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Defense bill may pay off for area companies

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- As the 2007 Defense Appropriation Bill makes its way through Congress, several local companies and universities are included among those which will receive continued funding, U.S. Rep. John Murtha, D-Johnstown, said Monday.

"These programs are vital to our national security and to our troops in the field," Murtha said. "The companies and universities in our area, as well as their employees, are rightfully proud of the work they do to support our troops with quality products at competitive prices."

Included in the bill are various research and development programs managed by the Electro Optics Center at Northpointe, Slate Lick, including optical sensors, imaging and electro-optic components for the Navy, Marine Corps and Special Operations Command, Murtha said.

Boeing, also at Northpointe, is slated to receive funds to continue its research and development on weapons enhancements for the Army and Marine Corps, while the Armstrong County facility of DRS will receive funds to continue advancement of a two-color missile warning detection sensor which significantly enhances survivability of aircraft in high threat areas of operation.

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OSTI, RAPT Industries and Sabeus Sensor Systems, all in Freeport, will receive funding for their work with improved night vision equipment, shaping and polishing components for next-generation weapons and for maritime towing

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cables and surveillance systems for the Navy.

Other regional companies included in the bill include: Dlubak Corporation in Blairsville for further development of sculpted glass armor on army and marine corp tactical vehicles, which will provided better protection and increased viewing areas; MobilVox of Indiana, which creates warfighter training programs; Quintech in Indiana, for continued Navy aviation research and development projects for noncooperative combat identification capability; Alcoa in New Kensington, for an Army program aimed at reducing the weight of tactical vehicles while maintaining the same level force protection; and Bacharach, Inc. in New Kensington, for diesel fuel-injection test stands to extend the life of equipment 10 to 15 years.

In the press release issued Monday, Murtha also said funding was directed to area colleges and universities for projects that benefit the military.

Indiana University of Pennsylvania will receive funding for the continuation of an effort to create and demonstrate a National Emergency and Disaster Information System for use by first responders and Penn State University, working with the Electro Optics Center in Armstrong County, will receive funding for the development of an urban terrain mapping system in conjunction with the Marine Corps Research University.

The bill is expected to be approved by the House and Senate and sent to the White House for signature by the President.

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