

H.R. 2638, Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act of 2009

Representative Joe Courtney voted in favor of H.R. 2638, which included Fiscal Year 2009 appropriation funding for the Department of Homeland Security, Department of Defense, and Military Construction/Veterans Affairs.

Below are the specifics related to the bill:

Defense:

- **Virginia-class submarine (General Dynamics Electric Boat, Groton):** Provides \$3.5 billion for the Virginia-Class Submarine program, of which \$2.1 billion will support the authorization and construction of the FY2009 boat and \$1.4 billion will be used to purchase long-lead materials necessary for one boat in FY10 and two boats a year between FY11-13. The total includes an increase of \$79 million above the President's budget request that Congressman Courtney secured, which supports advanced construction activities that will bring work on the next "block" of submarines to the Electric Boat shipyards faster and further mitigate the attack submarine shortfall by delivering six of the next eight boats to the Navy at least six months ahead of the current schedule.
- **Undersea Launched Missile Study/Strategic Sea Based Deterrent (General Dynamics Electric Boat, Groton):** Provides \$3.2 million to continue concept development studies and research for the replacement of the current fleet of SSBN Ohio-class submarines. Under current plans, the replacement for the current sea-based strategic deterrent, the Ohio-class SSBN, is scheduled to begin major design work in 2012 and construction in 2019. However, Congressman Courtney is concerned that waiting until 2012 to begin major design work will strain the specialized design workforce at Electric Boat. This funding supports the submarine design workforce by continuing conceptual work on the SSBN replacement until the start of major Navy design efforts.
- **Submarine Fatline Vector Towed Array (Chesapeake Sciences, Stonington):** Provides \$800,000 for the development of a new submarine fatline vector sensor towed array. The sensor towed array will lead to improved gain and better target motion analysis by steering nulls in the direction of interfering sources and resolving the right-left ambiguity of a single line array without the need for ship maneuvering. This funding will support fabrication and testing of a prototype array.
- **Lithium Ion Domestic Materials Development (Yardney Technical Products, Pawcatuck):** Provides \$1.6 million for the Lithium Ion Domestic Materials Development project at Yardney. The project is intended to secure a viable domestic source of lithium ion cathode materials to meeting the power requirements of various Air Force platforms, develop a safer and more reliable

cell design, and evaluate more efficient processing techniques. Funding this effort will support the Global Hawk and B2 aircraft, various satellite programs, as well as sister service Lithium Ion Battery requirements.

- **Integrated Ship and Motion Control Technology (Mystic Innovations, Mystic):** Provides \$3.4 million for research of Integrated Ship and Motion Control Technology. The funding will allow for a demonstration of this technology and the integration of intelligent control, advanced motor materials, acoustic silencing, electro-mechanical power transfer, and high capacity energy storage devices in the challenging shipboard application of high-speed vessel stabilization and ride control.
- **Automated Readiness Measurement System (DDL Omni, Norwich):** Provides \$2.8 million for the development of the Automated Readiness Measurement System (ARMS), an objective and non-invasive measurement of ship and mission readiness using the standards of Joint and Navy mission Essential Tasks and personal qualifications standards with current shipboard systems and methodology. This will provide Navy leadership, unit commanders through fleet commanders, a current and accurate measurement of ship and mission area readiness in preparation for deployment.
- **Helicopter Vulnerability Reduction (United Technologies Research Center):** Provides \$2.4 million to design an armor protection system for cargo and troop transport helicopters to reduce their vulnerability to small arms fire. The research will pursue an armor system for combat helicopters based on battle field experience that can be used to guide the placement and scaling of new armor systems, including light weight ballistic material systems that can be appropriately and selectively integrated into the helicopter to significantly decrease the vulnerability while minimizing the impact on payload and mission.

Military Construction-Veterans

- **Naval Submarine Base New London:** Provides \$57 million for new military construction projects at SUBASE, including:
 - **\$46 million for the replacement of Pier 31 at Subase New London.** The current pier is 33 years old and designed to support older classes of submarines. The aging infrastructure of the base was a significant issue during the 2005 base closure process, where the age and condition of the base, specifically the inadequacy of the waterfront piers, factored significantly against the base in the scoring and analysis. This funding will support construction of a new pier that will enhance the base's ability to service today's modern attack submarine force and strengthen the base's operational infrastructure. Knowing how critical the replacement of inadequate piers are to the base's ability to accomplish its mission,

Congressman Courtney wrote to the Secretary of the Navy last year urging the inclusion of replacement pier funding in the Navy's FY2009 budget request and requested Congress's support for this important project throughout the 2009 budget process.

