



**HOUSE ARMED SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES
TERRY EVERETT, ALABAMA
CHAIRMAN**

PRESS RELEASE

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Opening Statement of Terry Everett

Markup of H.R. 5122, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007

WASHINGTON, D.C. – It has been a pleasure working with my good friend and ranking member, Mr. Reyes, to build this mark. He has been very cooperative and straightforward: two attributes critical to our success. I would also like to thank the other members of the subcommittee and their staffs for their hard work.

The subcommittee's mark includes approximately \$51.1 billion in programs within the budget request, including:

- \$7.9 billion for procurement,
- \$29.1 billion for research and development, and
- \$14.1 billion for Department of Energy national security programs.

The programs fit primarily in the areas of ballistic missile defense, the military use of space, strategic weapon systems and platforms, and nuclear weapons.

The subcommittee is concerned with striking the right balance between technical risks and providing increased capability to the warfighter. Accordingly, the mark shifts funds to programs with a more near term capability for the warfighter and makes reductions to several programs that are less mature.

The subcommittee mark is \$142 million below the budget request. The recommendation before you funds the Missile Defense Agency at \$183.5 million below the budget request. Highlights of the missile defense mark include:

- A \$20 million increase for concurrent test and operations resources for the ground-based midcourse defense system;
- An additional \$40 million for the Aegis BMD system including \$20 million for additional SM-3 interceptors;
- A \$100 million reduction to the Kinetic Energy Interceptor program;
- A \$55.8 million reduction for funding for the third site activation for GMD;

- A \$65 million reduction to the Multiple Kill Vehicle program; and
- A \$40.7 million reduction to the High Altitude Airship technology demonstration.

Also, I am very pleased that we were able to assist the Army with one of their key unfunded requirements by adding \$140 million for transitioning Patriot missile batteries from the PAC-2 to the PAC-3 configuration.

In the area of military space, the mark recommends an \$80 million reduction for TSAT, and a \$30 million reduction for the Space Radar program. The subcommittee had strong bipartisan support for these reductions during preparation of the Chairman's mark and our own markup last week. I strongly urge the full committee to support that subcommittee mark today by not further reducing funding for these critical programs. The mark adds \$20 million for operationally responsive space. The mark also includes a legislative provision that would:

- Establish an Office of Operationally Responsive Space under the Department of Defense Executive Agent for Space. The provision also sets forth the mission for this office: to contribute to the development of low-cost rapid reaction payloads to fulfill joint military operational requirements.

In the area of strategic and intelligence programs, the mark includes legislative provisions that would:

- Prohibit retirement of the U-2 aircraft in fiscal year 2007 and in any subsequent year unless DoD certifies to Congress that the U-2 ISR capability is not required to mitigate any of the ISR gaps identified in the 2006 QDR;
- Add the Commander of STRATCOM to the Nuclear Weapons Council;
- Increase the authorized number of Defense Intelligence Senior Executive Service personnel by 50.

The mark also reduces funding for the conventional Trident modification. The committee is confident in the ability of the Navy to perform this mission. However, the committee has concerns that all the details have not yet been worked out to ensure that a conventional missile launch from a Trident submarine is not misinterpreted as a nuclear attack by other countries.

Within Atomic Energy Defense Activities of the Department of Energy, the mark funds the Department at the budget request. Highlights of the Department of Energy mark include:

- A provision that requires the Secretary of Energy and Secretary of Defense to submit a plan to Congress for the transformation of the nuclear weapons complex that meets ten specified objectives;
- Provisions that allow the Secretary of Energy to receive international funding for two defense nuclear nonproliferation programs: the Global Threat Reduction Initiative and the Second Line of Defense program. The mark also adds funds to other nonproliferation programs.

- Significant work on the future of the Mixed Oxide Fuel or MOX program. I appreciate the hard work of the subcommittee in working with the Department of Energy on the mark for the MOX plutonium disposition program. The subcommittee is concerned that the Russian government is not committed to funding construction of the Russian plutonium disposition facility based on new developments with the Russians during State Department negotiations earlier this year. At the same time, we are concerned with how best to dispose of excess U.S. plutonium. Representative Joe Wilson, who represents many of the workers at the Savannah River Site, will be introducing an amendment today that shifts some funding from the Russian MOX program to the U.S. MOX facility. This amendment will also serve to delink the future of the South Carolina MOX facility from the Russian MOX program subject to certain findings by the Secretary of Energy related to plutonium disposition

I believe that the mark before you addresses member priorities and both Department of Defense and Department of Energy requirements. I strongly recommend its adoption.

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