

HASC Approves FY 2011 Defense Bill

The House Armed Services Committee (HASC) approved H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2011 on May 20, 2010, by a vote of 59 to 0. H.R. 5136 authorizes \$567 billion in budget authority for the Department of Defense (DOD) and the national security programs of the Department of Energy (DOE). The bill also authorizes \$159 billion to support overseas contingency operations during fiscal 2011, and authorizes \$34 billion for fiscal 2010 supplemental appropriations for overseas contingency operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, and to provide humanitarian and disaster assistance to assist victims following the earthquake in Haiti.

“This defense bill aligns our military strategy with the 21st century to sustain the two wars today and prepare for the threats of tomorrow – whatever and wherever they may be,” said Chairman Ike Skelton (D-Mo.), in announcing HASC approval of the budget. “The

bill reflects our continued commitment to defend America, support U.S. servicemembers and their families, and keep Americans safe.”

The bill enhances the capacity of the U.S. military, particularly the U.S. Special Operations Forces, to act directly against terrorist organizations. In addition, it addresses the need to increase support for both servicemembers and their families.

“Our military personnel are the heart and soul of our national security, and this bill makes sure that our troops and their loved ones are receiving the first-class benefits that they deserve,” said Skelton. “To improve the quality of life for our forces and their families, the bill provides a 1.9 percent pay raise



Skelton

for all servicemembers, continuing our efforts to reduce the pay raise gap between the uniformed services and the private sector. The bill also increases the maximum amount of hostile fire and imminent danger pay for the first time since 2004, and increases family separation allowance for our servicemembers whose deployment or temporary duty requires them to live away from their families.”

The fiscal 2011 budget provides a record \$8.8 billion for military family support programs, a 3 percent increase over current funding. The budget request will include \$1.3 billion to reduce shortages in military childcare and increases funding for youth programs. In addition, \$439 million is proposed to build 10 new DoD Education Activity (DODEA) Schools. Directed by Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates, this measure is part of a major five-year effort to renovate or replace 103 of the schools by 2015.

The fiscal 2011 budget request also includes \$84 million for spousal career development, including tuition assistance and a federal internship program.

“In keeping with the committee’s interest and longstanding defense policy oversight, the bill seeks to improve the Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) process,” Skelton said. “The bill replaces the QDR Independent Review Panel appointed by the Secretary of Defense with a National Defense Panel consisting of 10 members, with the Secretary of Defense appointing two panel co-chairs, and the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees each appointing two members.

“Each year, members of the House Armed Services Committee work very hard to make this the best bill possible for our military and for our nation. I want to thank all of our members for helping our committee fulfill our Constitutional obligation to raise and support the U.S. Armed Forces.”


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First Lady Announces Review on Military Family Support



Obama

First lady Michelle Obama announced May 13, 2010, that President Barack Obama has directed the National Security Staff to lead a new 90-day review to develop a coordinated Federal government-wide approach to supporting and engaging military families. The review will build on work conducted by the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs, and it will encompass nearly 20 federal agencies, as well as the White House domestic policy and national economic councils and the offices of the vice president, the first lady and Dr. Jill Biden, the wife of Vice President Joe Biden.

“With just one percent of our population — our troops — doing 100 percent of the fighting our military families are being tested like never before,” said first lady Obama. “This government-wide review will bring together the resources of the federal government, identify new opportunities across the public and private sectors, and lay the

foundation for a coordinated approach to supporting and engaging military families for years to come.”

Specifically, the review will:

- Set strategic military family priorities for the next 10 years and identify key military family concerns and challenges;
- Review a cross section of public and private programs to identify the most promising ideas and programs that positively support military families;
- Develop options for departments to integrate military family matters into their strategic and budgetary priorities;
- Examine opportunities for Federal policies and programs to stimulate new and support existing state and local efforts achieving military family readiness goals and meeting military family priorities;
- Identify opportunities to leverage the skills and experience of military family members in national and community life; and
- Strengthen existing feedback mechanisms for military families to voice their concerns and views on the effectiveness and future direction of relevant Federal programs and policies.

The review builds on the Obama administration’s efforts to forge an enduring national commitment to support and engage military families. These combined national efforts will help ensure that:

- The U.S. military continues to recruit and retain the highest-caliber volunteers contributing to the Nation’s security;
- Servicemembers can have strong family lives while maintaining the highest state of readiness and focus on their military responsibilities;
- Civilian family members can fulfill their own potential while supporting servicemembers; and
- The general population better understands military families and seeks more opportunities to support military families.

“This government-wide review will bring together the resources of the federal government, identify new opportunities across the public and private sectors, and lay the foundation for a coordinated approach to supporting and engaging military families for years to come,” the first lady said.

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Inaugural Warrior Games a Huge Success

Nearly 200 wounded warriors and disabled veterans represented their services in the inaugural Warrior Games, held May 10-14, 2010, at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo. The first-of-its-kind event not only recognized the talent and efforts of our nation's wounded warriors, but also established a national annual event that can be built on and expanded.