- **\$11 million for a new indoor firing range.** The current firing range is outdated and inadequate to support the ability of SUBASE New London to achieve its most critical mission – the training and support of our submariners in their required small arms qualifications. Today, the only small arms range at SUBASE is located outdoors in a facility that was constructed nearly 60 years ago. The new indoor firing range will provide SUBASE New London with a new 20 lane indoor small arms range facility capable of supporting the full modern small arms training needs of personnel stationed in Groton. While this project was initially programmed by the Navy to be built in 2013, Senators Dodd and Lieberman led the way in accelerating the project to 2009 in the Senate. Congressman Courtney supported their efforts and advocated for the project during House-Senate negotiations on the final appropriations package.
- **Connecticut National Guard.** Provides \$25 million in military construction priorities for the Connecticut National Guard in eastern Connecticut, including:
 - **\$18 million for a regional training institute (RTI) for the Connecticut National Guard at Camp Rell, Niantic.** The RTI at Camp Rell will provide an educational facility complex to support leadership training for the National Guard in Connecticut and across the Northeast. Today, leadership training is currently located in a series of temporary WWII vintage, wooden buildings. These buildings do not meet the minimum Army requirements for classroom, dining, or billeting; nor do they meet the quality of life standards imposed by the Installations Directorate as well as the OSHA requirements for lighting. The facility is 74 years old and has been determined to be too costly to maintain, to operate, or to rehabilitate.
 - **\$7.2 million for the expansion of the Connecticut Air National Guard's engine repair shop, Bradley International Airport.** BRAC 2005 directed the Connecticut Air National Guard to use their aircraft hanger as an expanding Centralized Intermediate Repair Facility (CIRF) facility. With this new mission, the Bradley CIRF will service and maintain A-10 engines from units throughout the Northeast and the east coast, a core capability of the men and women of the Connecticut National Guard. However, since BRAC, the Air National Guard has been assigned a new flying mission and, as a result, the hanger is no longer available for the engine repair mission. The existing facility is only able to support work on 24 engines, far short of the 74 required, and must be expanded to

support additional work space, parts storage, engine storage, shipping and receiving, personnel training and administrative support areas. The \$7.2 million provided will improve and expand the existing engine facility to fully support this critical engine repair mission. Although located in the first congressional district, many of the airmen stationed and employed there reside in the second congressional district.

- **Veterans Health Care:** \$41 billion, \$1.8 billion above the President's request and \$4.1 billion above 2008, for veterans medical care. The Veterans Health Administration estimates they will treat more than 5.8 million patients in 2009 including more than 333,275 veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan (40,000 more than 2008). The increase includes:
 - **Travel Reimbursements:** \$133 million above the President's request to increase the travel reimbursement rate from 28.5 cents per mile to 41.5 cents per mile, while freezing the deductible.
 - **Enrollment of Priority 8 Veterans:** \$375 million, not requested by the President, to start enrolling additional Priority 8 veterans. An estimated one half of all uninsured veterans are Priority 8. Priority 8 veterans have not been enrolled since 2003 as part of an Administration effort to cut costs.
 - **Mental Health and Substance Abuse:** \$3.8 billion for specialty mental health care and \$584 million for substance abuse programs.
 - **Assistance for Homeless Vets:** \$130 million for the homeless grants and per diem program, rejecting the President's \$8 million cut and the same as 2008, in addition to \$30 million to hire additional personnel for the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program.
 - **New Generation Prosthetics:** \$1.6 billion, \$250 million above 2008 and \$116 million above the President's request, to provide veterans with appropriate prosthetic support and sensory aids.

Homeland Security:

- **State Grants:** \$950 million, rejecting the President's \$777 million cut and the same as 2008, for grants used to plan, equip and train local first responders to respond to terrorist attacks and catastrophic incidents.
- **Fire Grants (including SAFER):** \$775 million, rejecting the President's \$450 million cut and \$25 million above 2008, to help local fire departments address communication, equipment and staffing problems.

- **Port Security Grants:** \$400 million, rejecting the President's \$190 million cut and the same as 2008, for grants to protect critical port facilities and infrastructure, as authorized in the Safe Ports Act.
- **Coast Guard:** \$9.36 billion, \$290 million above the President's request and \$729 million above 2008.