



National Guard Bureau
Office of Legislative Liaison



FY18

Defense Appropriations Act



As of August 2, 2017

Bill Status

	Passed in Committee	Passed in Chamber	Final Passage	Signed into Law
House	June 29, 2017	July 27, 2017		
Senate				

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Executive Summary

This guide provides a short summary of the initial subcommittee markup for the Fiscal Year 2018 Defense Appropriations Act. To obtain a complete understanding of any particular provision, users are encouraged to review the actual legislative language. Bill text and report language can be found on the LL website: www.nationalguard.mil/ll.

Status:

On June 26th, 2017, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense passed its version of the FY18 Defense Appropriations. The full House Appropriations Committee passed the bill on June 29th. It includes \$584.2 billion in discretionary funding – an increase of \$68.1 billion above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$18.4 billion above the President's Defense budget request. The bill also provides \$73.9 billion in OCO funding. The House passed the bill as part of a minibus on July 27th.

Highlights:

- Funds an end strength of 343,000 for the ARNG and 106,600 for the ANG, both at requested levels
- Establishes a \$12 billion National Defense Restoration Fund, an account available to the Secretary of Defense to increase end strength, improve military readiness, modernize equipment, and invest in future technology, subject to appropriate congressional oversight
- Funds a pay raise of 2.4%
- Provides \$9.8M for ARNG Cyber Protection Teams, an increase of \$1.8M over the budget request
- Adds \$19M in ARNG PA and O&M for operational support on the southwest border
- Adds \$8M for State Partnership Program
- Adds \$108M for the procurement of 8 additional UH-60 Black Hawk M models for the ARNG, for a total of 20 Black Hawks
- Provides \$201M for the National Guard Counterdrug Program, an increase of \$85M over the budget request
- Adds \$100M for ARNG HMMWV Modernization
- Adds \$480M for six C-130Js for the ANG
- Adds \$129M for C-130 Modernization, including \$74 M for the engine enhancement program and \$55M for the propeller upgrade
- Adds \$20M for National Guard Youth Challenge and \$7.9M for STARBASE
- Provides an additional \$40M above the FY18 PB for Facilities Sustainment Restoration and Maintenance (FSRM) in O&M
- Provides an additional \$20M for ARNG and \$10M for ANG in Restore Readiness (O&M)
- Adds \$330M each for the ARNG and ANG in the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account

National Guard Accounts Overview

(All Dollars in Thousands)

Army National Guard	FY18 President's Budget Request	FY18 HAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY18 SAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY18 Conference
ARNG Personnel	\$8,379,376	\$8,252,426	-\$126,950			
ARNG Personnel OCO	\$184,589	\$184,589	-			
ARNG O&M	\$7,307,170	\$7,275,820	-\$31,350			
ARNG O&M OCO	\$108,111	\$108,111	-			
NGREA	-	\$330,000	\$330,000			

Air National Guard	FY18 President's Budget Request	FY18 HAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY18 SAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY18 Conference
ANG Personnel	\$3,413,187	3,406,137	-\$7,050			
ANG Personnel OCO	\$5,004	\$5,004	-			
ANG O&M	\$6,939,968	6,735,930	-\$204,038			
ANG O&M OCO	\$15,400	\$15,400	-			
NGREA	-	\$330,000	\$330,000			



Army National Guard

Army National Guard Personnel

(All Dollars in Thousands)

ARNG Personnel Appropriation	FY18 President's Budget Request	FY18 HAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY18 SAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY18 Conference
PAY GROUP A TRAINING (15 DAYS & DRILLS 24/48)	\$2,623,904	\$2,623,904	-			
PAY GROUP F TRAINING (RECRUITS)	\$589,009	\$589,009	-			
PAY GROUP P TRAINING (PIPELINE RECRUITS)	\$46,426	\$46,426	-			
SCHOOL TRAINING ¹	\$570,713	\$560,713	-\$10,000			
SPECIAL TRAINING ^{2,3,4,5}	\$697,050	\$707,100	+\$10,050			
ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT	\$3,739,553	\$3,739,553	-			
THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS	\$32,437	\$32,437	-			
EDUCATION BENEFITS	\$80,284	\$80,284	-			
TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 1 (BAC-01)	\$8,379,376	\$8,379,426	+\$50			
UNDISTRIBUTED ADJUSTMENT ⁶	-	-\$127,000	-\$127,000			
TOTAL, ARNG PERSONNEL	8,379,376	8,252,426	-\$126,950			

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| 1. Excess growth -\$10,000 | 4. Cyber Protection Teams +\$1,300 |
| 2. Excess growth -\$5,000 | 5. Operational support on southwest border +\$10,000 |
| 3. Program increase – State Partnership Program +\$3,750 | 6. Historical unobligated balances -\$127,000 |

Army National Guard Personnel (Overseas Contingency Operations)

