable composite building materials in new family housing construction.

Family housing privatization progress reports.—The Committee directs the Department of Defense to continue submitting semi-annual progress reports on the family housing privatization program, including a breakout of military tenant satisfaction rates by project.

Foreign currency savings and sub-account transfers.—The Committee directs that savings in family housing operation and maintenance accounts from foreign currency re-estimates be used to maintain and repair existing family housing units. The Comptroller is directed to report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress on how these savings are allocated 90 days after enactment of this Act. In addition, the Committee directs the services and Defense agencies to notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 30 days of a transfer of funds between sub-accounts within the family housing construction and family housing operation and maintenance accounts, if such transfer is in excess of 10 percent of the funds appropriated to the sub-account to which the funds are being transferred. Notifications to the Committees shall indicate the sub-accounts and amounts that are being used to source the transfer.

Leasing reporting requirements.—The Secretary of Defense is directed to report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress quarterly on the details of all new or renewed domestic leases entered into during the previous quarter that exceed the cost threshold set by 10 U.S.C. 2828(b)(2), including certification that less expensive housing was not available for lease. For foreign leases, the Department is directed to: (1) perform an economic analysis on all new leases or lease/contract agreements where more than 25 units are involved; (2) report the details of new or renewed lease agreements that exceed the cost threshold set by 10 U.S.C. 2828(e)(1) 21 days prior to entering into such an agreement; and (3) base leasing decisions on the economic analysis.

Military family housing.—The Committee is concerned about the potential repurposing of existing installation property currently used for training in order to meet the pressing needs for expanded military housing for service personnel and their families. The Committee urges the Department of Defense to work cooperatively with state and local governments, as well as relevant nongovernmental entities, in communities adjacent to Department installations within the United States, where a need for additional housing has been identified by garrison command and such development is supported by local government authorities and other relevant entities. Specific focus must be given to meeting the federal government’s obligations under the Uniform Relocation Act of 1970, and the Committee urges the Department of Defense to identify potential sources of funding necessary to meet these obligations. The Committee directs the Department to provide a report of its determinations to the Committee no later than 90 days from the enactment of this Act.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$27,408,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	78,609,000
Committee recommendation in the bill	78,609,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	51,201,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	— —

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$512,871,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	350,976,000
Committee recommendation in the bill	350,976,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	(161,895,000)
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	---

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$73,407,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	16,412,000
Committee recommendation in the bill	16,412,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	(56,995,000)
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	---

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY AND
MARINE CORPS

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$379,444,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	354,029,000
Committee recommendation in the bill	354,029,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	(25,415,000)
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	---

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$76,360,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	---
Committee recommendation in the bill	---
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	(76,360,000)
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	---

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$388,598,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	327,747,000
Committee recommendation in the bill	327,747,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	(60,851,000)
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	---

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$55,845,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	61,100,000
Committee recommendation in the bill	61,100,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	5,255,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	---

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FAMILY HOUSING IMPROVEMENT FUND

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$1,780,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	1,662,000
Committee recommendation in the bill	1,662,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	(118,000)
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	---

The Family Housing Improvement Fund (FHIF) is authorized by section 2883, title 10, United States Code, and provides the Department of Defense with authority to finance joint ventures with the

private sector to revitalize and to manage the Department’s housing inventory. The statute authorizes the Department to use limited partnerships, make direct and guaranteed loans, and convey Department-owned property to stimulate the private sector to increase the availability of affordable, quality housing for military personnel.

The FHIF is used to build or renovate family housing by using various legal authorities, and by utilizing private capital and expertise to the maximum extent possible. The fund is administered as a single account without fiscal year limitations and contains directly appropriated and transferred funds from family housing construction accounts.

CHEMICAL DEMILITARIZATION CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$122,536,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	38,715,000
Committee recommendation in the bill	38,715,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	(83,821,000)
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	-----

The Chemical Demilitarization Construction, Defense-Wide account provides funds for the design and construction of full-scale chemical disposal facilities and associated projects to upgrade installation support facilities and infrastructures required to support the Chemical Demilitarization program.

THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE ACCOUNT

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$451,357,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	270,085,000
Committee recommendation in the bill	270,085,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	(181,272,000)
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	-----

Legacy BRAC sites.—As the Committee has previously noted in H. Rept. 112–94, the Committee remains extremely concerned regarding the current pace of Legacy BRAC site clean-up. The fiscal year 2013 National Defense Authorization Act combined the 2005 and 1990 BRAC accounts so the resources in the 2005 BRAC account could be used to clean up Legacy BRAC sites. However, it is unclear to the Committee how these resources shall be used. Therefore, the Committee directs the Department of Defense to report back to the Committee within 90 days of enactment of this Act its plan to expedite and expand clean-up activities of BRAC legacy bases and how it will fully utilize the funds previously appropriated.

BRAC criteria.—The Committee is concerned that the Department of Defense (DOD) does not consider the intellectual capabilities of a region when evaluating the criteria for BRAC. The Committee recommends that the DOD clearly establish an intellectual capabilities criteria consideration, especially when considering academic and technical institutions, in addition to the already established BRAC final selection criteria. The Committee believes that DOD should not solely focus on cost analysis and military training value when going through the BRAC process, but should heavily consider the importance and cost of intellectual capabilities of a region, especially with military academic and technical organizations.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

The bill includes 32 provisions of which 26 were in effect in fiscal year 2014 and 6 new provisions. The administrative provisions included in the bill are as follows:

The bill includes section 101 prohibiting the use of funds for payments under a cost-plus-a-fixed-fee contract for construction where cost estimates exceed \$25,000. An exception for Alaska is provided.

The bill includes section 102 permitting the use of construction funds for the hire of passenger motor vehicles.

The bill includes section 103 permitting funds to be expended on the construction of defense access roads under certain circumstances.

The bill includes section 104 prohibiting construction of new bases in the United States without a specific appropriation.

The bill includes section 105 limiting the use of funds for the purchase of land or land easements that exceed 100 percent of value except under certain conditions.

The bill includes section 106 prohibiting the use of funds to acquire land, prepare sites, or install utilities for family housing except housing for which funds have been appropriated.

The bill includes section 107 limiting the use of minor construction funds to relocate any activity from one installation to another without prior notification.

The bill includes section 108 prohibiting the procurement of steel unless American producers, fabricators, and manufacturers have been allowed to compete.

The bill includes section 109 prohibiting the use of funds to pay real property taxes in foreign nations.

The bill includes section 110 prohibiting the use of funds to initiate a new installation overseas without prior notification.

The bill includes section 111 establishing a preference for United States architectural and engineering services where the services are in Japan, NATO member countries, or countries bordering the Arabian Sea.

The bill includes section 112 establishing a preference for United States contractors for military construction in the United States territories and possessions in the Pacific and on Kwajalein Atoll, or countries within the Central Command area of responsibility, except bids by Marshallese contractors for military construction on Kwajalein Atoll.

The bill includes section 113 requiring the Secretary of Defense to give prior notice to Congress of military exercises where construction costs exceed \$100,000.

The bill includes section 114 limiting the obligation of funds during the last two months of the fiscal year.

The bill includes section 115 allowing funds appropriated in prior years to be used for new projects authorized during the current session of Congress.

The bill includes section 116 allowing the use of expired or lapsed funds to pay the cost of supervision for any project being completed with lapsed funds.

The bill includes section 117 providing that funds for military construction projects are available until the end of the fourth fiscal

year following the fiscal year in which funds are appropriated, subject to certain conditions.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The bill includes section 118 allowing for the transfer of proceeds from “Base Realignment and Closure Account, Part I” to the continuing Base Realignment and Closure accounts.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The bill includes section 119 allowing for the transfer of funds from Family Housing Construction accounts to the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund and funds from Military Construction accounts to the Department of Defense Military Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The bill includes section 120, as amended, providing transfer authority to the Homeowners Assistance Program.

The bill includes section 121, as amended, requiring that funds in this title be the sole source of all operation and maintenance for flag and general officer quarter houses, and limits the repair on these quarters to \$15,000 per year without notification.

The bill includes section 122 making funds in the Ford Island Improvement Fund available until expended.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The bill includes section 123 allowing the transfer of expired funds to the “Foreign Currency Fluctuations, Construction, Defense” account.

The bill includes section 124 prohibiting the use of funds to relocate a unit of the Army that would impact more than 200 personnel.

The bill includes section 125 allowing the transfer of funds among projects and activities in accordance with the reprogramming guidelines.

The bill includes section 126 prohibiting the use of funds for projects at Arlington National Cemetery.

The bill includes section 127 making funds available for previously authorized military construction projects.

The bill includes section 128 making funds available for accelerated military construction projects requested by the Department of the Army.

(INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

The bill includes section 129 rescinding funds from prior appropriations Acts.

(INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

The bill includes section 130 rescinding funds from prior appropriations Acts.

(INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

The bill includes section 131 rescinding funds from prior appropriations Acts.

The bill includes section 132 defining the congressional defense committees.

The bill does not include section 121 as requested to provide authority to the Secretary of the Army to use O&M to supplement repair and renovation at Arlington Cemetery in addition to funds provided in title III.

The bill does not include section 122 as requested to provide authority under a continuing resolution when an authorization bill has been enacted to obligate funds that have not been appropriated.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level ¹	\$147,934,261,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request ¹	158,639,938,000
Committee recommendation in the bill ¹	158,221,261,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	10,287,000,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	(418,677,000)
Fiscal year 2016 advance budget request ¹	58,662,202,000
Fiscal year 2016 Committee recommendation in the bill ¹	58,662,202,000

¹All funding cited excludes amounts in the Medical Care Collections Fund.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) serves approximately 48,500,000 people: 22,000,000 veterans and 26,500,000 family members of living veterans or survivors of deceased veterans. To serve adequately the nation's veterans, the VA employs 319,000 people, making it one of the largest Federal agencies in terms of employment.

VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION (VBA)

COMPENSATION AND PENSIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$71,476,104,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	78,687,709,000
Committee recommendation in the bill	78,687,709,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	7,211,605,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	---

This appropriation will provide funds for service-connected compensation payments to an estimated 4,569,000 veterans, survivors, and dependents. In addition, pension payments will be funded for 519,000 veterans and their survivors. The average cost per compensation case for veterans in 2015 is estimated at \$15,652, and pension payments are projected at \$12,444.

The appropriation includes authority to transfer funding not to exceed \$15,430,000, of which \$15,253,000 is for the General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefit Administration account and \$177,000 is for the Information Technology Systems account. These funds are for the administrative expenses of implementing cost-saving provisions required by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990, Public Law 101-508, the Veterans' Benefits Act of 1992, Public Law 102-568, and the Veterans' Benefits Improvements Act of 1994, Public Law 103-446. These cost-saving provisions include verifying pension income against Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

and Social Security Administration (SSA) data; establishing a match with the SSA to obtain verification of Social Security numbers; and applying the VA pension cap for Medicaid-eligible single veterans and surviving spouses alone in Medicaid-covered nursing homes. The bill also continues to include language permitting this appropriation to reimburse such sums as may be earned to the Medical Care Collections Fund to help defray the operating expenses of individual medical facilities for nursing home care provided to pensioners.

READJUSTMENT BENEFITS

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$13,135,898,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	14,761,862,000
Committee recommendation in the bill	14,761,862,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	1,625,964,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	---

This appropriation finances the education and training of veterans and servicemembers through the Post 9–11 GI Bill and the All-Volunteer Force Educational Assistance Program. Supplemental education benefits are also provided to certain veteran members of the Selected Reserve and are funded through transfers from the Department of Defense (DOD). In addition, certain disabled veterans are provided with vocational rehabilitation, specially adapted housing grants, and grants for automobiles with approved adaptive equipment. This account also finances educational assistance allowances for eligible dependents of veterans who died from service-connected causes or have a total and permanent service-connected disability, as well as dependents of servicemembers who were captured or are missing in action. More than 80 percent of the funds in the account support the Post 9–11 GI Bill.

VETERANS INSURANCE AND INDEMNITIES

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$77,567,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	63,257,000
Committee recommendation in the bill	63,257,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	(14,310,000)
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	---

The Veterans Insurance and Indemnities appropriation is made up of the former appropriations for military and naval insurance, applicable to World War I veterans; national service life insurance (NSLI), applicable to certain World War II veterans; servicemen’s indemnities, applicable to Korean conflict veterans; and veterans mortgage life insurance, applicable to individuals who have received a grant for specially adapted housing.

The amount provided will enable the Department to transfer funding to the service-disabled veterans insurance fund and transfer additional amounts for payments for policies under the veterans mortgage life insurance program. These policies are identified under the Veterans Insurance and Indemnity appropriation since they provide insurance to service-disabled veterans unable to qualify under basic NSLI.

VETERANS HOUSING BENEFIT PROGRAM FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

	Program account	Limitation on direct loans for specially adapted housing loans	Administrative expenses
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	---	(\$500,000)	\$158,430,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request est.	---	(500,000)	160,881,000
Committee recommendation est. in the bill	---	(500,000)	160,881,000
Comparison with:			
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	---	---	2,451,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	---	---	---

The purpose of the home loan guaranty program is to facilitate the extension of mortgage credit on favorable terms by private lenders to eligible veterans. This appropriation provides for all costs, with the exception of the Native American veterans housing loan program, of the Department's direct and guaranteed loans programs. The Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 requires budgetary resources to be available prior to incurring a direct loan obligation or a loan guaranty commitment. In addition, the bill requires all administrative expenses of a direct or guaranteed loan program to be funded through a program account. Loan guaranties are made to servicemembers, veterans, reservists, and single surviving spouses for the purchase of homes, condominiums, and manufactured homes and for refinancing loans. The Department guarantees part of the total loan, permitting the purchaser to obtain a mortgage with a competitive interest rate, even without a down payment if the lender agrees. The Department requires that a down payment be made for a manufactured home. With a Department guaranty, the lender is protected against loss, up to the amount of the guaranty, if the borrower fails to repay the loan.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

	Program account	Limitation on direct loans	Administrative expenses
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$5,000	(\$2,500,000)	\$354,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	10,000	(2,877,000)	361,000
Committee recommendation in the bill	10,000	(2,877,000)	361,000
Comparison with:			
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	5,000	(377,000)	7,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	---	---	---

This appropriation covers the subsidy cost of direct loans for vocational rehabilitation of eligible veterans and includes administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct loan program. Loans of up to \$1,108 (based on indexed chapter 31 subsistence allowance rate) are available to service-connected disabled veterans enrolled in vocational rehabilitation programs 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. Most loans are repaid in full in less than one year. The Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 requires budgetary resources to be available prior to incurring a direct loan obligation.

It is estimated that the Department will make 3,099 loans in fiscal year 2015, with an average amount of \$929.

NATIVE AMERICAN VETERAN HOUSING LOAN PROGRAM

Administrative expenses:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$1,109,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	1,130,000
Committee recommendation in the bill	1,130,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	21,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	---

The Native American Veteran Housing Loan Program, as authorized by title 38 United States Code, chapter 37, subchapter V, provides the Secretary with authority to make direct housing loans to Native American veterans for the purpose of purchasing, constructing, or improving dwellings on trust lands.

VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

The Department operates the largest Federal medical care delivery system in the country, with 152 hospitals, 107 domiciliary residential rehabilitation treatment programs, 133 nursing homes, 300 Vet Centers, 70 mobile Vet Centers, and 821 outpatient clinics which include independent, satellite, community-based, and rural outreach clinics. Approximately 6,742,000 patients will be treated in 2015.

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is comprised of four accounts: Medical Services, Medical Support and Compliance, Medical Facilities, and Medical and Prosthetic Research. For the first three accounts, the Administration has requested total resources for fiscal year 2016 of \$58,662,202,000 in direct appropriations to fund the three advance appropriations of the VHA. In addition, VA will receive an estimated \$3,065,000,000 in Medical Care Collections Fund in fiscal year 2015. The Committee also provides \$588,922,000 for medical and prosthetic research.

MEDICAL SERVICES

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$43,597,000,000
Fiscal year 2015 enacted level	45,015,527,000
Fiscal year 2015 additional request	367,885,000
Committee 2015 additional recommendation	---
Fiscal year 2016 advance budget request	47,603,202,000
Committee 2016 recommendation in the bill	47,603,202,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2015 enacted level	2,587,675,000
Fiscal year 2016 budget request	---

This appropriation provides for medical services of eligible veterans and beneficiaries in Department medical centers, outpatient clinic facilities, contract hospitals, State homes, and outpatient programs on a fee basis. Hospital and outpatient care is also provided by the private sector for certain dependents and survivors of veterans under the civilian health and medical programs for the VA.

The bill does not include the current year budget request of \$367,885,000, which would be in addition to the advance appropriation that has already been provided. With \$450,000,000 in unobligated balances expected to be available and a drop of \$690,000,000 in projected medical services expenditures, the Committee believes that the identified need can be absorbed within existing resources.

The Committee has not included requested bill language to make available through September 30, 2017, \$1,400,000,000 of the Med-

ical Services appropriation for fiscal year 2016, instead maintaining current policy of providing extended availability on a current year rather than advance funding basis.

Changes in funding requirements due to modeling.—The Committee expects VA to continue to include in the sufficiency letter required by section 117(d) of title 38, United States Code, that is due to the Congress on July 31 of each year, a description of any changes exceeding \$250,000,000 in funding requirements for the Medical Services account resulting from the spring recalculation of the Enrollee Healthcare Projection Model.

Presentation of medical care obligations.—The Committee is pleased that the VA has adjusted its budget presentation of initiatives to include them within the lines of Health Care Services. This display more accurately shows a new activity in the first year and then reflects it in the base program lines in subsequent years. The presentation of the advance appropriation column in the fiscal year 2015 budget is more realistic than in previous years when the advance year often showed zero funding for what were actually ongoing activities.

To ensure that it is informed of changes in planned expenditure of medical care ‘initiatives’ during the budget year, the Committee repeats the administrative provision requiring the VA to submit a reprogramming request if, at any point during the fiscal year, the funding allocated for a medical care ‘initiative’ in the fiscal year 2015 expenditure plan is adjusted by more than \$25,000,000 from the allocation shown in the corresponding congressional budget justification. The Committee directs the VA to provide an expenditure plan within 20 days of receiving a full-year appropriation.

Allocation of health funding.—The Committee is concerned that the process the VA uses to allocate the health services appropriation through the Veterans Integrated Services Networks (VISNs) and from them to the medical centers may shortchange the ultimate users because of excessive funding retained at headquarters or at the VISNs. The Committee continues to request a report each year no later than thirty days after VA allocates the medical services appropriation to the VISNs that identifies: (1) the amount of general purpose funding that is allocated to each VISN; (2) the amount of funding that is retained by central headquarters for specific purposes, with amounts identified for each purpose; and (3) the amount of funding that is retained by each VISN before allocating it to the medical centers, identifying separately the amounts retained for purposes such as network operations, network initiatives, and emergencies.

Homeless assistance

The Committee provides the full fiscal year 2016 budget request of \$1,265,000,000 for VA homeless assistance programs, in addition to \$6,397,595,000 for homeless veterans treatment costs. These programs include the Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem, the Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans, the Supportive Services for Low Income Veterans and Families, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development—Department of Veterans Affairs Supported Housing (HUD–VASH) programs.

Homeless female veterans.—The Committee remains committed to helping homeless veterans and commends the VA for its efforts

in reducing homelessness among the veteran population. However, the Committee is concerned about the VA's efforts to reduce homelessness among female veterans. The Committee requests an analysis of the challenges facing homeless female veterans and the means within the VA to address those challenges. The report should address how the VA will work to provide equal treatment and assistance for female veterans. The Committee requests that this report be provided within 90 days of enactment of this Act.

Expanding the definition of homeless veteran.—The Committee supports the authorizing committees' efforts to broaden the definition for homeless veterans to include any individual or family who is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions in the individual's or family's current housing situation, including where the health and safety of children are jeopardized, and who have no other residence and lack the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.

Innovative approaches to assistance.—The Committee is encouraged by innovative proposals for helping homeless veterans and reducing veteran homelessness. The Committee encourages the VA to explore the benefits of such proposals and remove any disincentives to offering innovative services for homeless veterans. The Committee requests that the VA provide a report no later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act that provides a detailed analysis of innovative proposals the VA can offer to reduce veteran homelessness.

Mental health issues

The Committee provides the full fiscal year 2016 budget request of \$7,448,900,000 for mental health programs. Of the amounts provided for mental health programs in fiscal year 2015, an additional \$20,000,000 shall be used for suicide prevention outreach. The Department is directed to provide a report to the Committee no later than 30 days after enactment of this Act identifying a detailed expenditure plan for all suicide outreach programs.

Military sexual trauma (MST).—Recent studies have shown that servicewomen who experience sexual assault while serving in the military are far more likely to develop post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), compared to other female veterans. The Committee strongly encourages the VA to maximize the availability of mental health services available to veterans who were victims of MST.

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Study.—The Committee understands that new technologies using magnetic resonance therapy have successfully treated Veterans with PTSD. Recent clinical trials and pilot studies have produced promising results in the evolution of treatment for PTSD. The Committee encourages the VA to report to the Committee about whether it uses Magnetic Resonance Therapy to treat PTSD, and if not, whether it would be appropriate to conduct a study on use of the technology.

Neurological conditions.—The Committee is very interested in the progress the VA is making regarding neurological conditions, particularly PTSD and traumatic brain injury (TBI)-related injuries. The Committee requests a report within 90 days of the enactment of this bill detailing efforts and programs addressing these

issues. This report should include detailed expenditures and current year spending levels versus prior year spending.

Mental health provider training.—The Committee is concerned about the impact of VA's accreditation process, which excludes from employment at the VA qualified marriage and family therapists (MFTs) from educational institutions that are regionally accredited. This unnecessarily causes vacant mental health provider positions within the VHA system at a time when these services are in critical need. The Committee understands that VA uses national accrediting bodies because the regional accrediting bodies do not cover the occupation at a national level standard of care. But the Committee encourages VA to explore the possibility of using a grouping of multiple regional accrediting bodies under the auspices of a national accrediting body. The Committee directs the VHA to submit a report no later than 90 days after enactment of this Act specifying how it plans to fill all the vacant mental health positions by the end of fiscal year 2015.

Clinical psychologist supply.—The Committee is aware that the Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System (PCSAS) in September 2012 received recognition and accreditation authority from the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) to provide accreditation of doctoral programs in psychological clinical science, and that the Veterans Health Administration has been modifying its regulations over the past year to recognize PCSAS graduates in its training and employment settings. The Committee is disappointed that the process has now taken more than one year and urges the VHA to recognize graduates of PCSAS-accredited psychological doctoral programs without any additional delay.

Community-based mental health care.—The Committee urges the VA to begin the implementation of the community-based mental health initiative established in the fiscal year 2014 conference report. The VA should select the major metropolitan areas with substantial veterans populations and health infrastructure, coordinate with local VA facilities, and recruit behavioral health partners. Community-based awardees should be evaluated on the basis of the metrics identified in the fiscal year 2014 conference report. The Committee requests a report on these efforts no later than 60 days after enactment of this Act.

Access to alternative treatment options.—The Committee encourages the VA to include non-invasive treatments in its scope of approved treatment options for veterans receiving mental health care. Non-invasive treatments should be considered an acceptable component of any treatment regimen, particularly in light of an increase in co-occurring substance abuse issues.

Physician recruitment.—The Committee remains concerned by the high rates of PTSD in returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan. The Committee believes there is a continuing need to recruit highly trained physicians to address this problem. The Committee encourages the Secretary to establish an action plan to address this shortage, including the possibility of strengthening the current loan repayment program to recruit psychiatric physicians for full-time employment in the VHA.

Rural health issues

The Committee provides the full fiscal year 2016 budget request of \$250,000,000 to improve access and quality of care for the more than 3,100,000 veterans residing in rural and highly rural areas. The Committee directs the Office of Rural Health to submit to the Committee within 30 days of enactment of this Act an operating plan for this funding, as well as any changes to that operating plan at the start of the fiscal year for which the funds are provided.

Patient-Centered Community Care Program.—The Committee has supported the Department's efforts to provide more efficient medical services to veterans in rural areas through the patient-centered community care program (PC3). The Committee continues to urge the Department to ensure that PC3 contractors consider public hospitals in their implementation plans, especially when a public hospital is adjacent or proximate to a VA clinic, outpatient facility or long-term care facility.

The Committee believes that the PC3 initiative could provide an effective method for improving convenience of care and decreasing costs when patients require services not readily available at local VA medical centers. The Committee requests that, not later than 30 days after enactment of this act, the VA report on the progress of the PC3 program, describing the progress of program implementation, the types of care provided, the level of communication and coordination between the VA and providers, the cost effectiveness of the program, the reduction of wait times, the timeliness of payments to contractors, and the satisfaction level of patients who have participated in the program. Because this is a new program, baseline data and reporting is necessary to ensure that the Committee can conduct oversight on the program's performance and respond to areas in need of improvement.

The Committee also requests the VA Office of Inspector General to do a cost assessment study of PC3. VA has described PC3 as an efficiency-improving contract and estimates \$13,000,000 in PC3 savings in fiscal year 2014. Consequently, it is important to do a review of the actual costs associated with the contract and potential savings.

The Committee understands that VA is not planning to conduct a controlled study to compare prices, health outcomes or other quality measures of PC3 to traditional fee-based care. The Committee instructs VA to contract with an external evaluator to do a cost and quality comparison study of PC3. The comparative study should be provided to the Committee by March 1, 2015.

The Committee understands that VA will be conducting semi-annual briefings to monitor the uptake and use of the PC3 contract, the results from specific VISNs, and associated cost savings. The Committee would like to be kept informed of the data from the briefings to learn how the contract progresses in the coming years.

Care through multi-specialty clinics.—The Committee remains concerned about VA's ability to provide high quality, reliable, accessible, timely and efficient health care to veterans in rural states. The Committee strongly encourages the VA to pursue multi-specialty clinics (MSC), giving special consideration to future MSCs that have the potential to partner with private medical institutions and or medical teaching facilities. These partnerships could provide significant benefits to current and future veteran patients by sig-

nificantly increasing the services delivered to veterans. Furthermore, these affiliations could significantly enhance VA research and education missions.

Rural transportation.—The Committee recognizes the importance of providing adequate access to needed services, including for veterans living in rural communities. The Committee encourages the VA to propose authorizing legislation to permit including considerations of a veteran’s distance from a VA facility as a criterion in addition to the number of veterans in a given area in implementing recent statutory changes providing transportation grants to veterans service agencies and veterans service organizations.

Other health issues

Dialysis.—The Committee requests the VA to obtain an independent and full evaluation of the four-site dialysis pilot program by September 30, 2015. In the interim, in an effort to improve efficiencies and save taxpayer funds, the VA should not create duplicate contract-provided dialysis capacity. An independent evaluation of the four-pilot program will give the Committee the opportunity to consider the findings and determine if such findings justify expanding VA-operated dialysis clinics.

Hepatitis C virus.—The Committee has previously encouraged the VA to increase hepatitis C (HCV) testing and work to implement the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) HCV testing recommendations within the VA system. In light of the growing burden of hepatitis C-related liver complications and mortality among Veterans and the recent introduction of more effective treatments for HCV, the Committee directs the VA to establish a plan for testing and treating veterans enrolled in the VHA system and considered to be at risk for hepatitis C, including Vietnam-era veterans in the baby boomer birth cohort. Additionally, the VA shall submit a report to the Committee, no later than six months after enactment of this Act, updating its 2010 report, *The State of Care for Veterans with Chronic Hepatitis C*, on the prevalence of hepatitis C among veterans and detailing the estimated impact its HCV treatment plan will have on preventing hepatitis C-related cirrhosis, hepatocellular carcinoma, and mortality among veterans.

HIV/AIDS among veterans.—The VA has the opportunity and responsibility to ensure that veterans are tested for HIV and receive appropriate care. The number of veterans ever tested remains below the national average and reported infection rates exceed the CDC threshold of 0.1 percent for routine HIV screening. The Committee encourages the VA to further increase testing rates and to provide reports of progress on the number of veterans tested and activities through the annual HIV Testing Rates reports.

Prostheses.—The Committee is disappointed in reports of VA providers “sanding down” prosthetics that were made for men in order to fit female patients, and requests that the VA ensure that there is prosthetic equipment proportionate to the amount of female veterans in need.

Prescription drug abuse.—The Committee is pleased with the Opioid Safety Initiative and the results it is producing in reducing the dependence of veterans on prescription opioids. The Committee requests a report 60 days after enactment of this Act providing updated findings on patient outcomes in the initiative, any VA plans

to expand it to other VISNs, and efforts to circulate treatment protocols from the Initiative to all VISNs.

Service dogs.—The VA supports service dogs that assist veterans with vision, hearing, and mobility impairments. The Committee encourages VA to partner with nonprofits that match veterans with service dogs. The VA should explore new opportunities for service to these veterans, possibly through a pilot project, that allows veterans to train shelter dogs, and to continue its research on the mental health benefits of service dogs.

Ophthalmology services.—The Committee urges the VA to help ensure veterans have access to high quality care by moving quickly with its plans to expand its national ophthalmology services.

Medical school affiliations with VA health care facilities.—The Committee continues to prioritize collaboration between VA health care facilities and historically black health professions schools. The Committee acknowledges the improved collaboration, particularly with smaller community-based sites. However, the Committee continues to be concerned by the lack of historically black colleges and universities (HBCU) medical school participation and collaboration with local VA hospitals located in large urban areas with HBCU medical schools. The Committee directs the Secretary of VA to provide a report on the VA's plan for expansion of HBCU medical school participation with local VA medical facilities. The report should be submitted to the Committee no later than 90 days after enactment of this act.

Transportation services.—The Committee commends VA for its collaborative efforts with the Department of Transportation and other Federal agencies to improve transportation resources for veterans. In particular, the Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative, the Veterans Transportation Service, VA Beneficiary Travel, and the Highly Rural Transportation Grant programs make use of existing local public transportation system options, where appropriate.

Pharmacy dispensing process for specialized medicines.—The Committee urges the VA to consider a pilot program to study the use of specialized automated pharmacy workflow systems that manage the entire intravenous and oral liquid dose preparation and dispensing process within the VHA in order to promote intravenous and oral liquid dose preparation safety, reduce waste, and improve health system pharmacy productivity. The Committee believes that such a pilot program focused on the specialized field of intravenous and oral dose preparation would improve staffing productivity and patient safety.

