

September 25, 2006 Armstrong and Indiana projects funded in bill

For Immediate Release

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Washington D.C. - The Defense Appropriations Conference Committee has agreed on a compromise version of the 2007 Defense Appropriation that includes funding for several important national programs that are managed or manufactured by companies or institutions in Armstrong and Indiana counties, Congressman John Murtha announced today. The bill is expected to be approved by the House and Senate and sent to the White House for signature by the President.

"These programs are vital to our national security and to our troops in the field," Murtha said. "The companies and universities in our area, as well as their employees, are rightfully proud of the work they do to support our troops with quality products at competitive prices."

Included in the bill are:

Armstrong County

- * Various research and development programs managed by the Electro Optics Center at Northpointe, Slate Lick, including optical sensors, imaging and electro-optic components for the Navy, Marine Corps and Special Operations Command
- * Boeing, also at Northpointe, research and development on weapons enhancements for the Army and Marine Corps
- * DRS, Armstrong county facility, to continue advancement of a two-color missile warning detection sensor which significantly enhances survivability of aircraft in high threat areas of operation
- * OSTI, Freeport, working with Special Operations Command to bring advanced capabilities such as improved night vision equipment to the field
- * RAPT Industries, Freeport, manufacturing process for shaping and polishing components for next-generation weapons
- * Sabeus Sensor Systems, Freeport, development of advanced maritime towing cable and a surveillance system for the Navy

Indiana County

* Dlubak Corporation, Blairsville and Slate Lick, for further development of sculpted glass armor on army and marine corp tactical vehicles. This lightweight ballistic material will give our warfighters needed protection while increasing their viewing area

* MobilVox, Indiana, warfighter training programs

* Quintech, Indiana, Navy aviation research and development project for non-cooperative combat identification capability

Adjacent Areas

* Alcoa, New Kensington, for an Army program aimed at reducing the weight of tactical vehicles while maintaining the same level force protection

* Bacharach, Inc., New Kensington, diesel fuel-injection test stands to extend the life of equipment 10 to 15 years

Congressman Murtha also worked to direct funding to area colleges and universities for projects that benefit the military. Schools that will receive funding under the bill include the following:

Indiana University of Pennsylvania - continuation of an effort to create and demonstrate a National Emergency and Disaster Information System for use by first responders

The Pennsylvania State University - working with the Electro Optics Center in Armstrong County, development of an urban terrain mapping system in conjunction with the Marine Corps Research University, and at the University Park and Uniontown campuses, improvements to the Anti-torpedo Torpedo Multi-Mission Undersea Weapon, to continue a partnership with the U.S. Air Force on coal-based jet fuel, and a program to aid the Department of Defense in non-lethal technology research, development, testing and training

Health care initiatives funded in the measure include:

Children's Hospital, Pittsburgh, projects on muscular dystrophy research and to improve the prediction, understanding and management of complications of Type I diabetes

University of Pittsburgh Medical Center - development of neuroprosthetics and solutions for spinal cord dysfunction and a program to evaluate and treat traumatic brain injury; also funding for UPMC's Diabetes Institute for continuation and expansion of comprehensive systems that address both the needs of children and adults that include enhanced data tracking, medical record keeping systems, prevention and education programs for the U.S. Air Force, UPMC Diabetes Institute, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh and Conemaugh Health System

