

# Wayne Allard

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## **SENATE, HOUSE APPROVE FINAL VERSION OF FY 2005 DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS LEGISLATION**

*Colorado Springs-based programs included in funding measure*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Both the U.S. House and Senate gave final approval to the FY 2005 Defense Appropriations Bill Conference Report Thursday, U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-Colorado) has announced. The legislation provides funding for two high-profile Colorado Springs-area programs, including \$2.5 million for the Joint National Integration Center at Schriever Air Force Base, to explore international cooperation for missile defense and another \$2.5 million for the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs' Network, Information and Space Security Center.

“Missile defense and space security are at the top of my legislative priorities, and this vital work is being done in Colorado Springs,” said Senator Allard, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee. “Passage of the Defense Appropriations Bill means Colorado Springs will maintain its position at the center of this critical research and deployment effort.”

In addition, the bill funds several projects that Senator Allard views as crucial to the defense of the United States in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: \$10 billion for missile defense programs, including \$4.6 billion for ground-based midcourse missile defense in support of fielding a national missile defense initial operational capability in the fall of 2004; and \$511 million for Enhanced Expendable Launch Vehicle (EELV) procurement to ensure access to space for the United States.

Overall, the legislation provides \$416.2 billion in new discretionary spending for the Department of Defense, including \$25 billion in emergency spending requested by the President for early FY 2005 costs associated with operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The legislation reflects an increase of \$25.4 billion over amounts provided in FY 2004, excluding the FY 2004 Iraq Supplemental and the \$25 billion Emergency Wartime Appropriation. It supports operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and provides resources to prosecute the Global War on Terrorism. It fully funds military pay, benefits and medical programs; and initiates the major recapitalization of Army and Marine Corps ground forces. It continues development and procurement of major platforms such as the Virginia class submarine, the C-130, and V-22 transport aircraft, the F/A-18 and F/A-22 fighter aircraft, and the Joint Strike Fighter and provides \$350 million for National Guard and Reserve equipment.

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