Nursing handbook.—The Committee understands that the VHA Nursing Handbook is currently under review. The Committee encourages the VHA to seek input from internal VA program offices and external professional stakeholders, prior to possible regulatory action and submission to the Under Secretary for Health for final approval. The Committee believes all possible outreach efforts should be used to communicate the proposed changes, to gather public comment, and to collaborate with Congress, stakeholders, VA nursing staff, and external organizations. Finally, the Committee requests that the VHA ensure that any changes to handbooks within the VHA do not conflict with other handbooks already in place within the VHA.

Prescription drug abuse.—Given the emergence of new technologies and services to address the abuses of prescription drugs, the Committee encourages the VA to utilize such technologies in the employment of a systematic approach that ensures the dispensation of medications to veterans is safe and transparent.

Hepatitis B virus.—The Committee encourages the VA to increase hepatitis B (HBV) testing and work to implement the CDC HBV testing recommendations within the VA system. Chronic HBV infection is preventable but not curable; if left untreated, the virus may lead to advanced liver disease, liver cancer, and liver transplants, placing a greater financial burden on our health care system. Preliminary ad-hoc studies of prevalence have shown very high rates of HBV, but more research is necessary, as well as electronic medical record prompts for HBV screening. The Committee encourages the VA to establish a plan for testing and treating veterans enrolled in the VHA system and considered to be at risk for hepatitis B, including Vietnam-era veterans in the baby boomer birth cohort, as part of the effort to aggressively implement the CDC’s viral hepatitis testing recommendations within the VHA system. Additionally, the VA shall submit a report to the Committee, no later than 180 days after enactment of this Act, on the prevalence of hepatitis B among veterans and the estimated impact of its HBV testing and treatment plan.

MEDICAL SUPPORT AND COMPLIANCE

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$6,033,000,000
Fiscal year 2015 enacted level	5,879,700,000
Fiscal year 2016 advance budget request	6,144,000,000
Committee 2016 recommendation in the bill	6,144,000,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2015 enacted level	264,300,000
Fiscal year 2016 advance budget request	---

The Medical Support and Compliance appropriation funds the expenses of management and administration of the Department’s health care system, including financial management, public health and environmental hazard, quality and performance management, medical inspection, human research oversight, training programs and continuing education, security, volunteer operations, and human resources.

The Committee has not included requested bill language to make available through September 30, 2017, \$100,000,000 of the Medical Support and Compliance appropriation for fiscal year 2016, instead maintaining current policy of providing extended availability on a current year rather than advance funding basis.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$4,957,000,000
Fiscal year 2015 enacted level	4,739,000,000
Fiscal year 2016 advance budget request	4,915,000,000
Committee 2016 recommendation in the bill	4,915,000,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2015 enacted level	176,000,000
Fiscal year 2016 advance budget request	---

The Medical Facilities appropriation provides funds for the operation and maintenance of the Department’s health care system’s capital infrastructure. Included under this heading are provisions

for costs associated with utilities, engineering, capital planning, leases, laundry, groundskeeping, garbage, housekeeping, facility repair, and property disposition and acquisition.

The Committee has not included requested bill language to make available through September 30, 2017, \$250,000,000 of the advance Medical Facilities appropriation for fiscal year 2016, instead maintaining current policy of providing extended availability on a current year rather than advance funding basis.

In-patient facilities for female veterans.—The Committee looks forward to receiving the report directed in the fiscal year 2014 bill on the availability of in-patient facilities for female veterans, an inventory of available resources, and recommendations on areas for improvement.

Non-recurring maintenance costs.—The Committee is aware that the VA has numerous non-recurring maintenance projects that cost millions of dollars to complete, yet the Administration continues to request a mere fraction of the funding necessary to complete these maintenance needs. The Committee believes that while the Strategic Capital Investment Planning (SCIP) process has improved the VA construction process, it still lacks transparency about future plans for non-recurring maintenance at VA facilities. The Committee believes that non-recurring maintenance projects for the most part are small dollar items that can be completed quickly to improve the quality of life and care given to Veterans. Therefore, the Committee directs the VA to provide a report to the Committee no later than 60 days after enactment of this Act explaining how non-recurring maintenance projects are rated, a timeline for completion of these projects, and their cost.

Response to VA Inspector General report.—The Committee was disturbed by the March 31, 2014 Inspector General report describing the problems and lapses in management in the VA leasing process for the Butler, PA health care center. While the Committee understands that changes have been made to operations in the VA Office of Acquisition, Logistics, and Construction in response to the IG report, the Committee directs the VA to provide a report by July 1, 2014 documenting the structural, staffing, and process changes that have been implemented or are in the process of being implemented to prevent the problems with the Butler lease from happening anywhere else in the VA system.

MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$585,664,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	588,922,000
Committee recommendation in the bill	588,922,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	3,258,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	---

This appropriation provides for medical, rehabilitative, and health services research. The bill makes this account funding available through September 30, 2016. Medical research is an important aspect of the Department’s programs, providing complete medical and hospital services for veterans. The prosthetic research program is also essential in the development and testing of prosthetic, orthopedic, and sensory aids for the purpose of improving the care and rehabilitation of eligible disabled veterans, including amputees,

paraplegics, and the blind. The health services research program provides unique opportunities to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the health care delivery system. Budgetary resources from a number of areas, including appropriations from the medical care accounts, reimbursements from DOD, grants from the National Institutes of Health, private proprietary sources, and voluntary organizations, provide support for the Department's researchers. Estimated total research resources from all sources in 2015 are \$1,863,000,000. The VA will support about 2,200 research projects during fiscal year 2015.

Prosthetics.—The Committee strongly supports the fiscal year 2015 budget request for Medical and Prosthetic Research. Recognizing that approximately six percent of wounded veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan are amputees, and the number of veterans accessing VA health care for prosthetics and sensory aids continues to increase, this funding greatly enhances the quality of life of veteran amputees. Since three percent of military amputees are female, the Committee feels that a proportionate amount of prosthetics research should be focused on prosthetics intended for females. The need for this type of research is acute, as most prostheses are designed to fit male veterans.

Advanced prosthetics.—The Committee encourages the VA to fund research at the intersection of bioengineering, neuroscience, and rehabilitation to support neural interfaces to peripheral nerves and advanced prosthetics that deliver more functionality to amputees.

Intelligent prostheses.—The Committee requests a report within 90 days of enactment of this act on current efforts in the use of intelligent prosthetics, highlighting delivery of more functionality to amputees. The Committee encourages the VA to create a working group on intelligent prosthetics that includes representatives from the VA, DOD, the National Science Foundation and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Collaboration with research universities.—The Committee encourages the VA to strengthen its collaborations with research universities and teaching hospitals for the treatment and research of mental health disorders, such as PTSD and traumatic brain injury, to improve the psychological health of veterans and train mental health professionals so they will understand the unique needs of Veterans. The Committee repeats its request for a report on current VA-university partnerships on mental health research and training no later than 90 days after enactment of this Act.

Colorectal cancer.—Colorectal cancer is treatable if detected early, yet it is the second leading cause of cancer death in America. The VA has made screening patients for colorectal cancer a priority. The National Cancer Institute estimates the annual cost of colorectal cancer will be almost \$20,000,000,000 by 2020. Medicare and the VA will be responsible for much of that cost. The Committee encourages the VA to support additional research and development in the field, including investigation of a less costly blood test for colorectal cancer.

Point of injury care.—The Committee is very concerned about care from the point of injury and transport to the hospital. The Committee encourages consultation with neurological hospitals for best practices at the site of the injury and requests a report by 90

days after enactment of this Act on what new or improved diagnostic tools are needed at the site of the injury.

Traumatic brain injury treatment.—The Committee encourages the VA to evaluate the effectiveness of promising prophylactic treatments for TBI involving the development of drugs administered via intranasal application. Upon review, if the scientific evidence warrants, the VA should identify opportunities to support the clinical trials and toxicity studies that would be required to move these treatments into practice.

Access to research findings.—The Committee is pleased that VA is developing a public access policy to make publicly available the research findings that are financed through VA. The Committee understands that VA is working with the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy to ensure that its policy is consistent with the government-wide effort on public access and is planning to use the resources of the National Institutes of Health PubMed Central to implement its program. The Committee requests a report 90 days after enactment of this Act describing the status of the VA public access program, the timeline for its implementation, and estimates of the number of articles that will be posted by fiscal year.

MEDICAL CARE COLLECTIONS FUND

The Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Care Collections Fund (MCCF) was established by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (Public Law 105–33). The Department deposits first-party and pharmacy 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 Department uses these funds for medical care and services to veterans. The estimate of fees that will be collected in fiscal year 2015 is \$3,065,000,000.

Third party health billing collection.—The Committee directs the VA to submit an annual report identifying the amount of third party health billings that are owed to VA and the annual amount collected. The report should describe VA’s plan to capture the third party billings that currently go uncollected.

NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$250,000,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	256,800,000
Committee recommendation in the bill	256,800,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	6,800,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	---

The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) was established in accordance with Public Law 93–43, the National Cemeteries Act of 1973. It has a fourfold mission: to provide for the interment of, in any national cemetery with available grave space, the remains of eligible deceased servicemembers and discharged veterans, together with their spouses and certain dependents, and to permanently maintain their graves; to provide headstones for, and to mark graves of eligible persons in national, State and tribal, and private cemeteries; to administer the grant program for aid to States and

tribal governments in establishing, expanding, or improving State and tribal government veterans' cemeteries; and to administer the Presidential Memorial Certificate Program. This appropriation will provide for the operation and maintenance of 133 operational national cemeteries and 33 other cemeterial installations.

The bill includes language making \$25,600,000 of the total available until September 30, 2016.

Rural areas.—In the explanatory statement that accompanied the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2013 (P.L. 113–6), the Committees expressed concern that the NCA is not adequately serving the nation's veterans in rural areas. The Act included legislative language in House Report 112–491 requiring the Secretary to provide a report outlining a strategy to address the shortcomings identified with proposed policies and an implementation timeframe, no later than six months after enactment of Public Law 113–6. The Committee reiterated its support of this request in House Report 113–90, and looks forward to timely receipt.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level *	\$327,591,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	321,591,000
Committee recommendation in the bill	321,591,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level *	(6,000,000)
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	---

*Funding included in this account for fiscal year 2014 for the Board of Veterans Appeals is now shown in that account for comparability purposes.

The General Administration account provides funds for the Office of the Secretary, six Assistant Secretaries, and three independent staff offices. The Committee has included bill language to make available through September 30, 2016, up to \$16,080,000 of these funds and to permit the transfer of funds in this account to the General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration account.

VA contracting issues.—The Committee continues to be concerned about the contracting practices of the Department of Veteran Affairs. The Committee directs the Department to provide a report due not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act that describes the number of active prime contractors that do not (1) have a satisfactory performance record; (2) have a satisfactory record of integrity and business ethics; or (3) have pending civil lawsuits brought by subcontractors and material suppliers for failure to make timely payments.

VA budget office communication.—The Committee has traditionally channeled most of its inquiries and requests for information and assistance through the VA budget office. The Committee reiterates its longstanding position that, while the Committee reserves the right to call upon all VA offices, the primary communication between the Committee and the VA should normally be through the budget office. Responses to Committee inquiries, regardless of whether they concern funding or policy, are to be transmitted without delay by other offices within the VA, unless otherwise re-

requested by the Committee. In addition, to facilitate the work of the Committee, it expects that the Department will make available to all personal and committee staff of Members of the Committee the same direct contact with the budget office. The Committee also expects that a staff member of the VA budget office will be present at every meeting held between the Chairman and ranking member of the Full Committee and Subcommittee and the Secretary or other senior VA officials.

Quarterly full-time equivalents (FTE) reports.—The Committee continues to request that the VA provide, on a quarterly basis, the total current FTE by appropriation account and, in the case of General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration, by program. The Committee feels it needs to have current staffing information throughout the year in order to monitor the use of salaries and expenses resources.

Additional budgetary information.—The Committee continues its request that items described in the fiscal year 2014 House report 113–90 continue to be included in the budget justifications submitted each year. In addition, the Committee requests that the following items be addressed in the budget justifications:

- Do not include the cost of proposed legislation in charts identifying current law obligations.
- Display a current year estimate column for all accounts, not just medical care accounts. For the medical care accounts, the re-estimate column should be displayed for both the budget year and advance year.
- Provide a reimbursable FTE summary chart for the General Administration account for past year, current year, and budget year.
- Provide an FTE by grade and regional/central office totals chart for the Information Technology account.
- Include in the Board of Veterans Appeals justification information by fiscal year on the number of appeals received, the number of cases decided, the number of cases remanded, the beginning-of-year and end-of-year appeals inventory, and the average number of days required to resolve appeals. Also include projected receipt and decisions on cases for the five years following the budget year.

Performance measures.—While the Committee is pleased that VA included performance measures in the fiscal year 2015 budget justifications, the Committee is concerned that these performance measures were not result-oriented and did not clearly demonstrate the extent to which performance reporting under 31 USC 1116 demonstrates that prior year investments in programs, projects, and activities are tied to progress toward achieving performance and priority goals and include estimates for how proposed investments will contribute to additional progress. The Committee believes that in order for these measures to be beneficial for legislative oversight they must directly link the agency's performance plan under 31 USC 1115(b) and performance goals designated as agency priority goals under 31 USC 1120 (b) to such agency funding requests. The Committee instructs the agency, in consultation with GAO, to develop result-oriented performance measures on the improvement of the quality and accessibility of health care, benefits, and memorial services; performance measures on the accuracy

and reduction of the amount of time it takes to process veterans disability benefit claims; veterans education performance measures; vocational rehabilitation and employment performance measures; housing performance measures; insurance coverage performance measures; burial program performance measures; and performance measures for the Board of Veterans Appeals. The information should be categorized by the most recent fiscal year and previous fiscal year for comparison and should include performance measures on outcome (results/impact); output (volume); efficiency; and customer service. This information should be reported to the Committee within 90 days of enactment of this act.

Staff relocations within VA.—The bill continues the administrative provision requiring written notification 15 days prior to organizational changes which result in the transfer of 25 or more full-time equivalent staff from one organizational unit of the Department to another.

Senior VA staff performance.—Congress has been concerned by past instances of VA Senior Executive Service (SES) employees receiving performance bonuses when patient care standards have not been met in VA hospitals or when the disability claims backlogs have grown. However, recent actions taken by the VA have assuaged Member concerns. VA has centralized Senior Executive award decisions, strengthened the link between organizational performance and awards, added an additional level of review in consideration of awards, and significantly reduced the value of awards compared to prior years. Most importantly, the Secretary has demonstrated his willingness to use the bonus system as a way to reward and penalize staff based on performance. As one example, he made the decision to withhold performance awards for the entire Veterans Benefits Administration Senior Executive cadre based on failure to meet targets on reducing disability claims backlogs. The Secretary has all the authority he needs to use bonuses to influence performance.

BOARD OF VETERANS APPEALS

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$88,294,000*
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	94,294,000
Committee recommendation in the bill	94,294,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level*	6,000,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	---

*Funding for the Board of Veterans Appeals was provided within the General Administration account for fiscal year 2014 but is shown here for comparability purposes.

