

**Office of the Sergeant at Arms  
Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Submission**

**Statement of the Honorable Paul D. Irving  
Sergeant at Arms  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Before  
The Subcommittee on Legislative Branch  
Committee on Appropriations**

Good morning Mr. Chairman, Ms. Wasserman Schultz, and members of the Committee.

I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you to present the Sergeant at Arms budget request for fiscal year 2017. Before beginning, I would like to say that it is truly an honor to have an opportunity to serve this institution, and I look forward to continuing to work with you and the other members of this Committee as the year progresses.

As you know, the Office of the Sergeant at Arms provides security, safety and protocol services to Members, Committees and the staff who serve them. To accomplish our mission, we have an extremely dedicated team whose diverse strengths provide the highest level of professionalism and expertise in each of our divisions: Police Services and Law Enforcement, Protocol and Chamber Operations, Parking Security, House Security, Information and Identification Services, and Emergency Management.

As Sergeant at Arms, I am responsible for the oversight of all security matters which relate to the House of Representatives. I serve as a member of the U.S. Capitol Police Board, which establishes policies and guidelines to protect the Capitol complex and its occupants. I also serve as a member of the oversight board of the Office of Congressional Accessibility Services. This small and essential office provides accessibility services for individuals with disabilities, including Members of Congress, officers and employees of the House of Representatives, and visitors to the Capitol complex.

At the beginning of each day, I receive real-time intelligence information providing an overview of campus-wide, local, national, and international events which may have an impact on the safety and security of the House of Representatives. These events include identified criminal activities, threats to Members of Congress, families, and staff, as well as those events and information that might be more closely associated with terrorism and other potentially disruptive activities and actions.

All of this information is gleaned from a variety of sources and through partnerships with federal, state, and local intelligence and law enforcement agencies. In addition to these law enforcement relationships, a critical component of our intelligence network is the USCP Liaison Agent Program, wherein USCP agents are assigned to the various law enforcement task forces, such as the FBI's National Capitol Region Joint Terrorism Task Force and other law enforcement and intelligence liaison divisions.

All of these resources and efforts in intelligence-gathering assist me in evaluating security countermeasures in the context of new and emerging threats, thus providing a more secure environment, both for allowing the House to conduct its business and also for allowing visitors to safely view and participate in the legislative process of government. I want to assure the Committee that I carefully evaluate and balance the security posture of the House of Representatives with the effects that any new security protocol may have on the business process of this institution.

Thanks to the support of this Committee, the Office of the Sergeant at Arms is involved in a number of important new and ongoing projects which I would like to highlight. As I submitted for the record last year, the ongoing Garage Security Enhancement project will address existing vulnerabilities and provide a greatly improved level of security in the House Office Buildings. I am grateful that the Committee has recognized the need for this crucial initiative, as this project would not be where it is today without the sustained support of this Committee these past few fiscal years.

This project is designed to move the entire Capitol complex closer to 100% screening by bringing the House Office Buildings into the secure perimeter and in line with the Senate Office Buildings and the Capitol. The Office of the Sergeant at Arms continues to work in conjunction with the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) and the USCP to implement this important initiative. With the Committee's help, the AOC and the USCP have already installed much of the necessary infrastructure to provide lockdown capability to the building entrances from the garage, thus nearly completing the first phase of the project.

The next phase will include the implementation of standard security screening equipment (x-ray machines and magnetometers) at the established access checkpoints from the garages into the House Office Buildings. We will gradually move forward in implementing a phased-in approach to all the House garages, beginning with the Ford garage and then the Cannon and Longworth House underground garages (the HUGs). Currently, the USCP Board is working with the USCP to identify staffing efficiencies to implement this portion of the project as cost-effectively as possible. This initiative will then incorporate the Rayburn garage into the screening protocol and will be completed in coordination with the Rayburn garage renovation project.

The next AOC portion of the project will be the build out of selected elevator lobbies to accommodate the screening equipment in the Rayburn Garage, dedicating certain elevators to access the screening areas into the building, and repurposing other areas of the garage as support office and storage space. The objective of this phase is to maintain an organized garage with ease of traffic flow and a smooth transition from unscreened to screened areas.

I fully understand that this initiative will eventually have an effect on the business process of the institution. I am actively working with the USCP and AOC to minimize the inconvenience and impact of this project on Members, staff, and others who work in the House Office Buildings. I deeply appreciate the Committee's leadership and support in sharing our firm commitment to bringing the House Office Buildings into our secure perimeter.

In addition to the Garage Security Initiative, I have also been prioritizing various security enhancements to further augment our security posture during FY17. The following projects, coordinated with House Leadership, the AOC and the Senate, will help to enhance the security coverage of the Capitol, while maintaining the openness and park-like setting of the grounds:

The last phase of the multi-part Capitol Security Enhancement initiative is a proposal to install an underground alarm around the perimeter of the Capitol building and provide full camera coverage of Capitol grounds; to bolster the physical structure of the outer planters and the Olmsted wall; and to finance a study to upgrade the lighting on the Capitol East Plaza. The additional alarm would assist with the alert and further enhance the USCP coverage of individuals approaching the base of the Capitol, as well as provide full integration with the existing cameras. Bolstering the planters and the Olmsted wall will complete the outer perimeter security and help prevent breaches onto the Capitol Square. Upgrading the lighting systems will provide illumination levels necessary to meet current security and safety standards and would ideally have the capability of adjustable lighting levels to be utilized after dark during votes or in emergency situations.

