

COMMITTEE LANGUAGE FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998

AH-1W SERIES ACCOUNT: APN

PRESBUD	HNSC	SASC	CASC	HAC	SAC	CAC
34,518	34,518	34,518	34,518	34,518	34,518	34,518

H-1 SERIES ACCOUNT: APN

PRESBUD	HNSC	SASC	CASC	HAC	SAC	CAC
18,489	12,889	12,889	12,889	16,389	18,489	18,389

H-1 UPGRADES UH-1N/AH-1W Cockpit Commonality ACCOUNT: RDT&E

PRESBUD	HNSC	SASC	CASC	HAC	SAC	CAC
80,735	86,335	86,335	86,335	86,335	80,735	86,335

AH-1T COMPOSITE ROTOR BLADE (H) ACCOUNT: RDT&E

PRESBUD	HNSC	SASC	CASC	HAC	SAC	CAC
0	0	0	0	0	0	0

HNSC LANGUAGE (Rpt. 105-132)

(Page 64)

H-1 series modifications

The budget request contained \$18.5 million for modifications to the H-1 series helicopter, of which \$18.3 million was planned for communications and navigation block upgrades. The budget request also contained \$80.7 million in research and development funding for future H-1 upgrades.

Subsequent to the Department's submission of the budget request, the Navy determined a need to restructure its communications and navigation block upgrades and research and development plans for the H-1 series helicopters. The restructured program, which requires transferring funds from the aircraft procurement account to the research and development account, would improve commonality between the UH-1N and AH-1W helicopters through a new plan to design common cockpit architecture and to procure common parts and software. The committee supports this initiative and recommends \$12.7 million for H-1 communications and navigation block upgrades, a reduction of \$5.6 million, and a corresponding increase in PE

0604245N for research and development of H-1 series upgrades.

(Page 70)

Hellfire II missiles

The budget request did not contain funding for the Hellfire II missile.

The Hellfire II missile is an anti-armor and anti-ship weapon used by the Marine Corps on the AH-1W and by the Navy on the SH-60B. Neither the Navy nor the Marine Corps have procured Hellfire II missiles since fiscal year 1994. The committee has been informed that because of this situation, the Navy's and the Marine Corps' inventories of Hellfire II missiles is 25 percent below requirements. To address this shortfall, the committee recommends \$37.5 million to procure 700 Hellfire missiles.

(Page 134)

Army force wide digitization

The committee notes that the recently-concluded Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) findings included unqualified support for the Army's Force XXI digitization efforts and that the digital attack or armed scout helicopters will perform an important "quarterback" function in that battlefield scenario. The committee concurs with this analysis. Indeed, the committee recommends a total of \$715.3 million for both AH-64 Longbow Apache digital attack and OH-58D Kiowa Warrior armed scout helicopters elsewhere in this report.

Nevertheless, the committee is concerned that plans to replace AH-1 Cobras in the Army National Guard (ARNG) may not be adequately synchronized with Army-wide digitization plans. This may be due to the fact that the Army Aviation Plan has not been updated since the completion of the QDR. Accordingly, the committee expects the Secretary of the Army and the Director of ARNG Bureau to review and align AH-1 Cobra replacement plans for the ARNG consistent with the QDR findings as they apply to the Army's digitized battlefield. The committee also expects the fiscal year 1999 budget request to reflect the results of this review as appropriate.

(Page 185)

H-1 series modifications

The budget request contained \$18.5 million in Navy procurement for modifications to the H-1 series helicopter of which \$18.3 million was planned for communications and navigation block upgrades. The budget request also contained \$80.7 million in PE 64245N for development of future H-1 upgrades.

Subsequent to the submission of the budget request, the Navy determined a need to restructure its communications and navigation block upgrades and research and development plans for the H-1 series helicopters. The restructured program, which requires transferring funds from the aircraft procurement account to the research and development account, would improve commonality between the UH-1N and AH-1W helicopters through a new plan to design a common cockpit architecture and to procure common parts and software. The committee supports this initiative and recommends a reduction of \$5.6 million in procurement for H-1 communications and navigation block upgrades and an increase of \$5.6 million in PE 64245N for design of a common cockpit architecture.

SASC LANGUAGE (Rpt. 105-29)

(Page 158-159)

Helicopter upgrade program

The committee supports ongoing efforts by the Marine Corps to maintain commonality between the AH-1W and UH-1N as these aircraft are upgraded to meet future warfighting requirements. The committee notes Marine Corps plans to restructure the UH-1N cockpit configuration to increase the commonality with the AH-1W aircraft. The committee supports this effort and agrees to a Marine Corps request to realign \$5.6 million from procurement to research and development in PE 64245N to complete the development of a common cockpit.

CASC LANGUAGE (Rpt. 105-340)

(Page 613)

P-3 maritime patrol aircraft modernization program

The budget request included \$3.2 million in PE 64221N to continue engineering and manufacturing development of upgrades to the P-3C aircraft system to enhance surface and surface tracking, classification, and attack capabilities.

The House bill would authorize an increase of \$12.0 million to continue and accelerate the integration of anti-surface warfare improvement program (AIP) sensors to reduce operator workload, modernize the operator-machine interface to take advantage of new displays and controls, provide additional sensor integration/enhancements, improve/automate tactical planning aids, and provide for multi-sensor data correlation and fusion.

The Senate amendment would authorize the budget request.

The conferees agree to authorize an increase of \$10.0 million in PE 64221N for the P-3C maritime patrol aircraft modernization program as recommended in the House report (H. Rept. 105-132).

The conferees note the continuing disparity between the operational requirements of the unified commanders-in-chief (CINCs) and the Navy's plans for modernization of the P-3C fleet. The conferees direct the Secretary of the Navy to provide an assessment of the implications of this disparity to the congressional defense committees with the submission of the fiscal year 1999 defense budget request.

HAC LANGUAGE (Rpt. 105-206)

(Page 107)

H-1 Series

The Navy requested \$18,489,000 for H-1 series modifications. The Committee recommends \$16,389,000, a decrease of \$2,100,000. This amount includes an increase of \$3,500,000 only for UH-1 internal rescue hoists and a transfer of \$5,600,000 to research and development for UH-1 upgrades (PE 0604245N).