

**Statement of the Honorable Wilson Livingood
Sergeant at Arms, U.S. House of Representatives
Before
The Subcommittee on Legislative Branch Appropriations
For the Office of the Sergeant at Arms
Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Submission**

Good morning Mr. Chairman, Mr. Honda, and members of the Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today to present the Sergeant at Arms budget request for fiscal year 2012. Before I begin my statement, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to each member of this Committee and look forward to working with you throughout this budget cycle. Your assistance enables us to provide a safer and more secure environment for Members, their staff, visiting dignitaries and world leaders, and the many 1000s of visitors who come here each day.

As we just recently underwent preparations for a potential government shutdown and made adjustments to our fiscal year 2011 budget, I have spent considerable time looking at the entire Sergeant at Arms organization, its personnel and operations. As a result I've implemented a freeze on future hires and continue to look for additional cost saving measures. I will work with the Committees and House Leadership in accomplishing this task.

The total funding requested for the Office of the Sergeant at Arms in fiscal year 2012 is \$19,454,000 which includes \$9,678,000 for personnel expenses and

\$9,776,000 for non-personnel items.

As Sergeant at Arms, I review and implement all security matters relating to the House of Representatives. And as a member of the U.S. Capitol Police Board, I take part in establishing policies and guidelines to safeguard the Capitol complex and its occupants.

The integration of the former Office of Emergency Preparedness, Planning and Operations (OEPPO) into the Office of the Sergeant at Arms has brought far greater coordination to the House community's overall emergency management effort. I am pleased to report that we are moving forward on a number of projects to improve occupant safety throughout the House complex. I would like to note in particular:

- The project to install emergency communication stations and closed circuit television cameras (CCTV) in the stairwells of the House Office Buildings is on schedule to be completed by September of this year. This project will enable occupants to establish two-way communication with emergency responders should an evacuation route be blocked. The CCTV installation will expand the ability of the Capitol Police to monitor evacuations and more rapidly respond to resolve problems that might occur. Call boxes have been installed at elevators for persons with accessibility needs.

- With the support and assistance of the Chief Administrative Officer, we have established a working group to reinvigorate efforts to integrate emergency notifications such as using the Roam Secure System already owned by the House. We are confident that this unified effort will lead to an expanded and more integrated means of communicating emergency information.
- Cooper Desktop Notification (CDN) - The Sergeant at Arms is currently in the process of implementing the Cooper Desktop Notification tool as part of the House's current Roam Secure system in coordination with the CAO and USCP. This tool will allow the USCP to send emergency notifications to computer desktops of all House recipients that are logged onto the network. The implementation of this new tool will allow seamless and simultaneous emergency notification to desktop and laptop computers in addition to the current devices.
- The Sergeant at Arms is also engaged in discussions with other Capitol entities regarding the acquisition of a computerized evacuation modeling tool, with a view toward requesting funding in FY13.

Personnel funding in the amount of \$9,678,000 is requested for 134 FTE.

Non-personnel funding is requested to support the following programs – Member Services, Security Support, Administrative, and Miscellaneous:

- \$185,000 is requested for the Members Services program to purchase supplies and materials for the 113th Congress. This program funding is requested in even numbered fiscal years only.
- \$326,000 is requested for the Security Support program which provides funding for Sergeant at Arms staff to advance and support off-campus events involving Members of Congress. Funding the Security Support program will all also allow continued contractor support in the areas of emergency planning and preparedness, as well as continued consultant services in the areas of threat mitigation, force protection, and counter-terrorism.
- \$524,000 is requested for the Administrative program to purchase general office supplies and equipment, to pay for the maintenance of office equipment, and to pay for the use of telecommunications. Funding in the administrative program is also requested for the continued training and education of all Sergeant at Arms staff. A well prepared and trained staff is essential in the successful execution of all job responsibilities. Continued training for staff includes training related emergency preparedness, information technology, leadership/management, office administration, and customer service.
- \$8,741,000 is requested for the Miscellaneous program to fund resource services and overall emergency management operations for the division of Emergency

Management. Funding will also be used to purchase the lifecycle replacement of escape hoods.

In closing, I would like to thank the Committee once again for the privilege of appearing today. Let me assure you of my longstanding commitment to provide the highest quality support services for the House of Representatives in the safest and most secure environment possible. It is my goal to remain vigilant and security-conscious, while continuing to maintain the fiscal responsibility expected by the House of Representatives. I will continue to keep the Committee informed of my activities and will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you.