

# TITLE I—PROCUREMENT

## OVERVIEW

The budget request for fiscal year 2016 contained \$106.96 billion for procurement. This represents a \$12.36 billion increase over the amount authorized for fiscal year 2015.

The committee recommends authorization of \$109.74 billion, an increase of \$2.76 billion from the fiscal year 2016 request.

The committee recommendations for the fiscal year 2016 procurement program are identified in division D of this Act.

## AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, ARMY

### Overview

The budget request for fiscal year 2016 contained \$5.68 billion for Aircraft Procurement, Army. The committee recommends authorization of \$5.86 billion, an increase of \$179.8 million, for fiscal year 2016.

The committee recommendations for the fiscal year 2016 Aircraft Procurement, Army program are identified in division D of this Act.

### Items of Special Interest

#### *AH-64 Apache helicopter multi-year production contract*

The budget request contained \$1.4 billion in aircraft procurement, Army, for the AH-64 Apache Block IIIA program.

The committee notes that the AH-64 Apache Block IIIA program is increasing production to 64 aircraft in fiscal year 2016, and that the Army plans to maintain a production rate between 52 and 68 aircraft per year in fiscal years 2017-20. The committee believes that the production line is now stable enough for the Army to pursue a multi-year contract for the program, and that such a multi-year contract could potentially save over a hundred million dollars over a 5-year period. Therefore, the committee encourages the Army to seek congressional approval of such a multi-year contract award in the fiscal year 2017 budget request.

The committee recommends \$1.4 billion, the full amount requested, in aircraft procurement, Army, for the AH-64 Apache Block IIIA program.

#### *Armed aerial scout rotorcraft*

The committee understands the Army has an enduring requirement for an Armed Aerial Scout (AAS) platform. Additionally, the committee is aware that the Army's decision to utilize AH-64 Apache Attack helicopters in conjunction with current unmanned aerial systems was a recommended course of action from the official AAS Analyses of Alternatives. In the committee report (H. Rept. 113-446) accompanying the Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, the committee directed the Secretary of the Army to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services on the Army's interim Apache scout implementation plan, as well as the concept for the follow-on plan to replace this interim solution. Based on the information provided to it, the committee continues to have concerns regarding the Army's long-term strategy to address the AAS requirement.

The committee directs the Secretary of the Army to brief the House Committee on Armed Services by February 15, 2016, on the conclusions and recommendations of the AAS Analysis of Alternatives. The committee also expects this briefing to address and examine any joint multirole technologies that could be implemented as part of an AAS platform. The committee notes that the Joint Multirole Technology Demonstration program is currently informing the Army's ability to implement potential technologies in Future Vertical Lift aircraft.

#### *Army UH-60A to UH-60L conversions for the National Guard*

The budget request contained \$46.5 million in Aircraft Procurement, Army and \$227.9 million in Operation and Maintenance, Army for 40 UH-60A to UH-60L conversions.

The committee notes that based on the Army's current budget projections that Army National Guard units will not be able to replace their aging UH-60A Blackhawk aircraft until the end of fiscal year 2023. The committee further notes that this timeline depends on three separate Army programs: production of new UH-60M helicopters; the UH-60V upgrade program; and the UH-60A to UH-60L conversion program. The committee supports acceleration of all three programs in order to accelerate the timeline for replacement of UH-60A helicopters in the Army National Guard. Elsewhere in this Act, the committee includes legislation that would further explore acceleration options. However, the committee also supports action in fiscal year 2016 to generate additional upgraded UH-60 helicopters. The committee understands that the maximum number of UH-60A to UH-60L conversions in fiscal year 2016 is 48 helicopters.

The committee recommends \$55.4 million, an increase of \$8.8 million, in Aircraft Procurement, Army and \$314.6 million, an increase of \$86.7 million, in Operation and Maintenance, Army for 48 UH-60A to UH-60L conversions.

#### *Improved MQ-1C Gray Eagle modifications*

The budget request contained \$276.9 million in Aircraft Procurement, Army for the MQ-1C Gray Eagle Unmanned Aerial System.

The committee notes that the MQ-1C Gray Eagle Unmanned Aircraft System provides critical intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities to combatant commanders. The committee understands that the Army has already implemented upgrades to modify the current Gray Eagle platform in order to provide extended range capabilities. This capability, known as the "Improved Gray Eagle," includes significant expansion of the fuselage to accommodate larger fuel capacity and additional payloads, as well as integration of an improved heavy fuel engine to support takeoff at heavier weights. However, additional funding is required to upgrade the last 17 legacy Gray Eagle aircraft to the Improved Gray Eagle configuration. The committee believes the increased endurance of a modified Gray Eagle provides combatant commanders greater employment options at increased ranges, expanded payload options, and improved basing flexibility in support of the Global ISR mission.

The committee recommends \$293.9 million, an increase of \$17.0 million, for improved MQ-1C Gray Eagle modifications.

## MISSILE PROCUREMENT, ARMY

### Overview

The budget request for fiscal year 2016 contained \$1.41 billion for Missile Procurement, Army. The committee recommends authorization of \$1.49 billion, an increase of \$76.0 million, for fiscal year 2016.

The committee recommendations for the fiscal year 2016 Missile Procurement, Army program are identified in division D of this Act.

## PROCUREMENT OF WEAPONS AND TRACKED COMBAT VEHICLES, ARMY

### Overview

The budget request for fiscal year 2016 contained \$1.88 billion for Procurement of Weapons and Tracked Combat Vehicles, Army. The committee recommends authorization of \$2.03 billion, an increase of \$148.6 million, for fiscal year 2016.

The committee recommendations for the fiscal year 2016 Procurement of Weapons and Tracked Combat Vehicles, Army program are identified in division D of this Act.

### Items of Special Interest

#### *Bradley Fighting Vehicles*

The committee is aware that the US Army is working to standardize its fleet of Bradley Fighting Vehicles to two digital configurations; the M2A3 and the M2A2 ODS-SA. The committee understands that the majority of Active Duty and

National Guard units are equipped with the most advanced versions of these vehicles that include digitized fire control and communications systems. The committee is aware that two units in particular, the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and the Nevada National Guard, as well as several other active duty Brigade Engineer Battalions are equipped with the least modernized M2A2-ODS variant.

The committee acknowledges that the Bradley Family of Vehicles, to include the M2A2 ODS, M2A2 ODS-SA, and M2A3, share the same materiel engineering and construction with no differences in protection or survivability and that all three variants are deployable for combat. The committee is concerned that soldiers in the units M2A2 ODS versions lack the technical proficiency necessary to operate the advanced Bradley vehicles utilized in combat operations. The committee is concerned that this could degrade combat effectiveness and pose additional risk to units who deploy with the older Bradley variant.

The committee understands that the Army provides new equipment training for units scheduled to fall-in on equipment with unfamiliar capabilities upon deployment to combat theaters of operation. The committee also understands that the Army maintains a program of record for remanufacturing M2A2-ODS Bradley's that ceased production in 2014 and notes that the budget request did not include funding to modernize these remaining vehicles. As such, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army to brief the House Committee on Armed Services by February 15, 2016 on what resources would be required to maintain the readiness and technical proficiency of these units as well as current and long terms plans for modernizing the remaining vehicles.

#### *Combat vehicle industrial base management*

The committee notes that as a result of the Budget Control Act of 2011 (Public Law 112-25), the Army is in the process of reducing its Active Duty end strength to 420,000, unless sequestration is resolved. Additionally, the Army will have reduced Active Component Brigade Combat Teams (BCTs) from 45 to 32 by the end of fiscal year 2015. In 2012 the active Army had 17 Armored BCTs (ABCT), 20 Infantry BCTs (IBCT), and 8 Stryker BCTs. Notably, by the end of fiscal year 2015, the Army will have reduced active Army ABCTs to 9, nearly half the number it had in 2012. The committee notes that the ABCT, which is comprised of Abrams tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles, is the only full-spectrum force in the Army's force structure. With regard to the future utility of armored forces, the committee notes that a RAND Corporation report from 2010 concluded that, "Heavy forces-based on tanks and infantry fighting vehicles-are key elements of any force that will fight hybrid enemies that have a modicum of training, organization, and advanced weapons. Light and medium forces can complement heavy forces, particularly in urban and other complex terrain; they do not provide the survivability, lethality, or mobility inherent in heavy forces. Quite simply, heavy forces reduce operational risks and minimize friendly casualties."

The committee is encouraged by the restoration of a third maneuver battalion in Armored and Infantry BCTs, and notes that in the committee report (H. Rept. 109-452) accompanying the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007, the committee opposed the Army's original decision to have only two maneuver battalions per BCT. The committee remains concerned about the reduction of active ABCTs and the Army's ability to have sufficient numbers of fully ready active ABCTs to meet combatant commander steady state and contingency plan requirements. Additionally, the committee has concerns about the mobility, protection, and lethality of IBCT, and encourages the Army to pursue rapid incremental solutions to address these shortfalls.

In addition to the mix of BCTs, the committee continues to need a better understanding of the ramifications to the future combat vehicle industrial base capabilities with regard to the Abrams tank, Bradley fighting vehicle, Paladin howitzer, Hercules recovery vehicle, Armored Multi-Purpose Vehicle, and the Stryker combat vehicle. The committee commends the Army for making positive progress in information collection and analysis of long-term sustainment of the combat vehicle industrial base, and also its use of the analytical information collected to mitigate risk at both the prime and vendor level using congressionally appropriated funds. Moreover, the committee acknowledges that this information has helped inform the Army's position that Foreign Military Sales alone is not sufficient to sustain the viability of the combat vehicle industrial base. Such a position poses an unacceptable level of risk at both the prime contractor and vendor level and Congress has been consistently vocal on these risks in previous years.

The committee supports the Army's decision to accelerate the 4th Stryker Double-Vee-Hull conversion and Stryker Engineering Change Proposal (ECP) program for Stryker combat vehicle, as well as continuing its efforts in ECP production of the Bradley fighting vehicle, and M1 Abrams tank, to include development of six pilot M1A2 SEP V3. In addition, the committee understands that the Army awarded an Engineering Manufacturing Development contract for the Armored Multi-Purpose Vehicle in December 2015, a program the committee has encouraged the Army to accelerate for several years. The out-year funding reflected in the budget request for fiscal year 2016 indicates a commitment by the Army to move forward with the next major technology upgrades for the existing fleet of weapon systems that would ensure fielding of the highest quality combat vehicles to a smaller force and also sustain the fragile industrial base. However, the committee remains concerned about the stability of Army modernization funding in fiscal year 2017 and beyond given the implications of sequestration. In particular, and verified by the Army's industrial base analysis, the committee is concerned about the viability of select vendor base suppliers, such as the Forward Looking Infra-red and transmissions sectors. The committee encourages the Army to continue to monitor these two sectors closely and to take necessary actions to maintain their viability.

*Hercules recovery vehicle*

The budget request contained \$123.6 million for the M88A2 improved recovery vehicle program.

The committee is aware that in order to provide greater protection for soldiers, the Army's current and future fleet of combat vehicles has grown significantly in weight. As a result, the current fleet of M88A1 recovery vehicles is approaching its maximum capability, which will be greatly exceeded by the future fleet of combat vehicles. The committee notes that the M88A2 is the only vehicle that can single-handedly recover a main battle tank, and that it was the only vehicle in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan that could recover larger mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicles. The committee understands that the Army has recently increased the M88A2 acquisition objective to 933 systems, of which only 825 have been funded for procurement through fiscal year 2018. The committee supports the Army's decision to pursue a "pure fleet" strategy. However, the committee believes additional funds are needed in order to achieve Army requirements sooner and to provide manufacturing workload beyond fiscal year 2016. The committee also notes that the M88A2 is on the Army's unfunded priorities requirements list.

