

# Wayne Allard

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## **FY 2004 DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION APPROVED SENATE APPROVES DOD AUTHORIZATION BILL**

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO), a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, announced today that the 2004 fiscal year Department of Defense Authorization Bill S. 1050, has been approved in the Senate by a vote of 98 to 1.

“This bill is an important commitment to our armed forces, giving them the means needed to succeed with the dangerous challenges and conflicts that confront our nation today,” said Allard. “We recently witnessed through Operation Iraqi Freedom and the ongoing War on Terrorism what a strong commitment to our military is essential to our combat success and the safety of our troops in the field of battle,” added Allard.

The Senate Armed Services Committee completed its mark-up of the Fiscal Year 2004 Defense Authorization bill on May 9, 2003. The Committee authorized \$401 billion for national defense, an increase of \$18.3 billion, a 3.3 percent increase over last year’s appropriation. The final bill voted on by the Senate totaled \$401 billion as well.

The authorized military construction funds for Colorado military bases to include;

- \$18 million for Peterson Air Force base to upgrade base infrastructure and construction of new mission support facilities.
- \$21.5 million for an addition to the Air Force Academy hospital.
- \$6.9 million for a civil engineering complex at Buckley Air Force base.
- \$4.5 million for the remaining phases of construction of a training facility at Fort Carson.
- Though not related to military construction funds the bill also includes full funding for the clean up at Rocky Flats and the Pueblo Chemical Weapons depot.

In addition too overall funding there are three legislative provisions sponsored by Senator Allard included in the bill, those include;

- The Academy Disclosure amendment, which requires all three military academies to report the number of sexual assaults and rapes that occur each year on their respective campuses.

- The Military Card amendment, which requires the Secretary of Defense to prescribe guidelines and procedures for disciplinary action for travel credit card abuse.
- The Military Voters' amendment which remedies' invalidation of overseas military voter ballots.

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