

# Coalition for National Security Research

## **STATEMENT ON S. 1558, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2016**

The Coalition for National Security Research (CNSR) commends the Senate Committee on Appropriations for its support of the Defense Science and Technology (S&T) program. We recognize the Committee had to make many difficult choices given the budgetary constraints, but CNSR is concerned about the funding levels for 6.1 Basic Research relative to the rest of the Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (RDT&E) budget.

The Senate's fiscal year (FY) 2016 Defense Appropriations bill provides critically important resources to enhance U.S. national security and helps the U.S. military maintain its technical superiority. While the bill's funding levels for 6.2 Applied Research and 6.3 Advanced Technology Development will help meet the immediate military needs of developing weapon systems, defensive capabilities, and therapies to heal the wounded, but without continued strong support for 6.1, the pipeline will eventually dry up for 6.2, 6.3, and beyond. While we applaud the Senate for vastly improving the 6.1 funding levels compared to the Administration's FY 16 budget request and the House's FY 16 Defense Appropriations bill, basic research does not fare as well as 6.2, 6.3, and overall RDT&E. CNSR also is concerned that funding for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) is below the FY 16 budget request.

Defense basic research discoveries have led to innovations, such as lasers, radar, fiber optics, infrared technologies, and advanced materials. It is often long-term, high-risk, high-reward research that is needed to help solve the many technical challenges facing the U.S. military. In addition, basic research attracts creative minds that have built today's innovative defense workforce. With more complex, agile threats, as well as an aging national security workforce, basic research is the tool to that reduces risk and ensures that the world's best and brightest are working on the military technologies of the future in the U.S. government laboratories, industry, and academia--not in a foreign country. Furthermore, DARPA has been a key innovator in many of these discoveries and remains vital to the defense research enterprise.

As the FY 16 appropriations process continues, CNSR urges Congress to adhere to the 20/20 Principle, which calls for investments in basic research to comprise 20 percent of Defense S&T and Defense S&T to comprise 20 percent of RDT&E. The 20/20 Principle is based on the recommendations from the National Academies reports *Rising Above the Gathering Storm* (2007) and the *Assessment of Department of Defense Basic Research* (2005).

### **About CNSR**

*The Coalition for National Security Research (CNSR) is a broad-based coalition of 74 members including industry, research universities and institutes, and scientific and professional associations committed to a strong Defense Science and Technology (S&T) Program.*