The committee recommends \$195.6 million, an increase of \$72.0 million, for the M88A2 improved recovery vehicle program.

### *M1 Abrams Tank Fleet Configuration*

The committee notes that the M1A2 System Enhancement Program (SEP) v2 Abrams tank is the Army's premier ground combat system and has demonstrated its value on the battlefields of Iraq. Its built-in test system ensures that diagnosis and repair are fast and efficient, improving combat availability and saving operational costs. Improved digital displays provide tank commanders and crews with a better understanding of their tank's operational status and their situation on the battlefield.

However, despite the capabilities of the M1A2 SEP v2, the committee is aware that the Army maintains two configurations of Abrams tanks, and believes that this dual configuration is inefficient and increasingly expensive. The committee further notes that all Armor Brigade Combat Teams (ABCT) in the active component are equipped with M1A2 SEP v2 tanks, but that only two out of seven ABCTs in the National Guard are equipped with new M1A2 SEP v2 tanks. The other five ABCTs in the National Guard, and the three separate Combined Arms Battalions, are equipped with less-capable M1A1 Situational Awareness (SA) tanks. The committee is also aware that Army schools currently provide training solely on M1A2 SEP v2s, meaning that Army National Guard soldiers attending an Army armor school are trained on M1A2 SEP v2 tanks, which is not the vehicle they will operate in their units. Finally, the committee also notes that the Army intends to begin fielding a new version of the M1 Abrams tank, the M1A2 SEP v3, in 2018. The committee understands that this tank will be an incremental improvement from the M1A2 SEP v2 and retain significant commonality.

The committee believes that the Army should take advantage of upcoming changes to its ABCT force structure to achieve a pure fleet of M1A2 SEP v2 tanks across both the active duty Army and Army National Guard. The committee believes that maintaining only one type of tank in the Army will reduce support and training costs, allow better integration the Army National Guard, and provide a more capable overall tank fleet for the Army. The committee directs the Secretary of the Army to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by January 30, 2016, on the potential force structure changes and production programs necessary to achieve a pure fleet of M1 Abrams tanks across the Army.

#### *M240 production and industrial base sustainment*

The budget request included \$1.4 million for M240 medium machine gun modifications.

The committee is concerned that the budget request for the M240 medium machine gun does not provide adequate resources to maintain the capability of the industrial base workforce. The committee notes the M240 medium machine gun inventory is aging significantly. Consistent with previous committee activity regarding the need for small arms modernization, the committee encourages a general top-line increase for the M240 medium machine program across the Future Years Defense Program in order to sustain the U.S. small arms industrial base, as well as to ensure continued optimal M240 production for the military services. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army to brief the House Committee on Armed Services by March 1, 2016, on the Army's long-term sustainment strategy and life-cycle sustainment plans for the M240 medium machine gun.

The committee recommends \$1.4 million, the full amount requested, for M240 medium machine gun modifications.

#### *Modular Handgun System*

The budget request contained \$5.4 million for the procurement of 7,106 new Modular Handgun (MHS) weapon systems.

The MHS is projected to be a non-developmental item, commercial-off-the-shelf replacement handgun for the current M9 pistol. The committee understands the MHS is intended to provide soldiers with improved lethality, accuracy, ergonomics, reliability, durability, and maintainability over current systems. The committee has consistently encouraged the military services to modernize the current inventory of small arms through new procurements, product improvement programs (PIP), or dual-path strategies that consist of new procurements and PIPs. The committee supports the MHS program, but remains concerned over the continued delay in releasing the official request for proposals (RFP). The committee understands that the Army is still finalizing performance requirements, and that the program's schedule is dependent upon final release of the RFP. According to notional schedules reviewed by the committee, the committee notes that the bid

sample test program for the MHS could last up to 1 year. Due to the continued delay in releasing the RFP, and the extended bid sample test program, the committee believes the procurement request for the MHS in fiscal year 2016 is ahead of need.

Therefore, the committee recommends no procurement funding for the MHS program due to funding ahead of need and current schedule delays.

#### *Small arms production industrial base*

The committee recognizes that a robust and viable small arms production industrial base (SAPIB) is essential to the long-term sustainment of reliable and capable sources that can develop, produce, and maintain military performance specifications for small arms parts and components, as well as to maintain competitively priced small arms property and services for use by the military services. In the interest of full and open competition, the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (Public Law 111-383) repealed section 2473 of title 10, United States Code, which had required the Department of Defense to only procure certain small arms repair parts and components from a limited number of industry sources that the Department had identified as comprising the SAPIB.

The committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the senior military services acquisition executives, to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by March 1, 2016, on the current state of the SAPIB, as well as on the effect the repeal is having on the current SAPIB.

#### *Stryker lethality upgrades*

The budget request contained \$74.0 million in Weapons and Tracked Combat Vehicles, Army for Stryker modifications and \$257.1 million in PE 23735A for the Combat Vehicle Improvement Program.

The committee notes that U.S. Army deployments in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom placed a strain on the Army's combat vehicle fleet and prompted a significant investment in the force protection and survivability of M1 Abrams tanks, Bradley Fighting Vehicles and the Stryker family of wheeled combat vehicles to defeat mines, improvised explosive devices and other threats. One notable example is the success of the Double V Hull on the Stryker vehicle. The committee understands that this necessary investment in vehicle survivability did degrade vehicle mobility and may have caused the Army to defer investments in vehicle lethality.

The committee notes that the Army is addressing the mobility issues with Abrams, Bradley and Stryker with Engineering Change Proposal (ECP) modernization programs that are funded in the fiscal year 2016 request. The committee understands that the Army is also resourcing lethality improvements in later phases of the Abrams and Bradley ECP programs. The committee also notes that the Army is interested in pursuing lethality upgrades within Stryker Brigades,

but has not yet resourced these upgrades. The committee understands that the Army has an emerging urgent operational requirement for Stryker Infantry Carrier Vehicles that have a direct fire weapon system. The committee also understands the Army initially wants Stryker vehicles with improved lethality to be fielded to the 2nd Cavalry Regiment, a Stryker Brigade Combat Team forward deployed to Europe, to increase formation lethality against threat vehicles and dismounted infantry. The committee supports this urgent need and believes the Army should continue to pursue lethality upgrades of its Stryker Brigade Combat Teams in order to meet combatant commander requirements.

Further, the committee notes that the Stryker lethality upgrade program will use existing Stryker chassis that are leftover from the Stryker exchange process that creates Double V Hull Strykers, which will reduce the cost of the lethality upgrades.

Finally, the committee encourages the Army to conduct appropriate live fire testing as soon as possible on any potential Stryker survivability enhancements that have the potential to improve crew protection and overall vehicle survivability.

The committee recommends \$118.5 million, an increase of \$44.5 million, for Stryker modifications procurement and \$292.1 million, an increase of \$35.0 million, in PE 23735A for Stryker lethality upgrades.

## PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, ARMY

### Overview

The budget request for fiscal year 2016 contained \$1.23 billion for Procurement of Ammunition, Army. The committee recommends authorization of \$1.22 billion, a decrease of \$11.0 million, for fiscal year 2016.

The committee recommendations for the fiscal year 2016 Procurement of Ammunition, Army program are identified in division D of this Act.

### Items of Special Interest

#### *Cost assessment of decommissioning lead-based ammunition and associated components*

The committee is concerned about the potential impact the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2601–2629) could have on military ammunition and associated components containing lead components. Specifically, the committee notes that the Toxic Substances Control Act could potentially be used to ban conventional lead-based ammunition which would result in significant increases in the price of conventional ammunition for both ammunition manufacturers and the Department of Defense. The committee is aware that the U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are now procuring enhanced performance non-lead based 5.56mm and 7.62mm small caliber rounds, which provide better performance against soft and hard targets than lead rounds. However, the committee notes that the other

military services still continue to use lead-based small caliber rounds. Additionally, the committee notes that other categories of conventional ammunition beyond small caliber ammunition contain significant amounts of lead-based components and that implementation of the Toxic Substances Control Act to ban lead-based ammunition could have a much broader effect across the ammunition enterprise beyond small caliber rounds.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a cost assessment to the House Committee on Armed Services by March 1, 2016, that details the costs associated with decommissioning lead-based ammunition. The cost assessment should consider all Class V supply items, ammunition of all types, fuses, detonators, pyrotechnics, propellants, and associated component items to include primers.

#### *Joint Hydra 70 guided rocket acquisition strategy*

The committee understands that the Hydra 70 rocket is comprised of an unguided rocket system with an M151 fragmentation warhead and is categorized as an area weapon because once launched, the weapon impacts in the general direction that it is fired. The committee also understands that the Navy and the Marine Corps have been procuring and fielding the Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System (APKWS) since 2012. The APKWS adds a precision guided system component to the existing unguided Hydra rocket system, which provides a low-cost, low-yield precision guided kill capability against soft to lightly armored and hardened targets.

The committee is aware the Joint Requirements Oversight Council has recently re-validated the Army Operational Requirements Document for the APKWS, and notes that there is also a validated Army operational needs statement (ONS) for additional APKWS for use in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The committee understands the Army plans to leverage the Navy APKWS contract to procure Army APKWS rockets to address the ONS. The committee commends the Army for taking the necessary actions to rapidly field this capability to address an immediate warfighter need; however, the committee remains concerned over the absence of a long-term acquisition strategy for guided Hydra rockets. The committee is also concerned by the Department of Defense's perceived inability to field more capable warhead technology with greater lethality that could be used on these precision guided rocket systems. The committee is aware that such warheads exist and are in current inventory.

The committee directs the Secretary of Army to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by March 1, 2016, on the Department of Defense's near- and long-term acquisition and fielding strategies for precision guided rockets and warhead technology.

#### *M3 Multi-role Anti-Armor Anti-tank Weapon System*

The budget request contained \$7.5 million for M3 Multi-role Anti-armor Anti-tank Weapon System (MAAWS) Carl Gustaf High Explosive/High Explosive Dual Purpose combat and target ammunition and a sub-caliber training system to support annual training and maintain a war reserve inventory in accordance with the Army's total munitions requirements. The committee is encouraged that the Army is finalizing a program of record for M3 MAAWS and synchronizing program activities for Type Classification of combat and training ammunition, the M3 and lightweight M3A1 gun variants, as well as leveraging acquisition and logistics functions with U.S. Special Operations Command. The committee encourages the Army to complete system Type Classification and finalize its training sustainment strategy to include annual ammunition requirements, as well as virtual training and Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System training requirements for selected bases and training centers. To enhance the committee's oversight of this important effort, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army to brief the House Committee on Armed Services on the status of the M3 MAAWS program by October 1, 2015.

#### *Small caliber ammunition industrial base*

The committee is aware of a study commissioned by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Training to identify issues affecting ammunition production capability and recommended steps necessary to sustain a financially viable U.S. munitions industrial base. The committee commends the Army for previous steps taken, especially as it relates to Government-owned, contractor-operated facilities, to allow plant operators greater flexibility in pursuit of commercial and Foreign Military Sales which can help sustain this critical industrial base. The committee believes additional measures may be required to minimize risk and to better optimize army ammunition plant (AAP) utilization and reuse. The committee intends to work with the Army in assessing and implementing recommendations in the report commissioned by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Training. In particular, the committee is interested in gaining a better understanding on whether the Army should consider establishing a domestic production capability of non-standard small caliber ammunition for use by coalition nations, as well as assess how AAPs could implement more commercially-adopted business practices, such as leasing unused property.

### OTHER PROCUREMENT, ARMY

#### Overview

The budget request for fiscal year 2016 contained \$5.89 billion for Other Procurement, Army. The committee recommends authorization of \$5.80 billion, a decrease of \$91.0 million, for fiscal year 2016.

The committee recommendations for the fiscal year 2016 Other Procurement, Army program are identified in division D of this Act.

