

for the civilian world. The bill also addresses an important need for those who have served and are now retired by funding the Expanded Pharmacy Access Program that was part of the National Defense Authorization Act.

These are important benefits for active duty and retired personnel, and I urge Members to support them.

I am particularly pleased that the conference agreement contains \$3.9 billion for overseas contingency operations in Bosnia, Kosovo, and southwest Asia. While many Members may disagree with these operations, it would be irresponsible for the Congress to withhold the funds necessary to maintain them, unless and until the Congress decides to end them in an orderly fashion. The conference report also provides \$1.1 billion for the acquisition of 16 V-22 tiltrotor aircraft and \$122 million for the acquisition of four F-16s. These are important procurements for the Marine Corps and the Air Force.

In addition, the conference report fully funds the F-22 Raptor jet fighter program with \$2.1 billion for 10 aircraft, \$396 million for advanced procurement, and \$1.4 billion for research and development. Fully funding this stage of the procurement of this important addition to our Nation's arsenal is key to ensuring our continued air superiority well into this new century.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very good conference agreement, and I urge Members to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the conference report to accompany H.R. 4576, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

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CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4576, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 554, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 4576), making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 554, the conference report is considered as having been read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of July 17, 2000 at page H6102.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS).

(Mr. LEWIS of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First, let me say that this conference report is, in my judgment, a fabulous piece of work. It provides funding for fiscal year 2001 at levels that reflect very much the legislation that was

passed by the House only a few weeks ago. Indeed, as the Members may know, I was somewhat disconcerted by the supplemental bill that we passed some weeks ago, because it was my view that that legislation, while significant, failed to fully address certain critical areas of interest, such as our readiness needs, the contingency operations funding challenges that exist around the world, all the outstanding needs, military medical system, et cetera. We made up for much of that in an emergency funding title in their conference report.

Indeed, in working with the other side of the aisle, we have had truly a hallmark year, in terms of laying the foundation for our future national defense. We need to make sure that America continues to lead the world as the strongest among the countries of the world and continue to play our role on behalf of freedom.

Mr. Speaker, let me say that I would like to express to the Members my deepest appreciation for the work done with my colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA); indeed, the cooperation of the ranking member of the full committee has been extremely helpful as well. I must say that the staff on both sides of the aisle, Kevin Roper and his gang of, it looks like 112 staff people, but it is actually only 13 women and men doing three dozen people's work.

Beyond that, Mr. Speaker, let me say that the cooperation on the Senate side, in the other body's committee has been extremely valuable as well. The work of that staff, led by Steve Coates, as well as Senator STEVENS and the ranking member Senator INOUE, are very much appreciated.

At this point I would like to insert for the RECORD a summary of the funding levels agreed to in the conference agreement.