

**Office of the Sergeant at Arms  
Fiscal Year 2021 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 Ryan, Ranking Member Herrera Beutler, and Members of the Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to present the Office of the Sergeant at Arms budget request for fiscal year 2021. It is an honor and a privilege to serve this institution, and I look forward to continuing to partner with the Committee as this year progresses.

Since the First Congress, the daily responsibilities and expectations of the Sergeant at Arms have significantly changed. Recent events have required the Sergeant at Arms to reexamine the security needs and requirements of the institution and adapt its mission, response, and character to maximize security in light of the institution's business processes. Members of Congress continue to receive an unprecedented number of threats and threatening communications mandating a proactive approach to our security posture, which my office has worked to implement and refine over the past several years.

Before I mention our FY21 requests, I would like to highlight and update the Committee on a few initiatives that are either in place or in a planned implementation phase.

The first is an initiative the Sergeant at Arms, in conjunction with the Capitol Police and Architect of the Capitol, implemented last August: the Garage Security Enhancement Project. As the Committee knows well, the Garage Security Enhancement Project was a result of years of planning and coordination and was designed to maximize security while maintaining essential business processes and minimizing inconvenience. It could not have happened without years of support and helpful feedback from this Subcommittee.

The implementation of the Garage Security Enhancement Project ensures all staff and visitor entrances provide security screening. The enhancements created six new screening checkpoints from the garages into the House Office Buildings. This ensures the same level of screening,

whether using the pedestrian entrances or the garages, to all House (and resultingly Senate) Office Buildings. As a result of these changes, we have been able to modify access to the Capitol, thereby allowing staff to forgo the additional delay of an internal magnetometer screening when using the pedestrian tunnels. We have also streamlined screening and access to the Capitol from the Cannon tunnel for visitors. As the garage rehabilitation project continues, I will continue to work with the Capitol Police and the Architect of the Capitol to minimize the inconvenience and impact of this project on Members, staff, and others who work in the House Office Buildings. I thank this Subcommittee for its support.

During the last year, my office has also focused on ensuring appropriate physical security protection for Members, whether they are in their district or in Washington, D.C. We have employed a multi-faceted effort to compliment sound security practices for Members and their staff, as we continue to build on the success of the District Office Security Program.

Many Members receive threats and direction of interest communications that raise concerns for the Members, their families, and staff. The number of threatening communications has dramatically increased the past few years. In light of this increase, my office proactively interfaces with Members' offices to coordinate security for off-campus events in the Washington, DC area, their districts, or elsewhere across the country. Upon receiving a request for law enforcement support, the Sergeant at Arms will request the Capitol Police conduct a security assessment to determine what protective services are needed and if those services will be provided by state and local law enforcement and/or cooperating federal law enforcement partners. I have tasked my office to provide a level of protective support that is based on a set of criteria which forms the basis of an enhanced level of support, such as an increased public profile. Protective services can range from a notification to local law enforcement, to additional assistance to the Member's District Office staff, to a Capitol Police deployment. As an example of these activities, my office and the U.S. Capitol Police coordinated law enforcement support for more than 765 district events in FY19. These include public appearances and events hosted or attended by Members. In conjunction with the Capitol Police, the Office of the Sergeant at Arms performed 44 Security Awareness Briefings for Members' offices last fiscal year.

The Office of the Sergeant at Arms continues to build upon the success of our District Office Security Program that was launched in the summer of 2017. The District Security Service Center

continues to serve as a single point of contact for district security matters. Since its inception just over two years ago, the Service Center has documented over 17,000 interactions with district office staff. During this time period, the Service Center coordinated the installation or upgrade of 540 security systems, through our national contract. In addition to coordinating security upgrades, we pay for monthly security monitoring and maintenance invoices on behalf of Member offices, which includes monthly invoicing and billing for more than 500 current systems.

During this past fiscal year, our staff, along with staff from the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), began visiting district offices to develop a better understanding of the needs of district staff in order to expand the services provided to district staff. In the past 12 months, personnel from the Service Center visited 53 district offices. Thirty-five district office visits are planned in the first quarter of calendar year 2020 alone. We plan to broaden our services by increasing our visits with the CAO to district offices to an annual goal of 150 district offices. The visits completed to date have been very helpful for our staff and we received great feedback from district staff. Additionally, we intend to continue working with the CAO and the Capitol Police to create additional online training offerings for our Law Enforcement Coordinators (LECs) and district staff, allowing for a convenient, low cost alternative for district staff wishing to increase their security awareness. We also plan to update the HSAA website with additional resources to better support district staff needs.

The Service Center also oversees our LEC program, which acts as a force multiplier for the SAA. LECs serve a vital role of coordinating security needs for the Member and staff in the district. The SAA recently completed a revision to the LEC handbook, which is being delivered to our LECs during the first quarter of 2020. As a part of this effort, the SAA is also developing three additional online training modules for district staff, which are expected to be released in the first quarter of 2020.

The FY20 Sergeant at Arms budget included travel costs for Member support during the party nominating conventions. My office is currently coordinating with the Capitol Police and other stakeholders to ensure a proactive and appropriate security posture for the party nominating conventions. There is a tremendous amount of logistical work and liaison with other law enforcement agencies to ensure an appropriate level of security for the events.