### Items of Special Interest

#### *Army radio modernization*

The committee notes that the schedule for the Manpack radio has been delayed. However, the committee continues to support the Army's decision to move forward with the competition using the currently planned multi-vendor acquisition strategy. In addition, the committee continues to support the Army's larger vision of a radio marketplace that drives innovation and technology improvement over the course of the program. Given the investment that the Army has made in the Manpack radio program to date and the clear requirements for the Manpack radio capability, the committee encourages the Army to meet current warfighter requirements as soon as possible. The committee also supports moving forward with an accelerated competition for both the dismounted and mounted versions of the Manpack radio and driving to produce improvements through the planned delivery order competition.

#### *Civil Support Team Information Management System*

The committee is aware that the National Guard Bureau Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Teams (CST) currently field a system called the CST Information Management System (CIMS), to provide a common operating picture, promote information-sharing and real-time collaboration in an emergency situation, and support the CST mission of assisting and advising first responders and facilitating communications with other Federal resources. Given that other National Guard Bureau forces, such as the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and High explosive Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) and Homeland Defense Response Force (HRF) units are in need of similar capabilities, and in order for these forces to effectively communicate and operate during large-scale domestic events, the committee encourages the National Guard Bureau to expand CIMS to those CERFP and HRF forces.

Furthermore, the committee believes it is important that this CIMS capability increase interoperability and efficiently use prior investments to expand and enhance communication capability without creating unwarranted redundancy. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a report to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives by November 1, 2015, detailing what steps have been taken to date to expand CIMS to CERFP and HRF units, as well as what action is planned with regard to the expansion of CIMS to CERFP and HRF forces to include timeline, milestones, and a detailed description of any other influencing factors.

#### *Mine resistant ambush protected family of vehicles enduring requirement*

The committee commends the military services for retaining the most capable mine resistant ambush protected (MRAP) vehicles to meet military operational and training needs, as well as standardizing the fleet to improve long-term sustainment. The committee notes that approximately 8,000 excess MRAP vehicles will first be offered to other U.S. Government entities and then to potential Foreign Military Sales (FMS) or excess defense article (EDA) customers. The committee understands that if there are no U.S. Government, FMS, or EDA claimants, the vehicles will follow approved disposition procedures for demilitarization.

In the committee report (H. Rept. 113-446) accompanying the Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, the Chief of Staff of the Army was directed to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services on the advisability and feasibility of reusing MRAP vehicles as part of current mobile command post modernization strategies. The committee received the briefing and remains interested in the extent to which the Department of Defense has considered options for reuse of MRAP vehicles. The committee notes there could be emerging requirements for MRAP vehicles, such as fulfilling the requirement for Key Leader vehicles, as well as Command and Control vehicles, that may not have been fully considered as part of the broader context for the Department's long-term tactical wheeled vehicle modernization strategy. The committee also notes that since the Department's decision to finalize the enduring requirement for MRAP vehicles 2 years ago, the military services currently face a significantly worse global threat environment.

Therefore, the committee directs the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by March 1, 2016, on the following:

- (1) The current and planned disposition of MRAP vehicles across the military services' inventory;
- (2) Current mission requirements for MRAP vehicles, to include the status of the mobile command post requirement;
- (3) The current guidance relative to the prioritization system used for handling excess MRAP vehicles based on threat and national interest; and
- (4) A discussion of the relative threat environment, and whether the current threat environment would require a new review of the current enduring MRAP vehicle requirements.

#### *Personal protective equipment modernization and industrial base sustainment*

The committee has consistently highlighted the critical need for modernization of personal protective equipment (PPE). In previous legislation, the committee has expressed its concern regarding the Department of Defense's long-term strategy for PPE industrial base sustainment and has encouraged the Department to pursue strategies that would allow for sustainment of this critical industrial base through modernization efforts. The committee has noted the

importance of managing PPE programs through a more traditional and deliberative approach to requirements generation and procurement of PPE systems. The committee continues to encourage and recommend a weapon system approach to PPE acquisition, in particular body armor, with an established procurement line item for PPE. The committee believes this would provide for more efficient planning, programming, and budgeting for PPE and would create a more stable environment for the industrial base to continue to invest in innovation and weight reduction technology. Instead of “reacting” to urgent operational needs, as the Department did in the 2000s during the buildups for Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Department and the industrial base would be better positioned to respond to any future threat or immediate warfighter need through this approach.

Section 146 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66) required a federally funded research and development center to conduct a study to identify and assess alternative and effective means for stimulating competition and innovation in the personal protection equipment industrial base, to include body armor. The committee understands this study is now complete and is being reviewed by the Department, but regrettably will not be delivered to the committee in time for consideration as part of the committee's consideration of the current defense authorization bill.

The committee is aware that current body armor demand has prompted industry consolidation and restructuring decisions that will affect the Department's ability to respond to future warfighter requirements. The committee also notes that the committee report (H. Rept 113-113) accompanying the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2014 required a report addressing current capabilities of domestic body armor manufacturers to meet future surge requirements, inventory requirements, and steps taken by the Department to ensure the availability of domestic hard armor manufacturers for body armor systems. The committee understands the Department is still compiling data to address this reporting requirement, but notes that previous capability analysis indicated a minimum of two suppliers is needed to achieve surge production and maintain competition for the hard armor industrial base. The committee encourages the Department to take the necessary actions to maintain at least two vendors as part of this critical industrial base.

#### *Rough Terrain Container Handler recapitalization*

The committee is concerned that the budget request did not include funding for the Rough Terrain Container Handler, a system considered vital and critical to Department of Defense expeditionary logistics. The committee notes that many of these deployed assets may be categorized as combat losses because of their high usage and subsequent decreased life expectancy in the austere environments of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of Iraq. Consistent with current recapitalization strategies for the Family of Forklifts to account for legacy systems

used as left behind equipment, the committee encourages the Army to consider funding recapitalization of this critical logistics element.

#### *U.S. Army Europe garrison communications*

The committee is concerned about communications security shortfalls at U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR) bases, which are in many cases using an outdated garrison emergency communications platform that does not support multi-party conversations and fully secure communications. The committee is particularly concerned about how this outdated equipment could hinder a fully effective response to a terrorist event or other emergency situation on Army bases in Europe. In addition, the committee notes that third-party studies, such as one conducted by the Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) Crane, have recommended that USAREUR standardize and integrate its garrison communications infrastructure into a single enterprise operation by entering into a joint agreement with U.S. Air Forces Europe (USAFE) to utilize their existing, modern, Enterprise Land Mobile Radio (ELMR) program. The committee recognizes that significant savings may be achieved through a joint USAFE-USAREUR ELMR program and that such an effort would also support broader Joint Information Environment goals.

### AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, NAVY

#### Overview

The budget request for fiscal year 2016 contained \$16.12 billion for Aircraft Procurement, Navy. The committee recommends authorization of \$18.34 billion, an increase of \$2.21 billion, for fiscal year 2016.

The committee recommendations for the fiscal year 2016 Aircraft Procurement, Navy program are identified in division D of this Act.

#### Items of Special Interest

##### *Airborne electronic attack low band transmitter consolidation*

The budget request contained \$23.2 million for airborne electronic attack systems, but did not include any funds for the low band transmitter consolidation engineering change proposal (ECP).

The committee notes that the Navy's Next Generation Jammer (NGJ) program will eventually replace legacy ALQ-99 jammers and will be fielded incrementally starting in 2021. The committee also notes that the Increment 2 (Inc 2) element of the NGJ program, which addresses low band jammer issues, is planned to begin fielding later, in 2026. As a result, the committee understands that current ALQ-99 low band transmitters will be required in the interim. According to Navy program officials, ALQ-99 low band transmitters are still in production and a low band transmitter consolidation ECP effort can be fielded in 2019 which

leverages significant industry investment, optimizes the jammers for the EA-18G Growler, and provides critical operational capabilities until the fielding of NGJ Inc 2.

Therefore, the committee recommends \$37.2 million, an increase of \$15.0 million, for the low band transmitter consolidation ECP. The committee expects that these funds would be used for production and fielding of low band transmitter consolidation ECP installations.

#### *MH-60R and MH-60S service life extension plans*

The budget request contained \$995.2 million for procurement of MH-60S and MH-60R helicopters.

The committee notes that production of new MH-60S helicopters will end in fiscal year 2015 and that production of new MH-60R helicopters will end in fiscal year 2018. The committee also notes that the long timeline for the future vertical lift program will likely require a service life extension program (SLEP) for the MH-60S and MH-60R fleets in order to keep the required number of aircraft in service. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Navy to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by March 1, 2016, that includes a detailed layout of the timeline and funding for a potential SLEP program that maintains enough aircraft to meet requirements through fiscal year 2030 or beyond for the MH-60S and MH-60R helicopter fleets.

The committee recommends \$995.2 million, the full amount requested, for the MH-60S and MH-60R helicopters.

#### *MQ-8 Fire Scout*

The budget request contained \$120.0 million for MQ-8C Fire Scout procurement, of which \$44.2 million was for procurement of two MQ-8C air vehicles.

The MQ-8C Fire Scout is a vertical take-off and landing unmanned aerial vehicle which provides real-time and non-real time intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) data to tactical users without the use of manned aircraft or reliance on limited theater or national assets. The committee notes that the budget request reflects a production quantity reduction from five MQ-8Cs per year in fiscal year 2015 to two per year for fiscal year 2016, and understands that a production quantity of five MQ-8Cs per year is the minimum sustaining rate. The committee further understands that procurement of five MQ-8Cs per year supports an efficient and cost effective production rate, and would mitigate the risk of a production break.

Consequently, the committee recommends \$156.0 million, an increase of \$36.0 million, for MQ-8C Fire Scout procurement for an additional three MQ-8C air vehicles.

#### *Reporting of the April 8, 2000, MV-22 mishap at Marana, Arizona*

In the committee report (H. Rept. 112-479) accompanying the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013, the committee noted that subsequent to an April 8, 2000, MV-22 mishap at Marana Northwest Regional Airport, Arizona, the Marine Corps released information on July 27, 2000, regarding the MV-22 accident investigation report which caused confusion concerning the cause of the mishap by not making a clear distinction between the terms “human factors” and “pilot error.” Consequently, the committee encouraged the Commandant of the Marine Corps to work with interested committee members to further clarify the Marine Corps’ public statements about the April 8, 2000, MV-22 mishap so that media reporting of this accident would more accurately portray the causal factors of the accident. Unfortunately, this situation has yet to be fully resolved.

Therefore, the committee encourages the Secretary of Defense to publicly clarify the causes of the MV-22 mishap at Marana Northwest Regional Airport, Arizona, in a way consistent with the results of all investigations as soon as possible.

#### *V-22 for carrier on-board delivery*

The Department of the Navy currently uses the C-2A aircraft to perform the carrier on-board delivery (COD) mission, and has chosen the V-22 to replace the C-2A for the COD mission. The COD mission is the use of aircraft to ferry personnel, mail, supplies, and high-priority cargo, such as replacement parts, from shore bases to an aircraft carrier at sea.

The committee supports the Department of the Navy’s decision to use the V-22 for its COD mission, and notes that both the Department of the Navy and the Department of the Air Force have had a long-standing program of record to develop and procure the V-22 aircraft. The committee further notes that both the MV-22 and CV-22 are proven platforms for the both the Department of the Navy and the Department of the Air Force.

The committee believes that the V-22’s unique combination of speed, range, cargo capacity, and vertical agility will transform the way that sea-based logistics are accomplished for the COD mission, and carrier strike groups will have more flexible options for resupply, while the V-22’s direct delivery method will allow aviation assets currently used for vertical resupply to be used for other missions. The committee understands that the Department of the Navy’s military utility assessment found the V-22 to be an effective, flexible, and safe capability to conduct the COD mission, with no adverse impact to cyclical flight operations. Accordingly, the committee believes that executing the Department of the Navy’s program of record for the V-22 provides an affordable, low-risk acquisition for the future COD mission.

