

# House FY11 Allocation: Disproportionate Cut to International Affairs Budget

1. **House Allocation is 13% Cut, Not 4%.** In determining their allocation for the FY 2011 International Affairs Budget, House appropriators have inaccurately communicated the severity of the cut to these critical national security programs. The numbers released by the House committee do not take into account enacted supplementals for frontline countries and Haiti relief and reconstruction. The result of their allocation would be a devastating 13% cut (or potentially more) for our civilian forces, and not the 4% reported by the committee.

2. **Critical to Our National Security.** These cuts are of particular concern as the International Affairs Budget provides extensive counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency assistance to countries of high-priority national security, such as Afghanistan, Iraq, and Pakistan. Beginning with the Bush Administration in 2007, the International Affairs Budget has been designated in every annual budget request as part of national security funding. The House Appropriations Committee has inaccurately separated these vital programs from the rest of our security spending.

3. **Disproportionate Cut Compared to Other National Security Accounts.** With every major military leader calling for an increase in our civilian power, the significant cut of 13% to the International Affairs Budget is disproportionate compared to the rest of our national security programs. Defense, Homeland Security and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, received an overall increase of 1% from the House Appropriations Committee 302(b) allocations. As Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mike Mullen said to Congress last year, "The more significant the cuts [to the International Affairs Budget], the longer military operations will take, and the more and more lives are at risk!"

4. **Devastating Impact.**

- While we do not know exactly how these cuts will be applied, it will be virtually impossible not to jeopardize the military-civilian transition in Iraq, undermine the success in Afghanistan, hurt our ability to fight terrorism in Pakistan, and curtail our efforts to stabilize fragile states like Yemen. Reconstruction and other assistance to Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq would be cut 20% below the current FY 2011 continuing resolution.
- The proposed cut would gut our embassies and consulates, and hurt our commitment to key allies in the Middle East. State Department and USAID operating expenses would be cut 11% below the current FY 2011 continuing resolution.
- The proposed cut leaves the developing world susceptible to global pandemics, famine and other complex challenges that fuel extremism and instability. HIV/AIDS support would be cut 8.3% and Feed the Future would be cut 7.5% below the current FY 2011 continuing resolution.

5. **Only 1.4% of Total Federal Budget.** The current continuing resolution funds the FY 2011 International Affairs Budget at \$52.9 billion, which represents only 1.4% of the total federal budget. As Secretary of Defense Gates said in September, "Development is a lot cheaper than sending soldiers... Without development we will not be successful in either Iraq or Afghanistan."

