

**Statement of Paul D. Irving**  
**Sergeant at Arms, U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Before the**  
**Subcommittee on Legislative Branch**  
**Committee on Appropriations**  
**Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Submission**

Good morning Mr. Chairman, Ms. Wasserman Schultz, 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 2014. Before I begin, I would like to say that as the Sergeant at Arms, it is indeed a unique privilege and honor to serve this institution. I look forward to working with you and the other members of this committee.

The Office of the Sergeant at Arms focuses its efforts on providing the maximum degree of support to Member offices coordinating security and protocol services as a highly integrated, flexible, and focused organization. The office is comprised of divisions that perform the duties mandated by the office: Police Services, Special Events and Protocol, Chamber Security, Parking Security, House Security, Information Services, and Emergency Management.

As Sergeant at Arms, I review and direct 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, Members of Congress, staff, and the public conducting business and visiting the complex. I also serve as a member of the oversight board of the Office of Congressional Accessibility Services. This small, but important office is charged with providing and coordinating accessibility services for individuals with disabilities, including Members of Congress, officers and employees of the House of Representatives and Senate, and visitors to the Capitol complex.

There are a number of ongoing initiatives this office is involved with which I would like to bring to your attention today:

- Every division in the Office of the Sergeant at Arms has been actively involved in the transition to the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress. This includes the distribution of new Member and spouse identification pins and license plates, the processing of approximately 14,000 113<sup>th</sup> Congress ID badges, and issuing over 7,000 parking permits to all authorized staff vehicles.
- Employees of the Sergeant at Arms have supported, reviewed, and approved the security procedures for numerous special events, including the Opening Session of the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress, a Joint Session for the Counting of the Electoral College, the 57<sup>th</sup> Presidential Inauguration, the annual State of the Union Address by the President, and most recently, an unveiling Ceremony for the Rosa Parks Statue. Support was also provided off-site to

several issues retreats and the National Prayer Breakfast. Planning is underway for the annual Peace Officers' Memorial Service and the upcoming concerts on the West Front lawn.

- In partnership with U.S. Capitol Police, we are continuing a strong and effective outreach program with Member offices regarding District Office security. We offer detailed guidance on best practices, providing information on how to obtain a thorough security review, coordination with local and state law enforcement for district security support, and how to coordinate security surveys when requested. With many new Member offices in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress, I feel this process is even more critical. We will continue to provide this essential service to offices, while remaining cognizant of the need to provide cost effective recommendations as well as solutions to enhance the security of the Members.
- The Law Enforcement Coordinator Program (LEC) remains an important focus – it is something that should be an integral part of every District Office Security plan. Since the start of the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress, we have reached out to every Freshman Member office and continue to increase participation. As each of you know, LECs can and do provide an essential link to the local law enforcement community, enabling effective liaison and personal rapport with local and state law enforcement. The LEC program has clearly demonstrated its benefit to the institution, in a cost-effective manner.
- The Office Emergency Coordinator Program (OEC) continues to be a foundation in our overall emergency planning, and has been of great focus at the beginning of the new Congress. We continue to have a robust outreach program to all offices, offering emergency planning assistance, training, and guidance. OECs serve as the principal points of contact for their office in relaying emergency information and procedures. In the event of an incident, OECs are responsible for ensuring their office emergency procedures are carried out and assist with personnel accountability.
- We are in the process of developing and implementing on-line training for Law Enforcement Coordinators (LEC) and Office Emergency Coordinators (OEC).
- In the near future we will implement on-line Security Awareness “101” briefings which will be available to all House staff regarding foreign travel, operation security, and protection of personal identifiable information.
- Our division of House Security was established, in part, to become the repository for classified documents received by the House of Representatives. I am requesting funding to enhance the content management system used to store this material. Enhancements to this system will provide a vital backup ensuring robust data integrity, while reducing the chance of degradation or loss of data. We also look to increase the security of individual documents within the system through enhanced auditing, encryption, and authentication measures.

- We are preparing to implement a desktop “pop-up” notification tool for all PCs and a digital television display for all TVs on the Capitol Hill campus to be used for the quick dissemination of emergency messages.
- We continue to work on a comprehensive emergency management plan, in conjunction with the other Officers of the House of Representatives and Senate, and the U.S. Capitol Police.

In the current fiscal environment, every office is acutely aware of the need to operate within tight fiscal boundaries. Our request has been crafted in the spirit of zero-based budgeting where each division identified cost savings without jeopardizing the mission critical services provided to the House community.

In order to fund on-going efforts, the Office of the Sergeant at Arms is requesting \$12,662,000 for fiscal year 2014. Of this amount we are requesting \$9,091,000 for personnel expenses. The employees of the Office of the Sergeant at Arms are our most valued assets and have a shared responsibility in fulfilling the Sergeant at Arms mission. The performance of every Sergeant at Arms employee is vital to respond adequately to the needs of our stakeholders – the Members of Congress and the staff who serve them. While we are authorized for 132 FTE in fiscal year 2014, we are requesting funds for only 118 mission critical positions in Office of the Sergeant at Arms. We have reduced contractor support where possible and, as noted, are holding vacant positions open.

Non-personnel funding requested for fiscal year 2014 is \$3,571,000. This funding will support travel, telecommunications, printing, other services, supplies and materials, and equipment.

Travel funding is primarily requested for the advance and support of official special events involving Members of Congress. Funding also supports some House emergency evacuation capabilities.

Telecommunications funding will support telephone, cell phone, air cards and wireless service for all divisions of the Sergeant at Arms.

Funding requested for Printing includes general printing needs as well as the preparation of emergency training materials.

Funding requested for Other Services is for contractual services in the areas of threat mitigation, force protection, counterterrorism, emergency preparedness, response and recovery, and the production of an on-line security refresher training.

Funding for Supplies and Materials is requested to purchase general office supplies, ID supplies, and miscellaneous supplies which include the necessary life-cycle replacement of

Parking Security uniforms, wireless devices, cellphones, and air-cards. This funding will also provide for the procurement of Member and spouse identification pins, license plates, and parking permits for the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Funding for Equipment is requested to support hardware/software needs throughout all divisions, as well as required maintenance. Some highlights covered in this request include:

- Overdue lifecycle replacement of select PCs, laptops and other office equipment
- Purchase of critical equipment to support deployed House operations
- Annual maintenance and upgrades to several emergency planning software systems to be used in support of continuity of operations
- Purchase of certain equipment related to Continuity of Operations (COOP) activities, including portable badging/identification equipment and software

In closing, I would like to thank the Committee again for their support and for the privilege of appearing today. I assure you of my commitment – and that of my entire office – to provide the highest quality support for the House of Representatives while maintaining the safest and most secure environment possible. We will remain focused on security and preparedness, while maintaining the level of fiscal responsibility demanded 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.