

**Office of the Sergeant at Arms  
Fiscal Year 2020 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 2020. 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 1789, the daily responsibilities and expectations of the Sergeant at Arms have changed significantly. Within the last few years, the Sergeant at Arms Office has reexamined the security needs of the institution and transformed its mission, response and character. Members of Congress now receive an unprecedented number of threats and threatening communications, which mandate a proactive approach to our security posture.

I would like to highlight and update the Committee on a few initiatives that are either in place or in a planned implementation phase, before I mention our FY20 requests.

The Sergeant at Arms, in conjunction with the Capitol Police, has enhanced security services to include screening prior to entry of our buildings, developed an enhanced security focus to assist Members in this increased threat environment, expanded security services into District offices and District-based events, and is moving the Capitol complex closer to 100% screening by bringing the House Office Buildings into the secure perimeter.

Screening of visitors outside our buildings is 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.

Many Members receive threats and direction of interest communications that raise concerns for the Members, their families, and staff, but do not equate to the requirement of a Capitol Police protective detail. The number of threatening communications has increased three-fold over the past few years. In light of this increase, my office interfaces with Members' offices seeking security coordination for off-campus events in the Washington, DC area 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 survey and/or risk assessment to determine what protective services are needed and if those services will be provided by Capitol Police and/or cooperating federal, state and local law enforcement partners. Furthermore, I have tasked my office to provide a level of protective support that is based on a proactive set of criteria which forms the basis of an enhanced level of support, such as an increased public profile on social media platforms. 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.

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. Since its inception, the program has assisted 375 district offices with the installation of intrusion detection security alarms, cameras and panic buttons. In addition, my office continues to pay for security upgrades at one district office per Member and pays for the alarm system monitoring fees for multiple offices.

The District Security Service Center serves as a "one stop shop" for all district security matters. Last year, the Service Center coordinated local law enforcement support of nearly 450 public events and town halls across the country. Since its inception, the Service Center has documented nearly 13,000 outreach interactions with Members and their offices. While many of these interactions are at the request of the Member, the Service Center is also proactive in its outreach. For example, we performed outreach following an active shooter incident in Thousand Oaks, California; the synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; the series of package bombs in

and around Austin, Texas; and most recently, the active shooter incident in Aroura, Illinois this past February. This outreach ensures all staff are accounted for, provides guidance on protective actions, and disseminates pertinent contact information should any security related questions or concerns arise. The Service Center team also proactively reaches out to district offices to educate staff on security related information that is available to them. For example, this past year we reached out to each Member office that had not previously utilized our program to coordinate law enforcement support for public events. We recently launched two online webinars, one for active shooter training and one for safe mail handling procedures. As offices continue to receive suspicious and/or threatening mail, we increased our allotment of mail hoods by 10% to support additional interest in the program and replace damaged/aging units.

Our largest Capitol Complex security initiative is the Garage Security Enhancement Project, which will bring 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. The Office of the Sergeant at Arms continues to work with the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police to implement screening in the House garages, so that all personnel entering the House Office Buildings from within the garages will be screened as those entering the buildings from the street. This will ensure the same level of screening whether using the pedestrian entrances or the garages to all House (and Senate) Office Buildings, or using the pedestrian entrances to the Capitol. The addition of the garage screening will eventually allow Members and staff to move from the House Office Buildings to the Capitol without additional interior magnetometer screening in the Rayburn and Cannon tunnels. 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 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 FY20 requests.

For FY20, 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 (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. Seventeen 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(plus) 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 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 loud speaker system in office hallways) – will provide notification resiliency. Collectively, they will use multiple delivery methods - including email systems, cell towers, network systems, and soon radio frequencies - to send emergency messages to Members and staff.

Another important initiative for our office is the Safe Program. In 2017, the Committee on House Administration mandated a House-wide move of the management of GSA-approved safes from the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer to the Office of the Sergeant at Arms. This program includes the secure management, storage, training, and record keeping for close to 300 GSA-approved safes used in Member and Committee offices in the House. Our office has inventoried and created a secure database to track and monitor the GSA-approved safes currently in use. Over half of these safes still utilize an analog combination lock, which has proven to be difficult to open and unreliable over time. For FY20, I am requesting funding to purchase new safes, with digital combination locks that adhere to the U.S. Government's highest security

standard, to protect classified information in Member and Committee offices in the House Office Buildings.

Employees of the Sergeant at Arms Office are our strongest assets. For FY20, I am requesting funding for eight new FTE for five Sergeant at Arms divisions.

Within the Division of Police Services and Law Enforcement, the additional FTE in my request will collaborate with the Capitol Police and – as I mentioned earlier in my testimony – support new security response needs identified by my office and the Capitol Police. This FTE will assist in reviewing security data related to the Capitol campus and provide coverage and liaison for special events such as Joint Addresses, CODELs, Field Hearings, trainings and Member outreach programs.

Within the Emergency Management Division, the FTE will provide the staffing needed for the increasing requirements to support emergency preparedness, operations, and planning efforts. The additional FTEs will help 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.

Within the Division of Protocol and Chamber Operations, the FTE will supplement House Floor and Gallery operations. Chamber Support staff provide check in and escort visitors to the House Floor and Galleries. Last year, the division accommodated over 390,000 visitors to the House Gallery and more than 35,000 guests to the Floor for Member and staff-led tours.

Within the Information Technology Division, the FTE will assist with the growing responsibilities of the division, will better manage web content to provide special events and delivery information to the House campus more efficiently and accurately, help integrate the ID Badging and Parking Security systems with the new House identity access management hub, and assist with the content support of JEMNS and potentially JAWS.

Finally, in the Sergeant at Arms Immediate Office, one additional FTE will provide operational and administrative support for a growing Sergeant at Arms staff and House community. This FTE will assist in such tasks as coordinating catering and deliveries per Members' offices and clearing vehicles to the House Office Buildings for military liaisons.

Non-personnel expenses for FY20 will continue to support travel, including Sergeant at Arms approved Capitol Police advance and support of overseas Leadership CODELs, other large scale off-campus events attended by Members of Congress, and the 2020 Presidential Nominating Conventions. 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, parking security uniforms, staff parking permits, and 117<sup>th</sup> Congress Member and Spouse identification pins and license plates. Finally, general equipment funding is requested for the lifecycle replacement of PCs, software systems, laptops, wireless devices, cellphones, and desktop phones.

The FY20 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 \$23,720,292 for fiscal year 2020. This includes \$13,450,292 for personnel expenses to fund the 155 authorized FTE plus 8 new FTE, as well as \$10,270,000 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.