

December 28, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Vail, Colorado)

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H. R. 16136 - the Military Construction Authorization Act of 1975, which authorizes appropriations for new construction for Defense, the military departments, and the Reserve Components aggregating \$2,984,378,000.

The \$2,984,378,000 authorization for new construction is \$294,002,000 less than the \$3,278,380,000 requested by Defense for military construction for fiscal year 1975. In general, the reduction reflects a number of relatively minor changes throughout the program. Net changes in the Defense request for new construction are set forth, by major program category, in the attachment which also shows amounts for deficiency authorizations and for certain authorizations to be funded outside the normal appropriations process.

Changes made by the Congress in the Administration's proposal that are considered worth specific highlighting follow.

Diego Garcia

The bill authorizes appropriations of \$18,102,000 for expansion of facilities on the island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean, which is a \$13,200,000 reduction from the Administration's original request of \$31,302,000. None of the funds authorized to be appropriated for construction at Diego Garcia can be obligated, however, until the President certifies to the Congress in writing that the construction of these facilities is essential to the national security interests of the United States. This certification would have to be before Congress for a period of sixty days of continuous session during which period either House of Congress could pass a resolution disapproving use of funds for the project.

Trident Support

Section 608 authorizes the Secretary of Defense, under certain conditions, to assist communities located near the Trident Support Site, Bangor, Washington, in meeting the costs of providing increased municipal services resulting from the economic impact caused by construction and operation

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of the Site. The provisions of this section are to be carried out through existing Federal programs. In determining the amount of financial assistance to be made available to any local community, the Secretary of Defense is to consult with the head of the Federal agency concerned with the type of service under consideration to determine the extent of adverse impact the Trident System has placed on the local community. If other funds are not available, the Secretary may use any funds made available for the Trident System until the close of fiscal year 1975, when specific authorization for community assistance is to be addressed in succeeding annual military construction programs. The language of this provision is virtually identical to language in the fiscal year 1971 Military Construction Authorization Act, P. L. 91-511, regarding assistance for communities located near the SAFEGUARD sites in Montana and North Dakota.

Vice President's Residence

The bill amends existing legislation concerning the establishment of a temporary official residence for the Vice President, to clarify congressional intent in designating the premises formerly occupied by the Chief of Naval Operations as the temporary official residence of the Vice President.

Reserve Components

The bill authorizes \$157,767,000 for construction of facilities for Reserve forces, the largest annual program to date. The amount authorized exceeds the Administration's request by approximately \$6.8 million.

Commissaries

The bill permits an increase of the surcharge on sales prices in commissary store facilities for construction and improvements to commissary stores which are now provided out of appropriated funds. This provision is in line with Administration policy to move toward elimination of appropriated fund support of commissary services.

(MORIS)

FY 1975

Military Construction Authorization

H. R. 16136

| | <u>Amended Request</u> (In thousands of dollars) | <u>Enacted</u> (In thousands of dollars) |
|--|---|---|
| Army | 696,815 | 611,879 |
| Navy | 567,674 | 550,956 |
| Air Force | 468,276 | 390,773 |
| Defense Agencies | <u>47,400</u> | <u>28,400</u> |
| Active Forces | 1,780,165 | 1,582,008 |
| Family Housing | 1,342,283 | 1,239,603 |
| Homeowners Assistance Program | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| Reserve Forces | | |
| Army National Guard | 53,800 | 53,800 |
| Army Reserve | 38,600 | 38,600 |
| Naval and Marine Corps Reserve | 18,532 | 19,867 |
| Air National Guard | 26,000 | 31,500 |
| Air Force Reserve | <u>14,000</u> | <u>14,000</u> |
| Reserves | 150,932 | 157,767 |
| New Authorization | | |
| for Appropriation | 3,278,380 | 2,984,378 |
| not for Appropriation | 0 | 10,500 |
| Deficiency Authorization | 59,626 | 59,626 |
| Total Authorization | 3,338,006 | 3,054,504 |