

National Defense Sealift Fund

10 U.S.C. 2218 (2002). NATIONAL DEFENSE SEALIFT FUND.

(a) **Establishment.** There is established in the Treasury of the United States a fund to be known as the "National Defense Sealift Fund".

(b) **Administration of Fund.** The Secretary of Defense shall administer the Fund consistent with the provisions of this section.

(c) **Fund Purposes.**

(1) Funds in the National Defense Sealift Fund shall be available for obligation and expenditure only for the following purposes:

(A) Construction (including design of vessels), purchase, alteration, and conversion of Department of Defense sealift vessels.

(B) Operation, maintenance, and lease or charter of Department of Defense vessels for national defense purposes.

(C) Installation and maintenance of defense features for national defense purposes on privately owned and operated vessels that are constructed in the United States and documented under the laws of the United States.

(D) Research and development relating to national defense sealift.

(E) Expenses for maintaining the National Defense Reserve Fleet under section 11 of the Merchant Ship Sales Act of 1946 (50 U.S.C. App. 1744), and for the costs of acquisition of vessels for, and alteration and conversion of vessels in (or to be placed in), the fleet, but only for vessels built in United States shipyards.

(2) Funds in the National Defense Sealift Fund may be obligated or expended only in amounts authorized by law.

(3) Funds obligated and expended for a purpose set forth in subparagraph (B) or (D) of paragraph (1) may be derived only from funds deposited in the National Defense Sealift Fund pursuant to subsection (d)(1).

(d) **Deposits.** There shall be deposited in the Fund the following:

(1) All funds appropriated to the Department of Defense for_

(A) construction (including design of vessels), purchase, alteration, and conversion of national defense sealift vessels;

(B) operations, maintenance, and lease or charter of national defense sealift vessels;

(C) installation and maintenance of defense features for national defense purposes on privately owned and operated vessels; and

(D) research and development relating to national defense sealift.

(2) All receipts from the disposition of national defense sealift vessels, excluding receipts from the sale, exchange, or scrapping of National Defense Reserve Fleet vessels under sections 508 and 510 of the Merchant Marine Act of 1936 (46 U.S.C. App. 1158, 1160), shall be deposited in the Fund.

(3) All receipts from the charter of vessels under section 1424(c) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1991 (10 U.S.C. 7291 note).²

(e) Acceptance of Support.

(1) The Secretary of Defense may accept from any person, foreign government, or international organization any contribution of money, personal property (excluding vessels), or assistance in kind for support of the sealift functions of the Department of Defense.

(2) Any contribution of property accepted under paragraph (1) may be retained and used by the Department of Defense or disposed of in accordance with procedures prescribed by the Secretary of Defense.

(3) The Secretary of Defense shall deposit in the Fund money and receipts from the disposition of any property accepted under paragraph (1).

(f) Limitations.

(1) Not more than a total of five vessels built in foreign ship yards may be purchased with funds in the National Defense Sealift Fund pursuant to subsection (c)(1).

(2) Construction, alteration, or conversion of vessels with funds in the National Defense Sealift Fund pursuant to subsection (c)(1) shall be conducted in United States ship yards and shall be subject to section 1424(b) of Public Law 101-510 (104 Stat. 1683).³

(g) Expiration of Funds after 5 Years. No part of an appropriation that is deposited in the National Defense Sealift Fund pursuant to subsection (d)(1) shall remain available for obligation more than five years after the end of fiscal year for which appropriated except to the extent specifically provided by law.

(h) Budget Requests. Budget requests submitted to Congress for the National Defense Sealift Fund shall separately identify_

(1) the amount requested for programs, projects, and activities for construction (including design of vessels), purchase, alteration, and conversion of national defense sealift vessels;

(2) the amount requested for programs, projects, and activities for operation, maintenance, and lease or charter of national defense sealift vessels;

(3) the amount requested for programs, projects, and activities for installation and maintenance of defense features for national defense purposes on privately owned and operated vessels that are constructed in the United States and documented under the laws of the United States; and

(4) the amount requested for programs, projects, and activities for research and development relating to national defense sealift.

(i) **Title or Management of Vessels.** Nothing in this section (other than subsection (c)(1)(E)) shall be construed to affect or modify title to, management of, or funding responsibilities for, any vessel of the National Defense Reserve Fleet, or assigned to the Ready Reserve Force component of the National Defense Reserve Fleet, as established by section 11 of the Merchant Ship Sales Act of 1946 (50 U.S.C. App. 1744).

(j) **Authority for Certain Use of Funds.** Upon a determination by the Secretary of Defense that such action serves the national defense interest and after consultation with the congressional defense committees, the Secretary may use funds available for obligation or expenditure for a purpose specified under subsection (c)(1) (A), (B), (C), and (D) for any purpose under subsection (c)(1).

(k) Contracts for Incorporation of Defense Features in Commercial Vessels.

(1) The head of an agency may enter into a contract with a company submitting an offer for that company to install and maintain defense features for national defense purposes in one or more commercial vessels owned or controlled by that company in accordance with the purpose for which funds in the National Defense Sealift Fund are available under subsection (c)(1)(C). The head of the agency may enter into such a contract only after the head of the agency makes a determination of the economic soundness of the offer.

As consideration for a contract with the head of an agency under this subsection, the company entering into the contract shall agree with the Secretary of Defense to make any vessel covered by the contract available to the Secretary, fully crewed and ready for sea, at any time at any port determined by the Secretary, and for whatever duration the Secretary determines necessary.

