

**Office of the Sergeant at Arms
Fiscal Year 2018 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, Ranking Member Ryan, and members of the Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you to present the Sergeant at Arms budget request for fiscal year 2018. 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 all security matters which relate to the House of Representatives. I serve as a member of the U.S. Capitol Police Board, which oversees the U.S. Capitol Police (USCP) and establishes policies and guidelines to protect the Capitol complex and its occupants. The Capitol Police Board is a statutorily created, bicameral, non-partisan board of directors comprised of the House and Senate Sergeants at Arms, the Architect of the Capitol (AOC), and the Chief of Police. I work closely with the Board to support the USCP in its mission to protect and serve the Capitol community, proactively seeking to implement new security initiatives and to stay ahead of new and emerging threats.

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 Joint Terrorism Task Force, the FBI Washington Field Office Joint Terrorism Task Force, the Secret Service Electronic Crimes Task Force, as well as other law enforcement and intelligence liaison assignments.

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 utilize all sources of intelligence and 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. I appreciate the support I have received from the Committee as I strive to maintain the balance of security and accessibility.

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 you are aware, my office maintains a strong, effective outreach program with Member offices regarding District Office security. Two of our most successful initiatives have been the implementation of mail hoods in the District Offices and our Law Enforcement Coordinator program. We also offer guidance on best practices, providing information on how to obtain a thorough security review and how to coordinate

security surveys when requested. For FY18, I am proposing a physical security package for each District's primary office, which will include a duress system and a video intercom system, so that staff may be able to more readily monitor individuals accessing the District Office area and have the ability to summon law enforcement quickly in the event of an emergency. Additionally, I am proposing a security awareness program for District Office staff, which will entail sending a team of security and law enforcement experts to travel to Congressional Districts to provide hands-on training to staff to prepare them to effectively to manage crowd control, coordinate security for events, and handle potential threat situations.

I am also requesting funding for a nominal increase in FTE for the Office of the Sergeant at Arms. New FTE in the Division of Emergency Management will provide support to the emergency preparedness, operations, and planning efforts of the office and will also focus on emergency preparedness training specifically tailored to Member and Committee Offices. These FTE will also reduce our reliance on contracting services. Additional FTE in the Division of Protocol and Chamber Operations will assist in the enforcement of policies and procedures related to House Floor access and ensure greater service to Members and staff on the Floor. FTE in the Division of House Security will staff the Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF) located in the Rayburn Building, which is available to all Member offices and Committees. SCIF personnel control access, monitor classified briefings, perform administrative tasks necessary to ensure the integrity of the SCIF, and serve as the recipient of classified information from various intelligence agencies. Our Division of Information Services FTE request will provide database expertise and will ensure the various systems the Sergeant at Arms uses remain operational and efficient. In addition, this FTE will provide desktop and technical support to all Sergeant at Arms staff. In the Division of House Garages and Parking Security, new FTE will provide a consistent presence on all lots and garages and will provide House staff with parking availability during the renovation of the Rayburn Garage and the transition of the O'Neill House Office Building. The remaining FTE will assist with the increased duties and responsibilities relating to the acquisition of the O'Neill HOB and will enhance my office's ability to staff the O'Neill service center to provide security guidance for House staff working in that building. These FTE will be essential in coordinating with the USCP regarding all security

initiatives for the O'Neill HOB and collaborating with the USCP in maintaining, upgrading, and unifying the security systems of the building (such as cameras, prox cards, and alarms).

Employees of the Sergeant at Arms are our greatest asset and will continue to support numerous special events in the upcoming year, including the State of the Union Address and any addresses to Joint Meetings of Congress by foreign heads of state, as well as CODEL travel, off-site issues retreats, honorary ceremonies, the holiday concerts, and other activities.

The Office of the Sergeant at Arms is working on a number of ongoing projects, the continuation of which would not be possible without the shared commitment and support of this Committee. The Garage Security Enhancement project is continuing to address existing vulnerabilities and provide a greatly improved level of security in the House Office Buildings. 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. 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 appreciate the Committee's support in bringing the House Office Buildings into our secure perimeter.

The next 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.

In addition to the Garage Security Initiative, I have also been prioritizing various security enhancements to further augment our security posture. Carrying over from FY17 into FY18, funding to install an underground alarm around the perimeter of the Capitol building, 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 will help to enhance the security coverage of the

Capitol, while maintaining the openness and park-like setting of the grounds.

Additionally, 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. This year, the House is unrolling the Joint Emergency Mass Notification System (JEMNS), which enables mass emergency notification to be sent to House, Senate, AOC and USCP staff via multiple devices (e.g. phone, email, text) using a single interface. The annunciator system will continue to serve as a backup to the new JEMNS system, and we are requesting funds for its lifecycle replacement.

Non-personnel expenses for FY18 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. Funding will also provide job-specific training for Sergeant at Arms staff in the areas of threat mitigation, force protection, counterterrorism, emergency preparedness, response and recovery, and Chamber and Gallery operations. 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. Supplies and materials funding will be utilized for the purchase of office supplies, ID supplies, and parking security uniforms. Finally, general equipment funding is requested for the life-cycle replacement of PC's, software systems, laptops, wireless devices and cellphones.

The FY 2018 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 **\$18,076,000** for fiscal year 2018. This includes **\$11,104,000** for personnel expenses and **\$6,972,000** 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.