The bill makes \$9,429,000 of this funding available through September 30, 2016.

The bill separates this account from the larger General Administration account, as requested in the budget. The Committee believes the separate account will provide more transparency and accountability as the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) faces a greatly increased workload in coming years as the disability claims backlog diminishes and veterans appeal their awards.

BVA is the component of VA responsible for making final decisions on behalf of the Secretary for the thousands of claims for veterans benefits that are presented to BVA for appellate review. The majority of the BVA's workload derives from the benefit claims initiated at the VBA regional offices. The appellate process has mul-

tiple steps, most of which occur at the local regional office level. If a veteran is not satisfied with a regional office determination, he or she may appeal to BVA for a final agency decision. BVA adjudicates appeals covering all areas of veterans benefits, but most of the workload concerns appeals for veterans' disability compensation or pension benefits. Appeals received by BVA are projected to increase from 47,763 in 2011 to 72,786 cases in 2015.

Actions to reduce the claims appeal backlog.—The VA has set a goal to process all disability claims within 125 days, with 98 percent accuracy by the end of 2015. While it is critical that this goal be achieved, it is also essential that the growing backlog in veteran appeals claims be addressed by the VA. The Committee fears the VBA has neglected the appeals of veteran claims in its effort to reduce the disability claims backlog and has lost sight of the appeals process. The VBA should consider hiring more staff to specifically work on lowering the growing backlog of appeals. The BVA is encouraged to do everything possible to lower the appeals processing time. The BVA should provide an annual report on its actions to lower the backlog in appeals claims.

The Committee requests a report identifying the BVA's definition of backlog and whether that definition accounts for all the time a claim resides in VBA or just when it reaches the Board.

GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES, VETERANS BENEFITS
ADMINISTRATION

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$2,465,490,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	2,494,254,000
Committee recommendation in the bill	2,514,254,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	48,764,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	20,000,000

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

The bill makes available through September 30, 2016, up to \$125,000,000 of these funds.

The Committee has added \$20,000,000 to the budget request to be used for three purposes: the Veterans Claims Intake Program (VCIP) records scanning system, the centralized mail initiative, and staff overtime. The Committee believes the additional funds for VCIP and overtime will further increase VA's capacity to tackle the claims backlog. The centralized mail initiative will also reduce claims processing time, and its decommissioning of documents will save VA resources as fewer documents will be stored in hardcopy.

Claims processing backlog

Projected staffing.—The Committee is concerned that VBA may not be requesting adequate resources to expeditiously handle either the current backlog or to mitigate a predictable influx of new claims. Therefore, in addition to maintaining the current reporting requirements as listed in House Report 113–90, the Committee directs VA to provide a report outlining future staffing requests based on anticipated separation numbers provided by DOD no later than 6 months after enactment of this Act. While this report is for

the use of the Appropriations Committee, it is also to be made available by the VA Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs to any Member of the House of Representatives upon request.

Fully developed claims.—The Committee commends the VA on efforts to reduce the disability claims backlog and encourages the VA to work more closely with congressional offices to eliminate the remaining backlog and improve claims processing time. The Fully Developed Claim (FDC) program instituted by the VA has proven to be an efficient and effective tool when utilized. The Committee supports the partnership the VA has established with veteran service organizations to expand the FDC program and urges the VA to develop similar partnerships with congressional offices to move more veterans into the FDC process.

Other issues

Serving underserved areas.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this act, the Committee requests the Secretary of VA to submit to Congress a report detailing the VBA's efforts to serve veterans in remote and underserved areas such as areas in Arizona, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Alaska, and U.S. Territories. The report shall include the number of veterans living in such areas, the number of veterans served, the type of services available and provided, the frequency of service, follow-up actions, and the method of follow-up. The department shall also include in the report the costs incurred for providing service to veterans in these areas, the success or sufficiency of efforts and plans to improve services to veterans living in remote and underserved areas, as well as the resources needed to ensure these veterans receive access to earned benefits.

Military sexual trauma (MST)-related claims.—The Committee is pleased with the VA's increased focus on disability claims based on in-service personal assault, including VA's intensive training and identification of specialized employees for MST-related claims. However, the Committee continues to be informed about inconsistencies in the ratings process for MST victims and a lack of sufficient VA data identifying weaknesses and what strides have been made. Accordingly, the Committee requests the VA to report to the Committee certain information regarding MST-related claims to ensure veterans across the country receive consistent, timely and accurate decisions based on these claims. The VA should include in the report: (a) the number of MST-related claims submitted in fiscal year 2014; (b) the number and percentage of claims submitted by gender; (c) the number of denied claims, including number and percentage by gender; (d) the number of approved claims, including number and percentage by gender; (e) the number of claims assigned to each rating percentage; (f) the three most common reasons given for denial of such claims under section 5104(b)(1) of title 38, U.S.C.; (g) the number of denials that were based on the failure of the veteran to report for a medical examination; (h) the number of claims that were pending at the end of the fiscal year (including claims on appeal); (i) the average number of days to complete MST claims; and (j) a description of the training provided to employees of VBA specifically with respect to covered claims, including the frequency, length and content of such training.

Job placement.—The Committee recommends that the VA, in conjunction with the Department of Labor, consider establishing a specialized job placement demonstration program. This program would target job placement efforts for those veterans who have not been able to secure employment through services currently offered by the VA and the Department of Labor. The program would be administered by an entity that has significant experience working with local businesses on job placement.

Services for job-seekers.—The Committee believes that the employment of veterans should be a top priority for the Secretary and is pleased that the VA is working to upgrade VetSuccess.gov to provide a system that connects employers with registered job-seeking veterans. The improved system, called the eBenefits Employment Center, will be available to the Department of Labor's American Job Centers.

Rehabilitation and training for veterans with difficult employment circumstances.—The Committee encourages the VA to expand its partnerships with non-profit employment and training organizations with experience in assisting individuals with difficult employment circumstances, such as prior substance abuse or criminal records, to find long-term employment.

Filipino veterans.—The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (P.L. 111-5) established a benefit for Filipino veterans who aided American troops in World War II. In the fiscal year 2014 appropriations act, the Committee directed the VA to consider all forms of evidence of service and not just those originally considered. The Committee looks forward to VA execution of this directive.

Change in regional office locations.—The Committee directs the Veterans Benefits Administration not to change the location of any of its regional offices without reporting to the Committee, at least 90 days in advance, the cost-benefit analysis of a proposed location change and how a location change will benefit veterans and increase operational efficiency.

Training veteran medics.—According to data from the VA, former Armed Forces medics and Navy corpsmen fall within the category of highest unemployment rates among military service members. Although uniquely trained in the health care field, these veterans are often unlicensed health providers with limited ability to secure civilian job opportunities without a direct transition to a career as a licensed health professional. The Committee directs the VA to establish a pilot program in coordination with HBCU and other university health professions schools to channel Armed Forces medics and Navy Corpsmen to physician assistant training using their post-9/11 GI bill benefits. This training would facilitate their acquisition of health provider jobs in both the civilian and VA sectors.

Independent living services.—The Committee supports the budget proposal to increase the cap on the number of veterans eligible to participate in the Independent Living Program from 2,700 to 3,000. The program has been highly successful in providing services to maximize independence in daily living for veterans who are too severely disabled to pursue employment. It allows eligible veterans to live independently and participate in family and community life.

Disaster training.—The Committee notes that many returning veterans have skills and training that make them ideal for employ-

ment in a post-disaster environment. The Committee suggests that the VA consider directing these veterans to training that would qualify them for work in the wake of a natural disaster or terrorist attack and help place them in state and local agencies and non-governmental organizations that perform disaster relief work.

Burial benefits.—The Committee is concerned about the potentially adverse impact of regulatory changes made in P.L. 111–275, which increased certain burial and funeral benefits for veterans from \$300 to \$700. The Committee requests a report on the progress in implementing the new benefit standard; how the VA Maintenance Centers (MC) work to accurately inform the applicants about the benefits for which they are eligible before they apply; how the MC certifies that benefits and compensation due are processed and distributed accurately in the first attempt; and what efforts are being taken to ensure that the initial responses and Congressional requests are reviewed and processed in a timely and fair manner. This report should be submitted to the Committee no later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act.

Benefits for the victims of the 2009 Fort Hood shooting.—The Committee remains concerned about the administration’s classification of the 2009 shooting at Fort Hood as workplace violence rather than an act of terrorism. The Committee is concerned that the victims are not and will not receive the proper benefits and medical care they are entitled to. The VA is to report back to the Committee by July 15, 2014 with a detailed analysis of the benefits and medical care the victims are eligible for under the Administration’s current classification, and how these compare to the benefits and medical care they would receive now and into the future if this event were classified as an act of terrorism.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$3,703,344,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	3,903,344,000
Committee recommendation in the bill	3,870,552,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	167,208,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	(32,792,000)

The Information Technology Systems account supports information technology (IT) services such as systems development and performance, operations and maintenance, information protection, and customer support. The program permits the effective and efficient delivery of veterans’ healthcare services and benefits programs.

Within the account total, the Committee allocates in bill language \$1,039,000,000 for pay and associated costs, which is the same as the budget request; \$2,283,217,000 for operations and maintenance, which is \$50,000,000 below the request but \$101,564,000 above fiscal year 2014; and \$548,335,000 for development, modernization, and enhancement, which is \$17,208,000 above the request. The bill makes available \$31,170,000 of pay and associated costs and \$160,000,000 of operations and maintenance funds until September 30, 2016. All development, modernization, and enhancement funds are available until September 30, 2016.

In the current stringent budget environment, the Committee places the highest funding priority on information technology de-

velopment projects, including the three described below, and directs the VA to apply the \$50,000,000 reduction to the discretionary sustainment category of IT projects, which was increased by \$157,776,000 in the budget request.

The bill provides: the budget request of \$137,000,000 for the Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS), the paperless claims processing system; the budget request of \$99,614,000 for the Veterans Relationship Management (VRM) system which will create multiple communication channels for veterans; and \$343,614,000 for the electronic health record, which is \$17,208,000 above the budget request, restoring funding for the record to the fiscal year 2014 level. Within the electronic health record funding, \$269,406,000 is provided for VistA Evolution, the modernization of the VA electronic health record, and \$74,208,000 is provided for electronic health record interoperability and Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER) health. An administrative provision limits the funding for the electronic health record provided by the Veterans Health Administration to \$123,074,000—\$8,371,000 from the Medical Services account and \$114,703,000 from the Medical Support and Compliance account.

The Committee continues to feel it is critical to closely track VA's development of its electronic health record. In the aftermath of the DOD and VA decision not to pursue a single integrated health record, it becomes doubly important to ensure that the two health records are designed in a way that permits interoperability between the two—that computable data from one record can be viewed and used by clinicians with a different electronic record system. In the fiscal year 2014 bill, Congress included language requiring the VA to provide information on the cost, timeline, performance benchmarks, and interoperability capacity of the VistA Evolution system before release of 75 percent of the funding provided. The Committee believes it remains important to track the implementation of the system as described in the documents VA provided to fulfill the 2014 bill language directive. Accordingly, the Committee includes fiscal year 2015 bill language limiting expenditure of IT development funds for VistA Evolution to 25 percent of funds provided until the Secretary submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, and such Committees approve, a report that describes: (1) the status of VistA Evolution project development and any corrective actions taken where the plan established in the VistA Evolution program plan (Plan), the VistA 4 product roadmap (Roadmap), and VistA Evolution cost estimate, dated March 24, 2014 may have fallen short; (2) any changes to the scope of the VistA Evolution program as established in the Plan; (3) any refinements to the cost estimate presented in the Plan and actual costs incurred; (4) progress in meeting the schedule milestones that have been established in the Plan; (5) program performance relative to the performance measures that have been identified in the Plan and the Roadmap; (6) plans for testing the VistA system and the results of any testing; (7) VistA Evolution program risks and issues that have been identified and agency response; (8) the effort to achieve interoperability between the electronic health records of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, including scope, cost, schedule and performance benchmarks; and (9) progress toward implementing the

interoperable electronic health record throughout the two Departments' medical facilities.

The Committee does not intend to delay the progress of developing the health record, but believes continuing oversight is necessary to ensure that the health record will have the capabilities and interoperability promised in the VA documents.

The Committee was pleased to receive the VistA Evolution Program plan, dated March 24, 2014. It contains important information regarding the development of the VA VistA Evolution electronic record. However, the plan falls short in its description of efforts to achieve interoperability between DOD and VA medical records. The Committee directs VA to provide to the Committee by July 31, 2014 additional detail about the interoperability plan: (1) explanation of the definition of interoperability used by DOD and VA, including a description of the scope of planned interoperability; (2) what systems will be used to achieve interoperability; (3) the estimated total cost of reaching interoperability between the two systems; and (4) the timeline for achieving interoperability, with identified performance benchmarks.

The Committee continues to include bill language prohibiting obligation or expenditure of funds for information technology systems development, modernization and enhancement until the VA submits to the Committees a certification of the amounts. In addition, the Committee continues bill language permitting the transfer of funding among the three subaccounts upon approval of the Committees. The bill contains language which allows for the reprogramming of funds among development, modernization and enhancement projects upon prior notification to, and approval by, the Committees. The bill continues to include language indicating that funds for development, modernization and enhancement are available only for the projects and in the amounts specified in the report accompanying the bill.

The chart below reflects the Administration's budget request for development projects and includes the Committee recommendation for each. This chart will serve as the Department's approved list of development projects, and all requested changes are subject to the reprogramming guidelines as outlined in the accompanying Act.

Information Technology Development Projects		
(\$ in 000s)		
Project	Budget Request	Committee Recommendation
Access to Healthcare	9,686	9,686
Healthcare Efficiency IT Development	10,723	10,723
EHR Interoperability and VLER Health	32,000	49,208
VistA Evolution	179,922	179,922
New Models of Care	30,551	30,551
Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS)	63,500	63,500
Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER)	18,600	18,600
Veterans Relationship Management (VRM)	76,600	76,600
Health Management Platform	5,746	5,746
Other IT Systems Development	103,799	103,799
Total All Development	531,127	548,335

The Committee expects the Office of Information Technology to continue to provide an IT expenditure report to the Committees on Appropriations on a monthly basis. This report shall include a comparison to the project costs included in the development, modernization, and enhancement project funding chart included in the House report, and provide an explanation for any differences in excess of \$1,000,000.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$121,411,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	121,411,000
Committee recommendation in the bill	121,411,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	---
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	---

The Office of Inspector General 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. The overall operational objective is to focus available resources on areas which would help improve services to veterans and their beneficiaries, assist managers of Department programs to operate economically in accomplishing program goals, and to prevent and deter recurring and potential fraud, waste, and inefficiencies.

The bill makes \$10,000,000 of this funding available until September 30, 2016.

The Committee requests a report from the Office of Inspector General describing the findings of the report the Office was directed to conduct in the fiscal year 2014 conference report on the processes in place for the transmission of service treatment and personnel records from DOD to VA.

CONSTRUCTION, MAJOR PROJECTS

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$342,130,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	561,800,000
Committee recommendation in the bill	561,800,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	219,670,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	---

The Construction, Major Projects appropriation provides for constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including planning, architectural and engineering services, assessments, and site acquisition where the estimated cost of a project is \$10,000,000 or more.

