

Amendment 2565 to require the National Guard and Reserve Component to submit their modernization priorities to the entire Congress, and seek input from Secretary of Defense Gates

The Reserve and National Guard commanders are bypassing the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Secretary of Defense, OMB, the President, the full Senate and full House.

Report is authorized exclusively for Senators on the Appropriations Committee with no input from civilian leaders of the military

Publicizing this report and seeking input from Secretary Gates will allow all Members of Congress to Conduct Better Oversight of the Department of Defense and maintain civilian control of the military

The Appropriations committee recommends an addition of \$1.5 billion for procurement of National Guard and Reserve Equipment. This is \$1.5 billion **above** the amounts already appropriated for procurement of weapon systems for all the military departments (\$108 billion) included in the President's Budget request.

This amendment simply requires that the National Guard and Reserve component commanders submit their modernization priority lists to Secretary Gates for review. Secretary Gates will note the report with approval or disapproval before it is sent to the entire Congress. He will not edit or change the report.

The Reserve and National Guard commanders are bypassing the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Secretary of Defense, OMB, the President, the full Senate and full House.

The bill currently mandates that the equipment that this \$1.5 billion procures will go to the National Guard and Reserve Components, and will not leave it to the military departments to decide how much the National Guard and Reserve components receive.

The appropriation includes direction for each Reserve and National Guard component commander to submit to the congressional defense committees a detailed assessment of that component's modernization priorities, not later than 30 days after enactment of this act.

The Reserve and National Guard commanders get to submit their lists directly to the appropriations committee and bypass the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Secretary of Defense, OMB, the President, the full Senate and full House.

Report is authorized exclusively for Senators on the Appropriations Committee with no input from civilian leaders of the military

The Senate appropriators are attempting to set aside \$1.5 billion of taxpayer funding with no stipulation on how it is spent and give this money directly to the National Guard and Reserve.

It is accepted as a truism on Capitol Hill that the National Guard and Reserve are woefully underequipped to perform both their homeland security mission and prepare for combat.

Rather than take appointed civilian leaders (Secretaries of the Army and Air Force) to task for this apparent failure to equip the National Guard and Reserves, the appropriators are giving a blank check to uniformed generals to spend as they see fit.

Secretary Gates has the statutory responsibility to run the Department of Defense and is responsible to the President and the Congress in doing so. He must be given both the authority and the resources to manage the world's largest organization. His ability to do so is diminished when Congress intervenes and gives massive amounts of direct funding to uniformed generals without his input.

Publicizing this report and seeking input from Secretary Gates will allow all Members of Congress to Conduct Better Oversight of the Department of Defense and maintain civilian control of the military

This amendment simply requires that the National Guard and Reserve component commanders submit their modernization priority lists to Secretary Gates for review. Secretary Gates will note the report with approval or disapproval before it is sent to the entire Congress. He will not be allowed to edit the report.

All Members of Congress can and should review the proposals by the National Guard and Reserve commanders for their modernization priorities. The equipment being purchased must be able to fulfill both the federal and state responsibilities of National Guard units and should fit in with the overall modernization priority of the active duty forces as well.