In addition to these new initiatives, the Office of the Sergeant at Arms sustains a number of ongoing projects, the continuation of which would not be possible without the shared commitment and support of this Committee.

The installation of new storm windows in the House Office Buildings is a vital part of the initiative to upgrade and strengthen the facades of the House Office Buildings. These windows are also designed to be blast- and shatter-resistant for greater protection of occupants inside the offices, as well as maintaining the structural integrity of the buildings. The Architect is currently reviewing the design of these windows, and installation is anticipated to begin later this year, starting with the Longworth Building.

Within the Capitol itself, in addition to existing magnetometers, continued implementation of enhanced screening portals within the House Gallery check-in area in the Capitol Visitor Center will provide an additional layer of security to the galleries of the House of Representatives. Visitors are now able to be screened for powders, liquids and other non-metallic objects prior to entering the House galleries.

For the Sergeant at Arms Office in particular, the upgrade of a new server infrastructure will provide for “virtual machines” (multiple server instances running in memory) that provide ease of management and processing speed optimization. This includes a primary system installed in the Ford HOB and a secondary system being replicated to the alternate computing facility for failover purposes. We are currently consulting with our technical support contractors, as well as other House system administrators, to determine the best options for the appropriate hardware and server software for the server upgrade. We expect to have a plan for moving forward in the next few weeks. At that time we will solicit quotes from a number of vendors with the intention of issuing a purchase order by the end of March 2016.

Additionally, as you know, my office implements a comprehensive Emergency Management Program for the House of Representatives, planning for the continuity of operations of the House and the safety of House Members, employees and visitors during emergencies. As part of our emergency preparedness strategy, my office oversees planning, training and exercises - including notifications, evacuations, and shelter-in-place activities - to ensure readiness to respond to a variety of emergency scenarios affecting the House. For example, we place strong emphasis on our Active Shooter Training program, an initiative designed to instruct Members and staff about the life-safety skills necessary to respond to and protect themselves against an active shooter threat. After the events in Paris and San Bernardino, requests for this training by Members and House support offices have increased significantly.

Employees of the Sergeant at Arms have also supported numerous special events over the past year, including the unprecedented visit of His Holiness Pope Francis of the Holy See, the annual State of the Union Address by the President, off-site issues retreats, visits by heads of state,

honorary ceremonies, various concerts, and other activities throughout the year. Planning is currently underway for the Inauguration of the 45<sup>th</sup> President of the United States.

Finally, in partnership with the USCP, my office maintains a strong, effective outreach program with Member offices regarding District Office security. We offer guidance on best practices, providing information on how to obtain a thorough security review and how to coordinate security surveys when requested. We will continue to provide this essential service to offices, remaining mindful of the need to provide cost-effective recommendations and solutions. Two of our most successful initiatives have been the implementation of mail hoods in the District Offices and our Law Enforcement Coordinator program.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak to the Committee about the Sergeant at Arms' new and ongoing security initiatives, and now I would like to turn your attention to our more specific FY17 requests. As always, the employees in the Sergeant at Arms organization are our most important assets and have a shared responsibility in fulfilling the Sergeant at Arms mission. While we were authorized for 132 FTE in fiscal year 2016, we are requesting funds for 130 mission-critical positions in Office of the Sergeant at Arms.

Non-personnel expenses for fiscal year 2017 will continue to support travel, for which funding is primarily required for the advance and support of large scale off-campus events involving Members of Congress; telecommunications funding will support telephone, cell phone, air cards and wireless service for all divisions of the Sergeant at Arms; printing funding will support general printing needs as well as the preparation of emergency training materials; training and contracting services will include funding for job-specific training for Sergeant at Arms staff, as well as for contractual services in the areas of threat mitigation, force protection, counterterrorism, emergency preparedness, response and recovery, and Chamber and Gallery operations; supplies and materials funding will be utilized for the purchase of office supplies, ID supplies, parking security uniforms; and finally, general equipment funding is requested for the life-cycle replacement of PC's, software systems, laptops, wireless devices and cellphones.

The FY 2017 Sergeant at Arms budget request has been prepared in the spirit of zero-based budgeting – without jeopardizing mission-critical services provided to the House community. In order to fund on-going efforts, the Office of the Sergeant at Arms requests **\$15,571,000** for fiscal year 2017. This includes **\$9,952,098** for personnel expenses and **\$5,618,902** for non-personnel items.

In closing, I would like to thank the Committee once again for the opportunity to appear before you. I would like to reiterate how grateful I am for the Committee's unyielding support as we strive to maintain the delicate balance between implementing strong security measures while simultaneously allowing free and open access to the Capitol complex. I want to assure you of my deep commitment – and that of my entire office – to providing the highest quality services for the House of Representatives and maintaining the safest and most secure environment possible. We remain vigilant and focused on security and preparedness, striving to adhere to the strict level of fiscal responsibility entrusted to us by the House of Representatives.

As always, I will keep the Committee informed of my activities and will be happy to answer any questions you may have.