

**Statement of the Honorable Paul D. Irving
Sergeant at Arms, U.S. House of Representatives
Before
The Subcommittee on Legislative Branch Appropriations
For the Office of the Sergeant at Arms
Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Submission**

Good morning Mr. Chairman, Mr. Honda, and members of the Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you to present the Sergeant at Arms budget request for fiscal year 2013. Before I begin, I would like to say that as your new Sergeant at Arms, it is indeed a privilege to have the opportunity to serve this institution and I look forward to working with you and the members of this committee.

Since I became Sergeant at Arms in January, I have been getting up to speed on our budget request for fiscal year 2013, and am pleased to report that this request has been crafted in the spirit of zero-based budgeting. A robust and thorough effort has been made to identify cost savings where available, all while maintaining the quality of services this office provides.

As Sergeant at Arms, I review and direct security matters relating to the House of Representatives and as a member of the U.S. Capitol Police Board, I take part in establishing policies and guidelines to safeguard the Capitol complex and its occupants. Several key efforts underway at this time include assistance with District Office Security, initial security discussions involving the 2012 conventions, the upcoming Inauguration in January 2013, and coordination on a comprehensive emergency management plan. I will continue to work closely with the U.S. Capitol Police and our emergency planners to facilitate this effort – and all others – as quickly as possible to ensure that all that can be done is being done.

Throughout the past year, in partnership with U.S. Capitol Police, we have continued

our outreach to all Member offices regarding base-line District Office security, providing detailed guidance on best practices, providing information on how to obtain a thorough security review, and coordinating security surveys when requested. We will continue to provide these essential services to offices, always cognizant of the need to provide cost effective recommendations and solutions.

As you know my predecessor developed and implemented the Law Enforcement Coordinator Program (LEC), which is an integral part of every District Office Security plan. I am pleased to report this program is a resounding success with nearly complete participation from the Members. I plan to continue working very closely with this important group of staff. LECs provide a vital link to the local law enforcement community, and enable a liaison and rapport with local and state law enforcement that is extremely helpful. The U.S. Capitol Police Board reached out to local law enforcement, through the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Sheriff's Association and others, to advise them of the LEC program. We have received overwhelming support from state, county and municipal law enforcement agencies. The LEC program has been and will continue to be a lasting benefit to this institution.

Allow me to take a moment to mention some of the initiatives we currently are focused on for fiscal year 2013.

- We are making preparations across several divisions for the start of the 113th Congress.
 - We will undertake the design and procurement of the Member and Spouse Pin, as well as license plates.
 - We are coordinating with the Senate Sergeant at Arms and U.S. Capitol Police to develop the staff ID badge design.
 - We will begin the parking permit design, approval and procurement process.
 - We will design and acquire House gallery passes.

Other initiatives we plan to address include the following:

- We will implement an on-line ID badge request form for House offices.
- We are implementing on-line Security Awareness “101” briefings which will be available to all House staff regarding foreign travel, operation security, and protection of personal identifiable information.
- We will soon implement a desktop “pop-up” notification tool and digital television display to be used for the quick display of emergency messages.
- We are in the process of developing and implementing on-line training for Law Enforcement Coordinators (LEC) and Office Emergency Coordinators (OEC).
- We are in the process of reviewing and updating parts of the House Emergency Operations Plan.

In order to fund these important efforts, the Office of the Sergeant at Arms has requested \$13,828,000 in fiscal year 2013, which includes \$9,220,000 for personnel expenses and \$4,608,000 for non-personnel items.

While we are authorized for 134 FTE for fiscal year 2013, we are requesting funds for 125 positions in the Office of the Sergeant at Arms. The positions are found in the following divisions: the Immediate Office (which includes the division of Police Services/Special Events and Protocol), Chamber Security, Parking Security, House Security, Information Services, and Emergency Management.

Non-personnel expenses for fiscal year 2013 will support travel, telecommunications, printing, other services, supplies and materials, and equipment.

Travel funding is for the advance and support of official special events and funerals, and also includes travel to training seminars and educational conferences. Funding also supports some House emergency evacuation capabilities. Funding requested for fiscal year 2013 is \$42,000 less than fiscal year 2012. This decrease is due to costs being associated with advancing and supporting the 2012 conventions being funded in fiscal year 2012.

Telecommunications funding supports telephone, cell phone, air cards and BlackBerry service for all divisions of the Sergeant at Arms. Funding requested is \$5,000 below that of fiscal year 2012. Funds requested are based on actual fiscal year 2011 costs.

Funding for Printing includes general printing needs as well as the preparation of emergency training materials. Funding requested is \$2,000 below that of fiscal year 2012. Funds requested are based on actual fiscal year 2011 costs.

Funding for Other Services includes training and contractual services. Some highlights covered in this request are:

- Job-specific training for staff of the Sergeant at Arms in all divisions.
- Assistance from subject matter experts on threat mitigation, force protection, counterterrorism, and emergency preparedness, response and recovery.
- Contractual services to assist with the production of identification badges for the 113th Congress.
- Software maintenance in the Office of Emergency Management.

The area of Supplies and Materials provides funding for general office supplies, ID supplies, and miscellaneous supplies which include Parking Security supplies, the life-cycle replacement of Parking Security uniforms, and the lifecycle replacement of blackberries, cellphones, and aircards. This reflects a decrease of \$96,000 in fiscal year 2013. This is primarily based on the cyclical nature of our budget, in which we request new Congress supplies and materials (Member pins, license plates, and parking permits) in even-number fiscal years only.

In the Equipment area, funding supports hardware/software needs throughout all divisions of the Office of the Sergeant at Arms, as well as required maintenance. This is

increase of \$863,000 above that of fiscal year 2012. Some highlights covered in this request include:

- Lifecycle replacement of PCs, laptops and other office equipment.
- Upgrades to the House (emergency) Operations Center, such as the update of video display systems from analog to digital.
- Purchase of equipment to support deployed House operations.
- Annual maintenance and upgrades to several emergency planning software systems to be used in support of continuity of operations.
- Purchase of new equipment for several divisions, including equipment used in the event of an emergency, such as Parking Security radios, digital radios compatible with the new USCP network, an accountability system, portable badging equipment, and first responder access cards (FRAC).

In closing, I would like to thank the Committee again for the privilege of appearing today. Let me assure you of my commitment to provide the highest quality support services for the House of Representatives while maintaining the safest and most secure environment possible. My goal – and that of every employee within the Office of the Sergeant at Arms – is to remain attentive and security-conscious, while continuing to maintain the level of fiscal responsibility expected by the House of Representatives.

I will continue to keep the Committee informed of my activities and will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you.