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National Defense Authorization Act Provides for the Nation's Common Defense
Legislation Moves to the House Floor under Most Transparent Process Ever Used by the Armed Services Committee

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 authorizes \$690 billion for the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration, and the Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration. The comprehensive legislation, H.R. 1540, was approved by the House Armed Services Committee by a final vote of 60-1 after being considered on the most transparent process ever used by the committee.

The 2012 defense bill, which is consistent with the budget resolution passed by the full House earlier this year, is a key mechanism by which the Congress of the United States fulfills one of its Article I, Section 8 constitutional responsibilities to provide for the common defense. It authorizes \$553 billion for the Department of Defense's base budget, \$119 billion for overseas contingency operations, and \$18 billion for the Department of Energy's atomic energy defense programs.

In the legislation, Chairman McKeon and House Republicans show their commitments to:

- Ensuring our troops deployed in Afghanistan, Iraq and around the world have the equipment, resources, authorities, training, and time needed to successfully complete their missions and return home;
- Providing our warfighters and their families with the resources and support they need, deserve, and have earned;
- Investing in the capabilities and force structure needed to protect the United States from current and future threats;
- Mandating fiscal responsibility, transparency and accountability within the Department of Defense; and
- Incentivizing competition for every tax-payer dollar associated with funding Department of Defense requirements.

The Fiscal Year 2012 defense authorization bill makes the tough choices required to provide for America's common defense in today's fiscal environment. Members of the Armed Services Committee scrutinized every aspect of the defense enterprise to find ways that we can accomplish the mission of providing for the common defense more effectively. The defense bill reduces costly reporting requirements, sets new standards for financial management at the Pentagon, and incentivizes competition as a means to reform defense acquisition.

In recognition of the service and sacrifice of the men and women of our armed forces and their families, the defense bill includes a 1.6 percent increase in military pay. While the legislation does allow for modest increases in TRICARE fees, it recognizes the service of our servicemen and women as a down payment for their healthcare benefits and caps future fee increases to cost of living adjustments.

The death of Osama bin Laden underscores the evolving and continuing nature of the terrorist threat to the United States and our allies. While focusing on victory in Afghanistan, House Republicans understand that the war against terrorism and violent extremism is broader than operations in any one country. The legislation reaffirms that the United States is engaged in an armed conflict with Al Qaeda, the Taliban and associated forces pursuant to the Authorization for Use of Military Force from 2001—and strengthens policies and procedures used to prosecute and detain terrorists captured under this banner. It's important to note that the 2012 defense bill does not expand the war on terrorism or authorize force against Libya or Iran.

The legislation also includes a number of provisions to identify and prepare for future threats. For example, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff recently noted that our rising debt is one of the greatest threats to our national security. These concerns, combined with recent comments by a Chinese defense official who stated that Beijing was “preparing for war in all directions” should signal alarm bells for Congress. To help understand the full extent of our nation’s fiscal vulnerabilities, the legislation includes a provision which requires the Secretary of Defense to conduct a national security risk assessment of U.S. federal debt held by China. The legislation also includes a number of provisions related to the military strength of China and Iran, especially as it relates to anti-access and area denial capabilities.

For more information about the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012, please visit the “[NDAA Home](#)” page at <http://ArmedServices.House.Gov>.

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