

House Approves Additional FY 2005 Funding for the Global War on Terror

- Today, the U.S. House of Representatives approved the conference report on the **Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief for 2005**. The U.S. Senate is expected to take action on the conference report next week.
- Passage and enactment of this legislation completes the work that President Bush began when he sent the supplemental budget request to the Congress on February 14. The President appreciates the continued bipartisan support for our troops and looks forward to signing the bill once Congress completes final action next week.
- **The conference report reflects the President's continued commitment to giving our troops the support they need to complete their missions, and to standing with the Iraqi and Afghan people in the Global War on Terror.** These funds will:
 - ✓ Support American troops on the ground by continuing to provide them with the resources they need;
 - ✓ Help restructure our forces so they can continue to effectively fight and win the Global War on Terror;
 - ✓ Enhance survivor benefits, provide a new benefit for soldiers who suffer traumatic injuries, and continue to fund high-quality health care for our troops in the field;
 - ✓ Accelerate training and equipping of Iraqi and Afghan forces;
 - ✓ Continue reconstruction in Afghanistan and fund construction and operations of a secure U.S. embassy in Iraq;
 - ✓ Provide assistance to key partners in the Global War on Terror; and
 - ✓ Help us respond to unanticipated international emergencies and opportunities.

AFGHANISTAN and IRAQ

Ongoing Military Operations: The President is committed to providing our troops with the resources and equipment they need to complete their mission. To support this commitment, he requested – and the conference report provides – \$42.6 billion to support ongoing military and intelligence requirements in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Force Readiness: The conference report provides \$18.8 billion to ensure that our Armed Forces remain well-equipped and well-structured to fight the Global War on Terror.

- New Equipment. The bill includes \$13.5 billion to repair, refurbish, or replace equipment that is worn out through use in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, including funds to improve the protection of our forces by adding armor to all convoy trucks and buying Armored Security Vehicles, night vision equipment, and helicopter-survivability systems.

- Structure Changes. The supplemental bill includes \$5.3 billion requested by the President to begin implementing plans to restructure the Army and Marine Corps into more flexible, self-sufficient modular units better able to deploy and to fight the Global War on Terror.

Enhanced Survivor Benefits: The President proposed enhancing benefits for the survivors of service members killed while serving our country in the Global War on Terror since operations in Afghanistan began in October 2001. This enhancement would make available up to \$500,000 in lump-sum payments to survivors, an increase of \$238,000 over the current level. The conference report provides \$765 million to make this enhancement available to those killed in combat and other hazardous military duty. The bill includes a new insurance benefit to provide up to \$100,000 for soldiers who suffer traumatic injuries.

Iraqi and Afghan Security Forces: The bill provides \$6.7 billion to accelerate the training of Iraqi and Afghan security forces, including State Department-led training for Afghan law-enforcement agencies, allowing both new governments to begin to assume more responsibility for their security and sovereignty.

Afghanistan Reconstruction: The bill includes nearly \$2 billion to support the U.S. mission in Afghanistan, addressing some of the most critical remaining security and reconstruction needs and complementing base funding of the longer-term reconstruction program, such as:

- Combating Drug Trafficking. The bill includes \$750 million for a comprehensive counter-narcotics effort, with initiatives in five areas: public information, law enforcement, alternative livelihoods, interdiction, and eradication.

Securing a Permanent U.S. Diplomatic Presence in Iraq: The President requested – and the Congress supported – funding for U.S. Embassy operations and security expenses, as well as one-time construction expenses: approximately \$690 million for operations and security and \$592 million in one-time, total costs for a new secure facility.

Commander's Emergency Response Program: The President requested – and the bill includes – \$354 million in additional funds to continue the successful program permitting U.S. military commanders to assist in small-scale local reconstruction, rehabilitation, and recovery initiatives in Iraq and Afghanistan.

SOLIDARITY WITH OUR PARTNERS IN FREEDOM

Assistance to Coalition Partners: The President requested – and the bill provides – more than \$1.7 billion to support our key partners in freedom in their military efforts alongside U.S. forces. The bill also includes \$230 million to support the President's Solidarity Initiative to provide security assistance to those nations with troops fighting alongside our own in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Direct Assistance for Key Partners: The bill includes \$150 million the President requested for Pakistan as part of the President's multiyear-security-assistance commitment to this key ally. The bill also includes \$300 million in economic and security assistance for Jordan.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Immigration and Border Security: The bill provides \$635 million for increased border security and enforcement, including funds to: hire and train 500 new border-patrol agents, relieve facility overcrowding, and hire and train new investigators and immigration-enforcement agents. The bill also contains new provisions to improve and standardize driver's-license-security procedures to help prevent terrorists from obtaining legal identification. The Administration supports inclusion of these provisions in the bill.

Tsunami Recovery and Rebuilding: The bill includes \$907 million to support the President's commitment to help victims and rebuild areas devastated by the tsunami. These funds reimburse agencies for their relief efforts to date and contribute to regional recovery and rebuilding efforts.

Sudan/Darfur and Food Aid: To address additional needs of the humanitarian crisis in Sudan, the bill includes \$125.4 million for refugee assistance and to support the needs of displaced persons. The bill also includes \$37 million to support the people of Sudan and to help implement the north-south elements of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement that was signed on January 9, 2005. The bill includes \$240 million for food aid to address rising hunger crises in Africa and elsewhere.

Palestinians: Following the recent historic election held by the Palestinians, the bill includes \$200 million to reinforce these positive political developments by supporting the development of economic opportunity and democratic institutions. This money will be used to develop infrastructure and support critical sectors like education, home construction, and basic services. These funds are key to the vision of two states, with a Palestinian state that is a partner for peace with Israel. The funds will support work between the Palestinians and Israelis on economic and social matters. The Administration appreciates the inclusion of waiver authority on certain restrictions on direct funding.

Ukraine: The recent historic elections provide an unparalleled opportunity to help secure and advance the victory for democracy in Ukraine, making Ukraine a more capable, reliable partner. The President requested – and the bill provides – \$60 million to support the new government's ability to consolidate gains Ukraine has made, establish the rule of law, combat corruption, and accelerate economic reforms.

International Peacekeeping: The bill includes \$680 million for Contributions for International Peacekeeping Activities to support the United States' share of new peacekeeping missions, including those in Haiti, Cote D'Ivoire, and Burundi and an anticipated mission in Sudan. These missions help ensure humanitarian assistance can move freely and work toward elections can proceed, as well as relieve the requirements for additional deployments of U.S. forces.