President’s Budget Request Increases DoD Spending by 7%

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- “Top Line” Funding: The Bush Administration is requesting $439.3 billion for the Department of Defense in Fiscal Year 2007, which begins on October 1, 2006. This is $28.5 billion more than the current level of $410.7 billion, an increase of 7 percent. This figure does not include funding for the nuclear weapons activities of the Department of Energy, which is considered part of total Defense Department spending. Nor does this figure include the costs of ongoing military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

- The Office of Management and Budget estimates that total annual funding for the Defense Department alone will grow to $502.1 billion by fiscal year 2011. Total Pentagon spending, not including funding for the Department of Energy or for actual combat operations for the period FY’07 through FY’11, will exceed $2 trillion. Meanwhile, in January the Congressional Budget Office estimated that the deficit for FY’06 will be $360 billion.

- Funding for Contingency Operations (Supplemental Appropriations): In addition to its annual budget request, the Pentagon also announced that it will shortly request $70 billion in supplemental funding for combat operations for Fiscal Year 2006, which is in addition to $50 billion in FY’06 supplemental funding approved by Congress as part of their regular 2006 budget work. In addition, the request includes plans to seek a $50 billion “bridge fund” request to cover Iraq and Afghanistan operations during the first part of FY’07. Congress has already approved over $300 billion in supplemental funding for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

- Missile Defense: The Administration is requesting $10.4 billion for missile defense in FY’07, up roughly $1.7 billion from the current $8.7 billion. Missile defense continues to receive more funding than any other weapons program in the annual Pentagon budget. This total does not include $669 million for the Space-Based Infrared System (SBIRS-High) satellite program. The Airborne Laser program is transitioning from a deployment program to more of a technology demonstration program.

- Shipbuilding: The request includes funding for the continued development of the Aircraft Carrier Replacement Program ($1.1 billion), the DD(x) Destroyer Program ($3.4 billion), and the Littoral Combat Ship ($840 million). It includes $2.6 billion for the purchase of one SSN-774 “Virginia” class nuclear attack submarine.

- Aircraft: The request includes $2.7 billion for 30 of the Navy’s F/A-18E/F “Super Hornet” [although news reports indicate that an additional six aircraft are being funded through supplemental appropriations], $2.3 billion for procurement of 16 V-22 “Osprey” tilt-rotor aircraft, and $5.3 billion for continued development of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter and the procurement of the first five aircraft. The request also includes $2.8 billion for the F-22 “Raptor” fighter but includes no aircraft, but instead funds advanced procurement and RDT&E for a 60 aircraft multi-year procurement beginning in F’08.

- Military Personnel: The request includes an increase in base pay of 2.2 percent. According to the Pentagon, base pay already has risen 25 percent since 2001. There are also targeted pay increases for specific skills, and $1.9 billion for recruiting and retention.

- Homeland Defense: The request contains $16.7 billion for Pentagon activities related to homeland security including detection of and protection against weapons of mass destruction, emergency preparedness and response, and protecting critical infrastructure. NOTE: A footnote on the budget’s Table “Homeland Security Funding By Agency” (Table S-5) indicates that DoD’s contribution to homeland security has been revised upward significantly due to a change in methodology. Thus the budget shows a $16.4 billion DoD contribution to homeland security in FY’06, rather than the $9.5 billion shown in last year’s request. The increase in DoD’s contribution over last year is 1.6 percent.

- Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR): The Administration is requesting $372.1 million for the CTR (also
known as “Nunn-Lugar”) program, 10.4 percent below the current level of $415.5 million. Further, the request recommends a reduction (or rescission) of $4.5 million in current funding. The CTR program assists Russia and the former Soviet republics safeguard weapons of mass destruction and related technologies.

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