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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 Fayette and Westmoreland 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 the President's signature.

"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:

Fayette County

- * Advanced Acoustic Concepts, North Union Township, to develop a defense system that can track multiple weapons and cue naval surface ship counter measure systems

- * Argon ST, Lemont Furnace, information technology and communications enhancements, and development of torpedo countermeasures

- * Coherent Systems, Uniontown and Windber, research and development for electronic warfare systems for the Navy

- * ProLogic, Uniontown, multiple information management systems and communications integration programs

- * QTL Biosystems, Connellsville, hand-held biosensor and continuous monitor for biodetector

- * Shumar Industries, Grindstone, Tactical Fifth Wheel Trailers with various configurations for communications, environmental control and power generation

Westmoreland County

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

- * Pittsburgh Electronic Engines, Inc., Derry, continuing to develop the Turbo Fuel Cell Engine with the Army - new environmentally clean engine that uses 40% less fuel

- * National Center for Manufacturing and Machining, Latrobe, support demonstration and training programs related to cost-effective, sustainable approaches to advanced manufacturing and machining systems

- * Kennametal, Latrobe, ballistic technology advancements for the Army

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

Adjacent Areas

- * Dlubak Corporation, Blairsville and Slate Lick, for further development of sculpted glass armor on Army and Marine Corps trucks and armored vehicles; this lightweight ballistic material will give troops needed protection with much better vision of the fields around them

- * Body Media, Pittsburgh, research on a non-invasive glucose monitoring device that will enable diabetics to monitor their glucose level without pricking their finger several times a day

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 are as follows:

California University of Pennsylvania in partnership with Carnegie Mellon University - continued work on development of a robotics curriculum within the engineering discipline at the undergraduate level

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