The Committee recommendation makes all but \$34,000,000 of these funds available for a five-year period rather than until expended, reflecting concern about the lengthy period that VA has taken to design and build major construction projects. The Committee hopes that limiting the time period during which these funds may be used will motivate the VA to better plan and design projects before funding is requested.

The Committee recommendation provides requested funding to continue four major construction projects with seismic deficiency and patient safety concerns. The Committee recommendation repeats an administrative provision which requires the Department

to notify the Committee of all bid savings on contracts for construction projects that total at least \$5,000,000 or 5 percent of the programmed amount of the project and prohibits any changes from the original scope of work identified in the justification material submitted with the budget for each project.

The specific amounts recommended by the Committee are as follows:

[In thousands of dollars]

Location	Description	2015 request	Committee recommendation
Veterans Health Administration (VHA):			
West Los Angeles, CA	Seismic deficiency corrections	35,000	35,000
Long Beach, CA	Seismic deficiency corrections	101,900	101,900
Canandaigua, NY	Construction and renovation	122,400	122,400
San Diego, CA	Seismic deficiency corrections	187,500	187,500
Advance Planning Fund	Various Stations	69,000	69,000
Major Construction Staff	Various Stations	24,000	24,000
Claims Analysis	Various Stations	2,000	2,000
Hazardous Waste	Various Stations	6,000	6,000
Total VHA .....	.....	547,800	547,800
National Cemetery Administration (NCA):			
Advance Planning Fund	Various Stations	2,500	2,500
NCA Land Acquisition Fund .....	.....	7,500	7,500
Total NCA .....	.....	10,000	10,000
Dept Advance Planning Fund .....	.....	4,000	4,000
Major Construction total .....	.....	561,800	561,800

Facility construction priority-setting.—The Committee is aware that the VA undertakes a complex process each year to prioritize all the facility projects that are eligible for funding. But the Committee is disturbed that the priorities assigned to particular projects have changed from one year to the next without explanation. The Committee requests that the Department prepare each year no later than 30 days after the release of the budget request a comprehensive report describing the process used to identify that year's project priority listing, any changes in methodology or priority criteria, and the architectural design elements that must be in place before a project is considered ready for the priority list.

Alternative financing.—The Committee is concerned about meeting the need for access to high quality veterans health care facilities, including in rural areas where access to facilities, including clinics and hospitals, is more limited. The Committee directs the Department of Veterans Affairs to work collaboratively with other executive branch agencies with substantial construction portfolios, private sector contractors, and other non-governmental experts, together with the appropriate congressional committees, to explore the feasibility of employing new funding mechanisms to meet the need for such facilities, including but not limited to private development lease-back arrangements, and to provide a report on their conclusions to the Committee no later than September 30, 2014.

In-patient facilities in rural areas.—Recognizing the lack of accessible VA services in some regions of the country, the Committee requested in the fiscal year 2013 report that the VA include in the VA Strategic Capital Improvement Plan (SCIP) the expansion of existing VA health care centers to include inpatient accommoda-

tions, urgent care services, and the full range of services required by women veterans when the absence of such services locally requires veterans to make round trips of more than five hours to access such services at a VA facility. The Committee instructs the VA to report within 180 days of enactment of this act whether any health care center facilities currently in the SCIP include inpatient accommodations and urgent care. If such facilities are not currently included in the SCIP, the report should provide an explanation of why this is not VA's preferred mechanism to address veterans access problems.

Energy efficient technologies.—As new construction and retrofit projects are undertaken at facilities to improve building energy efficiency and achieve the objectives prescribed in related statutes, executive orders, and initiatives, the Committee encourages VA to utilize new and underutilized, low-cost energy efficient technologies that provide the best value to taxpayers through minimal lifecycle costs.

CONSTRUCTION, MINOR PROJECTS

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$714,870,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	495,200,000
Committee recommendation in the bill	495,200,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	(219,670,000)
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	---

The Construction, Minor Projects appropriation provides for constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department, including planning, assessment of needs, architectural and engineering services, and site acquisition, where the estimated cost of a project is less than \$10,000,000.

As with the Major Construction account, the Committee recommendation makes these funds available for a five-year period rather than until expended as requested in the budget, reflecting concern about the long period that VA has taken to design and build construction projects.

Errors in leasing.—The Committee has been concerned in the past with errors made by VA in the process of establishing leases for medical facilities. These errors have caused needless delay in projects providing needed facilities in underserved areas. The Committee requests a report within 60 days of enactment of the act describing corrective actions the VA has taken, including training, revoking delegations of authority, and personnel changes, to ensure that such mistakes do not occur in the future.

GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF STATE EXTENDED CARE FACILITIES

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$85,000,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	80,000,000
Committee recommendation in the bill	80,000,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	(5,000,000)
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	---

This appropriation provides grants to assist States to construct 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 vet-

erans in State homes. A grant may not exceed 65 percent of the total cost of the project. The bill makes this funding available until expended.

Future funding needs.—The Committee is aware that more than half of the VA long-term care patient workload is now being met by State veterans homes. In light of the projected increase in elderly veterans in future years, VA may determine that additional State veterans homes need to be built. However, given the ongoing budget deficits being experienced by some State governments, the Committee is concerned that some States may be unable to contribute the required 35 percent of total construction costs needed to obtain Federal matching funds. Accordingly, the Committee requests a report no later than 60 days after the enactment of this act describing possible alternative financing mechanisms to ensure that a sufficient number of State veterans homes are available to meet the needs of future patients.

GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF VETERANS CEMETERIES

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$46,000,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	45,000,000
Committee recommendation in the bill	45,000,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	(1,000,000)
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	---

This program provides grants to assist States and tribal governments with the establishment, expansion, and improvement of veterans cemeteries which are operated and permanently maintained by the States and tribal governments. Grants under this program fund up to 100 percent of construction costs and the initial equipment expenses when the cemetery is established. The States and tribal governments remain responsible for providing the land and for paying all costs related to the operation and maintenance of the State cemeteries, including the costs for subsequent equipment purchases.

The bill makes this funding available until expended.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

The bill includes 33 administrative provisions, 31 of which were included in the fiscal year 2014 bill and two of which are new.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The bill includes section 201 allowing for the transfer of funds among three mandatory appropriations. The Administration proposal to modify this provision is not adopted.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The bill includes section 202 allowing the Department to transfer funding among the three medical appropriations accounts in fiscal year 2015. The Administration proposal to modify this provision is not adopted.

The bill includes section 203 allowing for salaries and expenses funds to be used for hire of passenger vehicles, lease of facilities or land, and purchase of uniforms.

The bill includes section 204 providing that only funding in the “Construction, Major Projects” and “Construction, Minor Projects”

accounts can be used for the purchase of any site for any new hospital or home or to construct any new hospital or home.

The bill includes section 205 requiring the Department to be reimbursed for medical services it provides to any person not defined as a beneficiary to ensure the Department is receiving payment for all medical services provided.

The bill includes section 206 allowing for the use of funds appropriated in fiscal year 2015 for “Compensation and Pensions”, “Re-adjustment Benefits”, and “Veterans Insurance and Indemnities” for payment of accrued obligations recorded in the last quarter of fiscal year 2014.

The bill includes section 207 allowing for the use of fiscal year 2015 funds to pay prior year obligations resulting from implementation of sections 3328(a), 3334, and 3712(a) of title 31, United States Code.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The bill includes section 208 allowing the Department to use surplus earnings from the national service life insurance, U.S. Government life insurance, and veterans special life insurance program to administer these programs.

The bill includes section 209 allowing the Department to obligate enhanced-use lease proceeds for administrative expenses that were incurred in a prior fiscal year during the year funds are received.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The bill includes section 210 limiting the amount of reimbursement the Office of Resolution Management and the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication can charge other offices and accounts of the Department for services provided.

The bill includes section 211 prohibiting the Secretary from approving new leases of real property with estimated annual rental cost of more than \$1,000,000 unless the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress approve a report on such lease within 30 days of receipt. The Administration proposal to modify this provision is not adopted.

The bill includes section 212 requiring the Department to collect current and accurate third-party reimbursement information for the purposes of third-party insurance collections. If persons receiving care or medical services do not disclose this information, the Department is allowed to bill them reasonable charges for services provided.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The bill includes section 213 allowing the Department to use enhanced-use lease funds for construction and alteration of medical facilities.

The bill includes section 214 allowing the Department to use the “Medical Services” appropriation for expenses related to the broader mission of medical care to veterans.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The bill includes section 215 allowing the Department to transfer Medical Care Collections to the “Medical Services” appropriation to

be used for veterans medical care and makes those funds available until expended.

The bill includes section 216 allowing veterans who reside in Alaska to obtain medical services from medical facilities supported by the Indian Health Service or tribal organizations, and provides for reimbursement for those services from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The bill includes section 217 allowing the Department to transfer the proceeds received from the transfer of real property deposited into the Department of Veterans Affairs Capital Asset Fund to the major and minor construction appropriations accounts and makes those funds available until expended.

The bill includes section 218 providing that no funds may be used to prohibit Directors of the Veterans Integrated Service Networks from conducting outreach or marketing programs. The Administration proposed to delete this provision.

The bill includes section 219 requiring the Secretary to submit quarterly reports to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress on the financial status of the Veterans Health Administration. The Administration proposed to delete this provision.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The bill includes section 220 requiring the Department to notify and receive approval from the Committees on Appropriations of any proposed transfer of funding to or from the "Information Technology Systems" account. The Administration proposal to modify this provision is not adopted.

The bill includes section 221 limiting the amount of funding made available under the "Medical Facilities" account for non-recurring maintenance that may be obligated during the last two months of the fiscal year. The Administration proposal to delete this provision is not adopted.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The bill includes section 222 permitting the transfer of \$252,366,000 appropriated for medical accounts, minor construction, and information technology systems to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund for the operation of facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The bill includes section 223 permitting the transfer of funds deposited in the Medical Care Collections Fund to the Joint Medical Facility Demonstration Fund for facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The bill includes section 224 directing that a minimum of \$15,000,000 shall be transferred from the three medical care appropriations to the Department of Defense/Department of Veterans Af-

fairs Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund, to be available until expended.

The bill includes section 225 rescinding and reappropriating \$1,400,000,000 from the Medical Services, \$100,000,000 from Medical Support and Compliance, and \$250,000,000 from Medical Facilities accounts.

The bill includes section 226 requiring the Secretary to notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of all bid savings in Major Construction projects that total at least \$5,000,000, or five percent of the programmed amount, whichever is less. Such notification must occur within 14 days of a contract. The Secretary is required to notify the Committees 14 days prior to the obligation of such bid savings and shall describe the anticipated use of such savings. The budget request proposed to delete this provision.

The bill includes section 227 prohibiting the original scope of work for a Major Construction project from being increased above the scope specified for that project in the original justification data provided to the Congress as part of the request for appropriations. The budget request proposed to delete this provision.

The bill includes section 228 requiring the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide on a quarterly basis to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress notification of any single national outreach and awareness marketing campaign in which obligations exceed \$2,000,000. The budget request proposed to delete this provision.

The bill includes section 229 requiring the Department to submit a reprogramming request if it wishes to change fiscal year 2015 spending on Medical Services initiatives identified in the budget justification by more than \$25,000,000. The budget request proposed to delete this provision.

The bill includes section 230 identifying the maximum funding that may be obligated for Veterans Health Administration VistA Evolution and electronic health record interoperability activities. The budget request proposed to delete this provision.

The bill includes section 231 requiring advance written notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress 15 days prior to organizational changes which result in the transfer of 25 or more full-time equivalent staff from one organizational unit to another. The budget request proposed to delete this provision.

The bill includes section 232 prohibiting funds made available by this Act from being used to award a contract to any contractor whose past performance record indicates that its performance during the construction of a VA facility resulted in a completion date more than 24 months later than the original agreed-upon completion date.

The bill includes section 233 rescinding \$38,000,000 of unobligated balances available from prior year discretionary appropriations, with the Secretary given authority to allocate this rescission among accounts.

The bill does not include a provision requested in the budget limiting contracting out of functions performed by more than ten employees without a fair competition process. This limitation is unnecessary because it has already been enacted into law.

TITLE III

RELATED AGENCIES

AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$63,200,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	70,100,000
Committee recommendation in the bill	75,000,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	11,800,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	4,900,000

The American Battle Monuments Commission is responsible for the administration, operation and maintenance of cemetery and war memorials to commemorate the achievements and sacrifices of the American Armed Forces where they have served since April 6, 1917. In performing these functions, the Commission maintains 24 permanent American military cemetery memorials and 25 monuments, memorials, and markers.

The Committee includes additional funds to support the interpretive program and nonrecurring maintenance needs. Language is included allowing up to \$7,500 to be used for official reception and representation expenses.

FOREIGN CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS ACCOUNT

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$14,100,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request est.	1,900,000
Committee recommendation in the bill est.	1,900,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	(12,200,000)
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	---

The Commission’s Foreign Currency Fluctuations Account is authorized pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 2109 to pay the costs of salaries and expenses that exceed the amount appropriated because of fluctuations in currency exchange rates of foreign countries occurring after a budget request for the Commission is submitted to Congress. The account may not be used for any other purpose.

The Committee recommendation includes bill language as proposed which makes “such sums as may be necessary” available to the Commission to cover unanticipated foreign currency fluctuations, currently estimated at \$1,900,000. The Committee notes that the budget proposal adjusts the Commission’s rate for euro transactions so that charges to the foreign currency account comply with recommendations made by the Government Accountability Office. Therefore, a portion of the funds previously included within the Foreign Currency Fluctuation Account are now proposed and provided within the Salaries and Expenses account.

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$35,408,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	31,386,000
Committee recommendation in the bill	31,386,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	(4,022,000)
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	-- --

The Veterans' Judicial Review Act established the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. The Court reviews appeals from claimants seeking review of a benefit denial. The Court has the authority to overturn findings of fact, regulations, and interpretations of law.

The Committee understands that the decrease proposed in the budget request is because funding obligations imposed by *Beer, supra* and the unfunded liability in the Retirement Fund have been resolved. The Committee notes, however, that the Court has historically experienced an increase in appeals a year after the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) has an increase in claims. The Committee directs the Court to monitor BVA's claims workload and ensure that future Court budget requests include a future caseload plan and anticipate any increase in workload in order to avoid a backlog.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—CIVIL CEMETERIAL EXPENSES, ARMY
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$65,800,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	45,800,000
Committee recommendation in the bill	61,881,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	(3,919,000)
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	16,081,000

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, ANC is the site of approximately 3,000 non-funeral ceremonies each year and has approximately 4,000,000 visitors annually.

The Committee is frustrated to receive a budget proposal that has again included funding for Arlington National Cemetery within the Operation and Maintenance, Army account. This practice undermines federal budgeting principles requiring expenditures to be charged against the same account each year, once an account has been identified for such purpose. The Committee rejects this proposal and instead provides all funds within the Cemeterial Expenses, Army account. The Committee directs that future budget requests will include all funding proposed for Arlington National Cemetery within the Cemeterial Expenses, Army account.

