



APPROPRIATIONS ALERT

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MILITARY CONSTRUCTION/VETERANS AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS VETERANS, DEFENSE FACILITIES GET A 5-PERCENT INCREASE H.R. 3082

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The Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill (H.R. 3082) provides \$128.6 billion in budget authority [BA] and 128.2 billion in outlays for fiscal year 2010. Of this amount, \$77.9 billion is discretionary BA (see Table 1) and \$50.7 billion is mandatory spending. The bill as reported reflects a \$5-billion increase above the 2009 enacted level. The bill as reported includes \$1.4 billion for overseas contingency operations (see Table 2 below); this amount is not treated as emergency spending, but is included in the adjusted 302(b) allocation. Without these funds, the increase in base funding from the enacted level (which excludes emergency funding) is 5 percent.

The measure, the seventh regular appropriations bill for fiscal year 2010 to be considered by the House, provides funding to the Department of Defense [DoD] for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure, and funding to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Because its spending levels equal the 302(b) allocation provided to the subcommittee, H.R. 3082 complies with the fiscal year 2010 budget resolution (S.Con.Res. 13). The bill does not change any mandatory spending program. It does, however, provide \$48.2 billion for 2011 in advance appropriations for Veterans Medical Services, Medical Support, and Medical Facilities. The bill rescinds \$86 million of BA previously appropriated for overseas contingency operations.

Table 1: Military Construction/Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill
(dollars in millions)

	2009 Enacted ^a	2010 Request ^b	302 (b) for 2010 ^b	H.R. 3082 ^b
Discretionary Budget Authority	72,864	77,666	77,905	77,905
Discretionary Outlays	66,431	76,862	77,665	77,659

^a Excludes emergencies.

^b Includes overseas contingency operations funding.

Key elements of the bill include the following:

- **Military Construction.** The bill provides \$22.2 billion for the military construction accounts, including \$4.5 billion for the Army (of which \$924 million is for overseas contingency operations) and \$1.8 billion for the Air Force (\$475 million for overseas contingency operations). The total is \$267 million above the President's request of \$21.9 billion. It includes \$8 billion for base realignment and closure, which is slightly higher than the President's request (\$7.9 billion) and \$1.2 billion less than the 2009 enacted level.

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- **Family Housing.** Just under \$2 billion is provided for the family housing accounts in the DoD. This is equal to the President’s request and represents a substantial 38-percent reduction from the 2009 enacted level of \$3.2 billion. The committee contends the funding decrease results from the military housing privatization program.
- **Veterans Affairs.** H.R. 3082 funds the Department of Veterans Affairs at the President’s requested level of \$53 billion in discretionary BA. This represents an increase of 11 percent for the Department over the 2009 enacted level. The bill includes advance appropriations – spending designated for fiscal year 2011 – for three separate accounts that total \$48.2 billion. For these accounts, this level represents an 8-percent increase over the 2010 level proposed in the bill.
- **Terminations and Reductions.** The Democratic Majority claims the bill reduces seven DoD programs and two VA programs for a total savings of \$1.5 billion from the President’s request. Because the reported level is \$239 million above the President’s request, the “savings” from these reductions were spent elsewhere in the bill.

Table 2: Military Construction/Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill
(discretionary budget authority in millions of dollars)

	2009 Enacted	2010 Request ^a	2010 Reported ^a	2010 Rept./Reqst.	% Change Reqst./Rept.	% Change 2009/Rept.
Military Construction						
Army	4,641	4,585	4,494	-91	-2%	-3%
Navy and Marine Corps	3,333	3,763	3,757	-6	0%	13%
Air Force	1,096	1,620	1,834	214	13%	67%
Defense-wide	1,691	3,105	2,718	-387	-12%	61%
Reserve and National Guard	1,530	1,020	1,417	397	39%	-7%
Base Realignment and Closure	9,224	7,876	8,016	140	2%	-13%
Family Housing	3,158	1,959	1,959	0	0%	-38%
Other Defense Programs	375	423	382	-41	-10%	2%
Veterans Affairs						
Veterans Health Administration	40,959	45,078	45,078	0	0%	10%
Other Dept. Of Veterans Affairs	208	7,962	7,962	0	0%	20%
Independent Agencies and Defense Civil Programs	208	275	288	13	5%	38%
Total	72,864	77,666	77,905	239	0%	7%

^a Includes \$1.4 billion in overseas contingency operations funding for Military Construction-Army and Military Construction-Air Force.

This document was prepared by the Republican staff of the Committee on the Budget, U.S. House of Representatives. It has not been approved by the full committee and may not reflect the views of individual committee members.