"You've just completed a rigorous test of your physical and mental skills, your strength and endurance," chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Navy Adm. Mike Mullen told the athletes in a video message aired during the closing ceremony at the Academy on May 14. "But now is no time to rest. I'd like you to take what you've done here, what you've learned here and continue to serve as role models for others striving to find the independence they need."

The troops competed in a week-long series of Paralympic-type events at the U.S. Olympic Training Center and academy. They were challenged as individuals and in teams in shooting, swimming, archery, sitting volleyball, cycling, wheelchair basketball and track and field events.

Each athlete was selected by their service to compete because of the progress they have made using adaptive sports as a method of rehabilitation. Their willingness to participate



U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Daniel Hathorne accepts the Ultimate Champion award at the Warrior Games at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo. May 14, 2010. Hathorne scored two gold medals and a bronze at the games, earning him top honors.

DoD PHOTO BY FRED W. BAKER III

in the games and ability to overcome adversity can inspire others to do the same, Mullen said.

"You've demonstrated how physical fitness can help heal the mind, body and soul," he said. "That's a message worth sharing, and yours is a story worth telling."

Mullen lauded the troops for their accomplishments, but reminded them that other wounded warriors need their help.

Air Force Gen. Victor E. Renuart Jr., commander of U.S. Northern Command and North American Aerospace Defense Command, presented the Chairman's Cup to the Marine Corps team on behalf of Mullen. The honor is bestowed on the team with the most points at the end of the week based on medal count. The Marines won gold in both sitting volleyball and wheelchair basketball.

The games are a joint venture of the Defense Department, the U.S. Olympic Committee and United Services Organization (USO) to promote resilience and the healing power of sports. Officials hope to make the games an annual event and possibly expand participation and future venues.

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Left to right: Navy Master Chief Petty Officer Will Wilson, Sgt. Monica Southall and Warrant Officer Johnathan Holsey cross the finish line after a grueling Warrior Games cycling competition at the U.S. Air Force Academy May 13. PHOTO BY ELIZABETH M. COLLINS

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Penrod Named Acting Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (MCFP)

Col. Virginia S. "Vee" Penrod, USAF (ret.), SES, was named acting deputy under secretary of defense (DUSD), Military Community and Family Policy (MCFP), effective April 5.

Penrod filled the position that had been vacant since Tommy T. Thomas, the DUSD (MCFP) since May 2009, resigned on March 11 due to personal reasons.

As Penrod takes on these new duties, she will continue to execute the responsibilities of the principal director for military personnel policy, Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), a position she has held since July 2009. She will serve as the acting DUSD (MCFP) until an executive is selected to fill the position on a



Penrod

permanent basis.

Penrod is responsible for policy, advocacy and oversight of all community support to servicemembers and their families; quality-of-life issues; Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR); state liaison initiatives; family programs and family assistance services; child development and youth programs; military spouse career advancement; the off-duty, voluntary education program for military personnel; tuition assistance; defense resale for commissaries and exchanges; and family violence prevention and intervention.

Included within the purview of Penrod's office is advocacy for quality education for all military students mov-

ing between schools and defense-wide policy responsibility for the Department of Defense Education Activity (DODEA) that serves approximately 84,000 students in 192 schools in 14 districts, located in 12 foreign countries, seven states, Guam and Puerto Rico. Her oversight includes casualty and mortuary affairs and military funeral honors.

Penrod's 39-year Air Force career focused on the field of manpower management at Air Force Logistics Command, executive-level management at the 601st Tactical Control Wing at Sembach AB, Germany, and military personnel management, including command at base level; personnel policy at Headquarters Air Force and the Air Force Personnel Center; and two tours in the Office of the Secretary of Defense for military personnel policy.

Her awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit and Defense Superior Service Medal.

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Jones Unveils New FMWRC Logo

Maj. Gen. Reuben D. Jones, USA Army Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command (MWR) commanding general, unveiled the command's new logo at the U.S. Army Soldier Show on Saturday, April 24.

Updated to better connect with Family and MWR customers, the logo still uses the familiar blue globe format, but with the tagline changed to highlight the FMWR customers. Gone is the statement "For All Of Your Life" in favor of "Soldiers Families Retirees Civilians."

"The brand was changed to establish a closer connection with our customers who are so important to us that we wanted to integrate them directly into the logo," Jones told the audience.

Another exciting aspect, he said, is



Maj. Gen. Reuben D. Jones, USA, FMWRC commanding general, points out the new logo to the audience at the Wallace Theater. The older "For All Of Your Life" tagline is obsolete as of April 24, 2010.

PHOTO BY ROB MCILVAINE, FMWRC PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

the opportunity for garrisons to customize it by including their garrison name below the logo.

To help minimize the costs, the new logo will be phased in over the next 24 months. Existing inventory levels of promotional materials, business cards and similar items on hand should be depleted prior to ordering new materials. All signage should be replaced and only the new logo should be visible by April 24, 2012.

"Our customers are our No. 1 priority and including them in our tagline emphasizes this point. Utilizing the existing and familiar blue world logo with the new red tagline also allows us to maximize brand equity while simultaneously moving the brand to the next level," said FMWRC Marketing Director Joseph Rayzor.

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