

**Full Committee Markup – FY 2019 Defense Appropriations Bill
Subcommittee Chairwoman Kay Granger**

Opening Statement

June 13, 2018

GOOD AFTERNOON. I AM PLEASED TO BRING THE DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019 TO THE FULL COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION.

I WANT TO THANK ALL MEMBERS FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS THIS YEAR. THE BILL INCORPORATES YOUR IDEAS AND PRIORITIES.

THE BILL TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE OVER 6,600 REQUESTS SUBMITTED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OUR HOUSE COLLEAGUES.

I WANT TO THANK MY RANKING MEMBER AND PARTNER, MR. VISCLOSKY. YOUR INPUT HAS BEEN INVALUABLE. THE BILL BEFORE US IS BETTER BECAUSE OF YOUR INVOLVEMENT.

I ALSO WANT TO THANK THE FULL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND RANKING MEMBER. YOUR LEADERSHIP, UNDERSTANDING, COMMITMENT AND SUPPORT FOR THE WORK THAT IS DONE IN THIS BILL ARE ESSENTIAL.

CONGRESS'S NUMBER ONE RESPONSIBILITY IS TO PROVIDE FOR THE DEFENSE OF THIS NATION. IT IS THIS COMMITTEE, AND THIS BILL, THAT FULFILLS THAT MOST FUNDAMENTAL CONSTITUTIONAL DUTY.

LAST YEAR, GENERAL DUNFORD, CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF SAID, "THE U.S. MILITARY'S COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE AGAINST POTENTIAL ADVERSARIES IS ERODING. OVER THE LAST DECADE, SUSTAINED OPERATIONAL COMMITMENTS, BUDGETARY INSTABILITY, AND ADVANCES BY OUR ADVERSARIES HAVE THREATENED OUR ABILITY TO PROJECT POWER AND WE HAVE LOST OUR ADVANTAGE IN KEY WARFIGHTING AREAS."

MY APPROACH TO FUNDING THIS BILL IS BASED ON THAT STATEMENT. THE PRIORITIES FUNDED IN THIS BILL NOT ONLY STOP THE EROSION, BUT ALSO ENABLES OUR MILITARY TO RESTORE AND INCREASE THEIR COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE.

THIS IS ALL POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF THE BI-PARTISAN BUDGET AGREEMENT, WHICH HAS ALLOWED US TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY RESOURCES

THE FISCAL YEAR 2018 DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT TOOK THE FIRST STEP IN REBUILDING OUR MILITARY BY ADDRESSING THE TOLL TAKEN ON READINESS

AND BEGAN TO MAKE INVESTMENTS TO IMPROVE OUR COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE.

BUILDING ON THE GAINS WE MADE IN 2018, AND GUIDED BY THE NEW NATIONAL DEFENSE STRATEGY, THE BILL BEFORE YOU IS THE NEXT CRITICAL STEP TO ENABLE SECRETARY MATTIS TO BUILD A MORE LETHAL, RESILIENT, AND RAPIDLY INNOVATING JOINT FORCE THAT CAN DEFEAT THE ADVERSARIES WE FACE TODAY, AND THOSE WE WILL FACE IN THE FUTURE.

THE BILL ALSO SUPPORTS THE SECRETARY'S EFFORTS TO WORK BY, WITH AND THROUGH OUR ALLIES AND PARTNERS TO HELP SHARE THE BURDEN WHILE PROTECTING AMERICA'S INTERESTS AROUND THE WORLD.

THIS BILL REFLECTS THE ADVICE THE SUBCOMMITTEE RECEIVED IN HEARINGS, BRIEFINGS, AND MEETINGS WITH SECRETARY MATTIS, CHAIRMAN DUNFORD, THE LEADERSHIP OF THE MILITARY SERVICES, THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY, AND OTHER NATIONAL SECURITY EXPERTS.

THE BILL PROVIDES A TOTAL OF \$675 BILLION TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019. THIS IS \$19 BILLION ABOVE THE FISCAL YEAR 2018 LEVEL AND IS CONSISTENT WITH THE HOUSE PASSED AUTHORIZATION BILL.

