


[News Room](#)
[Committee Schedule](#)
[About the Committee](#)
[Legislation](#)
[Committee Documents](#)
[Links](#)
[Minority Website](#)

NewsRoom

CONFEREES APPROVE FISCAL YEAR 2004 DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS CONFERENCE

September 18th, 2003 - -
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

- The bill reported by the Defense Subcommittee conferees provides a total of \$368.2 billion in spending authority for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2004. This amount is \$3.8 billion appropriated for fiscal year 2003 (excluding the amounts provided in the Iraq supplemental in April billion below the President's fiscal year 2004 budget request.

MAJOR CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS:

BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE:

- The conference agreement provides total funding (Procurement and RDTE) of Ballistic Missile Defense, an increase of \$1.4 billion over fiscal year 2003 level and a decrease of \$5.1 million from the fiscal year 2004 budget request.
- These amounts provide an increase of \$181 million above the budget request for the Theater Ballistic Missile Segment (\$3.6 billion) to support continued development of a midcourse defense with an initial operational capability in fiscal year 2004, as proposed by the conferees.
- Provides \$621.6 million, an increase of \$60 million over the request, for production of PAC-3 missiles.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES:

- \$4.5 billion is provided for the Special Operations Command, an increase of \$97 million over the budget request and an overall increase of over 47 percent from levels approved in the 2003 Defense Appropriations Act.

GROUND FORCES MODERNIZATION:

- \$417.7 million over the request is provided to continue modernization of the 1st Cavalry Division's Counterattack Corps. These funds will be used for procurement of 144 up-armored Fighting Vehicles, 43 M1A2 Abrams tanks, and other equipment needed for modernization of the 3rd Armored Cavalry regiment.
- The conference agreement fully funds procurement of Stryker for the fourth and fifth Brigades, and includes \$35 million above the budget request in advance funding for the sixth brigades. \$1.7 billion, the requested amount, is allotted for further development of the Army's Future Combat System (FCS).

UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES:

- \$1.4 billion is recommended for procurement and continued development of unmanned aerial vehicles, nearly a \$225 million increase from fiscal year 2003 levels. Included in this amount are funds for the procurement of four Global Hawk UAVs, 16 Predator UAVs, 2 Pred

SEARCH:

EMAIL SIGN UP:

Shadow UAVs, and 8 Firescout UAVs. The Committee also provides \$270 million for the development of Navy and Air Force Unmanned Aerial Combat Vehicles (UCAVs).

SHIPBUILDING PROGRAMS:

- \$11.5 billion, an increase of \$2.4 billion over fiscal year 2003 levels, is proposed for shipbuilding programs. This level fully funds amounts requested for fiscal year 2004 production including one Virginia-class submarine, two Trident SSGN conversions, and three destroyers.
- The conference agreement includes an additional two submarine refueling overhauls and \$100 million for Cruiser modernization.
- The conference agreement includes the Navy's request for multi-year contract authority for one Virginia-class submarine, as modified by the Senate for one ship per year.
- The conference agreement includes the Navy's request for construction of two T-AKE container ships.
- Advance funding of \$135 million over the request is provided to support procurement of one LHA-60 class amphibious ship in fiscal year 2005.
- For future ship development, the following is recommended:
 - \$1.5 billion, as requested, for the next-generation CVN-21 carrier;
 - \$168 million for the Littoral Combat Ship;
 - \$1 billion for the DD(X) program.
 - \$65 million for LHA(R).

CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE INITIATIVES:

- The Committee provides over \$1 billion, an increase of \$135 million over the request, for the procurement and development of chemical and biological defenses under the Defense appropriations, with additional funding for mobile chemical agent detection, air concentration monitoring systems, early warning and detection programs, and miniature chemical and biological detectors.

OTHER SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS BY MAJOR CATEGORY:

MILITARY PERSONNEL: \$98.5 billion (An increase of \$4.9 billion over the fiscal year 2003 level.)

- The conference agreement supports the President's budget request of 1.388 million active duty military personnel.
- Funds 863,300 Selected Reserve and National Guard personnel.
- Fully funds an average 4.1 percent military personnel pay raise requested in the budget and self-imposed raises for mid-career officers and senior non-commissioned officers.
- Approves housing allowances for the buy down of service personnel's out of pocket housing expenses from 6.5 percent in fiscal year 2003 to 3.5 percent in fiscal year 2004.
- Provides \$128 million for the continuation of increased rates for Imminent Danger Pay and Allowances.
- Provides a total of \$88.2 million for 12 additional WMD Civil Support Teams.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE: \$115.9 BILLION (an increase of \$1.206 billion over the fiscal year 2003 level).

- Provides the requested levels of funding for land forces training, tank training mile

flying hours, ship steaming days and Air Force and Navy flying hour programs, and su Department of Defense goal to fund facilities sustainment at not less than 93 per cent branches of the Armed Forces.

PROCUREMENT: \$74.7 BILLION (an increase of \$3.1 billion over the fiscal year 2003 enacted level).

- Provides \$228 million for 19 Army Blackhawk helicopters.
- Provides \$2.9 billion for 42 Navy F/A-18E/F fighter aircraft.
- Provides \$1.5 billion for 11 V-22 aircraft (9 Marine Corps, 2 Air Force).
- Provides \$355 million for 350 Navy Tactical Tomahawk cruise missiles.
- Provides \$724 million for Navy and Air Force Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAM)
- Provides \$3.6 billion for 22 F-22 Air Force fighter aircraft.
- Provides \$2.1 billion for 11 Air Force C-17 airlift aircraft.
- Provides \$85 million for the procurement of 200 Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missiles (JASSM).
- Provides an increase of \$400 million for equipment for the National Guard and Reserves.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT: \$65.2 billion (an increase of \$7.0 billion over the f enacted level)

- Provides \$1.1 billion for the Army's Comanche helicopter.
- Provides \$4.3 billion for the Joint Strike Fighter.
- Provides \$364 million for the Air Force's MC2C command and control constellation
- Provides \$617 million for the Space-Based Infra-Red System (SBIRS).
- Provides \$339 million for Advanced Wideband Satellite laser communications.
- Provides \$174 million for Space-Based Radar.

DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAM: \$15.7 billion (an increase of \$886 million over the f enacted level)

###

[« previous Press Release](#)

»

September 2003 Press Releases

« August October »

- ☐ 18th - [current Press Release](#)
- ☐ 17th - [Statement of Chairman Harold Rogers](#)
- ☐ 17th - [Highlights of FY 2004 Homeland Security Appropriations Conference Agreement](#)
- ☐ 17th - [Conferees Approves FY04 Legislative Branch Appropriations](#)
- ☐ 17th - [Chairman Young's Statement on the President's Submission of a Wartime Supplemental](#)
- ☐ 16th - [Conferees Appointed on H.R. 2658](#)
- ☐ 16th - [Conferees Appointed on H.R. 2657](#)
- ☐ 16th - [Conferees Appointed on H.R. 2559](#)
- ☐ 15th - [Chairman Young Unveils New Website](#)
- ☐ 12th - [Conferees Appointed on H.R. 2555](#)
- ☐ 8th - [Chairman Young Statement on Iraq Supplemental](#)