#### *V-22 medical evacuation capability*

The committee notes that the Navy's plan for the next generation of Department of the Navy carrier onboard delivery (COD) will be performed by the V-22 Osprey. One of the benefits of this new platform will be an expanded patient medical evacuation (medevac) capability by a non-catapult platform. The current COD C-2A aircraft has the capability to transport litter patients but this capability is limited due to the G-forces associated with arrested landings and catapult takeoffs. The V-22 vertical takeoff will increase the range of intubated patient movement from the current helicopter range and catapult-induced G-forces will no longer be a concern for patients with orthopedic or neurologic trauma. The committee encourages the Department of the Navy to address this mission capability by developing a V-22 medevac equipment package. Retaining the medevac equipment onboard the carrier could potentially allow any COD mission to transition to a medevac mission with little pre-mission planning and without major impact to outbound cargo or passenger space.

## WEAPONS PROCUREMENT, NAVY

### Overview

The budget request for fiscal year 2016 contained \$3.15 billion for Weapons Procurement, Navy. The committee recommends authorization of \$3.23 billion, an increase of \$77.8 million, for fiscal year 2016.

The committee recommendations for the fiscal year 2016 Weapons Procurement, Navy program are identified in division D of this Act.

### Items of Special Interest

#### *Joint Standoff Weapon sustainment*

The budget request contained \$21.4 million to fund termination costs for the Joint Standoff Weapon (JSOW) C-1 program.

The JSOW C-1 program provides for a standardized medium-range precision guided glide munition system that can engage defended targets from outside the range of standard anti-aircraft defenses. The committee has concerns about the proposed termination of the JSOW C-1 program given the current threat environment, as well as current munition inventories. The committee is troubled by the lack of analysis supporting the proposed termination by the Navy and its associated impacts to the industrial base. The committee notes this request contradicts budget justification material used as part of the President's request for fiscal year 2015. The committee also notes that the Chief of Naval Operations has indicated potential shortfalls exist for the JSOW C-1 munitions. The committee understands that a technical Nunn-McCurdy breach has been triggered by the reduction in quantities proposed in the request, and encourages the Secretary of Defense to expeditiously complete required certifications to continue the remaining program.

The committee is aware there is approximately \$2.00 billion in Foreign Military Sales (FMS) that are expected across the Future Years Defense Program for JSOW C-1 munitions, however the committee is concerned about the Navy's position that Foreign Military Sales alone would be sufficient to sustain the viability of the JSOW munitions industrial base. The committee notes FMS cases often take years longer than originally planned to materialize and believes the Navy is assuming unacceptable levels of risk. The committee directs the Secretary of the Navy to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by March 1, 2016, on the plan to support continued JSOW modernization, to include plans for integration on the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, as well as the planned schedule for FMS sales.

The committee recommends \$69.2 million, an increase of \$47.8 million, to help procure additional JSOW C-1 munitions at the minimum sustaining rate of 200 per year in fiscal year 2016 to better sustain the industrial base and mitigate potential inventory shortfalls.

#### *Tomahawk Block IV*

The budget request contained \$184.8 million in Weapons Procurement, Navy for procurement of 100 Tomahawk missiles, which is a decrease of 96 missiles below the minimum sustaining rate. The budget request also would terminate Tomahawk Block IV procurement beginning in fiscal year 2017.

The committee is concerned by the Secretary of the Navy's recommendation to terminate procurement of the Nation's only long-range, surface-launched land-attack cruise missile production capability prior to finalizing concept development of the Next Generation Land Attack Weapon, which is not planned to be operationally fielded until 2024 at the earliest. Furthermore, the committee is concerned that the capability to recertify current inventory Block IV Tomahawk missiles could be put at risk if the Secretary of the Navy decides to shutter the Tomahawk Block IV production line in fiscal year 2017. In addition, the Secretary has not clearly articulated how the inventory of long-range cruise missiles will be replenished if the current stock of Tomahawk missiles is utilized to fulfill test, training, and warfighting requirements between 2016-24. The committee is also concerned that the Navy is well below all categories of inventory requirements and is discouraged that the Navy is only using one category of inventory requirements in stating that there is no risk by terminating Tomahawk Block IV production in fiscal year 2017.

Finally, the committee notes that although the fiscal year 2016 budget request is 96 missiles below the minimum sustaining rate, the Secretary has committed to procure 47 Tomahawk Block IV missiles in fiscal year 2016 using \$45.5 million provided in the Overseas Contingency Operations account of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2015 (division C of Public Law 113-235). As a result, the committee understands that an additional 49 missiles are required in fiscal year 2016 to meet minimum sustaining rate.

Therefore, the committee recommends \$214.8 million, an increase of \$30.0 million, in Weapons Procurement, Navy for procurement of 149 Tomahawk missiles and to reduce risk to the Tomahawk missile industrial base. The committee supports continuing the minimum sustaining rate of Tomahawk Block IV to fully satisfy inventory requirements and bridge transition to Tomahawk Block IV recertification and modernization.

## PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

### Overview

The budget request for fiscal year 2016 contained \$723.7 million for Procurement of Ammunition, Navy and Marine Corps. The committee recommends authorization of \$723.7 million, full funding of the request, for fiscal year 2016.

The committee recommendations for the fiscal year 2016 Procurement of Ammunition, Navy and Marine Corps program are identified in division D of this Act.

## SHIPBUILDING AND CONVERSION, NAVY

### Overview

The budget request for fiscal year 2016 contained \$16.59 billion for Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy. The committee recommends authorization of \$16.27 billion, a decrease of \$327.2 million, for fiscal year 2016.

The committee recommendations for the fiscal year 2016 Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy program are identified in division D of this Act.

### Items of Special Interest

#### *Advance procurement for Afloat Forward Staging Base*

The budget request contained no funds for advance procurement for an Afloat Forward Staging Base.

The committee notes that the Administration has programmed \$661.0 million for a third Afloat Forward Staging Base in fiscal year 2017. The committee believes that there will be a costly and disruptive industrial production base break between the fiscal year 2014 and fiscal year 2017 ships unless advance procurement funds for fiscal year 2016 can be allocated for long lead-time ship material and component orders that would help support a shipbuilder start of construction for this required military capability 1 year earlier.

Therefore, the committee recommends \$97.0 million for advance procurement for an Afloat Forward Staging Base.

#### *Air and Missile Defense Radar Testing Evaluation*

The committee notes that the Navy plans to use the *Arleigh Burke*-class destroyers (DDG 51) hull form as the platform for the Air and Missile Defense Radar (AMDR), which will provide integrated air and ballistic missile defense capability for the fleet. The committee further notes that the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation has disagreed with the Navy's plans for AMDR testing and believes that in order to achieve full end-to-end test results, testing must be performed aboard the self-defense test ship. Considering the central role that AMDR and DDG 51 Flight III will play in sea-based ballistic missile defense and the magnitude of the Navy's planned investment, the committee directs the Comptroller General of the United States to submit a report to the congressional defense committees by March 1, 2016, as to the potential use of AMDR on the self-defense test ship. This report should include, but is not limited to, an analysis of the following:

- (1) Maturity of AMDR and the Navy's plans for developing, testing, and integrating AMDR, to include a cost benefit of performing AMDR testing aboard the self-defense test ship versus a manned ship;
- (2) Risks associated with the Navy's planned acquisition strategy for the DDG 51 class and AMDR; and
- (3) Any additional items the Comptroller General deems relevant to the report.

#### *Amphibious ship construction*

The budget request contained no funds for advance procurement associated with the replacement amphibious warship (LX(R)).

The committee notes that the Secretary of the Navy, the Chief of Naval Operations, and the Commandant of the Marine Corps have agreed to support the LX(R) as a derivative of the LPD 17 *San Antonio*-class hull form. The committee also notes that the fiscal year 2016 budget submission from the Department of the Navy continues investment in the nation's amphibious warship fleet with the completion costs anticipated for LPD 28. The committee supports the Navy's initiative to use an existing hull form and commends the Navy on efforts to decrease costs and reduce schedule. However, the committee is concerned that the Navy shipbuilding plan does not take advantage of the efficiencies and subsequent cost avoidance inherent in maintaining an active industrial base for construction of vessels utilizing the LPD 17 hull form. The committee believes that the optimum construction start for the LX(R) class of vessels is in fiscal year 2018 rather than the current Navy program of record of fiscal year 2020.

Therefore, the committee recommends \$250.0 million in advance procurement for amphibious vessels in Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy, for investment in engineering design and planning, and long lead time equipment including propulsion, steering and electrical generating equipment, air conditioning plants, castings, and other items necessary to move construction start of the first LX(R) vessel to fiscal year 2018.

### *Coast Guard polar icebreaker*

The committee notes that the United States Coast Guard initiated a new project for the design and construction of a new polar icebreaker in fiscal year 2013, but the timing and execution of this project have become uncertain. The project received \$7.6 million in the Department of Defense, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013 (Public Law 113-6), \$2.0 million in Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (Public Law 113-76), and no funding in fiscal year 2015. The budget request for fiscal year 2016 requests \$4.0 million to continue initial acquisition activities for the ship. A new polar icebreaker is projected to cost between \$900 million to \$1.10 billion.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) approved a Mission Need Statement for the polar icebreaker recapitalization project in June 2013. The MNS states, "This Mission Need Statement (MNS) establishes the need for polar icebreaker capabilities provided by the Coast Guard, to ensure that it can meet current and future mission requirements in the polar regions.... Current requirements and future projections based upon cutter demand modeling, as detailed in the HLMAR [High Latitude Mission Analysis Report], indicate the Coast Guard will need to expand its icebreaking capacity, potentially requiring a fleet of up to six icebreakers (3 heavy and 3 medium) to adequately meet mission demands in the high latitudes...."

The committee believes that the administration has inadequately valued the necessity to procure required icebreaking capacity. The committee believes the failure to acquire all domain access capability in polar regions expeditiously may irreparably harm Department of Defense national security missions, and may leave the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating unable to meet its anticipated future responsibilities related to maritime safety and security, search and rescue, environmental response, and fishery law enforcement. The committee supports the use of Department of Defense authorities and acquisition expertise to acquire required icebreaking capabilities. The committee is supportive of interim leasing authority to meet short- and mid-term icebreaking requirements to include the use of section 2401 of title 10, United States Code, leasing authority and other such leasing authorities resident in the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating. The committee encourages the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of Defense to develop a plan to acquire all domain access capability in polar regions expeditiously. Such a plan should address both a bridging strategy to cover the period between the end of the useful life of the USCGC Polar Star and the construction of a new medium or heavy icebreaker.

### *Joint High Speed Vessel Build Specification*

The committee notes that appropriations for an additional Joint High Speed Vessel (JHSV) was provided in the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public Law 113-235) and the Secretary of the Navy is negotiating an award for the construction of that ship. The committee also notes the

JHSV is a growing part of the fleet and is now included in the count of the Battle Force ships. In order to ensure the Navy realizes the benefits associated with the cost efficiencies gained in building the first ten JHSVs and avoids any schedule delays in the delivery of the eleventh ship to Fleet, the committee encourages the Secretary of the Navy, to the maximum extent possible, to grant any waivers to regulatory or statutory changes that have been instituted since the award of the original JHSV contract. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Navy to prepare a brief to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives by October 1, 2015 on efforts to continue the regulatory and statutory changes that were in effect for the first 10 JHSVs with the additional JHSV 11.

#### *National Defense Sealift Fund*

The committee notes that the National Defense Sealift Fund (NDSF) was created by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1993 (Public Law 102-484) to address sealift funding issues using a revolving fund concept. Since its inception, the committee notes that NDSF has been successfully used to support multiple procurements and has a legacy of success in supporting U.S. shipbuilding interests.