Cemetery capacity.—The Committee supports the efforts of the ANC Advisory Commission to identify solutions for when ANC inevitably reaches capacity. Accurately identifying the burial needs of our service members, veterans, and their families from all 50 states is critical to ensuring that the future plans for ANC meet those needs. The Committee recommends the ANC Advisory Commission

establish metrics to determine whether the Department of the Army should establish a new national cemetery of the same stature as ANC. The Committee requests the ANC Advisory Committee to develop those metrics in consultation with the Committee.

Arlington land exchange.—The Committee recognizes that the future burial capacity of ANC could be increased through the closure and relocation of current roadways adjacent to the cemetery. The modification of the Columbia Pike/Washington Boulevard interchange, and the realignment of all associated utilities would remove existing barriers to the contiguous expansion into the area of the former Navy Annex site. The Committee urges the Secretary of the Army to provide the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress with an amended Master Plan and Navy Annex Area Development Plan detailing how the land the Cemetery would receive in the contemplated land exchanges will be utilized for internments, other Cemetery needs and the location of the future Pentagon Memorial Visitor’s Center.

ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME

TRUST FUND

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$66,800,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	62,400,000
Committee recommendation in the bill	62,400,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	(4,400,000)
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	---

The Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH) consists of two retirement communities, one in Washington, D.C. and the other in Gulfport, Mississippi. The Washington, D.C. facility was established in 1851 as a soldiers’ home for elderly and disabled veterans. The original home for Navy officers, sailors, and Marines was established in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1811, and was relocated to Gulfport, Mississippi almost a century and a half later.

CAPITAL PROGRAM

Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	\$1,000,000
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	1,000,000
Committee recommendation in the bill	1,000,000
Comparison with:	
Fiscal year 2014 enacted level	---
Fiscal year 2015 budget request	---

The Committee recommendation provides authority to expend \$1,000,000 from the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund for construction and renovations.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

The bill includes 1 provision that was in effect in fiscal year 2014. The administrative provision included in the bill is as follows:

The bill includes section 301 permitting Arlington National Cemetery to provide funds to Arlington County to relocate a water main.

TITLE IV

GENERAL PROVISIONS

The bill includes 15 provisions that are effective in fiscal year 2014 and the new provisions as follows:

The bill includes section 401 prohibiting the obligation of funds beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided.

The bill includes section 402 prohibiting 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.

The bill includes section 403 prohibiting the use of funds to support or defeat legislation pending before Congress.

The bill includes section 404 encouraging all departments and agencies funded in this Act to expand the use of "E-Commerce" technologies and procedures.

The bill includes section 405 specifying the Congressional committees that are to receive all reports and notifications.

The bill includes section 406 prohibiting the transfer of funds to any instrumentality of the United States Government without authority from an appropriations Act.

The bill includes section 407 prohibiting any funds in this Act to be used for a project or program named for an individual serving as a Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner of the United States House of Representatives.

The bill includes section 408 requiring all reports submitted to the Congress to be posted on official websites of the submitting agency.

The bill includes section 409 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.

The bill includes section 410 prohibiting the use of funds for payment of first-class travel by an employee of the executive branch.

The bill includes section 411 prohibiting the use of funds in this Act for the renovation, expansion, or construction of any facility in the continental United States for the purpose of housing any individual who has been detained at the United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The bill includes section 412 prohibiting the use of funds in this Act for any contract where the contractor has not complied with E-Verify requirements.

The bill includes section 413 limiting the use of funds to enter into a contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement with, make a grant to, or provide a loan or loan guarantee to, corporations convicted of a felony criminal violation of Federal law within the preceding 24 months. The Department shall provide an annual report to the Committee, due within 30 days of the end of each fiscal year, detailing its implementation of this provision, including a list of affected corporations and a justification for any cases in which the Department has determined that the limitation should not apply.

The bill includes section 414 limiting the use of funds to enter into a contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative

agreement with, make a grant to, or provide a loan or loan guarantee to, corporations with certain unpaid Federal tax liabilities. The Department shall provide an annual report to the Committee, due within 30 days of the end of each fiscal year, detailing its implementation of this provision, including a list of affected corporations and a justification for any cases in which the Department has determined that the limitation should not apply.

The bill includes section 415 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.

The bill includes new section 416 establishing a “Spending Reduction Account” in the bill.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REPORT REQUIREMENTS

The following items are included in accordance with various requirements of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

STATEMENT OF GENERAL PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following is a statement of general performance goals and objectives for which this measure authorizes funding:

The Committee on Appropriations considers program performance, including a program’s success in developing and attaining outcome-related goals and objectives, in developing funding recommendations.

RESCISSIONS

Pursuant to clause 3(f)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following table lists the rescissions in the accompanying bill:

DEPARTMENT/ACTIVITY	AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED FOR RESCISSION
Department of Defense, Military Construction, Army (Sec. 129) ...	\$79,577,000
42 USC 3374 (Sec. 131)	100,000,000
NATO Security Investment Program (Sec. 130)	25,000,000
Department of Veterans Affairs, Medical Services*	1,400,000,000
Department of Veterans Affairs, Medical Support and Compliance*	100,000,000
Department of Veterans Affairs, Medical Facilities*	250,000,000
Department of Veterans Affairs, Prior Year Unobligated Balances	38,000,000

* Reappropriated in the bill

TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Pursuant to clause 3(f)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted describing the transfer of funds provided in the accompanying bill.

Language is included to allow for the transfer of funds from Family Housing, Construction accounts to the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund and funds from Military

Construction accounts to the Department of Defense Military Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund.

Language is included to provide transfer authority from the BRAC account to the Homeowners Assistance Program.

Language is included to allow the transfer of expired funds to the "Foreign Currency Fluctuations, Construction, Defense" account.

Language is included to transfer not to exceed \$15,430,000 from Compensation and Pensions to General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration and Information Technology Systems. These funds are for the administrative costs of implementing cost-savings proposals required by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 and the Veterans' Benefits Act of 1992. Language is also included transferring funds to the medical care collections fund to augment funding of medical facilities for nursing home care provided to pensioners.

Language is included to permit the transfer of funds from General Administration to General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration.

Language is included to permit the transfer of funds between Information Technology Systems development projects and among the three sub-accounts identified in bill language subject to the approval of the Committee.

Language is included to provide authority for the Department of Veterans Affairs for any funds appropriated in 2015 for Compensation and Pensions, Readjustment Benefits, and Veterans Insurance and Indemnities to be transferred among those three accounts.

Language is included to transfer funds among the Medical Services, Medical Support and Compliance, and Medical Facilities accounts.

Language is included to permit the funds from three life insurance funds to be transferred to General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration and Information Technology Systems for the costs of administering such programs.

Language is included to permit up to \$46,304,000 to be transferred to General Administration and Information Technology Systems from any funds appropriated in fiscal year 2015 to reimburse the Office of Resolution Management and the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication for services provided.

Language is included to transfer certain funds derived from enhanced-use leasing activities to the Construction, Major Projects and Construction, Minor Projects accounts.

Language is included to transfer funds from the Medical Care Collections Fund to the Medical Services account.

Language is included to allow the transfer of funds from the Capital Asset Fund to the Construction, Major Projects and Construction, Minor Projects accounts.

Language is included to allow the transfer of funds from various accounts to the Information Technology Systems account subject to approval by the Committee.

Language is included to allow the transfer of funds provided for the Department of Veterans Affairs to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund.

Language is included permitting funds deposited to the Medical Care Collections Fund for health care provided at a combined Fed-

eral medical facility to be transferred to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund.

Language is included under the Department of Veterans Affairs that would transfer no less than \$15,000,000 for the DOD/VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund as authorized by section 8111(d) of title 38, United States Code.

DISCLOSURE OF EARMARKS AND CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING ITEMS

Neither the bill nor the report contains any Congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

CHANGES IN APPLICATION OF EXISTING LAW

Pursuant to clause 3(f)(1)(A) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted describing the effect of provisions in the accompanying bill that directly or indirectly change the application of existing law.

Language is included in various parts of the bill to continue ongoing activities that require annual authorization or additional legislation, which to date have not been enacted.

Language is included in various parts of the bill to place limitations on the use of funds in the bill or change existing limitations and which might, under some circumstances, be construed as changing the application of existing law.

Language is included in various parts of the bill to allow the Secretary of Defense to exceed certain limitations upon notification to the Committee.

Language is included in various parts of the bill to allow funding to be used for official reception and representation expenses.

Language is included in various parts of the bill to enable various appropriations to remain available for more than one year for some programs for which the basic authority legislation does not presently authorize such extended availability.

Language is included in various parts of the bill to permit the transfer of funds to other accounts.

Language is included under Title I to prohibit payments for cost-plus-a-fixed-fee contracts under certain circumstances.

Language is included in various parts of the bill to allow funds to be used for the hire of passenger motor vehicles.

Language is included under Title I to allow advances to the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation under certain circumstances.

Language is included under Title I to prohibit the use of funds to begin construction of new bases without specific appropriations.

Language is included under Title I to prohibit the use of funds for purchase of land or land easements under certain circumstances.

Language is included under Title I to prohibit the use of funds for land acquisition, site preparation, and utility installation for family housing unless funds have been made available in annual appropriations Acts.

Language is included under Title I to prohibit the use of minor construction funds to transfer an activity between installations without prior notification.

Language is included under Title I to prohibit the use of funds for the procurement of steel for any activity if American steel producers have been denied the opportunity to compete for such steel procurements.

Language is included under Title I to prohibit the use of funds to pay real property taxes in any foreign nation.

Language is included under Title I to prohibit the use of funds to initiate a new installation overseas without prior notification.

Language is included under Title I to limit the use of funds for architect and engineer contracts under certain circumstances.

Language is included under Title I to limit the use of funds for awarding contracts to foreign contractors under certain circumstances.

Language is included under Title I to require the Department of Defense to notify the appropriate committees of Congress of any proposed military exercises under certain circumstances.

Language is included under Title I to allow prior year construction funding to be available for currently authorized projects.

Language is included under Title I to allow payment for the cost associated with supervision, inspection, overhead, engineering and design on family housing or military construction projects that are being completed with expired or lapsed funds.

Language is included under Title I to allow funds to be expended on military construction projects for four fiscal years after enactment under certain circumstances.

Language is included under Title I to allow for the transfer of BRAC proceeds to the BRAC account.

Language is included under Title I to allow construction funds to be transferred to Housing Improvement Funds.

Language is included under Title I to allow for the transfer of BRAC funds to the Homeowners Assistance Program.

Language is included under Title I to limit funds for the operation and maintenance of family housing to those provided in this appropriation and to limit amounts expended on repairs of general and flag officer quarters under certain circumstances.

Language is included under Title I to allow funds in the Ford Island Improvement Account to be available until expended for certain purposes.

Language is included under Title I to allow for the transfer of expired funding to the Foreign Currency Fluctuation Account under certain circumstances.

Language is included under Title I limiting movement of an Army unit with a testing mission.

Language is included under Title I that rescinds funds from prior year appropriations Acts.

Language is included under Title II to require that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs establish a priority for treatment of veterans who are service-connected disabled, lower income, or have special needs.

Language is included under Title II to require that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs give priority funding of basic medical benefits to priority groups 1 through 6.

Language is included under Title II to allow the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to dispense prescription drugs from VHA facilities to enrolled veterans with privately written prescriptions.

Language is included under Title II providing for the reimbursement to the Department of Defense for the costs of overseas employee mail.

Language is included under Title II to require approval of a transfer between development, modernization, and enhancement projects in the Information Technology Systems account.

Language is included under Title II establishing time limitations and reporting requirements concerning the obligation of Major Construction funds, limiting the use of funds, and allowing the use of funds for program costs.

Language is included under Title II to allow Minor Construction funds to be used to repair non-medical facilities damaged by natural disaster or catastrophe.

Language is included under Title II permitting transfers between mandatory and discretionary accounts, limiting and providing for the use of certain funds, funding administrative expenses associated with life insurance programs from excess program revenues, allowing reimbursement from enhanced-use leases and for certain services, requiring notification of new lease agreements, requiring disclosure of insurance and income information, allowing a recovery audit collection program, allowing veterans in the State of Alaska to use Indian Health Service facilities under certain conditions, allowing medical services funds for recreational and funeral expenses, limiting the obligation of non-recurring maintenance funds during the last two months of the fiscal year, and requiring approval of a reprogramming prior to any major reallocation of medical services initiatives funding.

Language is included under the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, Salaries and Expenses, to permit the use of funds for a pro bono program.

Language is included under Cemeterial Expenses, Army, Salaries and Expenses, to permit the use of funds for parking maintenance and repairs.

Language is included under Cemeterial Expenses, Army, Salaries and Expenses, to permit the use of funds to relocate a water main.

Language is included under Title IV to limit the use of funds for Federal entities when they are not in compliance with Federal law relating to risk assessment, the protection of private property rights, or unfunded mandates.

Language is included under Title IV to limit the use of funds for publicity or propaganda designed to support or defeat legislation pending before Congress.

Language is included under Title IV to prohibit the use of funds for a project or program named for a serving Member of the United States Congress.

Language is included under Title IV prohibiting funds from being used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

Language is included under Title IV prohibiting funds from being used to pay for first class travel in violation of federal regulations.

Language is included under Title IV prohibiting funds from being used to execute a contract for goods or services where a contractor has not complied with Executive Order 12989.

Language is included under Title IV prohibiting funds from being provided to any corporation that was convicted of a felony criminal violation.

Language is included under Title IV prohibiting funds from being provided to a corporation with an unpaid Federal tax liability.

Language is included under Title IV prohibiting funds from being used 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.

APPROPRIATIONS NOT AUTHORIZED BY LAW

Pursuant to clause 3(f)(1)(B) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following table lists the appropriations in the accompanying bill which are not authorized by law for the period concerned:

[dollars in thousands]				
Agency/program	Last year of authorization	Authorization level	Appropriations in last year of authorization	Appropriations in this bill
Military Construction, Army.....	2014	1,109,875	1,104,875	526,427
Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps.....	2014	1,700,269	1,629,590	996,772
Military Construction, Air Force.....	2014	1,138,843	1,052,798	719,551
Military Construction, Defense-Wide.....	2014	3,413,250	3,445,423	2,021,690
Military Construction, Army National Guard.....	2014	315,815	314,740	126,920
Military Construction, Air National Guard.....	2014	119,800	119,800	94,663
Military Construction, Army Reserve.....	2014	174,060	156,560	103,946
Military Construction, Navy Reserve.....	2014	32,976	29,000	51,528
Military Construction, Air Force Reserve.....	2014	45,659	45,659	49,492
North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program.....	2014	199,700	199,700	199,700
Family Housing Construction, Army.....	2014	44,008	27,408	78,609
Family Housing Operation and Maintenance, Army.....	2014	512,871	512,871	350,976
Family Housing Construction, Navy and Marine Corps.....	2014	73,407	73,407	16,412
Family Housing Operation and Maintenance, Navy and Marine Corps.....	2014	389,844	379,444	354,029
Family Housing Construction, Air Force.....	2014	76,360	76,360	-
Family Housing Operation and Maintenance, Air Force.....	2014	388,598	388,598	327,747
Family Housing Construction, Defense-Wide.....	2014	-	-	-
Family Housing Operation and Maintenance Defense-Wide.....	2014	55,845	55,845	61,100
Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund.....	2014	1,780	1,780	1,662
Homeowners Assistance Program.....	2014	-	-	-
Chemical Demilitarization Construction, Defense-Wide.....	2014	122,536	122,536	38,715
Base Realignment and Closure Account.....	2014	451,357	451,357	270,085
Dept. of Veteran Affairs, Hsing Supportive Svcs.....	2014	300,000	300,000	500,000
Dept. of Veteran Affairs, Major Construction.....	done each yr.	---	---	1,541,200
Dept. of Veteran Affairs, Major Leases.....	done each yr.	---	---	288,598
Cemeterial Expenses, Army.....	2014	45,800	65,800	61,881
Armed Forces Retirement Home.....	2014	67,800	67,800	63,400

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PROGRAM DUPLICATION

No provision of this bill establishes or reauthorizes a program of the Federal Government known to be duplicative of another Federal program, a program that was included in any report from the Government Accountability Office to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111–139, or a program related to a program identified in the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance.

