

**Office of the Sergeant at Arms
Fiscal Year 2016 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, 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 2016. Before beginning, I would like to say that as the Sergeant at Arms, it is 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 we begin the 114th Congress.

The Office of the Sergeant at Arms provides security, safety and protocol services to Members, committees and the staff who serve them. To accomplish this diverse mission, we have an extremely dedicated team who work in several divisions which include 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 directing security matters which relate to the House of Representatives. I serve as a member of the U.S. Capitol Police Board which establishes 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 small – essential – office provides and coordinates accessibility services for individuals with disabilities, including Members of Congress, officers and employees of the House of Representatives, and visitors to the Capitol complex.

The Office of the Sergeant at Arms is involved in a number of important ongoing projects and initiatives that I would like to call to your attention.

Opening of the 114th Congress

All divisions of the Sergeant at Arms coordinated in a team effort to effect a smooth transition to the 114th Congress. This included distribution of all Member pins, Spouse pins, and license plates. Identification Services is currently in the process of issuing new identification badges to the entire House community, including permanent and temporary House staff, vendors and contractor badges, Architect of the Capitol staff and contractor badges, as well as all liaison badges. Parking Security is also in the process of issuing 114th Congress parking permits throughout the Capitol complex.

Garage Security Enhancement Project

The garage security enhancement project is designed to address existing vulnerabilities and will provide a greatly enhanced level of security in the House Office Buildings. This project will move the entire Capitol complex far closer to 100% screening. The Office of the Sergeant at Arms is working in conjunction with the Architect of the Capitol and the U.S. Capitol Police to conduct a design and feasibility study for this continuing initiative.

Capitol Complex Screening

Installation of enhanced screening portals within House Sergeant at Arms space in the Capitol Visitor Center would provide an additional layer of security to the galleries of the House of Representatives. Visitors will be screened for powders, liquids and other non-metallic objects prior to entering the House galleries. Currently, these items are not detectable by more traditional screening methods and could be used to disrupt a session of Congress.

Sergeant at Arms Server Infrastructure Upgrade/Replacement

The upgrade of a new server infrastructure will provide modernization and complete replacement of file servers currently in use within the Sergeant at Arms organization. Current physical servers are aging and in need of replacement. The new specialized hardware will provide for “virtual

machines” (multiple server instances running in memory) that provide ease of management, redundancy, and processing speed optimization. This includes a primary system installed in the Ford HOB, and a redundant system being replicated to the alternate computing facility for failover purposes.

District Office Security

In partnership with U.S. Capitol Police, we continue a strong, 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.

Mail Hood Initiative

The mail hood initiative closes an existing gap in House secure mail procedures and protocols. We are in the process of purchasing mail hoods to deploy to Member district offices where mail does not undergo prior security screening. As a result of this initiative, Member district office staff will be able to open mail in a safe and secure environment.

Law Enforcement Coordinator Program (LEC)

The Law Enforcement Coordinator Program (LEC) remains of significant focus – something that should be an integral part of every District Office Security plan. As 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.

Emergency Management Program

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.

Special Events

Employees of the Sergeant at Arms have supported numerous special events, including the Opening Session of the 114th Congress and the annual State of the Union Address by the President. Support was also provided off-site to several issues retreats. There are a number of very large events this year for which planning is currently underway, perhaps the largest being an invitation extended by the Speaker to the Pope to address a Joint Meeting of Congress on September 24. This will be the first such address delivered by a pontiff before Congress.

The FY 2016 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 **\$14,827,120** for fiscal year 2016. This includes **\$9,687,372** for personnel expenses and **\$5,139,748** for non-personnel items.

Personnel Expenses

As always, the employees in the Sergeant at Arms organization are our most important assets and have a shared responsibility in fulfilling the Sergeant at Arms mission. While we are authorized

for 132 FTE in fiscal year 2016, we are requesting funds for 128 mission critical positions in Office of the Sergeant at Arms.

Non-personnel Expenses

Non-personnel expenses for fiscal year 2016 will support *Travel, Telecommunications, Printing, Other Services, Supplies and Materials, and Equipment*, as follows:

Travel funding is primarily required for the advance and support of large scale off-campus events involving Members of Congress – in particular, the 2016 Presidential election conventions. *Telecommunications funding* will support telephone, cell phone, air cards and wireless service for all divisions of the Sergeant at Arms. Funding requested for *Printing* includes general printing needs as well as the preparation of emergency training materials. 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 Chamber and Gallery operations. Funding for *Supplies and Materials* is requested to purchase general office supplies, ID supplies, and miscellaneous supplies which include 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 115th Congress. 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:

- Sergeant at Arms server infrastructure upgrade/replacement
- 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

In closing, I would like to thank the Committee once again for the opportunity to appear before you. I am grateful for your continued support and I want to assure you of my deep 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.