

Ryan Talking Points – Opening Statement
DoD Budget– England
February 27, 2008

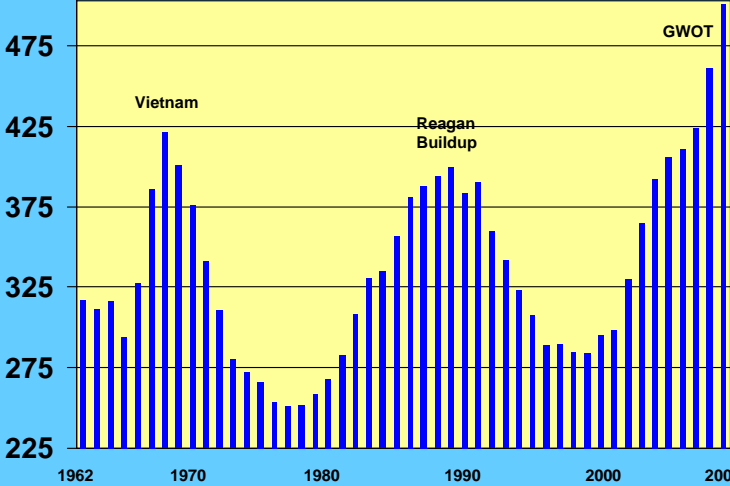
- *Thank Chairman Spratt; welcome back Deputy Secretary England; welcome General Wainwright, and Ms. Jonas.*
- I appreciate the work you do and the monumental task you have of managing an organization with over 3 million employees, facilities in over 5,000 locations in 163 countries, and a budget of over half a trillion dollars.
- I appreciate the work you do in managing an agency that is attempting to transform from a Cold War footing to a more agile joint force while prosecuting a very challenging global war against terrorism.
- And I am particularly grateful to the men and women who put on a uniform, each and every day, and answer the call to protect our freedom while placing their lives on the line in places far away from their families and loved ones.
- I believe that providing for our national security is *the* highest obligation of the federal government.

[CALL UP SLIDE 1]

- The dramatic defense cuts of the 1990s left the Department of Defense ill-equipped to meet the new challenges we've faced over the last decade.
- I would hope, however, that with the funding levels provided since 2000 – *an increase of over 80 percent to the base budget* – the Department is on more sound financial ground as we prepare to enter the *next* decade, and the new challenges *it* will bring.

- The War on Terror has been costly – both in the sacrifice made by our fighting forces and in dollars – but not as costly as enduring the alternative: *inaction* in the face of adversity.
- As a member of this Committee, I have been, and will continue to be, supportive of providing the Department the full funding it needs to continue to prosecute the war.
- I am disappointed, however, that the Majority has failed to act on the President’s request – of over a year ago – for supplemental funding.
- I am also disappointed – though not surprised, given the circumstances – that the Administration only requested a portion of funds for the war in 2009.
- This Committee has called for transparency with regard to war funding – both in the Administration’s request, and in the budget. Clearly, there is still improvements to be made on that front.
- So it is my hope that we will use our time today to gain a better understanding of what we the Department’s 2009 supplemental requirements will be.
- Again, welcome to our witnesses – I look forward to your testimony.

National Defense (050) Outlays in Constant FY 2002 \$
Base and Emergency



Source: OMB
* Estimate