Therefore, the committee recommends the transfer of \$674.2 million for the Navy TAO(X) Oiler Shipbuilding Program from the Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy account to the National Defense Sealift Fund, Navy account.

#### *Naval electric weapons systems fielding plan*

The committee is aware that the Navy has been pursuing development and operational demonstration of a number of electric weapons systems, including both directed energy systems and electromagnetic railguns. This class of electric weapons has the potential to provide revolutionary new capabilities for Navy platforms, including increased range, increased safety, and deeper magazines than conventional weapons. The committee believes that such systems will be important in the future to counter cost-imposing strategies in an anti-access environment where swarms of low-cost weapons could be used to overwhelm higher-cost, limited numbers of defensive weapons. However, as the Navy continues to pursue increasing power and decreasing size for such weapons, the committee believes that the Navy should also be considering how to field and integrate such systems into future naval platforms in order to facilitate successful transition from the laboratory to the fleet.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Navy to develop a plan for fielding electric weapon systems within the Department of the Navy for both the current and future fleet, and to provide a briefing on the results of this plan to the House Committee on Armed Services by March 1, 2016. As part of this plan, the Secretary of the Navy shall detail proposals for the allocation of the requisite power and space for the fielding of electric weapons systems, such as the

Laser Weapons System, electromagnetic railgun, or other similar systems currently in development for the current and future fleet.

### *Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine replacement*

The Navy's *Ohio*-class replacement program is intended to replace the current fleet of existing *Ohio*-class ballistic missile submarines. The Navy plans to procure 12 submarines to replace the 14 existing *Ohio*-class submarines, at an estimated total program cost of over \$95.00 billion in fiscal year 2015 dollars. The Navy plans to begin procuring the lead ship in the class starting in fiscal year 2021, with detail design planned for 2017. The Navy has recognized that given the investment requirements associated with the *Ohio*-class replacement program, it will face serious resource challenges starting in fiscal year 2020. The Navy is currently in the early design phase of this program and is investigating various cost reduction efforts, such as an early reduction of requirements and ongoing efforts to identify mature technologies that can be leveraged from other submarine and ship programs. The Government Accountability Office has reported in the past on the importance of attaining key knowledge early in shipbuilding programs in order to reduce the risk of future cost growth and schedule delays.

Therefore, the committee directs the Comptroller General of the United States to provide a report to the congressional defense committees by March 1, 2016, on the *Ohio*-class replacement program, which should include the following specific elements:

- (1) The feasibility of the Navy's planned technical approaches to meeting identified performance requirements;
- (2) The maturity of the technologies identified for the *Ohio*-class replacement, including the development of a new nuclear reactor;
- (3) The status of prototyping efforts to reduce technical risk in advance of lead ship construction;
- (4) The readiness and capacity of the industrial base to design and build the submarines and the availability of any unique materials necessary for submarine construction; and
- (5) Any risk in the Navy's planned acquisition strategy for the class.

### *Shipbuilding and industrial base*

The committee remains concerned about the health of the non-nuclear surface combatant industrial base. While the Navy public shipyards are expanding to meet significant workload increases associated with the growth of unplanned *Nimitz*-class carrier work and the nuclear undersea warfare industrial base is programmed to increase their capacity with the introduction of the *Ohio*-class ballistic missile submarine replacement program beginning in fiscal year 2019, the committee notes that a limited shipbuilding and conversion Navy account may disproportionately and irrevocably impact the non-nuclear surface combatant industrial base. Some of these non-nuclear surface combatant industrial base

partners are reviewing significant reductions in the workload unless a concurrent increase in their work effort is programmed. The committee notes that the continued ship design and construction of LPD-28, continued construction of two *Arleigh Burke*-class destroyers and three Littoral Combat Ships, and the advance procurement associated with Afloat Forward Staging Base and the replacement amphibious warship (LX(R)), will serve to partially mitigate the dearth of workload programmed at the non-nuclear surface combatant shipyards; but the committee believes that a significant infusion of additional naval focus in ship construction is necessary to sustain the current industrial base.

The committee notes that the administration has offered a number of initiatives to help mitigate this shortfall including an innovative contracting method that places certain amphibious and auxiliary ships under a contract to better sustain the industrial base.

The committee believes that continued long-term, multiyear procurement and block buy contracts are integral to sustaining the overall industrial base. The committee has provided a multitude of such authorities for a variety of these ship classes to sustain this effort and provide a stable industrial base. The committee encourages the Department of the Navy to continue innovative contracting efforts and workload agreements that focus on the non-nuclear surface combatant industrial base to ensure its long-term health and viability as a national security asset.

#### *USS John F. Kennedy two-phase acquisition strategy*

The committee notes that the Secretary of the Navy has prepared a two-phase acquisition strategy to support the delivery of the USS *John F. Kennedy* (CVN 79) that would be concurrent with the inactivation of the USS *Nimitz* (CVN 68). This strategy would complete the hull, mechanical and electrical construction work (phase I) and then after a planned incremental availability, would install relevant shipboard combat systems and electronics during another availability (phase II). The Navy has indicated that this two-phase acquisition strategy will reduce construction costs, increase flexibility in the schedule, provide an opportunity to install a lower-cost radar solution, and preempt required obsolescence management in the first planned incremental availability. The committee is concerned, however, that this two-phase strategy may unnecessarily extend the USS *John F. Kennedy* fleet induction timeline by 18 months and increase costs as a result of extended overhead and inflationary losses.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Navy to submit a report to the congressional defense committees by March 1, 2016, about the two-phase acquisition strategy. The report shall include an assessment of conducting the proposed phase II work concurrent with the phase I USS *John F. Kennedy* effort, and assess the cost and inflationary implications associated with the proposed and concurrent work options.

#### *Virginia Payload Module*

The committee notes the retirement of the *Ohio*-class guided missile submarine in the 2020s will cause a significant shortfall in the strike capacity of the undersea forces. In response to the pending retirement of these guided missile submarines, the Joint Requirements Oversight Council (JROC) supported the inclusion of a Virginia Payload Module (VPM) to partially offset the strike loss.

The committee supports the JROC determination to incorporate VPM into the *Virginia*-class submarine, but is concerned that the introduction period of VPM be based on a one per year build strategy during the 2020s. The committee notes that the tables accompanying the 30-year shipbuilding plan include a *Virginia*-class build rate that varies between one and two per year during the 2020s. The committee is perplexed by the Navy decision to not incorporate VPM into every Block V *Virginia*-class submarine and believes that this inconsistent build rate suboptimizes the overall development of this important capability.

The committee supports the expeditious development of this capability consistent with the delivery of every Block V *Virginia*-class submarine.

## OTHER PROCUREMENT, NAVY

### Overview

The budget request for fiscal year 2016 contained \$6.61 billion for Other Procurement, Navy. The committee recommends authorization of \$6.72 billion, an increase of \$111.5 million, for fiscal year 2016.

The committee recommendations for the fiscal year 2016 Other Procurement, Navy program are identified in division D of this Act.

### Items of Special Interest

#### *Aegis Refurbishment and Ship Modernization*

The committee notes that the Department of the Navy has a significant challenges associated with the modernization of the destroyer and cruiser force structure. Specifically, the software and hardware configurations for the Aegis weapon system of the in-service destroyers and cruisers are challenged to keep pace with current and future threats. The plethora of over ten Aegis software baselines and inability to focus modernization efforts undermine the Navy's large surface combatants' relevancy through their expectant service lives. The committee supports options to improve the capability of the in-service Aegis fleet by updating the Aegis computer program configurations of the ships to an Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) capability to include refurbishing and modernizing the SPY-I radar hardware of the ships. The committee believes computer program updates are cost effective, performance-enhancing ways of deploying the proven Aegis Common Source Library across the Flight I, II and IIA destroyers, to include reusing existing computing equipment where prudent to reduce cost and increase operational availability. There is also operational utility in merging legacy anti-air

warfare and ballistic missile defense Aegis computer programs aboard Flight I and II destroyers.

With respect to the SPY-I radar improvements, the committee also believes that a multitude of options are available to the Navy that should provide improvements to sensor coverage, raid capacity, flexibility in ship stationing, and target discrimination, including hardware changes, that can be accomplished pier-side in order to reduce cost and increase operational availability. Finally, in order to reduce cost and increase operational availability, the committee is supportive of Aegis hardware changes that do not considerably alter current ship configuration (i.e. deckhouse design) and that can be accomplished within acceptable margins for space, weight and power and cooling.

Therefore, the committee directs the Chief of Naval Operations and the Director of the Missile Defense Agency to prepare a report to the congressional defense committees not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of the act:

(a) An overview of the Aegis in service options that are being considered to modernize Aegis computer program configurations and SPY-I radar hardware;

(b) For each option being considered in (a), the report shall include the cost and implementation data associated with each option; affordability and risk assessments; and any other supporting analyses the Chief of Naval Operations and the Director of the Missile Defense Agency consider appropriate.

#### *Air and Missile Defense Radar*

The committee understands that the Navy Air and Missile Defense Radar (AMDR) is designed to be fully scalable and modular to support a variety of shipboard radar applications on a variety of platforms. The committee further understands that the flexibility in the design of AMDR could also provide the foundation for land based applications.

Therefore, the committee directs the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by February 1, 2016, on the Department of the Navy's plan to utilize the AMDR investment across existing and future platforms in the fleet. The briefing shall also include options that the Secretary is considering to exploit AMDR scalability in other service radar acquisitions to realize greater affordability through economies of scale.

#### *Destroyer modernization*

The budget request contained \$364.2 million in Other Procurement, Navy for destroyer modernization.

The committee notes that one destroyer combat system modernization, valued at \$60.0 million, was eliminated in the budget request and that a total of five destroyer modernizations were eliminated across the Future Years Defense Program. The committee is concerned that the Secretary of the Navy has applied insufficient resources toward modernization efforts and that a dearth of capabilities

will result when compared against needed capabilities outlined in the most recent Navy Force Structure Assessment.

Therefore, the committee recommends \$424.2 million, an increase of \$60.0 million, for an additional destroyer modernization.

#### *Littoral Combat Ship simulation training*

The committee notes the significant cost savings, increase in fidelity of training, and improved operational readiness rates that are achievable through the use of game-based immersive virtual ship training environments (IVSE), as is being developed for the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS). The committee also notes that the Navy intends to delay funding for this LCS courseware developments that may provide near-term efficiencies and longer-term operational cost-savings.

The committee believes that IVSE is integral to initial training initiatives and concurrency training in order to ensure mission readiness for the crews of the LCS squadron. The committee also believes IVSE may not only expand the LCS multi-mission training profile, but that it may also provide opportunities for expansion to aircraft maintenance and other vessel training. The committee would support opportunities that expand IVSE mission training to additional platform training programs that may include aviation, surface, and subsurface operation and maintenance virtual training environments.

#### *Radar Obsolescence and Availability Recovery Upgrades*

The budget request contains \$11.757 million for Radar Obsolescence and Availability Recovery upgrades to convert one AN/SPS-48E radar system to the AN/SPS-48G configuration on aircraft carriers and amphibious assault ships. The committee notes that, since its inception in 2005, Navy officials have repeatedly cited this upgrade program as a high priority, as the AN/SPS-48G configuration allows for operations under dynamic threat conditions, improves operational availability, and reduces ownership costs. The committee further notes that part of this plan's effectiveness has been the ability to order and execute three kits per year, providing a better price for the Navy and coinciding with planned servicing schedules for the fleet.