ARNG Personnel (OCO) Appropriation	FY18 President's Budget Request	FY18 HAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY18 SAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY18 Conference
PAY GROUP A TRAINING (15 DAYS & DRILLS 24/48)	\$39,327	\$39,327	-			
SCHOOL TRAINING	\$2,881	\$2,881	-			
SPECIAL TRAINING	\$132,994	\$132,994	-			
ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT	\$9,387	\$9,387	-			
TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 1 (BAC-01)	\$184,589	\$184,589	-			
TOTAL ARNG PERSONNEL	\$184,589	\$184,589	-			

Army National Guard Operations & Maintenance

ARNG O&M Appropriation	FY18 President's Budget Request	FY18 HAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY18 SAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY18 Conference
MANEUVER UNITS ¹	\$777,883	\$778,883	+\$1,000			
MODULAR SUPPORT BRIGADES	\$190,639	\$190,639	-			
ECHELONS ABOVE BRIGADE ^{2,3}	\$807,557	\$807,557	-			
THEATER LEVEL ASSETS ⁴	\$85,476	\$90,476	+\$5,000			
LAND FORCES OPERATIONS SUPPORT	\$36,672	\$36,672	-			
AVIATION ASSETS ⁵	\$956,381	\$944,881	-\$11,500			
FORCE READINESS OPERATIONS SUPPORT ^{6,7}	\$777,756	\$748,256	-\$29,500			
LAND FORCES SYSTEMS READINESS ⁸	\$51,506	\$46,506	-\$5,000			
LAND FORCES DEPOT MAINTENANCE	\$244,942	\$244,942	-			
BASE OPERATIONS SUPPORT ⁹	\$1,144,726	\$1,134,226	-\$10,500			
FACILITIES SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION, & MODERNIZATION ¹⁰	\$781,895	\$821,895	+\$40,000			
MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONAL HQ ¹¹	\$999,052	\$989,052	-\$10,000			
TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY ONE (BAC-01)	\$6,854,485	\$6,833,985	-20,500			
SERVICEWIDE TRANSPORTATION	\$7,703	\$7,703	-			
ADMINISTRATION ¹²	\$79,236	\$80,386	+\$1,150			
SERVICEWIDE COMMUNICATIONS	\$85,160	\$85,160	-			
MANPOWER MANAGEMENT	\$8,654	\$8,654	-			
OTHER PERSONNEL SUPPORT	\$268,839	\$268,839	-			
OTHER CONSTRUCTION SUPPORT AND REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT	\$3,093	\$3,093	-			
TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY FOUR (BAC-04)	\$452,685	\$453,835	\$1,150			
RESTORE READINESS	-	\$20,000	+\$20,000			
OVERSTIMATION OF CIVILIAN FTE TARGETS AND STREAMLINING MANAGEMENT HEADQUARTERS	-	-\$9,000	-\$9,000			
ADJUST FOR PROGRAM REDUCTIONS UNACCOUNTED FOR IN REQUEST	-	-\$23,000	-\$23,000			
TOTAL, ARNG O&M	7,307,170	7,275,820	-31,350			

1. Program increase – expanded training environment +\$1,000
2. Program decrease not properly accounted -\$4,000
3. Program increase – operational support on southwest border +\$4,000
4. Program increase – operational support on southwest border +\$5,000
5. Program decrease not properly accounted -\$11,500
6. Program decrease not properly accounted -\$30,000

7. Program increase – cyber protection teams +\$500
8. Program decrease not properly accounted -\$5,000
9. Program decrease not properly accounted -\$10,500
10. Program increase +\$40,000
11. Program decrease not properly accounted -\$10,000
12. Program increase – State Partnership Program +\$1,150

Army National Guard Operations & Maintenance (Overseas Contingency Operations)

ARNG O&M (OCO) Appropriation	FY18 President's Budget Request	FY18 HAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY18 SAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY18 Conference
MANEUVER UNITS	\$41,731	\$41,731	-			
MODULAR SUPPORT BRIGADES	\$762	\$762	-			
ECHELONS ABOVE BRIGADE	\$11,855	\$11,855	-			
THEATER LEVEL ASSETS	\$204	\$204	-			
AVIATION ASSETS	\$27,583	\$27,583	-			
FORCE READINESS OPERATIONS SUPPORT	\$5,792	\$5,792	-			
BASE OPERATIONS SUPPORT	\$18,507	\$18,507	-			
MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONAL HEADQUARTERS	\$937	\$937	-			
TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY ONE (BAC-01)	\$107,371	\$107,371	-			
ADMINISTRATION	\$740	\$740	-			
TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY FOUR (BAC-04)	\$740	\$740	-			
TOTAL, ARNG O&M (OCO)	\$108,111	\$108,111	-			



Air National Guard

Air National Guard Personnel

(All Dollars in Thousands)

