Coalition for
National Security Research

FUNDING STATEMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

The Coalition for National Security Research (CNSR) commends the Department of Defense (DOD) for emphasizing technological innovation in its FY2017 budget request but is very concerned with the disproportional cuts to basic research and the overall reduction in investments to science and technology (S&T) relative to FY2016 levels. With growing threats emerging around the world, it is vital to our national security that the U.S. military maintain its technological superiority and now is not the time to disinvest in Defense S&T. ***CNSR urges Congress to reject the proposed cuts in the FY2017 budget request and use FY2016 enacted levels as the basis for writing the FY2017 Defense Appropriations bill.***

Although the President's FY2017 budget request would provide $71.4 billion for Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation (RDT&E) programs, a 2.6% increase relative to FY2016, the S&T portfolio would only be funded at $12.5 billion, representing a significant decrease of 4.1%. With the proposed decreases, especially the 9% cut to basic research, the budget request is inconsistent with the stated desire to advance technological innovation. This level of decrease could potentially diminish efforts in ensuring our national security and will result in far fewer graduate programs and students being trained as our next generation of scientists and engineers.

The Defense S&T program serves as the seed corn that gives rise to new weapon systems, defensive capabilities, and technologies used to protect and heal the warfighter. Stealth technology, GPS, satellite communications, laser technologies, sonar, UAVs, and many other commonly used technologies taken for granted today can all trace their roots from the Defense S&T program. With the Administration seeking high-tech weapons initiatives with the "third-offset" program, failing to adequately fund S&T will delay technologies necessary beyond the third offset. In order to enhance our national security and maintain the U.S. military's technical superiority, we must prioritize investments in the Defense S&T program.

CNSR urges Congress to provide $13.4 billion for the overall Defense S&T program, and $2.5 billion for the 6.1 basic research accounts. These funding levels strive to meet the recommendations in the National Academies report *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*, which states that preeminence in S&T is essential to keeping our technological edge over adversaries of the United States. In addition, CNSR notes the important role DARPA has played in funding higher-risk scientific research that has led to many extraordinary, historical technological advances of our day. ***We urge Congress to continue its support of DARPA's vital scientific research by providing $2.9 billion***. While we realize these are significant increases in a difficult budget environment, Congress must demonstrate the priority of national security research for today and the future.

Finally, CNSR urges Congress to provide sufficient funding for DOD S&T programs critical to cultivating the next generation of talented engineers and scientists who will contribute to the technological capabilities of the American military. In addition to the National Security Science and Engineering Faculty Fellowship Program, graduate research assistantships and postdoctoral fellowships, such as the National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship Program and the National Defense Education Program, provide education and research opportunities that strengthen our nation's scientific and technical workforce.

MISSION
The Coalition for National Security Research (CNSR) is a broad-based alliance of industry, research universities and institutes, and scientific and professional organizations committed to advocating for a strong Defense Science & Technology (S&T) enterprise, with particular emphasis on basic (6.1) and applied (6.2) defense research. Whether it is developing weapon systems, cybersecurity capabilities or technologies used to heal the wounded, the Defense S&T program serves as the foundation upon with U.S. military technical superiority is built. CNSR's advocacy with Congress and the Administration supports long-term, robust funding for basic and applied research, as well as DOD-funded educational programs that cultivate a new generation of talented engineers and scientists.

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