

House Appropriations Committee

Chairman Hal Rogers

Website address: <http://appropriations.house.gov/>

Contact: Jennifer Hing, (202) 226-7007

Summary: Fiscal Year 2013 Military Construction/Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill

The CR includes \$71.9 billion in discretionary funding for military construction and the Department of Veterans Affairs. This is \$210 million above the fiscal year 2012 funding level, and includes increases for Veterans programs balanced by decreases in Military Construction.

This portion of the legislation provides the nation's military with the infrastructure needed to house, train, and equip military personnel, provides for the quality of life of our troops and their families, and maintains our strong military base structure. The bill also funds veterans' benefits and programs to ensure that all veterans receive the services they have earned as a result of their sacrifices and service to the country.

All of this funding is subject to sequestration, except where noted below.

- **Military Construction** – The bill provides \$10.6 billion for military construction projects – a decrease of \$2.4 billion below last year's level. Much of the reduction is due to the Air Force's deliberate pause in military construction (saving \$839 million) and a continued decline in funding requirements for the BRAC 2005 process.
 - **Military Family Housing** – The bill provides \$1.65 billion for military family housing, which fully funds family housing construction, and operation and maintenance for fiscal year 2013. The funding provided will ensure quality housing will continue to be available for 1,231,044 military families.
 - **Military Medical Facilities** – The legislation contains \$927 million for construction and alterations for new or existing military medical facilities that support and care for 9.6 million military personnel.
 - **Department of Defense (DoD) Education Facilities** – The bill includes \$547 million for essential safety improvements and infrastructure work at DoD Education Activities facilities located both in the U.S. and overseas.
- **Veterans Affairs (VA)** – The legislation includes a total of \$133.9 billion in both discretionary and mandatory funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs. This funding will help provide the increasing number of our nation's veterans with the services and care they have earned. Of that total, \$61 billion is discretionary funding, an

increase of \$2.5 billion above last year's level. (Approximately \$52 billion of this discretionary total was provided last year via an advance funding). All of the funding within the Department of Veterans Affairs is exempt from sequestration.

- **VA Medical Services** – The bill funds the Veterans Health Administration at \$53.3 billion – providing for approximately 6.3 million patients to be treated in fiscal year 2013. In addition, the legislation provides \$54.5 billion in advance fiscal year 2014 funding.
- **Minor Construction** – Minor construction for the VA is funded at \$608 million, which is \$125 million above fiscal year 2012. These funds will allow VA to make progress on the hundreds of projects already scheduled to build or renovate health clinics, medical residences, and nursing homes, as well as acquire cemetery land and facilities.
- **VA Mandatory Funding** – The bill fulfills mandatory funding requirements such as: veterans disability compensation programs for almost four million veterans and their survivors; post-9-11 GI bill education benefits for more than 600,000 veterans; and vocational rehabilitation and employment training for more than 200,000 veterans.
- **Oversight** –The legislation includes provisions to increase oversight of taxpayer dollars at the VA, including requiring the agency to report on construction expenditures and savings, forbidding new changes in the scope of construction projects, and restricting the agency from taking certain spending actions without notifying Congress.

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