(2) The head of an agency may make advance payments to the contractor under a contract under paragraph (1) in a lump sum, in annual payments, or in a combination thereof for costs associated with the installation and maintenance of the defense features on a vessel covered by the contract, as follows:

(A) The costs to build, procure, and install a defense feature in the vessel.

(B) The costs to periodically maintain and test any defense feature on the vessel.

(C) Any increased costs of operation or any loss of revenue attributable to the installation or maintenance of any defense feature on the vessel.

(D) Any additional costs associated with the terms and conditions of the contract.

(E) Payments of such sums as the Government would otherwise expend, if the vessel were placed in the Ready Reserve Fleet, for maintaining the vessel in the status designated as "ROS-4 status" in the Ready Reserve Fleet for 25 years.

(3) For any contract under paragraph (1) under which the United States makes advance payments under paragraph (2) for the costs associated with installation or maintenance of any defense feature on a commercial vessel, the contractor shall provide to the United States such security interests in the vessel, by way of a preferred mortgage under section 31322 of title 46 or otherwise, as the head of the agency may prescribe in order to adequately protect the United States against loss for the total amount of those costs.

(4) Each contract entered into under this subsection shall-

(A) set forth terms and conditions under which, so long as a vessel covered by the contract is owned or controlled by the contractor, the contractor is to operate the vessel for the Department of Defense notwithstanding any other contract or commitment of that contractor; and

(B) provide that the contractor operating the vessel for the Department of Defense shall be paid for that operation at fair and reasonable rates.

(5) The head of an agency may not delegate authority under this subsection to any officer or employee in a position below the level of head of a procuring activity.

(6) The head of an agency may not enter into a contract under paragraph (1) that would provide for payments to the contractor as authorized in paragraph (2)(E) until notice of the proposed contract is submitted to the congressional defense committees and a period of 90 days has elapsed.

(l) **Definitions.** In this section:

(1) The term "Fund" means the National Defense Sealift Fund established by subsection (a).

(2) The term "Department of Defense sealift vessel" means any ship owned, operated, controlled, or chartered by the Department of Defense that is any of the following_

(A) A fast sealift ship, including any vessel in the Fast Sealift Program established under section 1424 of Public Law 101-510 (104 Stat. 1683)4

(B) A maritime propositioning ship

(C) An afloat propositioning ship

(D) An aviation maintenance support ship.

(E) A hospital ship.

(F) A strategic sealift ship.

(G) A combat logistics force ship.

(H) A maritime prepositioned ship.

(I) Any other auxiliary support vessel.

(3) The term "national defense sealift vessel" means"

- (A) A Department of Defense sealift vessel; and
- (B) A national defense reserve fleet vessel, including a vessel in the Ready Reserve Force maintained under section 11 of the Merchant Ship Sales Act of 1946 (50 U.S.C. App. 1744).

(4) The term "congressional defense committees" means"

- (A) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and
- (B) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(5) The term "head of an agency" has the meaning given that term in section 2302(1) of this title.

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NATIONAL DEFENSE SEALIFT FUND FUNDING FY 2003

A. APPROPRIATIONS. Public Law 107-248, approved October 23, 2002 (116 STAT. 1519, 1533), the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2003, provides: _For National Defense Sealift Fund programs, projects, and activities, and for expenses of the National Defense Reserve Fleet, as established by section 11 of the Merchant Ship Sales Act of 1946 (50 U.S.C. App. 1744), and for the necessary expenses to maintain and preserve a U.S.-flag merchant fleet to serve the national security needs of the United States, \$942,629,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That none of the funds provided in this paragraph shall be used to award a new contract that provides for the acquisition of any of the following major components unless such components are manufactured in t

he United States: auxiliary equipment, including pumps, for all ship-board services; propulsion system components (that is; engines, reduction gears, and propellers); shipboard cranes; and spreaders for shipboard cranes: Provided further, That the exerc

ise of an option in a contract awarded through the obligation of previously appropriated funds shall not be considered to be the award of a new contract: Provided further, That the Secretary of the military department responsible for such procurement may waive the restrictions in the first proviso on a case-by-case basis by certifying in writing to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate that adequate domestic supplies are not available to meet Department of Defense requirements on a timely basis and that such an acquisition must be made in order to acquire capability for national security purposes: Provided further, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, \$8,500,000 of the funds available under this heading shall be available in addition to other amounts otherwise available, only to finance the cost of constructing additional sealift capacity._

Note that Section 8142 of Public Law 107-248 (116 STAT. 1573), provides:

"Sec. 8142. Of the amount appropriated by title V under the heading ""NATIONAL DEFENSE SEALIFT FUND"", up to \$10,000,000 may be available for implementing the recommendations resulting from the Navy's Non-Self Deployable Watercraft (NDSW) Study and the Joint Chiefs of Staff Focused Logistics Study, which are to determine the requirements of the Navy for

providing lift support for mine warfare ships and other vessels._

B. AUTHORIZATIONS. Section 302 of Public Law 107-314, approved December 2, 2002 (116STAT. 2506), the National Defense Authorization Act, FY2003, provides:

Sec. 302. Working Capital Funds.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2002 for the use of the Armed Forces and other activities and agencies of the Department of Defense for providing capital for working capital and revolving funds in amounts as follows:

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(2) For the National Defense Sealift Fund, \$934,129,000.