Another recent initiative underway enhances the screening of visitors outside our buildings designed to identify and mitigate threats before they reach the interior of our buildings. Physical security planning for the Capitol complex starts with pre-screeners at the outer perimeter and moves inward. In response to global terrorist threats, we have significantly enhanced the K-9 teams and officer pre-screeners outside the building entrances. I am working with the Architect of the Capitol on the planned Capitol South Door Screening Kiosk to move visitor screening outside the Capitol and into an appropriately-sized screening kiosk adjacent to the Capitol. Not only will this kiosk ensure that all visitors are screened outside the Capitol building, it will also provide the thousands of visitors to the House Chamber an indoor waiting area that will greatly enhance their experience. The ongoing design phase is a collaboration among the Architect of the Capitol, the Sergeant at Arms office, and the Capitol Police, and I am grateful for the Committee's support in securing funding for this phase.

The Office of the Sergeant at Arms has also used the resources the Committee generously provided for the House Safe Program. The House Safe Program transition is currently entering its final phase. The funding provided in the FY20 budget will be used to replace additional outdated analog safes with new digital safes that adhere to the U.S. Government's highest security standard. These safes will protect sensitive information in Member and Committee offices in the House Office Buildings.

Another initiative currently underway is the technology upgrade for our Garage and Parking Security Division. The new system will allow our employees to conduct enforcement of parking violations electronically by allowing our employees to scan the parking permits on vehicles to quickly determine if they are in the correct location and to seamlessly report a violation if they are not. While parking enforcement is never a popular part of the Sergeant at Arms portfolio, it is necessary so that Members are able to quickly park and transit the campus in a manner that permits them to manage their calendars.

I am very proud of the work that has gone into these initiatives and the services my team provides to the House community.

In addition to these important projects, I would like to present the Sergeant at Arms FY21 requests.

For FY21, I am requesting funding for the Joint Audible Warning System, or JAWS. This is a shared effort with the Senate Sergeant at Arms, Architect of the Capitol, and Capitol Police to replace the aging wireless emergency annunciator system. The existing wireless annunciator system was introduced as a temporary measure following the events of 9/11. The system components of these pager-like devices (which are located in all DC offices) are beyond their end-of-life dates, the technology is old, battery components are no longer produced, and system support by the vendor is limited. Eighteen years after implementation, the funding requested will help procure a new joint system, with encrypted transmission capabilities and new devices for all offices in the House. It is critical for us to replace the system components, including the 2,500 devices currently in every office, every hearing room, meeting room, and work area in the House-side of the Capitol, Capitol Visitor Center, and all five House Office Buildings.

With the new JAWS system, emergency voice notifications will be sent via secure radio frequency to all offices and meeting spaces throughout the campus. This radio frequency system will not rely on cell towers or IP-based networks and will provide a separate and critical system that will work in parallel with the other notification systems in place, to provide critical life-safety information to everyone in the House. Importantly, the encryption capability will help ensure messages are sent from trusted, authorized officials to verified devices.

The JAWS effort, in conjunction with other existing notification capabilities – the Joint Emergency Mass Notification System (or House Alert currently available on desktops and cellphones) and the Public Address System (the loudspeaker system in office hallways) – will provide notification resiliency. Collectively, they will use multiple delivery methods, including email systems, cell towers, network systems, and radio frequencies, to send emergency messages to Members and staff. The requested amount for FY21 is \$4,500,000 and represents the largest portion of the Sergeant at Arms requested budget increase.

I am also requesting funding to continue providing security services to Member district offices through the Sergeant at Arms District Office Security Program. My office carefully managed resources on the existing contract to avoid funding the contract during FY20. However, I am requesting the funds to exercise our option year on the contract so that we can continue to purchase, install, and pay for maintenance and monitoring for District Office Security systems. As discussed earlier in my testimony, the District Office Security systems form the backbone of

the support that my office provides to district offices. Therefore, I view the District Office Security system programs as a necessary and basic investment in ensuring security for Members, staff and constituents when they are visiting a Member's district office.

Employees of the Sergeant at Arms Office are our strongest asset. For FY21, I am requesting funding for three new FTE.

Within the Division of Police Services and Law Enforcement, the additional FTE will collaborate with the Capitol Police and support new security response needs identified by my office and the Capitol Police. This FTE will assist with the district office security program, the management of the mail safety hood program, the management of the Law Enforcement Coordinator program, and assist with the administrative support for visits to district offices.

Within the Division of Emergency Management, the additional FTE will provide the staffing needed for the increasing requirements to support emergency preparedness, operations, and planning efforts. This additional FTE will also help to ensure each Member and Committee office is provided with focused emergency preparedness services, so the House is postured to respond to emergencies to ensure critical services and functions are continued under any circumstance.

Finally, within the Division of House Security, the new FTE will assist with the security education portfolio and help provide time-sensitive briefings on foreign travel, operational security, defensive counterintelligence, and security indoctrination briefings.

Non-personnel expenses for FY21 will continue to support travel, including Sergeant at Arms approved Capitol Police advance and support of overseas Leadership CODELs, and other large scale off-campus events attended by Members of Congress. Funding will continue to provide critical job-specific training for Sergeant at Arms staff in the areas of project management, physical protection systems, and customer service. Telecommunications funding will support cell phone, air cards and wireless service for all divisions of the Sergeant at Arms. Printing funding will support general printing needs and 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, and the lifecycle replacement of 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 FY21 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. To fund ongoing efforts, the Office of the Sergeant at Arms requests \$26,086,000 for fiscal year 2021. This includes \$14,262,000 for personnel to fund 163 FTE plus 3 new FTE and \$11,824,000 for non-personnel items.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to appear before the Committee. I am so appreciative 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 am happy to answer any questions you may have.