

Operationally Responsive Space

The budget requests contained \$87.0 million in PE 64857F for development of Operationally Responsive Space (ORS) systems.

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The committee acknowledges efforts by the Department of Defense to establish an ORS program office and budget resources for this mission area. In light of the recent Chinese anti-satellite test and other growing threats to space, the committee reaffirms its support for ORS.

The committee has provided direction in previous legislation that ORS shall consist of low-cost, rapid reaction payloads, busses, spacelift, and launch control capabilities. The committee is concerned the Department has not balanced the resources in the ORS account to address each of these areas, with a majority of the request going towards acquisition of existing spacelift systems. The committee encourages the Department to re-balance the fiscal year 2008 resources across existing launch vehicle purchases, responsive launch vehicle development, responsive payload and bus development, and responsive launch control capabilities.

In addition, the committee requests the Department continue to support joint ORS activities with the services, agencies, research labs, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, and industry as these organizations bring core competencies and expertise to the development of ORS capabilities.

The committee recommends \$117.0 million, an increase of \$30 million in PE 64857F for the development efforts associated with responsive launch and payload design and testing.