DIRECTED RULE MAKING

The bill does not direct any rule making.

FULL COMMITTEE VOTES

Pursuant to the provisions of clause 3(b) of rule XIII of the House of Representatives, the results of each roll call vote on an amendment or on the motion to report, together with the names of those voting for and those voting against, are printed below:

Roll Call No. 1

Date: April 9, 2014.

Measure: Military Construction/Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill, FY 2015.

Motion by: Mr. Moran.

Description of motion: To strike section 411 of the bill which prohibits the use of funds for the renovation, expansion, or construction of any facility in the continental United States for the purpose of housing any individual who has been detained at the United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Results: Defeated 20 yeas to 30 nays.

<i>Members Voting Yea</i>	<i>Members Voting Nay</i>
Mr. Bishop	Mr. Aderholt
Ms. DeLauro	Mr. Amodei
Mr. Farr	Mr. Calvert
Mr. Fattah	Mr. Cole
Mr. Honda	Mr. Crenshaw
Ms. Kaptur	Mr. Cuellar
Ms. Lee	Mr. Culberson
Mrs. Lowey	Mr. Dent
Ms. McCollum	Mr. Diaz-Balart
Mr. Moran	Mr. Fleischmann
Mr. Pastor	Mr. Fortenberry
Ms. Pingree	Mr. Frelinghuysen
Mr. Price	Ms. Granger
Mr. Quigley	Mr. Graves
Ms. Roybal-Allard	Dr. Harris
Mr. Ryan	Ms. Herrera Beutler
Mr. Schiff	Mr. Joyce
Mr. Serrano	Mr. Kingston
Mr. Visclosky	Mr. Latham

Ms. Wasserman Schultz	Mr. Nunnelee
	Mr. Owens
	Mr. Roby
	Mr. Rogers
	Mr. Rooney
	Mr. Simpson
	Mr. Stewart
	Mr. Valadao
	Mr. Wolf
	Mr. Womack
	Mr. Yoder

COMPLIANCE WITH RULE XIII, CL. 3(e) (RAMSEYER RULE)

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee notes that the accompanying bill does not propose to repeal or amend a statute or part thereof.

COMPARISON WITH THE BUDGET RESOLUTION

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a)(1)(A) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the following table compares the levels of new budget authority provided in the bill with the appropriate allocation under section 302(b) of the Budget Act.

[In millions of dollars]

	302(b) allocation		This bill	
	Budget authority	Outlays	Budget Authority	Outlays
Mandatory	85,315	85,070	85,315	¹ 85,070
Discretionary	71,499	77,455	71,499	76,101

¹ Includes outlays from prior-year authority.

FIVE-YEAR PROJECTION OF OUTLAYS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a)(1)(B) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the following table contains five-year projections prepared by the Congressional Budget Office of outlays associated with the budget authority provided in the accompanying bill:

	<i>Millions</i>
Budget Authority	\$71,499
Outlays:	
2015	² \$92,294
2016	4,702
2017	3,249
2018	1,749
2019 and future years	1,066

² Excludes outlays from prior-year budget authority.

ASSISTANCE TO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a)(1)(C) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the amount of financial assistance to State and local governments is as follows:

Budget Authority	<i>Millions</i>
Fiscal Year 2015 outlays resulting therefrom	\$142
	- 7

STATE LIST

The following is a complete listing, by title, State and country, of the Committee's recommendations for military construction and family housing projects:

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)

	BUDGET REQUEST	HOUSE

ALASKA		
AIR FORCE		
CLEAR AFS		
EMERGENCY POWER PLANT FUEL STORAGE.....	11,500	11,500
ARIZONA		
NAVY		
YUMA		
AVIATION MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT COMPLEX.....	16,608	16,608
AIR FORCE		
LUKE AFB		
F-35 AIRCRAFT MX HANGAR - SQDN #2.....	11,200	11,200
F-35 FLIGHTLINE FILLSTANDS.....	15,600	15,600
DEFENSE-WIDE		
FORT HUACHUCA		
JITC BUILDING 52120 RENOVATION.....	1,871	1,871
CALIFORNIA		
ARMY		
CONCORD		
ACCESS CONTROL POINT.....	9,900	9,900
GENERAL PURPOSE MAINTENANCE SHOP.....	5,300	5,300
FORT IRWIN		
UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE HANGAR.....	45,000	45,000
NAVY		
BRIDGEPORT		
E-LMR COMMUNICATIONS TOWERS.....	16,180	16,180
SAN DIEGO		
STEAM DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM DECENTRALIZATION.....	47,110	47,110
DEFENSE-WIDE		
CAMP PENDLETON		
SOF COMM/ELEC MAINTENANCE FACILITY.....	11,841	11,841
CORONADO		
SOF LOGISTICS SUPPORT UNIT 1 OPS FACILITY #1.....	41,740	41,740
SOF SUPPORT ACTIVITY OPS FACILITY #2.....	28,600	28,600
LEMOORE		
REPLACE FUEL STORAGE & DISTRIBUTION FAC.....	52,500	52,500
ARMY RESERVE		
FRESNO		
ARMY RESERVE CENTER/AMSA.....	22,000	22,000
COLORADO		
ARMY		
FORT CARSON		
AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE HANGAR.....	60,000	60,000
UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE HANGAR.....	29,000	29,000
DEFENSE-WIDE		
PETERSON AFB		
DENTAL CLINIC REPLACEMENT.....	15,200	15,200
ARMY RESERVE		
FORT CARSON		
TRAINING BUILDING ADDITION.....	5,000	5,000
CONNECTICUT		
AIR NATIONAL GUARD		
BRADLEY IAP		
CONSTRUCT C-130 FUEL CELL AND CORROSION CONTR.....	16,306	16,306
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA		
NAVY		
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA		
ELECTRONICS SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY.....	31,735	31,735

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)

	BUDGET REQUEST	HOUSE

FLORIDA		
NAVY		
JACKSONVILLE		
MH-60 PARKING APRON.....	8,583	8,583
P-8A RUNWAY THRESHOLDS AND TAXIWAYS.....	21,652	21,652
MAYPORT		
LCS OPERATIONAL TRAINING FACILITY.....	20,520	20,520
GEORGIA		
DEFENSE-WIDE		
HUNTER ARMY AIRFIELD		
SOF COMPANY OPERATIONS FACILITY.....	7,692	7,692
ROBINS AFB		
REPLACE HYDRANT FUEL SYSTEM.....	19,900	19,900
AIR FORCE RESERVE		
ROBINS AFB		
AFRC CONSOLIDATED MISSION COMPLEX, PH I.....	27,700	27,700
HAWAII		
ARMY		
FORT SHAFTER		
COMMAND AND CONTROL FACILITY (SCIF).....	96,000	83,000
NAVY		
KANEHOE BAY		
FACILITY MODIFICATIONS FOR VMU, MWSD, & CH-53E....	51,182	51,182
ROAD AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS.....	2,200	2,200
PEARL HARBOR		
SUBMARINE MANEUVERING ROOM TRAINER FACILITY.....	9,698	9,698
DEFENSE-WIDE		
JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM		
REPLACE FUEL TANKS.....	3,000	3,000
UPGRADE FIRE SUPPRESSION & VENTILATION SYS.....	49,900	49,900
IOWA		
AIR NATIONAL GUARD		
DES MOINES MAP		
REMOTELY PILOTED AIRCRAFT AND TARGETING GROUP.....	8,993	8,993
KANSAS		
AIR FORCE		
MCCONNELL AFB		
KC-46A ADAL MOBILITY BAG STRG EXPANSION.....	2,300	2,300
KC-46A ADAL REGIONAL MX TNG FACILITY.....	16,100	16,100
KC-46A ALTER COMPOSITE MX SHOP.....	4,100	4,100
KC-46A ALTER TAXIWAY FOXTROT.....	5,500	5,500
KC-46A FUSELAGE TRAINER.....	6,400	6,400
KENTUCKY		
ARMY		
FORT CAMPBELL		
UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE HANGAR.....	23,000	23,000
DEFENSE-WIDE		
BLUE GRASS ARMY DEPOT		
AMMUNITION DEMILITARIZATION PH XV.....	38,715	38,715
FORT CAMPBELL		
SOF SYSTEM INTEGRATION MAINTENANCE OFFICE FAC.....	18,000	18,000
MAINE		
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD		
AUGUSTA		
NATIONAL GUARD RESERVE CENTER.....	30,000	30,000

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)

	BUDGET REQUEST	HOUSE

MARYLAND		
NAVY		
ANNAPOLIS		
CENTER FOR CYBER SECURITY STUDIES BUILDING.....	120,112	100,112
INDIAN HEAD		
ADVANCED ENERGETICS RESEARCH LAB COMPLEX PH 2.....	15,346	15,346
PATUXENT RIVER		
ATLANTIC TEST RANGE FACILITY.....	9,860	9,860
AIR FORCE		
FORT MEADE		
CYBERCOM JOINT OPERATIONS CENTER, INCREMENT 2.....	166,000	166,000
DEFENSE-WIDE		
FORT MEADE		
NSAW CAMPUS FEEDERS PHASE 1.....	54,207	54,207
NSAW RECAPITALIZE BUILDING #1/SITE M INC 3.....	45,521	45,521
JOINT BASE ANDREWS		
CONSTRUCT HYDRANT FUEL SYSTEM.....	18,300	18,300
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD		
HAVRE DE GRACE		
NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER.....	12,400	12,400
MASSACHUSETTS		
AIR FORCE		
HANSCOM AFB		
DORMITORY (72 RM).....	13,500	13,500
MICHIGAN		
DEFENSE-WIDE		
SELFRIDGE ANGB		
REPLACE FUEL DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES.....	35,100	35,100
AIR NATIONAL GUARD		
W. K. KELLOG REGIONAL AIRPORT		
RPA BEDDOWN.....	6,000	6,000
MISSISSIPPI		
DEFENSE-WIDE		
STENNIS		
SOF APPLIED INSTRUCTION FACILITY.....	10,323	10,323
SOF LAND ACQUISITION WESTERN MANEUVER AREA.....	17,224	17,224
MONTANA		
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD		
HELENA		
NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER ADD/ALT.....	38,000	38,000
NEBRASKA		
AIR FORCE		
OFFUTT AFB		
USSTRATCOM REPLACEMENT FACILITY- INCR 4.....	180,000	180,000
NEVADA		
NAVY		
FALLON		
AIR WING TRAINING FACILITY.....	27,763	27,763
FACILITY ALTERATION FOR F-35 TRAINING MISSION.....	3,499	3,499
AIR FORCE		
NELLIS AFB		
F-22 FLIGHT SIMULATOR FACILITY.....	14,000	14,000
F-35 AIRCRAFT MX UNIT - 4 BAY HANGAR.....	31,000	31,000
F-35 WEAPONS SCHOOL FACILITY.....	8,900	8,900
DEFENSE-WIDE		
FALLON		
SOF TACTICAL GROUND MOB. VEHICLE MAINT FAC.....	20,241	20,241

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)

	BUDGET REQUEST	HOUSE

NEW HAMPSHIRE		
AIR NATIONAL GUARD		
PEASE INTERNATIONAL TRADE PORT		
KC-46A ADAL AIRFIELD PAVEMENTS & HYDRANT SYST.....	7,100	7,100
KC-46A ADAL FUEL CELL BUILDING 253.....	16,800	16,800
KC-46A ADAL MAINT HANGAR BUILDING 254.....	18,002	18,002
NEW JERSEY		
AIR FORCE		
JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST		
FIRE STATION.....	5,900	5,900
ARMY RESERVE		
JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST		
ARMY RESERVE CENTER.....	26,000	26,000
NEW MEXICO		
DEFENSE-WIDE		
CANNON AFB		
SOF SQUADRON OPERATIONS FACILITY (STS).....	23,333	23,333
NEW YORK		
ARMY		
FORT DRUM		
UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE HANGAR.....	27,000	27,000
U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY		
CADET BARRACKS, INCR 3.....	58,000	58,000
ARMY RESERVE		
MATTYDALE		
ARMY RESERVE CENTER/AMSA.....	23,000	23,000
NORTH CAROLINA		
NAVY		
CHERRY POINT MARINE CORPS AIR STATION		
WATER TREATMENT PLANT REPLACEMENT.....	41,588	41,588
DEFENSE-WIDE		
CAMP LEJEUNE		
LEJEUNE HIGH SCHOOL ADDITION/RENOVATION.....	41,306	41,306
SOF INTEL/OPS EXPANSION.....	11,442	11,442
FORT BRAGG		
SOF BATTALION OPERATIONS FACILITY.....	37,074	37,074
SOF TACTICAL EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE FACILITY.....	8,000	8,000
SOF TRAINING COMMAND BUILDING.....	48,062	48,062
SEYMOUR JOHNSON AFB		
REPLACE HYDRANT FUEL SYSTEM.....	8,500	8,500
AIR FORCE RESERVE		
SEYMOUR JOHNSON AFB		
KC-135 TANKER PARKING APRON EXPANSION.....	9,800	9,800
NORTH DAKOTA		
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD		
VALLEY CITY		
NATIONAL GUARD VEHICLE MAINTENANCE SHOP.....	10,800	10,800
OKLAHOMA		
AIR FORCE		
TINKER AFB		
KC-46A DEPOT MAINT COMPLEX SPT INFRASTR.....	48,000	48,000
KC-46A TWO-BAY DEPOT MX HANGAR.....	63,000	63,000
PENNSYLVANIA		
ARMY		
LETTERKENNY ARMY DEPOT		
REBUILD SHOP.....	16,000	16,000

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)

