

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

Section 2101—Authorized Army Construction and Land Acquisition Projects

This section would contain the list of authorized Army construction projects for fiscal year 2008. The authorized amounts are listed on an installation-by-installation basis. The State list contained in this report is intended to be the binding list of the specific projects authorized at each location.

Section 2102—Family Housing

This section would authorize new construction and planning and design of family housing units for the Army for fiscal year 2008.

Section 2103—Improvements to Military Family Housing Units

This section would authorize improvements to existing units of family housing for fiscal year 2008.

Section 2104—Authorization of Appropriations, Army

This section would authorize specific appropriations for each line item contained in the budget request for fiscal year 2008 for the Army. This section would also provide an overall limit on the amount the Army may spend on military construction projects.

Section 2105—Modification of Authority to Carry Out Certain Fiscal Year 2006 Project

This section would increase the authorization for a fiscal year 2006 military construction project at Fort Bragg, North Carolina and appropriate conforming military construction amendments.

TITLE XXII—NAVY

SUMMARY

The budget request contained \$2,104,276,000 for Navy military construction and \$669,733,000 for family housing for fiscal year 2008. The committee recommends authorization of \$2,087,516,000 for military construction and \$669,733,000 for family housing for fiscal year 2008.

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Explanation of Funding Adjustments

The committee recommends reduction or elimination of funding for several projects contained in the budget request for military construction and family housing. These reductions include:

(1) \$10,100,000 (Inc 5–7) to acquire land interests and construct an outlying landing field. The committee notes that the acquisition of an outlying landing field at the Navy's preferred outlying landing field location in Washington County, North Carolina, has been opposed by Washington County, and Beaufort County, North Carolina delegations and will present a number of local concerns, including the loss of a significant tax base, the reduction of high

value agricultural products, and a substantial impact to the Pocosin National Wildlife Refuge. The committee encourages the Department of Defense to peruse alternative outlying landing field locations that best support the deployment of the Super Hornet F/A-18 E/F aircraft. Accordingly, the committee recommends no funding to construct the outlying landing field.

(2) \$50,000,000 for the construction of a 400-foot extension to the existing Kilo wharf. The budget request contained \$101,900,000 million; however, the committee notes that an environmental impact statement is currently under review and is expected to be complete in December 2007. This will cause a delay on the award of this project. The committee supports authorizing for appropriations an amount equivalent to the ability of a military department to execute in the year of authorization for appropriations. For this project, the committee believes that the Department has exceeded their ability to fully expend the funding in fiscal year 2008. Accordingly, the committee recommends \$51,900,000 to expedite support for this critical mission.

Naval Master Jet Basing

The committee remains concerned about aviation assets stationed on the east coast of the United States and the worsening encroachment of some naval aviation installations. This encroachment was addressed by the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 Commission direction to the Commonwealth of Virginia and local governments adjacent to Naval Air Station (NAS) Oceana, Virginia, to implement certain encroachment buffer provisions. If the required actions were not taken, the BRAC 2005 Commission directed that the master jet base mission be realigned from NAS Oceana to Cecil Field, Florida, provided the communities surrounding Cecil Field took several specific supporting actions. Unfortunately, neither the Virginia nor the Florida State and local governments took the required actions, leaving the same unsatisfactory situation in place.

The situation is compounded by continuing complaints about aviation jet noise by a vocal minority of citizens in the Hampton Roads, Virginia area, as well as the Navy's difficulty in securing unencroached land suitable for an outlying land field that would ameliorate the effects of encroachment near Naval Alternate Landing Field Fentress.

The committee further notes the BRAC 2005 Commission required that the Secretary of Defense review the offer of the State of Florida to reoccupy Cecil Field and compare this review against any plan to build a new master jet base at any other location. Even though the committee understands the Secretary did not undertake this review since the State of Florida withdrew Cecil Field from consideration, the committee believes that other alternatives should be explored in light of the enduring encroachment at NAS Oceana and consequent impacts on fleet readiness.

The committee encourages the Secretary of the Navy to assess the viability and cost of relocating the east coast master jet base to another location if the Secretary determines such a study is in the best interest of the Navy; and if such a study is made, to submit a report of its assessment and recommendations to the congressional defense committees by February 1, 2008. At a minimum,

these basing alternatives shall include, at a minimum, Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, North Carolina; Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, South Carolina; Naval Air Station Key West, Florida; Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida; Naval Air Station Meridian, Mississippi; and Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas. The analysis shall use the comparative scoring baseline established in the “Master Jet Base Assessment” of December 9, 2005. If the Secretary recommends retaining the master jet base mission at NAS Oceana, the Secretary shall also provide an assessment on the fleet readiness impacts of that decision, and further measures that he will undertake to reduce existing encroachment.

Planning and Design, Navy

The committee recommends that, within the authorized amounts for planning and design, the Secretary of the Navy complete planning and design activities for the following projects:

- (1) \$1,200,000—Special Weapons Assessment Facility, Naval Surface Warfare Center, Crane, Indiana; and
- (2) \$1,200,000—Dry Dock #3, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

Section 2201—Authorized Navy Construction and Land Acquisition Projects

This section would contain the list of authorized Navy construction projects for fiscal year 2008. The authorized amounts are listed on an installation-by-installation basis. The State list contained in this report is intended to be the binding list of the specific projects authorized at each location.

Section 2202—Family Housing

This section would authorize new construction and planning and design of family housing units for the Navy for fiscal year 2008.

Section 2203—Improvements to Military Family Housing Units

This section would authorize improvements to existing units of family housing for fiscal year 2008.

Section 2204—Authorization of Appropriations, Navy

This section would authorize specific appropriations for each line item contained in the budget request for fiscal year 2008 for the Navy. This section would also provide an overall limit on the amount the Navy may spend on military construction projects.

Section 2205—Repeal of Authorization for Construction of Navy Outlying Landing Field, Washington County, North Carolina

This section would amend section 2201(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (Public Law 108-136), as amended, and section 2201(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (Public Law 108-375), as amended, to repeal the authority for construction of an outlying landing field.