

Homeland Security, Military Construction, and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Fiscal Year 2020 Highlights

(Note: Numbers are nationwide program funding levels.)

Homeland Security

- **Polar Security Cutter:** \$100 million for long lead-time materials (LLTM) for design and construction of the second Coast Guard Polar Security Cutter. An additional \$640 million is included for cutter recapitalization which includes funding for a Service Life Extension for the POLAR STAR.
- **Facility Shore side Infrastructure and Housing Improvements in Kodiak:** \$32.5 million to fund Coast Guard housing and shore-side infrastructure projects that will support current and future Coast Guard assets in Alaska.
- **Maritime Safety in Western Alaska:** Directs the Coast Guard to report to Congress on a plan to provide communications throughout the entire Coastal Western Alaska Captain of the Port zone. The objective is to improve waterway safety and to mitigate close calls, collisions, and other dangerous interactions between large ships and subsistence hunter vessels. The report should also articulate the costs of implementing the plans.
- **Coast Guard in the Arctic:** Directs the Coast Guard to inform Congress if additional resources are needed to support the Arctic Program Office and Strategy in order to address the challenges inherent to the growing mission in that region.
- **Offshore Patrol Cutter (OPC):** \$457 million to fund the construction of the third, and long lead-time materials for a fourth and fifth Offshore Patrol Cutter to replace the Coast Guard's aging medium endurance cutters which will conduct missions on the high seas and coastal approaches.
- **Fast Response Cutters (FRC):** \$260 million to fund four Fast Response Cutters, which are in various phases of the construction process, to replace the aging 110- foot patrol boats. These FRCs will enhance the Coast Guard's coastal capability to perform search and rescue operations and enhance resiliency to disasters.
- **Fishing Safety Training and Research Grants:** Includes \$6 million to continue the Fishing Safety Training Grants and Fishing Safety Research Grants programs.

Military Construction

- **Military Construction:** \$11.3 billion for military construction projects, an increase of \$983million above the FY2019 enacted level. This funds 150 projects to construct and renovate facilities within the United States and around the globe in direct support of the warfighter and military families. The bill funds an additional \$645 million in projects

requested for Overseas Contingency Operations and the European Deterrence Initiative, and \$6.2 billion for natural disaster relief.

- **Military Family Housing:** \$1.3 billion for construction, operation and maintenance of military family housing. The bill includes an additional \$140.8 million above the request for additional oversight and management of privatized housing contractors.

Veterans Affairs

- **Tribal and Community Health Center Partnerships:** Separate and apart from the Choice program, authorizes the VA to continue its partnerships with Community Health Centers and components of the Alaska Native healthcare system to provide care for veterans in rural and lesser serviced communities in Alaska. Report language included requests that the VA resolve reimbursement differences with the Alaska Native healthcare system to ensure that this important partnership continues.
- **Addressing Suicide Among Veterans:** Report language is included to acknowledge efforts to coordinate veteran suicide prevention programs under the Presidential Task Force established under the PREVENTS Initiative. A primary focus of these efforts is to engender collaboration across the public and private sectors to end the national tragedy of suicide through the use of public-private partnerships. The VA has established a public-private pilot program to address the causes and contributing factors that lead to suicide among our veteran populations. Because firearms were used in nearly 70 percent of all veteran suicide deaths, an important focus of the pilot program involves the safe storage of firearms. \$3 million is provided to continue and broaden this initiative.
- **Veterans Homelessness:** \$311 million is included for the Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS), an increase over both the 2019 enacted levels and the President's budget request. \$ 55 million is also included for the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program.

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