

**Statement of the Honorable Paul D. Irving
Sergeant at Arms, U.S. House of Representatives
Before
The Subcommittee on Legislative Branch Appropriations
For the Office of the Sergeant at Arms
Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Submission**

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 2015. Before I begin, I would like to say that as the Sergeant at Arms, it is both a privilege and honor to have the opportunity to serve this institution; and, I look forward to continuing to work with you and the other Members of this Committee.

The Office of the Sergeant at Arms provides a variety of security, safety and protocol services to Members, Committees and the staff who serve them. To accomplish our mission, we have a highly dedicated and focused team of professionals working in several different divisions: the Immediate Office (which includes Police Services/Law Enforcement), Protocol and Chamber Operations, Parking Security, House Security, Information/Identification Services, and Emergency Management.

As Sergeant at Arms, I am responsible for directing security matters relating to the House of Representatives, and as a member of the U.S. Capitol Police Board and Chairman this year, I establish policies and guidelines to safeguard the Capitol complex and its occupants. I also serve as a member of the Oversight Board of the Office of Congressional Accessibility Services. This

very small, but essential office provides and coordinates accessibility services for individuals with disabilities, including Members of Congress, officers and employees of the House of Representatives and Senate, and visitors to the Capitol complex.

Before turning to our Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Budget Submission, there are several ongoing initiatives the Office of the Sergeant at Arms is engaged in which I would like to bring to your attention:

- We continue to pursue enhanced physical security systems and access control devices throughout the House Office Buildings and the Capitol.
- In partnership with U.S. Capitol Police, we continue a strong and 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, while remaining mindful of the need to provide cost effective recommendations as well as solutions.
- The Law Enforcement Coordinator Program (LEC) remains an important focus – it is something that should be an integral part of every District Office Security plan. As each of you know, LECs can and do provide an essential link to the local law enforcement community, enabling effective liaison and personal rapport with local and state law enforcement. The LEC program has clearly demonstrated its benefit to the institution, in

a cost-effective manner and we will continue to focus our efforts on this critical initiative during the current and future Congresses.

- In partnership with the Chief Administrative Officer, the Clerk of the House, the U.S. Capitol Police, the Architect of the Capitol, the Attending Physician, and peer organizations in the Senate, the Sergeant at Arms implements a comprehensive Emergency Management Program for the House of Representatives, ensuring the Continuity of Operations of the House and the safety of House Members, staff, employees, and visitors during emergencies. As part of a comprehensive emergency preparedness strategy, we are committed to enhancing the emergency management program for every Member, Committee, and support office. For example, we place continued emphasis on the implementation of the Office Emergency Coordinator (OEC) program, an initiative designed to facilitate emergency planning and information sharing for all House offices.
- The Emergency Management Division continues to oversee emergency planning, training, and exercises including notifications, evacuations, and shelter-in-place activities to ensure readiness to respond to any emergency affecting the U.S. House of Representatives.
- Employees of the Sergeant at Arms have supported numerous special events, including the annual State of the Union Address by the President. Support was also provided off-site to several issues retreats in Cambridge, Maryland and the National Prayer Breakfast. I might add that the President will be visiting here again next week for the annual Friends

of Ireland Luncheon, and security planning is underway for several Congressional ceremonies, the annual Peace Officers' Memorial Service (to be held on the West Front on May 15th), and the upcoming annual concerts on the West Front Lawn.

- We continue to focus on final plans for a repository for many of the classified documents received by the House of Representatives and the content management system used to store this data. System enhancements will provide a vital backup providing robust data integrity, while reducing the chance of degradation or loss of data. Enhanced auditing, encryption, and authentication measures should also greatly increase the security of individual classified documents in the new system.
- All divisions in the Office of the Sergeant at Arms will soon begin preparations for the beginning of the 114th Congress. This includes the design of Congressional Lapel Pins and Plates, as well as Congressional IDs and parking permits.

The Sergeant at Arms' FY2015 request has been developed in the spirit of zero-based budgeting without jeopardizing any mission critical service provided to the House community. We realize that in the current fiscal environment – and for the foreseeable future – we must plan prudently and operate within tight fiscal boundaries.

In order to fund our on-going efforts, the Office of the Sergeant at Arms is requesting **\$12,057,729** for fiscal year 2015. This includes **\$9,430,980** for personnel expenses and **\$2,626,749** for non-personnel items.

The employees in the Sergeant at Arms organization are our most important assets and have a shared responsibility in fulfilling the Sergeant at Arms' goals and mission. While we are authorized for 132 FTE in fiscal year 2015, we are requesting funds for only 127 mission critical positions in Office of the Sergeant at Arms.

Non-personnel expenses for fiscal year 2015 will support critical equipment, supplies and materials, other services, printing, and telecommunications.

Funding for Equipment is requested to support hardware/software needs throughout all divisions, as well as required maintenance. Some highlights covered in this request include:

- Lifecycle replacement of PCs, laptops and other office equipment
- Purchase of equipment to support deployed House operations
- Purchase of equipment and annual maintenance and upgrades to several emergency planning software systems to be used in support of continuity of operations

Funding for Supplies and Materials is requested to purchase general office supplies, ID supplies, and miscellaneous supplies which include Parking Security supplies, the life-cycle replacement of Parking Security uniforms, and the lifecycle replacement of wireless devices,

cellphones, and air-cards. This funding will also provide for the procurement of Member and spouse identification pins, license plates, and parking permits for the 114th Congress.

Funding requested for Other Services includes job specific training for Sergeant at Arms' staff. Additional funding is requested for contractual services in the areas of threat mitigation, force protection, counterterrorism, emergency preparedness, response and recovery, and on-line security refresher training.

Funding requested for Printing includes general printing needs as well as the preparation of emergency training materials.

Telecommunications funding will support telephone, cell phone, air cards and wireless service for all divisions of the Sergeant at Arms.

In closing, I would like to thank the Committee once again for the opportunity to appear today. I know I speak for everyone in the Sergeant at Arms organization when I say how grateful we are for your continued support. I want to assure you of my commitment – and that of my entire office – to provide the highest quality services for the House of Representatives while maintaining the safest and most secure environment possible. All of us will remain focused on security and preparedness, while continuing to maintain the strict level of fiscal responsibility demanded by the House of Representatives.

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