The committee is concerned that the reduction from three AN/SPS-48G kits to one kit in fiscal year 2016 will increase the unit cost of this program and delay the availability of this upgrade throughout the fleet. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Navy to brief the Committee on Armed Service of the House of Representatives not later than August 31, 2015 as to: (1) the unit cost impact due to a reduction from three AN/SPS-48G units to one as proposed in the Fiscal Year 2016 budget request; (2) the approximate date at which the Navy anticipates completing its upgrade to the AN/SPS-48G radar at rates of one unit per year versus three units per year; and (3) any capability gaps and vulnerabilities to large surface combatants due to using the legacy AN/SPS-48E radar instead of the AN/SPS-48G. This report may contain a classified annex.

## PROCUREMENT, MARINE CORPS

### Overview

The budget request for fiscal year 2016 contained \$1.13 billion for Procurement, Marine Corps. The committee recommends authorization of \$1.16 billion, an increase of \$37.5 million, for fiscal year 2016.

The committee recommendations for the fiscal year 2016 Procurement, Marine Corps program are identified in division D of this Act.

### Items of Special Interest

#### *Garrison Mobile Engineering Equipment*

The budget request contained \$1.4 million for procurement of Garrison Mobile Engineering Equipment.

The committee understands this program procures commercial construction and engineering equipment, such as graders, backhoes, cranes, and other construction equipment. The committee notes that the Marine Corps has initiated a program for precision upgrades for Garrison Mobile Engineering Equipment that would consist of competitively awarded contracts to upgrade current systems with global positioning system grade control systems and laser-leveling survey sets. The committee understands these upgrades could provide for better performance, reduced time to conduct missions, and fuel savings, as well as reduce Marine construction engineers' exposure to enemy fire in combat conditions. The committee believes additional investment for these precision upgrades would provide for improved capability for current engineering equipment, and provide for increased force protection for deployed Marine construction engineers. The committee encourages the Marine Corps to continue to invest in this capability portfolio.

The committee recommends \$1.4 million, the full amount of the request, for procurement of Garrison Mobile Engineering Equipment.

## AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

### Overview

The budget request for fiscal year 2016 contained \$15.65 billion for Aircraft Procurement, Air Force. The committee recommends authorization of \$15.94 billion, an increase of \$290.5 million, for fiscal year 2016.

The committee recommendations for the fiscal year 2016 Aircraft Procurement, Air Force program are identified in division D of this Act.

### Items of Special Interest

#### *A-10 aircraft*

The committee notes that the Department of the Air Force plans to retire 164 A-10 aircraft in fiscal year 2016. For fiscal year 2015, the Department of the Air Force proposed the retirement of 100 A-10 aircraft and in H.R. 4435, the Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, as reported by the House Committee on Armed Services, the committee included a provision that would prohibit the use of funds authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense to be obligated or expended to retire A-10 aircraft. The committee notes that since last year, A-10 aircraft have been deployed for combat in Operation Inherent Resolve and to Europe as part of theater security packages. The committee continues to believe that the capabilities provided by the A-10 including persistent, effective, and precise close air support; interdiction; airborne forward air control; combat search and rescue; and strike control and reconnaissance, are critical to meet national security requirements. The committee further notes that with the proposed retirement of the 164 A-10 aircraft in fiscal year 2016, the Department expects to be 181 fighter aircraft short of its 2,000-aircraft fighter requirement, and the committee believes that retiring 164 A-10 aircraft in fiscal year 2016 presents an unacceptable capacity risk.

#### *Air National Guard Wildfire Assistance*

The committee notes that the U.S. Global Change Research Program has determined that the frequency of large wildfires and the length of the fire season have increased substantially in recent decades. The committee acknowledges that the U.S. Geological Survey Federal Fire Occurrence Database indicates that the occurrences of catastrophic wildfires in the United States are more prevalent in the western half of the country. Air National Guard units flying C-130 aircraft equipped with Modular Airborne Firefighting System (MAFFS) have been an integral part of wildfire suppression, saving not only property but lives. The committee acknowledges that as catastrophic wildfires continue to grow in severity, it is important to provide the assistance of our Air National Guard. The committee believes that MAFFS should be located in positions that maximize the effectiveness of MAFFS units consistent with the highest probability of risk for the United States.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to prepare a brief to the House Committee on Armed Services by September 1, 2015 that assess the locations of C-130 MAFFS units. Such a briefing should provide a listing of the current United States Air Force units, their utilization rates, and a future force allocation determination that most efficiently utilizes the MAFFS units. This briefing shall specifically assess opportunities to expand coverage of MAFFS units in the western United States.

#### *Air Refueling Recapitalization Strategy*

The committee notes that the Department of Defense continues to develop a long-range plan to replace the KC-10 Extender and KC-135 Stratotanker fleets with

the KC-46A Pegasus, as well as the KC-Y and KC-Z programs. The committee strongly reiterates the importance of maintaining our nation's robust air-refueling capability in a current fiscal environment that has required our forces to be more agile and rapidly deployable. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to brief the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives by September 30, 2015 on the Air Force's long-range air refueling recapitalization plans, including the Air Force's strategy to meet air refueling demands specific to the Asia-Pacific area of responsibility.

#### *Battlefield airborne communications node*

The committee notes that the Department of the Air Force's battlefield airborne communication node (BACN) program was developed to meet critical communications needs and was fielded through rapid acquisition authorities to support urgent operational requirements. The committee further notes that BACN continues to act as a critical communications and data relay system, flying on EQ-4B and E-11A aircraft not only in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel, but also throughout the U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility and elsewhere in support of operational requirements.

In the committee report (H. Rept. 113-446) accompanying the Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, the committee encouraged the Secretary of the Air Force to transition BACN to a traditional program of record. The committee remains concerned that the potential decline of Overseas Contingency Operations funding in the future and no clear plan to transition BACN to a traditional program of record may place the program at risk, and that previous investments as well as operational experience may be lost. Therefore, the committee encourages the Secretary of the Air Force to develop a plan to transition BACN to a base budget program of record in order to meet current operational needs, as well as anticipated future requirements across theaters to ensure that this capability is maintained in the Department of the Air Force for the long-term.

#### *C-130 modernization plan*

The budget request contained \$8.5 million for procurement of C-130 modifications but included no funds for the T-56 3.5 engine modification or for the C-130 eight-bladed propeller upgrade. The T-56 3.5 engine modification lowers fuel consumption, improves performance, and improves engine life, and the eight-bladed propeller upgrade improves the thrust of the C-130's engine.

In the committee report (H. Rept. 113-446) accompanying the Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, the committee expressed a concern that the Department of the Air Force has not been taking actions to ensure that the C-130H aircraft fleet is being upgraded with modifications that address obsolescence, diminishing manufacturing sources, and increased operations and sustainment costs. The committee notes that for fiscal

year 2016, the C-130H modernization program includes a center wing box replacement program and a program to address certain airspace compliance concerns. The committee supports this modernization program and encourages the Air Force to address cockpit modifications required to mitigate obsolescence and diminishing manufacturing sources. The committee believes that a comprehensive program should be developed to ensure that the C-130H has a service life through 2040 as currently planned.

The committee notes that the report of the 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review states that the Department of the Air Force will maintain 300 combat-coded C-130H and C-130J aircraft in the tactical airlift fleet inventory to support requirements and the objectives of the 2012 Defense Strategic Guidance. The committee further notes that the Department plans to divest C-130 aircraft in the Future Years Defense Program so that the tactical airlift fleet is reduced to 308, and the committee believes that that the Department of the Air Force inventory of C-130 aircraft should not be less than 308 aircraft.

To provide for improved C-130H propulsion performance, reliability, and efficiency, the committee recommends \$71.7 million for C-130 modifications, an increase of \$33.2 million for the T-56 3.5 engine modification and an increase of \$30.0 million for the C-130 eight-bladed propeller upgrade.

#### *C-130H Modernization*

The committee is encouraged that the Chief of Staff of the Air Force has proposed a plan that finally addresses the committee's longstanding concern for the modernization of C-130H aircraft that reside primarily in the National Guard and Reserve components of the Department of the Air Force. The Department of the Air Force has briefed the committee on multiple occasions on a new plan, which is being referred to as the Avionics and Modernization Program (AMP) Increments 1 and 2 that appears to address many of the committee's concerns. However, the committee remains concerned that the plan's timeline for implementation may still leave some C-130H aircraft non-compliant with future airspace requirements and still susceptible to increased diminishing manufacturing sources (DMS) and obsolescence issues. Specifically, the proposed timeline proposes to complete certain Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) compliance concerns by 2022, two years after FAA direction, requiring non-compliant aircraft to seek waivers or limit flight operations. Additionally, the AMP increment 2 only supports eight aircraft modernizations per year which also does not appear to support a fleet viability requirement.

The committee supports an acceleration of the modernization effort both in terms of meeting FAA compliance by the 2020 deadline and acceleration of the increment 2 modernization plan. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to submit a report on the implementation of C-130H AMP Increments 1 and 2 to the congressional defense committees by March 1, 2016. At a minimum, this report should address:

- (1) The timeline for implementation of both AMP Increments 1 and 2;
- (2) An assessment to accelerate AMP Increment 1 to ensure all C-130H aircraft are compliant with all airspace requirements by 2020 to include the possibility of using existing contracting offices such as the Rapid Acquisition Office to accelerate these upgrades;
- (3) An assessment to accelerate the build rate for AMP Increment 2 in order to address future DMS and obsolescence issues; and
- (4) Any plans for recapitalization of Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve C-130 aircraft.

The committee understands that the Department of the Air Force will require additional resources to begin implementing this new plan and therefore recommends \$10.0 million for C-130 AMP, an increase of \$10.0 million.

#### *EC-130H Compass Call aircraft*

The budget request contained \$68.4 million for EC-130H Compass Call aircraft modifications. The EC-130H Compass Call aircraft is the Department of the Air Force's wide-area coverage airborne electronic attack and offensive counter information weapon system. The EC-130H counters adversary communications, information processing, navigation, radar systems, and improvised explosive devices.

The committee notes that the EC-130H Compass Call aircraft has demonstrated a powerful effect on enemy command and control networks in multiple military operations, including in the Republic of Kosovo, Republic of Haiti, Republic of Panama, Republic of Iraq, Republic of Serbia, and Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and is consistently in demand with all unified commands. However, due to fiscal constraints, the committee further notes that the Department of the Air Force plans to divest 8 of its 16-aircraft fleet of EC-130H Compass Call aircraft in fiscal year 2016. The committee believes that divesting eight EC-130H Compass Call aircraft would present unacceptable risk to ongoing and future combat operations. The committee notes that the Air Force Chief of Staff included the restoration of eight EC-130H Compass Call aircraft among his unfunded priorities for fiscal year 2016.

Accordingly, the committee recommends \$97.1 million, an increase of \$28.7 million, for EC-130H Compass Call aircraft modifications.

#### *F-15 and F-16 spare engine shortfall*

In the committee report (H. Rept. 113-446) accompanying the Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, the committee expressed concern with the Department of the Air Force's shortfall of up to 24 spare F-100 engines for F-16 and F-15 aircraft. The committee notes that the Department of the Air Force has yet to take any action to mitigate this shortfall and remains concerned that the Department has not allocated the funds necessary to fulfill the validated engine shortfall in the F-15 and F-16 fleets. The committee

understands that the production line for these engines will begin to close in early fiscal year 2017, and that as a result, the Department of the Air Force has little time remaining to procure the engines. With these aircraft expected to continue to play a key role in the Air Force until the F-35 is fielded in sufficient numbers, the committee is concerned about the Department's ability to address engine requirements without action on this issue. Therefore, the committee encourages the Department of the Air Force to evaluate the possible utility of a reprogramming request to procure at least some of the 24 engines needed to meet validated spare engine requirements.

#### *F-16 block 40/50 mission training center*

The budget request did not contain any funds for other aircraft support equipment and facilities, or for the procurement of an F-16 block 40/50 mission training center for the Air National Guard.

