

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representatives Lee, Van Hollen, Moore, McDermott, Cicilline,
Jeffries, Blumenauer, and Schrader

**Eliminate Excess Overseas Contingency Operations Funding to
Protect Veterans and other Domestic Priorities, and to Reduce the
Deficit**

1. Decrease budget authority and outlays for Function 970 by the following amounts.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
BA	23.000	35.000	35.000	35.000	35.000	35.000	35.000	35.000	35.000	35.000
Outlays	10.952	19.928	31.742	35.831	36.579	37.150	37.186	37.466	38.102	37.694

2. Increase budget authority and outlays for Function 600 by the following amounts in billions of dollars to ensure adequate funding for the HUD-VA Supportive Housing program.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
BA	0.076	0.078	0.079	0.081	0.083	0.085	0.087	0.090	0.092	0.094
Outlays	0.038	0.061	0.070	0.075	0.080	0.082	0.084	0.086	0.088	0.090

3. Increase funding in Function 920 by the following amounts in billions of dollars to prevent indiscriminate cuts to poverty programs and domestic investments.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
BA	21.704	27.262	34.921	34.919	34.917	34.915	34.913	34.910	34.908	34.906
Outlays	10.913	19.865	27.711	31.288	33.305	33.827	34.166	34.163	34.161	34.159

4. Make all necessary and conforming changes to the Chairman's mark.
5. Amend the committee report to reflect the following policy assumptions:

The resolution eliminates excess funds budgeted in the Overseas Contingency Operations account. It allocates the resulting savings to deficit reduction (\$28 billion over ten years),

to ensure funding to help homeless veterans through the HUD-VA Supportive Housing Program -- a program subject to sequestration -- and to reduce the enormous level of unallocated spending cuts reflected in Function 920. The unallocated spending cuts will otherwise preclude Congress from protecting many other vital programs from harmful cuts, including education, first responders, border security, transportation, veterans, research, and vital human needs programs that lift families out of poverty.

The resolution reduces funding for the Overseas Contingency Operations account for 2014 and eliminates it for 2015 through 2023 to reflect the goal of redeploying all combat troops from Afghanistan by the end of 2014. The resolution further assumes that if the Administration determines it necessary to continue a residual force presence beyond 2014, funding to support that policy shall be financed from within the base defense budget. The resolution includes \$70 billion for Overseas Contingency Operations for 2014.

The Congress has been financing the war in Afghanistan for 12 years through a series of supplemental and special contingency appropriations that are exempt from budget limits. That funding policy was one of the reasons that led former Chairman of the Joints Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mike Mullen to conclude the Pentagon lacked the incentive to make the “tough trades.” As the country tackles its fiscal problems, no agency is exempt from prioritizing and making necessary budget tradeoffs, including the Pentagon, an agency with a plethora of new examples of wasteful spending every year, and the last agency yet to pass a clean audit.