

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATION, FISCAL  
YEAR 1975

SEPTEMBER 5, 1974.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. SYMINGTON, from the Committee on Armed Services,  
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 16136]

The Committee on Armed Services, to which was referred the bill (H.R. 16136) having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of this bill is to provide construction and other related authority for the military departments, and the office of the Secretary of Defense, within and outside the United States and in title VII authority for construction of facilities for the Reserve components, in the total amount of \$3,079,651,060 consisting of \$3,027,925,060 in new authority, and an increase in prior years' authorization of \$51,726,000.

FORM OF COMMITTEE ACTION

The bill on which the committee heard its hearings is S. 3471. The companion bill as passed by the House of Representatives is H.R. 16136. Subsequent to the submission of the bill to the Congress, and in some instances after the hearings had been completed, amendments were requested by the Department of Defense. These changes, together with those recommended by the committee, made it desirable to report the House bill with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

the committee authorizes \$7.2 million, but directs that those funds be used only for the acquisition of the approximately 11,200 acres, described to the committee as Phase III.

The committee notes that the major portion of the Army's justification for the land acquisition at Fort Carson was to support the training requirement of a mechanized division; a division that trains to fight primarily in the NATO area. While the committee is authorizing the funds necessary to acquire the Phase III land, it believes a mechanized division might better simulate the NATO ground environment at some other location. Therefore, future fund requests, especially for the Phase I or II area, must be justified on the basis that other adequate training sites for mechanized units within the continental limits of the United States that simulate the NATO environment are not available.

#### COMMISSARIES

Last year in their conference report the Senate and House Appropriations Committees took note of the fact that the Department of Defense should take measures to increase the use of commissary surcharge money or other non-appropriated funds for the construction of commissary facilities. The Department was asked to make a study of the matter. While the results of this study has not yet been released, it is understood the Department is in sympathy with the concept. It was further pointed out that special legislation would be required to accomplish this. It is for this reason that Section 610 has been included in this bill.

Commissaries enjoy numerous advantages which allow them to further reduce their costs below those of commercial counterparts. Further, the patrons of commissaries pay no local sales taxes where such are applicable, thus increasing overall savings below prices paid in the private sector. It is estimated that an increase of 1% to 2% in the surcharge rate will be ample.

The committee has denied the three commissaries requested in this bill for locations within the United States.

#### DIEGO GARCIA—NAVAL SUPPORT FACILITY

The Navy originally requested \$29 million in the Fiscal Year 1974 Supplemental Authorization bill to expand the Naval Communications Station on the British owned Island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. The expansion would allow the base at Diego Garcia to become a general support facility for U.S. forces operating in the Indian Ocean and, in particular, would have the capability to support a carrier task force.

The House voted to approve the full \$29 million authorization in the Supplemental request. The Senate, and subsequently the Conference Report on the Supplemental, deferred, without prejudice, authorization for the \$29 million request. Testimony before the Committee had not demonstrated a great urgency to the project, no approval in principle had been obtained from the United Kingdom for an expansion of U.S. facilities on Diego Garcia, and serious policy questions raised by the request required further consideration.

Logistically, Diego Garcia would serve as an outpost support facility where ships could perform limited in-port upkeep; take on

fuel, and receive critical supplies by military airlift. In addition to the Navy construction, the Air Force included in its Fiscal Year 1975 budget request \$3.3 million for additional airlift improvements and storage space for petroleum products and munitions. The Air Force requirements are contingency related; no permanent Air Force presence is planned on Diego Garcia.

The defense and foreign policy implications of the construction projects at Diego Garcia are, of course, broader than the \$32.3 million request would suggest. It is true that the construction of support facilities at Diego Garcia does not necessarily mean an expanded U.S. military presence in the Indian Ocean. But by increasing logistic flexibility and capability, expansion of the Diego Garcia base is a distinct step in facilitating U.S. operations in the Indian Ocean and thus is directly related to the broader policy questions associated with a U.S. military presence in the Indian Ocean.

After careful consideration of the many factors involved and thorough debate, the Committee approved \$14,802,000 as a first increment of the Navy's requirements, and the \$3.3 million requested by the Air Force.

At the same time, the Committee included Section 612 in the bill to preclude the obligation of any of these funds until the President of the United States has advised the Congress in writing that he has evaluated all military and foreign policy implications regarding the need for these facilities and has certified that this construction is essential to the national interest. Such certification must be submitted to the Congress and approved by both Houses of Congress. This will assure the opportunity for full debate on the expansion at Diego Garcia as a policy matter, and in light of the most recent circumstances.

Because of the importance and complexity of the issues raised by Diego Garcia, the Committee felt that it was important for the new Administration to make a full reevaluation of this matter. It is the hope of the Committee that such an evaluation would include a thorough exploration of the possibility of achieving with the Soviet Union mutual military restraint without jeopardizing U.S. interests in the area of the Indian Ocean.

#### UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES

##### SURGE FACILITY

Under the Navy program, but for all of the Armed Forces, the Department of Defense requested \$15.0 million for the construction of the first phase of the University. This facility, which is called a Surge Facility, would provide space to accommodate up to 125 medical students. The President of the University strongly believes this facility is required for orderly growth of the University.

In order to comply with Public Law 92-426 to graduate 100 medical students by 1982, it is planned to initiate a medical university in existing facilities that will require a minimum of change. Under this plan, leased space will be utilized for administrative and faculty offices, the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology for student teaching, the Armed Forces Radiobiologic Institute for laboratory space and the National Library of Medicine would be used for an audio-visual and computer center. The remodelled space would be continued in use for graduate and continuing medical education. With these