An F-16 block 40/50 mission training center (MTC) is a distributed mission operations-capable flight simulator for F-16 block 40 and 50 weapons systems. Each MTC includes high-fidelity simulator cockpits, instructor operator stations, a threat server, and briefing and debriefing capability. Each MTC is also capable of linking to geographically distributed high-fidelity combat and combat support training devices including command and control and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance systems. This capability allows the warfighters at home station to exercise and train at the operational and strategic levels of war, as well as conduct networked unit-level training. The committee notes that the F-16 block 40/50 MTC allows F-16 block 40 and block 50 pilots to train in scenarios that are either impossible or too expensive to conduct in home-station flying training, and believes that the MTC significantly improves F-16 pilot skill and readiness to perform actual combat missions with increased effectiveness.

The committee understands that F-16 block 40/50 MTCs are currently planned for Hill Air Force Base (AFB), Shaw AFB, and Holloman AFB in the continental United States. The committee further understands that other F-16 block 40 or 50 pilots located in the continental United States would need to travel to one of the three MTC locations, and believes an additional MTC would save travel costs and make the F-16 block 40/50 MTC more available to Active Duty, Reserve, and Air National Guard F-16 block 40 and 50 pilots, resulting in enhanced readiness.

Consequently, the committee recommends \$24.7 million for other aircraft support equipment and facilities, an increase of \$24.7 million, for procurement of an additional MTC for the Air National Guard.

#### *F-35 aircraft program*

The F-35 aircraft program is the largest acquisition program within the Department of Defense, with a current planned procurement of 2,443 aircraft for the Department of the Navy and the Department of the Air Force to meet fifth

generation U.S. fighter requirements. The committee continues to strongly support the requirement for fifth generation fighter aircraft due to projected increases in the effectiveness and quantities of threat anti-aircraft ground systems and adversary aircraft and their associated air-to-air weapons. The committee believes that without advanced fifth generation aircraft, the United States may be significantly limited in its ability to project power in the future.

The committee notes that the Department of the Navy anticipates a strike fighter aircraft shortfall of about 134 aircraft in 2020, with an average shortfall of about 100 aircraft between fiscal years 2015 and 2020. Due to the constraints of the decreased budget authority contained in the Budget Control Act of 2011 (Public Law 112-25), the committee notes that the Department of the Navy has deferred 16 F-35C aircraft out of the Future Years Defense Program, and believes that this deferral will result in a higher strike fighter shortfall, as well as a reduction in strike fighter capabilities. The F-35C is also planned for an 8,000-hour life span, which is 33 percent longer than legacy aircraft, and the committee believes that the F-35's longer life should also help improve the strike fighter shortfall. Accordingly, the committee urges the Department of the Navy to restore the 16 F-35Cs deferred in this budget request when it submits the budget request for fiscal year 2017. The committee also notes that the Commandant of the Marine Corps has included an additional six F-35Bs among his unfunded priorities for fiscal year 2016, and elsewhere in this Act, the committee recommends an increase for this purpose and believes that this increase will also help alleviate the Department of the Navy strike fighter shortfall.

The F-35 program is approximately 60 percent through its flight test program, which is planned to be completed in the first quarter of fiscal year 2018. At a hearing held by the House Committee on Armed Services' Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces on April 14, 2015, the F-35 program executive officer testified that the F-35 program is making solid and steady progress on all aspects of the program. The committee notes that the F-35 program executive officer has identified the software development for the final development software block, known as block 3F, as an area with some risk remaining which could result in a 4- to 6-month delay in delivery of software block 3F, but that this delay will not affect the Department of the Navy's initial operational capability for the F-35C in 2018. The committee continues to monitor software progress. Also at the hearing on April 14, 2015, the F-35 program manager mentioned the F-35's F135 engine as a challenging area subsequent to the June 23, 2014, engine fire and failure at Eglin Air Force Base, and noted that the program has yet to identify a long-term repair for this engine failure. The committee shares this concern and consequently recommends a provision that would require the Secretary of Defense to enter into a contract with a federally funded research and development center to conduct an assessment of the F135 engine program, including a thorough assessment of the F135 engine failure, and to submit a report containing such assessment by March 16, 2016. The committee further notes that at the hearing held on April 14, 2015, the F-35 program manager testified that the price of F-35s have continued to

decline with each successive lot. The committee remains pleased with these price reductions, and discussions with F-35 program officials suggest that the budget request for procurement of F-35s is slightly higher than required for procurement of the F-35s in fiscal year 2016. Accordingly, elsewhere in this Act, the committee recommends reductions to each of the three variants to account for lower than anticipated costs when these aircraft are procured.

The committee has also identified funds for development of the future block 4 modifications which could be reduced for fiscal year 2016, and discussions with F-35 program officials revealed that some of the funds requested for development of the block 4 modification are excess to need for fiscal year 2016. Therefore, elsewhere in this Act, the committee recommends reductions for the block 4 development program. The committee does not intend for these reductions to affect the development of the F-35 dual-capable aircraft.

#### *Joint surveillance and target attack system sustainment report*

The E-8C aircraft was developed for ground surveillance, targeting, and battle management. Air battle managers onboard the E-8C joint surveillance target attack radar system (JSTARS) aircraft use its wide-area ground surveillance radar to build situation awareness and identify targets which are passed to strike assets or cross-cued with other intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance platforms.

The committee notes that the Department of the Air Force plans a JSTARS recapitalization program which would replace the aging E-8C aircraft with a modern, more efficient, and capable aircraft and mission systems, with an initial operational capability of 2023 and a full operational capability in subsequent years. Until the JSTARS replacement aircraft attains full operational capability, the committee believes that the current E-8C JSTARS aircraft will require a modest amount of sustainment funding, especially to address the issue of diminishing manufacturing sources.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to submit a report to the congressional defense committees by February 15, 2016, which describes all actions required to avoid degradation to the performance of the E-8C radar and fleet, each upgrade required to meet minimum warfighter requirements for combat operations and to pace evolving threats during this period, and the Secretary's plan, schedule and budgets to accomplish this objective between fiscal years 2016 and the time that the JSTARS replacement aircraft achieves full operational capability.

#### *KC-10*

The committee notes that in executing any possible long-term KC-10 divesture strategy, the Department of Defense must ensure that the nation's aerial refueling capabilities are not placed at risk by ensuring critical mission taskings remain unfilled. The committee also notes specifically that to meet current and future threats and missions, the unique KC-10 capability to execute a strategic air

bridge must not be compromised, whether an Arctic, Pacific, or transatlantic air route. The committee strongly reiterates the importance of maintaining our nation's robust aerial refueling capability in the current fiscal environment that requires our forces to be more agile and rapidly deployable.

#### *KC-46A quarterly report*

The committee supports the current acquisition strategy associated with the KC-46A aircraft. Therefore, the committee directs the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics to discontinue the quarterly reporting associated with the KC-46A aircraft required in the committee report (H. Rept. 112-78) accompanying the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012.

#### *RQ-4 and U-2 high-altitude intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities*

Over the past 3 years, the committee has supported retaining both the RQ-4 Global Hawk Block 30 and U-2 Dragon Lady for the high-altitude intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) mission. The committee notes that the Department of the Air Force has determined that Global Hawk operating costs have decreased while the Global Hawk Block 30 fleet has flown an increased number of hours compared to previous years in support of the combatant commanders.

While the committee was pleased that the Air Force requested funding for both the RQ-4 Global Hawk Block 30 and the U-2 in the budget request for fiscal year 2016, the committee is concerned about the possibility that the Department of the Air Force still plans to retire the U-2 fleet in fiscal year 2019. While the committee realizes that the Department can never fully meet the ISR demand of combatant commanders, reasonable and necessary ISR requests appear very likely to go unfilled if the current high-altitude airborne ISR collection capabilities of the U-2 are terminated. The committee also notes that section 133 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112-81) limits the retirement of U-2 aircraft until equal or greater ISR capability is available to commanders of the combatant commands.

Finally, the committee supports the Department of the Air Force efforts to upgrade the Global Hawk Block 30 aircraft to meet the requirements of the combatant commanders, but notes that this will take several years. In light of the known gaps, the committee has concerns with any plan that will leave the combatant commanders with less overall capacity and capability than they have today.

#### *UH-1N replacement program*

The budget request contained \$2.5 million for the UH-1N replacement program.

The UH-1N replacement program would replace the Department of the Air Force UH-1N fleet of 62 aircraft by acquiring a non-developmental commercial or U.S. Government vertical lift aircraft. The committee understands that the current 47-year-old UH-1N aircraft fleet fails to meet speed, range, payload, and defensive system requirements, and that modifications to the existing fleet will not enable the UH-1N to meet mission requirements. Accordingly, the committee believes the UH-1N replacement program is timely. The committee notes that the Department of the Air Force is currently assessing requirements for the UH-1N replacement, conducting market research, and developing UH-1N replacement acquisition alternatives. The committee further notes that the Department of the Air Force has selected the HH-60W for its combat rescue helicopter, and believes that procurement of currently produced UH-60Ms for the UH-1N replacement could provide significant commonality with the HH-60W, reducing procurement and life-cycle costs.

The committee recommends \$2.5 million, the full amount of the request, for the UH-1N replacement program.

#### PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, AIR FORCE

##### Overview

The budget request for fiscal year 2016 contained \$1.75 billion for Procurement of Ammunition, Air Force. The committee recommends authorization of \$1.73 billion, a decrease of \$20.0 million, for fiscal year 2016.

The committee recommendations for the fiscal year 2016 Procurement of Ammunition, Air Force program are identified in division D of this Act.

#### MISSILE PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

##### Overview

The budget request for fiscal year 2016 contained \$2.98 billion for Missile Procurement, Air Force. The committee recommends authorization of \$2.98 billion, full funding of the request, for fiscal year 2016.

The committee recommendations for the fiscal year 2016 Missile Procurement, Air Force program are identified in division D of this Act.

#### OTHER PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

##### Overview

The budget request for fiscal year 2016 contained \$18.27 billion for Other Procurement, Air Force. The committee recommends authorization of \$18.29 billion, an increase of \$22.9 million, for fiscal year 2016.

The committee recommendations for the fiscal year 2016 Other Procurement, Air Force program are identified in division D of this Act.

### Items of Special Interest

#### *Air Force Fire Emergency Services and Personal Protective Equipment*

The committee understands the most recent contract award for Air Force Fire Emergency Services (FES) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was canceled in its entirety due to the need for the Air Force to take corrective action under a Government Accountability Office (GAO) protest. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by July 1, 2015 that details the current acquisition strategy for Air Force FES PPE. The briefing should provide the justification for how the Air Force determined that the Defense Logistics Agency Fire and Emergency Services Equipment Tailored Logistics Support Program contract does not meet the requirements of the Air Force and discuss why the Air Force made the determination for setting aside for small business manufacturing meets the requirements of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 19.502-2(b).

#### *Civil engineers construction, surveying, and mapping equipment*

The budget request contained \$9.1 million for base procured equipment. Of this amount, no funds were requested for modernization of equipment used by base civil engineer units or Red Horse squadron (RHS) engineer units.

Red Horse squadrons provide the Air Force with a highly mobile civil engineering response force to support contingency and special operations worldwide. The committee understands current civil engineer equipment has been discontinued for approximately 5 years and maintenance requirements for this legacy equipment could potentially be cost prohibitive. The committee notes that to date, 66 percent of existing equipment is known to be discontinued, with some individual components ranging as high as 94 percent. The committee is aware that the Air Force Civil Engineer Center, Operations Directorate (AFCEC/CO) is considering a long-term replacement and modernization strategy for legacy equipment and software across the Future Years Defense Program, and notes the AFCEC/CO has identified an urgent unfunded requirement to support the initial modernization strategy for modern civil engineering equipment. The committee believes additional funds would help to accelerate the modernization of legacy civil engineering equipment. The committee expects these funds would be obligated under full and open competition to provide the best-value equipment to Air Force base civil engineer units and RHS units.

