



Rep. Stephanie Murphy (FL-07) Priorities Included in Fiscal Year 2018 National Defense Authorization Act

Small Business Provisions

- The NDAA contains the text of H.R. 1597, the *Commercial Market Representatives Clarification Act of 2017*, which Murphy introduced with Rep. Dave Brat (R-VA). This bill would help ensure that Commercial Market Representatives, who are SBA employees located throughout the country—and in Orlando—are taking steps to ensure that small firms obtain their fair and legally-required share of federal government contracts.
- The NDAA includes an amendment authored by Murphy to create jobs and spur economic activity by connecting high-tech small businesses with growth opportunities. Murphy’s amendment links small businesses to federal programs to conduct research and development that is in the national interest and has the potential for commercialization. Specifically, the measure authorizes Procurement Technical Assistance Centers, established under a program administered by the Defense Logistics Agency, to assist small business owners in pursuing funding opportunities during all phases of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. The amendment passed with unanimous, bipartisan support and was endorsed by the National Association of Procurement Technical Assistance Centers and the Florida Association of Procurement Technical Assistance Centers.

Modeling, Simulation, and Training (MS&T) Provisions

- Murphy secured language that should make it easier for central Florida companies and universities in the MS&T field to partner with the Department of Defense pursuant to non-standard procurement contracts known as Other Transaction (OT) Authority. OTs are legally binding instruments used by the Department to engage industry and academia for a broad range of research and prototyping activities. An OT can allow for more speed and flexibility in performing research and prototyping activities. One proven OT business model involves establishing a consortia of companies interested in working with the Department of Defense within a given subject area. Once the consortium is established, companies can offer white papers on what they can offer, and can quickly submit formal project proposals to the Department. The OT consortium model provides flexibility, speed, and access to the broadest possible pool of prospective vendors. On average, the duration from the time of releasing a white paper to issuing an award can be less than two months. The NDAA includes language directing the Department to brief the House Armed Services Committee on “opportunities for OT consortia to be used for emerging research and prototyping to develop better modeling, simulation, and training tools.”
- The use of modeling and simulation technology can reduce the significant costs involved in testing and evaluating weapon systems. Murphy secured a provision in the NDAA requiring the Director

of the Defense Test Resource Management Center to certify that the proposed budget for test and evaluation activities provides adequate resources for modeling and simulation.

- Simulation technology can improve the training of doctors, nurses and other medical professionals in both the military and civilian workforce. Orlando is home to successful small businesses that make highly realistic human forms for immersive medical training. Murphy secured a provision in the NDAA that recognizes the importance of simulation technology to medical training, notes the potential for this technology to make even greater contributions in the future, and directs the Department of Defense to brief the Armed Services Committee on its current investments in medical simulation technology and how the Department is working to incorporate simulated learning techniques into defense medical training.

Cybersecurity Provisions

- The NDAA authorizes strong funding for the Department of Defense to build national cyber training ranges. Within the Department, this effort is led by the Army's Program Executive Officer for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation (PEO STRI), which is located in Orlando. One of the cyber training ranges is also located in Orlando. Murphy secured a provision that expresses Congress's support for this effort, which will enable thousands of military and civilian personnel to acquire and maintain the skills and certifications needed to fulfill their critical cyber missions.
- The physical environment and cyberspace are increasingly interconnected, which presents unique challenges and opportunities for cybersecurity professionals. Murphy collaborated on a bipartisan amendment to the NDAA to ensure that the military's cyber workforce is prepared to address emerging cyber threats to physical systems like buildings and utility control systems.

Other Provisions to Strengthen National Security, Keep Our Communities Safe, and Create Defense Jobs in Florida

- The process for potential Department of Defense employees to obtain security clearances is severely backlogged, delaying or preventing the hiring of qualified personnel with critical skills. The NDAA includes a provision requiring the Department of Defense, in conjunction with the Office of Personnel Management, to brief the House Armed Services Committee on efforts to shorten the security clearance review process. Murphy secured the addition of language noting the need to address this workforce problem specifically as it pertains to professionals in the fields of engineering, cyber, computer science, and linguistics.
- Murphy helped include a provision in the NDAA that will support the Navy's relocation of its Fleet Ballistic Missile Program from Sunnyvale, CA to Titusville, FL and Denver, CO. This should result in the creation of well-paying jobs in central Florida.
- Murphy recently led a bipartisan letter to the House Appropriations Committee in support of the National Guard Counterdrug Program, which seeks to use military-specific skills to reduce the supply of and demand for illegal drugs that harm our communities and threaten our security. With Murphy's support, the NDAA authorizes full funding for this program.
- As a national security specialist at the Pentagon, Murphy worked extensively to build partnerships between the U.S. military and our international allies and partners. Building on her prior work,

Murphy successfully included three provisions in the NDAA to strengthen the effectiveness of the military's security cooperation activities.