THE BILL PROVIDES \$144 BILLION TO ADDRESS MILITARY PERSONNEL NEEDS, INCLUDING:

- FULL FUNDING FOR AN ADDITIONAL 16,400 ACTIVE, GUARD AND RESERVE SOLDIERS, SAILORS AND AIRMEN.
- FULL FUNDING FOR THE 2.6 PERCENT PAY RAISE FOR OUR TROOPS.

THE BILL PROVIDES \$246 BILLION TO REPAIR AND IMPROVE OUR MILITARY READINESS, INCLUDING:

- \$1 BILLION OVER THE REQUEST FOR TRAINING AND EQUIPPING OUR TROOPS, INCLUDING THE NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE, AND FOR TRAINING, EQUIPMENT, MAINTENANCE AND SPARE PARTS AND BASE OPERATIONS.
- \$21 BILLION FOR DEPOT MAINTENANCE TO GET OUR PLANES AND SHIPS BACK IN WORKING ORDER.

FOR PROCUREMENT, THE BILL PROVIDES \$146 BILLION FOR INCREASED INVESTMENTS TO MODERNIZE THE FORCE.

MAJOR INVESTMENTS INCLUDE:

- INCREASED FUNDS FOR STRYKERS, ABRAMS TANKS, HUMVEES, AND OTHER GROUND MOBILITY VEHICLES.

- TO MAINTAIN AIR SUPERIORITY, WE PROVIDE INCREASES FOR KEY PLATFORMS SUCH AS JOINT STRIKE FIGHTERS, APACHES, LAKOTAS, OSPREYS, BLACK HAWKS, AND C-130s.
- WE MAINTAIN OUR COMMITMENT TO THE NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE COMPONENTS, PROVIDING \$1.3 BILLION OVER THE REQUEST SPECIFICALLY FOR THEIR EQUIPMENT NEEDS.
- FOR SHIPBUILDING, WE FUND 12 NAVY SHIPS, 2 MORE THAN REQUESTED.

TO ENSURE OUR TECHNOLOGICAL EDGE AGAINST OUR ADVERSARIES, \$95 BILLION IS INCLUDED FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

WE KEEP OUR COMMITMENT TO TAKE CARE OF OUR SERVICEMEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES BY PROVIDING OVER \$34 BILLION FOR DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAMS, INCLUDING \$752 MILLION OVER THE REQUEST FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH.

TO ADDRESS GROWING CONCERNS ON AND AROUND OUR MILITARY BASES, WE INCLUDE OVER \$1.2 BILLION TO ADDRESS ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION AND RESTORATION.

FOR ONGOING GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM OPERATIONS, THE BILL PROVIDES FUNDING FOR ADDITIONAL I.S.R. FOR THE WARFIGHTER, AND \$250 MILLION FOR UKRAINE.

GIVEN THE SERIOUS CHALLENGES AND SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES AT STAKE, THE COMMITTEE CONTINUES TO EXERCISE STRONG OVERSIGHT OVER THE DEPARTMENT TO ENSURE THAT OUR CONSTITUENTS' TAX DOLLARS ARE BEING SPENT WISELY.

FOR EXAMPLE, THE BILL INCLUDES LANGUAGE RELATED TO THE DEPARTMENT'S \$10 BILLION CLOUD COMPUTING INITIATIVE, AN ISSUE OF GREAT CONCERN TO MANY MEMBERS.

LANGUAGE IS INCLUDED TO ENSURE THE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT RUSH INTO AN ILL-CONCEIVED APPROACH ON THIS IMPORTANT INITIATIVE. THE BILL REQUIRES THE DEPARTMENT TO DEVELOP A COHERENT STRATEGY, TRANSPARENT BUDGETING, AND ENSURE COMPETITION.

THESE PROVISIONS WILL PROVIDE CRITICAL OVERSIGHT FOR THIS IMPORTANT INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE ITS LIKELIHOOD OF SUCCESS.

IN CLOSING, I WANT TO THANK ALL MEMBERS FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION AND INPUT AS WE PUT TOGETHER THIS BILL. I ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT AS WE TAKE THE NEXT CRITICAL NEXT STEP IN REBUILDING OUR MILITARY.

