

**Office of the Sergeant at Arms  
Fiscal Year 2019 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 Chairman Yoder, Ranking Member Ryan, and members of the Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to present the Office of the Sergeant at Arms budget request for fiscal year 2019. It is an honor and a privilege to serve this institution, and I look forward to continuing to work with the Committee as this year progresses.

The expectations of House Leadership and Members of Congress are very different from when the first Sergeant at Arms was elected in 1789. Modern security needs to protect Members of Congress have transformed the mission and character of the Office of the Sergeant at Arms. Following the events of last summer, we established an Operations Center and created the Chief Operations Officer position within the Immediate Office to monitor incidents and communicate with incident response and stakeholders. Members received an unprecedented number of threats and threatening communications within the last year. The increased number of threats has required an increased level of safety and security needs in Washington, DC and in Members' Districts. In response, the Office of the Sergeant at Arms has created and staffed an enhanced District Office Security Program. I want to thank the Committee for its support of this program and ensuring that we are able to do all that we can to keep people safe while providing public access.

As Sergeant at Arms, I am responsible for all security matters which relate to the House of Representatives. I currently serve as Chairman of the U.S. Capitol Police Board, which oversees the U.S. Capitol Police (USCP) and establishes policies and guidelines to secure the Capitol complex and its occupants. 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.

Throughout each day, I receive information providing an overview of 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 our resources and efforts in threat information and other secure intelligence 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. I want to assure the committee that I utilize all sources of information to 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.

In my oversight role over the USCP, I have recommended numerous security enhancements for the Capitol campus, continually adapting our strategy and security posture based on the ever-developing intelligence that we receive. The increase in threats both to the campus and to individual Members alike has challenged me to work with the USCP in deploying enhanced security measures and adjusting our tactical response, always taking into account the variety of ways in which we may be called upon to respond.

A security enhancement that I would like to highlight for the Committee is a measure to address security concerns at key exterior points of entry in order to identify and mitigate threats before they reach the interior of our buildings. The USCP Board has been working closely with the AOC and USCP on this important initiative which entails identifying options for exterior screening at the most heavily used entrances throughout the Capitol Complex. However, a more immediate plan is to create a separate South Screening Kiosk on the House side of the Capitol, as well as upgrade the existing North Screening Kiosk on the North of the Capitol. A current vulnerability which should be addressed is the security screening which takes place inside the U.S. Capitol at the South Door. A security screening structure outside of the U.S. Capitol would ensure that security threats are identified and mitigated outside the U.S. Capitol building. This separate screening structure would incorporate all current security protocols into one location (such as magnetometer, x-ray, full-body scan technology, canine screening and the appointments desk) to ensure that everyone entering the U.S. Capitol is authorized and cleared before they enter the building. My staff is working closely with the AOC and USCP on the requirements and protocols for this Capitol pre-screening security measure, and I will keep the Committee informed of our progress.

With regard to other security initiatives for FY19, the Office of the Sergeant at Arms proposes the continuation of our District Office Security outreach program with Member offices. Last year, we created and staffed a new initiative to upgrade and install physical security system equipment in District Offices. Thanks to this Committee and through this program, the Sergeant at Arms has the funding to pay for installation of security system equipment at one District Office per Member. This equipment includes a basic intrusion detection alarm system, duress buttons, and an intercom system. Upon request, the Sergeant at Arms will also pay the monthly alarm system monitoring fees at all District Office locations, including preexisting systems.

In addition to physical security enhancements, the District Security Service Center was established to serve as the primary contact point for staff requests, questions and issues. To date, a majority of Members have received security system installations in their District Offices, and more offices are currently in the process of being secured. We also expanded our Law Enforcement Coordinator training and launched a pilot program in which Sergeant at Arms staff traveled to Congressional Districts to provide hands-on training to prepare district staff to effectively manage crowd control, coordinate security for events, and handle potential threat situations. These briefings served to bolster the education already provided by the Law Enforcement Coordinator (LEC) Program.

For FY19, I am requesting appropriated funds to continue this program, as well as to continue the implementation of mail hoods and the LEC program in the District Offices. We will also be assisting the District Offices during the transition from the 115<sup>th</sup> to the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress, educating Members-elect on the District Office Security Program, explaining their options for security system equipment installations and upgrades for their District Office, whether they choose to remain in the previous Member's location or move to a different location within the District. We will continue to coordinate with the CAO regarding the inventory procurement for the program.

On the Capitol campus, several projects have been completed, thanks to our partnership with the Committee. Enhanced Screening Portals (ESPs) were installed around the House Galleries this year, and they have proven to be successful at detecting non-metallic objects that are not identified by the magnetometers. At the State of the Union Address in particular, the enhanced screening resulted in smooth screening times and were met with an overall positive response. For day-to-day routine business, we will be equipping the Appointments Desks with an upgraded official business visitor badging system containing more refined security features. Due to the upcoming relocation of the ID office because of the Cannon construction, we will be reviewing the business processes of ID Services, including software system upgrades which will enable online ID request submissions by Member offices, thereby streamlining and expediting the ID badging process.