	BUDGET REQUEST	HOUSE

NAVY		
PHILADELPHIA		
OHIO REPLACEMENT POWER & PROPULSION FACILITY.....	23,985	23,985
AIR NATIONAL GUARD		
WILLOW GROVE ARF		
RPA OPERATIONS CENTER.....	5,662	5,662
NAVY RESERVE		
PITTSBURGH		
RESERVE TRAINING CENTER.....	17,650	17,650
SOUTH CAROLINA		
ARMY		
FORT JACKSON		
TRAINEE BARRACKS COMPLEX 3, PH1.....	52,000	52,000
NAVY		
CHARLESTON		
NUCLEAR POWER OPERATIONAL SUPPORT FACILITY.....	35,716	35,716
DEFENSE-WIDE		
BEAUFORT		
REPLACE FUEL DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES.....	40,600	40,600
SOUTH DAKOTA		
DEFENSE-WIDE		
ELLSWORTH AFB		
CONSTRUCT HYDRANT SYSTEM.....	8,000	8,000
TEXAS		
AIR FORCE		
JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO		
FIRE STATION.....	5,800	5,800
DEFENSE-WIDE		
FORT BLISS		
HOSPITAL REPLACEMENT INCR 6.....	131,500	201,500
JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO		
MEDICAL CLINIC REPLACEMENT.....	38,300	38,300
AIR FORCE RESERVE		
FORT WORTH		
EOD FACILITY.....	3,700	3,700
VERMONT		
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD		
NORTH HYDE PARK		
NATIONAL GUARD VEHICLE MAINTENANCE SHOP.....	4,400	4,400
VIRGINIA		
ARMY		
JOINT BASE LANGLEY-EUSTIS		
TACTICAL VEHICLE HARDSTAND.....	7,700	7,700
NAVY		
DAHLGREN		
MISSILE SUPPORT FACILITY.....	27,313	27,313
NORFOLK		
EOD CONSOLIDATED OPS & LOGISTICS FACILITIES.....	39,274	39,274
PORTSMOUTH		
SUBMARINE MAINTENANCE FACILITY.....	9,743	9,743
QUANTICO		
AMMUNITION SUPPLY POINT EXPANSION.....	12,613	12,613
YORKTOWN		
BACHELOR ENLISTED QUARTERS.....	19,152	19,152
FAST COMPANY TRAINING FACILITY.....	7,836	7,836
DEFENSE-WIDE		
CRANEY ISLAND		
REPLACE & ALTER FUEL DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES.....	36,500	36,500
DEF DISTRIBUTION DEPOT RICHMOND		
REPLACE ACCESS CONTROL POINT.....	5,700	5,700

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)

	BUDGET REQUEST	HOUSE

FORT BELVOIR		
PARKING LOT.....	7,239	7,239
JOINT BASE LANGLEY-EUSTIS		
HOSPITAL ADDITION/CUP REPLACEMENT.....	41,200	41,200
JOINT EXPEDITIONARY BASE LITTLE CREEK - STORY		
SOF HUMAN PERFORMANCE CENTER.....	11,200	---
SOF INDOOR DYNAMIC RANGE.....	14,888	14,888
SOF MOBILE COMM DET SUPPORT FACILITY.....	13,500	13,500
PENTAGON		
REDUNDANT CHILLED WATER LOOP.....	15,100	15,100
ARMY RESERVE		
FORT LEE		
TASS TRAINING CENTER.....	16,000	16,000
WASHINGTON		
NAVY		
BREMERTON		
INTEGRATED WATER TREATMENT SYST. DD 1, 2, & 5.....	16,401	16,401
KITSAP		
EXPLOSIVES HANDLING WHARF #2 (INC).....	83,778	83,778
PORT ANGELES		
TPS PORT ANGELES FORWARD OPERATING LOCATION.....	20,638	20,638
WHIDBEY ISLAND		
P-8A AIRCRAFT APRON AND SUPPORTING FACILITIES.....	24,390	24,390
NAVY RESERVE		
WHIDBEY ISLAND		
C-40 AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE HANGAR.....	27,755	27,755
AUSTRALIA		
DEFENSE-WIDE		
GERALDTON		
COMBINED COMMUNICATIONS GATEWAY GERALDTON.....	9,600	9,600
BAHRAIN ISLAND		
NAVY		
SW ASIA		
P-8A HANGAR.....	27,826	27,826
BELGIUM		
DEFENSE-WIDE		
BRUSSELS		
BRUSSELS ELEMENTARY/HIGH SCHOOL REPLACEMENT.....	41,626	41,626
NATO HEADQUARTERS FACILITY.....	37,918	37,918
CONUS CLASSIFIED		
DEFENSE-WIDE		
CLASSIFIED LOCATION		
SOF SKILLS TRAINING FACILITY.....	53,073	53,073
CUBA		
ARMY		
GUANTANAMO BAY		
DINING FACILITY.....	12,000	12,000
HEALTH CLINIC.....	11,800	11,800
DEFENSE-WIDE		
GUANTANAMO BAY		
REPLACE FUEL TANK.....	11,100	11,100
W.T. SAMPSON E/M AND HS CONSOLID/REPLACEMENT.....	65,190	65,190
DJIBOUTI		
NAVY		
CAMP LEMONIER		
ENTRY CONTROL POINT.....	9,923	9,923

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)

	BUDGET REQUEST	HOUSE

GERMANY		
DEFENSE-WIDE		
RHINE ORDNANCE BARRACKS		
MEDICAL CENTER REPLACEMENT INCR 4.....	259,695	189,695
GUAM		
NAVY		
JOINT REGION MARIANAS		
GSE SHOPS AT NORTH RAMP.....	21,880	21,880
MWSS FACILITIES AT NORTH RAMP.....	28,771	28,771
AIR FORCE		
JOINT REGION MARIANAS		
GUAM STRIKE FUEL SYSTEMS MAINT.HANGAR INC 2.....	64,000	64,000
PRTC - COMBAT COMM INFRASTR FACILITY.....	3,750	3,750
PRTC - RED HORSE LOGISTICS FACILITY.....	3,150	3,150
PRTC - SATELLITE FIRE STATION.....	6,500	6,500
JAPAN		
ARMY		
KADENA AB		
MISSILE MAGAZINE.....	10,600	10,600
NAVY		
IWAKUNI		
SECURITY MODS DPRI MC167-T (CVW-5 E2D EA-18G).....	6,415	6,415
KADENA AB		
AIRCRAFT MAINT HANGAR ALTERATIONS AND SAP-F.....	19,411	19,411
MCAS FUTENMA		
HANGAR & RINSE FACILITY MODERNIZATIONS.....	4,639	4,639
OKINAWA		
LHD PRACTICE SITE IMPROVEMENTS.....	35,685	35,685
DEFENSE-WIDE		
MISAWA AB		
EDGREN HIGH SCHOOL RENOVATION.....	37,775	37,775
OKINAWA		
KILLIN ELEMENTARY REPLACEMENT/RENOVATION.....	71,481	71,481
KUBASAKI HIGH SCHOOL REPLACEMENT/RENOVATION.....	99,420	99,420
SASEBO		
E.J. KING HIGH SCHOOL REPLACEMENT/RENOVATION.....	37,681	37,681
SPAIN		
NAVY		
ROTA		
SHIP BERTHING POWER UPGRADES.....	20,233	20,233
UNITED KINGDOM		
AIR FORCE		
CROUGHTON RAF		
JAC CONSOLIDATION - PHASE 1.....	92,223	---
NATO SECURITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM.....		
	199,700	199,700
WORLDWIDE UNSPECIFIED		
ARMY		
HOST NATION SUPPORT.....		
	33,000	33,000
MINOR CONSTRUCTION.....		
	25,000	25,000
PLANNING AND DESIGN.....		
	18,127	18,127
NAVY		
PLANNING AND DESIGN.....		
	33,366	33,366
MINOR CONSTRUCTION.....		
	7,163	7,163
F-35C FACILITY ADDITION AND MODIFICATION.....		
	16,594	16,594
F-35C OPERATIONAL TRAINING FACILITY.....		
	22,391	22,391

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)

	BUDGET REQUEST	HOUSE

AIR FORCE		
PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	10,738	10,738
MINOR CONSTRUCTION.....	22,613	22,613
DEFENSE-WIDE		
CONTINGENCY CONSTRUCTION.....	9,000	---
ENERGY CONSERVATION INVESTMENT PROGRAM.....	150,000	150,000
PLANNING AND DESIGN		
DEFENSE-WIDE.....	34,425	34,425
DEFENSE INFORMATION SYSTEMS AGENCY.....	745	745
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DEPENDENT EDUCATION.....	42,387	42,387
MISSILE DEFENSE AGENCY.....	38,704	18,704
NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY.....	599	599
SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND.....	24,197	24,197
WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS SERVICE.....	1,183	1,183
SUBTOTAL, PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	142,240	122,240
UNSPECIFIED MINOR CONSTRUCTION		
DEFENSE-WIDE.....	2,700	2,700
DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY.....	5,932	5,932
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DEPENDENT EDUCATION.....	6,846	6,846
MISSILE DEFENSE AGENCY.....	2,000	2,000
NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY.....	2,994	2,994
JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF.....	8,581	8,581
SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND.....	10,334	10,334
DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY.....	4,100	4,100
SUBTOTAL, UNSPECIFIED MINOR CONSTRUCTION.....	43,487	43,487
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD		
PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	17,600	17,600
MINOR CONSTRUCTION.....	13,720	13,720
AIR NATIONAL GUARD		
PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	7,700	7,700
MINOR CONSTRUCTION.....	8,100	8,100
ARMY RESERVE		
PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	8,337	8,337
MINOR CONSTRUCTION.....	3,609	3,609
NAVY RESERVE		
PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	2,123	2,123
MINOR CONSTRUCTION.....	4,000	4,000
AIR FORCE RESERVE		
PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	6,892	6,892
MINOR CONSTRUCTION.....	1,400	1,400
FAMILY HOUSING, ARMY		
ILLINOIS		
ROCK ISLAND		
FAMILY HOUSING NEW CONSTRUCTION (33 units).....	19,500	19,500
KOREA		
CAMP WALKER		
FAMILIY HOUSING NEW CONSTRUCTION (90 units).....	57,800	57,800
PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	1,309	1,309
SUBTOTAL, CONSTRUCTION.....	78,609	78,609

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)

	BUDGET REQUEST	HOUSE

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE		
UTILITIES ACCOUNT.....	82,686	82,686
SERVICES ACCOUNT.....	9,108	9,108
MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT.....	46,597	46,597
MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNT.....	700	700
FURNISHINGS ACCOUNT.....	14,136	14,136
LEASING.....	112,504	112,504
MAINTENANCE OF REAL PROPERTY.....	65,245	65,245
PRIVATIZATION SUPPORT COSTS.....	20,000	20,000
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SUBTOTAL, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.....	350,976	350,976
FAMILY HOUSING, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS		
CONSTRUCTION IMPROVEMENTS.....	15,940	15,940
PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	472	472
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SUBTOTAL, CONSTRUCTION.....	16,412	16,412
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE		
UTILITIES ACCOUNT.....	71,092	71,092
SERVICES ACCOUNT.....	18,079	18,079
MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT.....	55,124	55,124
MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNT.....	366	366
FURNISHINGS ACCOUNT.....	17,881	17,881
LEASING.....	65,999	65,999
MAINTENANCE OF REAL PROPERTY.....	97,612	97,612
PRIVATIZATION SUPPORT COSTS.....	27,876	27,876
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SUBTOTAL, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.....	354,029	354,029
FAMILY HOUSING, AIR FORCE		
CONSTRUCTION IMPROVEMENTS.....	---	---
PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	---	---
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SUBTOTAL, CONSTRUCTION.....	---	---
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE		
UTILITIES ACCOUNT.....	42,322	42,322
MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT.....	47,834	47,834
SERVICES ACCOUNT.....	12,709	12,709
FURNISHINGS ACCOUNT.....	38,543	38,543
MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNT.....	1,993	1,993
LEASING.....	43,651	43,651
MAINTENANCE.....	99,934	99,934
PRIVATIZATION SUPPORT COSTS.....	40,761	40,761
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SUBTOTAL, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.....	327,747	327,747
FAMILY HOUSING, DEFENSE-WIDE		
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE		
NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY		
UTILITIES.....	659	659
FURNISHING.....	746	746
LEASING.....	11,179	11,179
MAINTENANCE OF REAL PROPERTY.....	2,128	2,128
DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY		
FURNISHINGS.....	3,362	3,362
LEASING.....	42,083	42,083
DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY		
UTILITIES.....	170	170
FURNISHINGS.....	20	20
SERVICES.....	31	31

DOCUMENT FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)

	BUDGET REQUEST	HOUSE
MANAGEMENT.....	378	378
MAINTENANCE OF REAL PROPERTY.....	344	344
SUBTOTAL, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.....	61,100	61,100
DOD FAMILY HOUSING IMPROVEMENT FUND.....	1,662	1,662
BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE		
DOD BASE CLOSURE ACCOUNT.....	270,085	270,085
ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS		
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION - FISCAL YEAR 2014 (SEC. 127)...	---	125,000
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION - FISCAL YEAR 2015 (SEC. 128)...	---	245,000
RESCISSIONS FROM PRIOR YEAR UNOBLIGATED BALANCES		
ARMY (SEC. 129).....	---	-79,577
NAVY AND MARINE CORPS.....	---	---
AIR FORCE.....	---	---
DEFENSE-WIDE.....	---	---
AIR NATIONAL GUARD.....	---	---
42 USC 3374 (SEC. 131).....	---	-100,000
NATO SECURITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM (SEC. 130).....	---	-25,000

MINORITY VIEWS

The fiscal year 2015 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies appropriations bill sufficiently funds critical military construction, family housing and quality of life improvements and enhancements for our brave men and women in uniform and their families. In addition, this bill provides adequate funding for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) programs and for our heroes who have made the ultimate sacrifice and are honored in the battle monuments and cemeteries funded in this bill.

We are pleased that the bill continues to build on the fiscal year 2014 bill's efforts to end the veterans' claims backlog. First, the Committee bill continues the aggressive monthly reporting requirements from each specific regional office on claims processing performance and quarterly reports on remediation efforts at the poorest performing regional offices. Second, the bill provides \$20 million in additional funding to the Veterans Benefit Administration (VBA) for digital scanning of health and benefits files, the centralized mail initiative, and staff overtime to increase workforce capacity to reduce the backlog. Finally, the bill fully funds the administration request of \$173.3 million for the Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS), which is the paperless IT system designed to speed processing. With the resources provided in the bill, the VA must eliminate the backlog in 2015.

The bill continues to closely track the VA's development of its Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VistA) Evolution electronic health record. In the aftermath of the DOD and VA decision not to pursue a single integrated health record, it becomes doubly important to ensure that the two health records are designed in a way that permits interoperability between the two systems. The bill continues the practice of the fiscal year 2013 and 2014 bills, to include language requiring the VA to provide information on the VistA Evolution system before release of 75 percent of the funding provided. The fiscal year 2015 directive requires information to track the implementation of the system as described in the documents VA provided to fulfill the 2014 bill language directive. The bill does not intend to delay the progress of developing the health record but believes continuing oversight is necessary to ensure that the health record will have the capabilities and the interoperability promised in the VA documents. The bill also requires specific information on the planned interoperability capability of VistA Evolution, to be provided to the Committee by July 31, 2014, so the Committee can continue to monitor this endeavor. We strongly believe that electronic access to health records makes all files easily searchable, ultimately leading to higher quality care, faster processing times, and reduction of the backlog.

The bill reported out of the Committee represents a good, reasonable approach, preserves our long commitment to our veterans and our military facilities, and continues a bipartisan tradition of providing funding levels that Members on both sides agree are appropriate, while avoiding contentious legislative riders that complicate passage.

SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.
NITA M. LOWEY.

