

Washington, DC - This evening, the House is expected to pass an amended version of H.R. 2764, the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, also known as the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008. The legislation allocates \$7.235 billion for the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Recommendations, a \$1.6 billion increase from 2007, and will allow BRAC projects and construction to continue throughout the 2008 fiscal year. Among the facilities slated to receive major funding include Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston and Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, TX.

Congressmen Charlie Gonzalez (TX-20) and Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) issued the following statement on the legislation's BRAC funding:

"The \$7.235 billion in BRAC construction money included in the bill was absolutely critical to ensure that projects can move forward and contracts issued to begin construction on the BRAC recommendations affecting San Antonio," **said Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23).**

"Supporting our military bases in San Antonio is one of those issues where partisanship is not a factor. On BRAC, the congressional delegation has been united in our efforts to get the funds we need to move forward. Unfortunately, the President chose to play politics and threatened to veto a bill that would have fully funded BRAC. As a result we will have to use a supplemental funding bill next year to complete funding and to address the GAO's report of increased and unanticipated BRAC costs."

"The vital funding in this bill will ensure that our community has the necessary resources to proceed with BRAC construction," **said Congressman Charlie Gonzalez (TX-20).** "As a delegation, BRAC has always been one of our highest priorities and once again, this united effort has paid dividends. This unwavering commitment will remain as we continue to press for additional funding in the future," he added.

The level of BRAC funding appropriated in the omnibus spending bill was announced after Congressmen Rodriguez and Gonzalez sent a letter to Appropriations Committee Chairman David Obey (WI-7), renewing their commitment to BRAC resources and calling on leadership to ensure appropriate funding was available for FY 2008. Copies of the letter were also sent to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Rep. Chet Edwards (TX-17), Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs.

[To read the full text of the letter, click here.](#)

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