This past year, the House implemented the Joint Emergency Mass Notification System (JEMNS), which has successfully enabled mass emergency notifications 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 an audible backup to the new JEMNS system until we begin implementation of the Joint Audible Warning System in the upcoming years. These notification systems are integral to the Emergency Management Program, which plans 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.

The successful transition of the O'Neill House Office Building resulted from coordination with the USCP regarding all security initiatives for O'Neill and maintaining, upgrading, and unifying the security systems of the building - such as cameras, prox cards, and alarms - to be congruous with the other House Office Buildings. In addition, my office is working in conjunction with Leadership, the AOC, the CAO and the USCP on the expansion of the House of Representatives Child Care Center (HRCCC). We will continue to advise our Congressional stakeholders in this project, keeping them abreast of screening and other security protocols as the HRCCC expansion space is retrofitted.

In addition to the successes of these projects and programs, the Office of the Sergeant at Arms is working on a number of ongoing security projects, the continuation of which would not be possible without the shared commitment of this Committee. As you know, the Garage Security Enhancement 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. Phase One of the Rayburn Garage Rehabilitation Project was completed this year and included the build-out of elevator vestibules to accommodate screening equipment, the dedication of certain elevators to access the screening areas into the building, and the repurposing of other areas in the garage as support office and storage space. We are grateful for the Committee's support in securing funding for the USCP and the AOC so that security screening can commence as soon as possible.

Because of the enhanced support operations of Sergeant at Arms staff and these new and ongoing security initiatives, I am requesting funding for an increase in FTE for several divisions. Employees of the Sergeant at Arms are our strongest asset, and growing our team is essential for the successful execution of numerous special events, projects, and programs in the upcoming years. These FTE will also reduce our reliance on contracting services.

First and foremost, increased FTE in the Division of Police Services and Law Enforcement will provide greater service and support to the District community and ensure the success of the District Office Security Program. Additional positions will ensure close collaboration with the USCP in providing enhanced emergency response services to the Congressional community and analyzing intelligence related to the Capitol campus. New Police Services FTE will also be assigned and dedicated specifically to tracking and responding to threats against Members. The Division of Police Services and Law Enforcement serves as the primary point of contact for Members, liaising between them, the USCP and/or local law enforcement to investigate threats or directions of interest and bring them to a successful resolution.

The new FTE request for the Emergency Management Division (EMD) will reduce our reliance on contracting services and provide support to the emergency preparedness, operations, and planning efforts of the office. EMD also spearheads program management, staff training, drills and exercise development, the Office Emergency Coordinator (OEC) Program, equipment testing, continuity operations, and support of the House Operations Center (HOC).

The Division of Protocol and Chamber Operations FTE will ensure greater security to the House Chamber and enforcement of House rules, provide more efficient document submission assistance for the Clerk, and enhance press liaison services to Members and staff on the House Floor. Chamber Operations also provides services for staff and visitors to the House galleries, checking in and securing items that are prohibited in the galleries and providing escort for visitors from the CVC up to the galleries.

The request for new FTE in the House Security Division will staff the new 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.

Information Services FTE will provide database expertise and will ensure the seamless integration and efficient operational management of the various systems utilized by Sergeant at Arms. Information Services provides desktop and technical support to all Sergeant at Arms staff, and it is in the process of launching the new ID and Parking web software.

In the Division of House Garages and Parking Security, new FTE will provide assistance as we transition into a new Congress and continue the renovation of the Rayburn Garage. Finally, in the Immediate Office, additional FTE will provide enhanced operational and administrative support.

Non-personnel expenses for FY19 will continue to support travel, including USCP advance and support of overseas Leadership CODELs, as well as other large scale off-campus events attended by Members of Congress. Funding will also provide critical job-specific training for Sergeant at Arms staff in the areas of project management, acquisition procedures, physical protection systems, management and customer service. Telecommunications funding will support and upgrade 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, security and District Office training materials. Supplies and materials funding will be utilized for the purchase of office supplies, ID supplies, updated visitor badges, and parking security uniforms. Finally, general equipment funding is requested for the lifecycle replacement of PCs, software systems, laptops, wireless devices, cellphones, and desktop phones.

The FY 2019 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 ongoing efforts, the Office of the Sergeant at Arms requests **\$18,773,000** for fiscal year 2019. This includes **\$13,246,000** for personnel expenses to fund the 144 authorized FTE plus 11 new FTE, as well as **\$5,527,000** for non-personnel items.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to appear before the Committee. I would like to express again how grateful I am for the Committee's unyielding support and partnership as we

strive to maintain the delicate balance between strong security measures and 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 permitted. 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 I am happy to answer any questions you may have.