The committee recommends \$13.1 million, an increase of \$4.0 million, to competitively procure modernized engineer equipment and address any unfunded requirements.

## PROCUREMENT, DEFENSE-WIDE

### Overview

The budget request for fiscal year 2016 contained \$5.13 billion for Procurement, Defense-Wide. The committee recommends authorization of \$5.26 billion, an increase of \$132.4 million, for fiscal year 2016.

The committee recommendations for the fiscal year 2016 Procurement, Defense-Wide program are identified in division D of this Act.

### Items of Special Interest

#### *Procurement of Standard Missile-3 block IB interceptors*

The budget request included \$548.9 million for procurement of Standard Missile-3, block IB interceptors (including canisters and advanced procurement funding).

The committee is aware of the significant demand amongst the combatant commanders for inventory of the Standard Missile-3 block IB missile interceptor. The committee is also aware that because of recent flight and ground test challenges, the Department of Defense has decided to focus on continuing initial lot procurement of block IB missiles in fiscal year 2016 and focusing on multi-year procurement, advanced procurement, and full rate production in subsequent years.

The committee has concerns about continuing procurement of block IB interceptors before resolution of the current technical uncertainties, though the committee notes that the planned flight tests of the block IB missile to prove out the technical fix will occur before any missiles procured in fiscal year 2016 would actually be delivered to the Missile Defense Agency. The committee has also been assured that the Missile Defense Agency will not take delivery of fiscal year 2015 procurement block IB interceptors until the fix has been proved out by flight test.

The committee is also troubled that the technical challenges in the block IB program are leading to a higher price per unit for missiles the combatant commanders need. The committee expects the Director of the Missile Defense Agency to negotiate for the lowest possible per unit price, and to ensure all appropriate contractual remedies are used to offset the costs of these challenges.

The committee recommends \$521.6 million, a decrease of \$27.3 million, for procurement of Standard Missile-3, block IB interceptors (including canisters). The committee notes that elsewhere in this Act, additional funding is recommended for Aegis BMD testing related to the block IB proof of concept.

## LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

### SUBTITLE A—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

#### Section 101—Authorization of Appropriations

This section would authorize appropriations for procurement at the levels identified in section 4101 of division D of this Act.

#### SUBTITLE B—ARMY PROGRAMS

##### Section 111—Limitation on Availability of Funds for AN/TPQ-53 Radar Systems

This section would limit the obligation or expenditure of 25 percent of the funds for AN/TPQ-53 radar systems until 30 days after the date on which the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology submits to the congressional defense committees a review of the current delegation of acquisition authority to the Program Executive Officer for Missiles and Space.

##### Section 112—Prioritization of Upgraded UH-60 Blackhawk Helicopters within Army National Guard

This section would require the Chief, National Guard Bureau to issue guidance within 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act that prioritizes UH-60 helicopter upgrades within the Army National Guard to those units with the highest flight hour aircraft and highest utilization rates. This section would also require the Chief to submit a report to the congressional defense committees within 30 days after issuing such guidance that describes such guidance.

##### Section 113—Report on Options to Accelerate Replacement of UH-60A Blackhawk Helicopters of Army National Guard

This section would require the Secretary of the Army to submit a report to the congressional defense committees by March 1, 2016, containing detailed options for the potential acceleration of the replacement of all UH-60A helicopters of the Army National Guard.

#### SUBTITLE C—NAVY PROGRAMS

##### Section 121—Modification to Multiyear Procurement Authority for Arleigh Burke Class Destroyers and Associated Systems

This section would amend section 123(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239) and provide authority to the Secretary of the Navy to enter into a multiyear contract for a Flight III destroyer, in addition to the existing multiyear authority for a Flight IIA destroyer.

The committee supports the changes proposed by the Secretary of the Navy to integrate the Air and Missile Defense Radar in the *Arleigh Burke* class destroyer and the inclusion of the Flight III guided missile destroyer into the current multiyear authority. However, the committee is concerned about the Secretary of the Navy's strategy to implement an Engineering Change Proposal to

fundamentally change integral elements of the *Arleigh Burke* class destroyer multiyear procurement without congressional authorization. When the initial multiyear procurement was authorized by section 123 of Public Law 112-239, the authorization was limited to an "*Arleigh Burke* class Flight IIA guided missile destroyer." The committee includes this provision because it believes that implementation of a Flight III destroyer without an explicit congressional authorization would violate section 123 of Public Law 112-239, by constituting a cardinal change in the scope of the initial authorization.

#### Section 122—Procurement Authority for Aircraft Carrier Programs

This section would provide economic order quantity authority for the construction of two *Ford* class aircraft carriers and incremental funding authority for the nuclear refueling and complex overhaul of five *Nimitz* class aircraft carriers.

#### SUBTITLE D—AIR FORCE PROGRAMS

#### Section 131—Limitation on Availability of Funds for Executive Communications Upgrades for C-20 and C-37 Aircraft

This section would limit the obligation and expenditure of funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 to upgrade the executive communications of C-20 and C-37 aircraft unless the Secretary of the Air Force certifies in writing to the congressional defense committees that such upgrades do not cause such aircraft to exceed any weight limitations or reduce the operational capability of such aircraft. This section would also allow the Secretary of the Air Force to waive the limitation if the Secretary determines that such a waiver is necessary for the national security of the United States and notifies the congressional defense committees of such waiver.

#### Section 132—Backup Inventory Status of A-10 Aircraft

This section would require that the Secretary of the Air Force not move more than 18 A-10 aircraft in the Active Component to backup flying status pursuant to an authorization made by the Secretary of Defense under section 133(b)(2)(A) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291). This section would also make a conforming amendment to section 133(b)(2)(A) by striking "36" and inserting "18".

#### Section 133—Prohibition on Availability of Funds for Retirement of A-10 Aircraft

This section would prohibit funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of the Air Force to be obligated or expended to retire, prepare to retire, or place in storage any A-10

aircraft, before December 31, 2016, except as provided by section 132; would require the Department of the Air Force to maintain a minimum of 171 A-10 aircraft designated as primary mission aircraft inventory; and would prohibit the Secretary of the Air Force from making any significant reductions to manning levels with respect to any A-10 aircraft squadrons or divisions before December 31, 2016. This section would also require the Secretary of the Air Force to commission an appropriate entity outside the Department of Defense to conduct an assessment by September 30, 2016, of the required capabilities or mission platform to replace the A-10 aircraft and submit a report on that assessment to the congressional defense committees.

#### Section 134—Prohibition on Retirement of EC-130H Aircraft

This section would prohibit funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of the Air Force to be obligated or expended to retire, prepare to retire, or place in storage or on back up flying status any EC-130H aircraft. It would require the Secretary of the Air Force to commission an assessment of the required capabilities or mission platform to replace the EC-130H aircraft, and to submit a report on that assessment to the congressional defense committees not later than September 30, 2016. Additionally, this section would prohibit the Secretary of the Air Force from retiring, preparing to retire, placing in storage or placing on back up flying status any EC-130H aircraft until 60 days after the Secretary submits the report on an assessment of the required capabilities or mission platform to replace the EC-130H aircraft.

#### Section 135—Limitation on Availability of Funds for Divestment or Transfer of KC-10 Aircraft

This section would prohibit funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of the Air Force to be obligated or expended to divest or transfer, or prepare to divest or transfer, any KC-10 aircraft.

### SUBTITLE E—DEFENSE-WIDE, JOINT, AND MULTISERVICE MATTERS

#### Section 141—Limitation on Availability of Funds for Joint Battle Command-Platform

This section would require the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology to submit a report by March 1, 2016, to the congressional defense committees that addresses the effectiveness, suitability, and survivability shortfalls of the joint battle command–platform equipment identified by the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation in the Director's fiscal year 2014 annual report to Congress. This section would further limit the obligation or

expenditure of 25 percent of the funds for the joint battle command–platform until 30 days after the Assistant Secretary submits such a report.

#### Section 142—Strategy for Replacement of A/MH-6 Mission Enhanced Little Bird Aircraft to Meet Special Operations Requirements

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a strategy to the congressional defense committees not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act for the replacement of the A/MH-6 Mission Enhanced Little Bird aircraft to meet requirements particular to special operations for future rotary-wing, light attack, reconnaissance requirements.

#### Section 143—Independent Assessment of United States Combat Logistic Force Requirements

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to enter into an agreement with a federally funded research and development center to conduct an assessment of the anticipated future demands of the combat logistics force ships of the Navy and the challenges these ships may face when conducting and supporting future naval operations in contested maritime environments. This section would also require the Secretary of Defense to submit the assessment to the congressional defense committees by April 1, 2016.

#### Section 144—Report on Use of Different Types of Enhanced 5.56mm Ammunition by the Army and the Marine Corps

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to provide a report to the congressional defense committees by March 1, 2016, regarding the current use of two different types of 5.56mm ammunition in combat by the Army and the Marine Corps. The report shall include, but not be limited to, the following: (1) an explanation of the reasons for the Army and the Marine Corps current use of different 5.56mm combat ammunition; (2) an explanation of the appropriateness, effectiveness, and suitability issues that may arise from the use of these two types of ammunition; (3) an explanation of any additional costs that have resulted from the use of two different types of 5.56 combat ammunition by the two services, if any; (4) an explanation of the future plans, if any, of the Army or the Marine Corps to eventually transition back to using one standard 5.56 mm combat ammunition round; and (5) if no such plans exists, an analysis of the potential benefits of a transition back to a common 5.56mm combat round in the future, including how long such a transition may take to occur.

The committee understands that the Army and the Marine Corps have proceeded on different paths to upgrade 5.56mm ammunition in terms of both soft tissue damage and penetration of certain hard materials. As a result, the Army and the Marine Corps currently use different 5.56mm ammunition in combat, with the Army using the M855A1 round and the Marine Corps using the Mk318 Mod 0

round. The committee notes that the military services appear to have different requirements and a different perspective on the utility of the two rounds. As a result, the small arms ammunition logistics system has to maintain two separate, incompatible inventories of 5.56mm ammunition. In addition, the committee believes there may be additional costs to the Department of Defense in procuring two types of ammunition rather than just one, which it had been doing before 2009. While the current inventory levels of the two rounds is substantial, with the Marine Corps having more than two million in stock, this section is intended to encourage the Department to develop a plan to get back to one standard 5.56mm combat round.

## TITLE II—RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION

### OVERVIEW

The budget request contained \$69.77 billion for research, development, test, and evaluation. This represents a \$6.09 billion increase over the amount authorized for fiscal year 2015.

The committee recommends \$68.35 billion, a decrease of \$1.42 billion to the budget request.

The committee recommendations for the fiscal year 2016 research, development, test, and evaluation program are identified in division D of this Act.

### RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION, ARMY

#### Overview

The budget request contained \$6.91 billion for research, development, test, and evaluation, Army. The committee recommends \$7.02 billion, an increase of \$105.5 million to the budget request.

The committee recommendations for the fiscal year 2016 research, development, test, and evaluation, Army program are identified in division D of this Act.

#### Items of Special Interest

##### *Acoustic mixing technology for energetic materials*

The committee understands that the Army currently uses low-frequency, high-intensity sound waves, in a technology called “acoustic mixing” during the manufacturing of some munitions. The committee understands acoustic mixing technology is currently being used at McAlester Army Ammunition Plant (MCAAP) where a 5-gallon capacity acoustic batch mixer is being employed to produce munitions boosters at a cost savings of \$1,000 per unit. The U.S. Air Force demand for this product is 2,500 per month, which should result in an equipment payback of