

## Coalition for National Security Research

The Coalition for National Security Research (CNSR) is concerned about the funding levels for Department of Defense Science and Technology (S&T) programs in the FY15 Department of Defense Appropriations Act, H.R. 4870. As the House of Representatives considers this bill in the coming days, we urge Members to take steps to restore proposed reductions below the current FY 14 level; in particular, the 6.4-percent in proposed cuts to 6.1 basic research program and the 2.4-percent cut to 6.2 applied research accounts. CNSR understands that House appropriators were faced with difficult decisions and forced to make significant cuts to the FY15 Defense Appropriations bill. We appreciate the efforts to partially restore the cuts to 6.1 basic research as proposed by the Administration and to sustain funding for 6.3 advanced research program slightly above the FY14 level. We believe it is imperative to our nation's future defense capabilities to restore funding to the basic and applied research accounts as the bill advances through the legislative process.

As CNSR looks to the future, it is clear that the ever-changing threats our warfighters face increase the need to sustain and grow our technological capabilities in order to maintain the United States' military's superiority. Given Congress' history of strongly supporting innovation in DOD research, it is very disappointing to see a downward trend in funding for 6.1 and 6.2 research accounts when compared to the current funding levels. The 6.1 basic research accounts support the long-term scientific discoveries that provide the foundational knowledge for new technologies. The 6.2 applied research accounts refine discoveries by exploring and determining the operational parameters and practicality of the technology to military needs. The 6.3 advanced technology development accounts support the creation of larger-scale hardware and technology to be tested in realistic environments. Sustained investments in all three accounts are critical to our national security.

During the next few years, our military's planned force reduction and transformation will be met with the challenge of doing more with less. By investing in science and innovation, we will be able to meet those challenges by using the DOD S&T portfolio as an incubator for the next generation of defense technologies that will sustain our military's technological superiority. S&T investments not only support the development of the technologies of the future but also support the training of the next generation of scientists and engineers through research grants, contracts and support for STEM education programs. Failure to adequately fund these important programs, will have long-term negative effects. Without sustained investment in these areas, we will jeopardize our military's strength and lose our technological advantage.

Given the critical role it plays in maintaining military readiness and providing a technologically superior force, we urge Congress to reverse the cuts proposed in H.R. 4870 and strengthen the DOD S&T portfolio.