ANG Personnel Appropriation	FY18 President's Budget Request	FY18 HAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY18 SAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY18 Conference
PAY GROUP A TRAINING (15 DAYS & DRILLS 24/48)	\$980,536	\$980,536	-			
PAY GROUP F TRAINING (RECRUITS)	\$88,496	\$88,496	-			
PAY GROUP P TRAINING (PIPELINE RECRUITS)	\$8,684	\$8,684	-			
SCHOOL TRAINING	\$343,710	\$343,710	-			
SPECIAL TRAINING ¹	\$175,589	\$177,539	+\$1,950			
ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT	\$1,782,793	\$1,782,793	-			
THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS	\$13,814	\$13,814	-			
EDUCATION BENEFITS	\$19,565	\$19,565	-			
TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 1 (BAC-01)	\$3,413,187	\$3,415,137	+\$1,950			
UNDISTRIBUTED ADJUSTMENT ²	-	-\$9,000	-\$9,000			
Total, National Guard Personnel, Air Force	\$3,413,187	\$3,406,137	-\$7,050			

1. Program increase – State Partnership Program +\$1,950
2. Historical unobligated balances -\$9,000

Air National Guard Personnel (Overseas Contingency Operations)

ANG Personnel (OCO) Appropriation	FY18 President's Budget Request	FY18 HAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY18 SAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY18 Conference
SPECIAL TRAINING	\$5,004	\$5,004	-			

Air National Guard Operations & Maintenance

ANG O&M Appropriation	FY18 President's Budget Request	FY18 HAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY18 SAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY18 Conference
AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS ^{1,2}	\$3,175,055	\$3,046,367	-\$128,688			
MISSION SUPPORT OPERATIONS ^{3,4}	\$746,082	\$735,232	-\$10,850			
DEPOT MAINTENANCE ⁵	\$867,063	\$859,063	-\$8,000			
FACILITIES SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION & MODERNIZATION ⁶	\$325,090	\$345,090	+\$20,000			
CONTRACTOR LOGISTICS SUPPORT AND SYSTEM SUPPORT	\$1,100,829	\$1,100,829	-			

BASE OPERATING SUPPORT 7	\$583,664	\$574,664	-\$9,000			
TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY ONE (BAC-01)	\$6,797,783	\$6,661,245	-\$136,538			
ADMINISTRATION	\$44,855	\$44,855	-			
RECRUITING AND ADVERTISING	\$97,330	\$97,230	-			
TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY FOUR (BAC-04)	\$142,185	\$142,185	-			
LOWER THAN BUDGETED AVERAGE SALARY		-\$2,500	-\$2,500			
RESTORE READINESS		\$10,000	+\$10,000			
ADJUST FOR PROGRAM REDUCTIONS UNACCOUNTED FOR IN REQUEST		-\$75,000	-\$75,000			
TOTAL, AIR NATIONAL GUARD O&M	\$6,939,968	\$6,735,930	-\$204,038			

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| 1. Program decrease not properly accounted -\$89,000 | 5. Program decrease not properly accounted -\$8,000 |
| 2. Unjustified program growth -\$39,688 | 6. Program Increase +\$20,000 |
| 3. Program decrease not properly accounted -\$12,000 | 7. Program decrease not properly accounted -\$9,000 |
| 4. Program increase – State Partnership Program +\$1,150 | |

Air National Guard Operations & Maintenance (Overseas Contingency Operations)

ANG O&M (OCO) Appropriation	FY18 President's Budget Request	FY18 HAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY18 SAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY18 Conference
MISSION SUPPORT OPERATIONS	\$3,468	\$3,468	-			
BASE SUPPORT	\$11,932	\$11,932	-			
TOTAL, ANG O&M (OCO)	\$15,400	\$15,400	-			

Legislative Provisions

SEC. 8004. No more than 20 percent of the appropriations in this Act which are limited for obligation during the current fiscal year shall be obligated during the last 2 months of the fiscal year: *Provided*, That this section shall not apply to obligations for support of active duty training of reserve components or summer camp training of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps.

SEC. 8031. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to— (1) disestablish, or prepare to disestablish, a Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program in accordance with Department of Defense Instruction Number 1215.08, dated June 26, 2006; or (2) close, downgrade from host to extension center, or place on probation a Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program in accordance with the information paper of the Department of the Army titled "Army Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (SROTC) Program Review and Criteria", dated January 27, 2014.

SEC. 8041. None of the funds available in this Act may be used to reduce the authorized positions for military technicians (dual status) of the Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Army Reserve and Air Force Reserve for the purpose of applying any administratively imposed civilian personnel ceiling, freeze, or reduction on military technicians (dual status), unless such reductions are a direct result of a reduction in military force structure.

SEC. 8043. Funds appropriated in this Act for operation and maintenance of the Military Departments, Combatant Commands and Defense Agencies shall be available for reimbursement of pay, allowances and other expenses which would otherwise be incurred against appropriations for the National Guard and Reserve when members of the National Guard and Reserve provide intelligence or counterintelligence support to Combatant Commands, Defense Agencies and Joint Intelligence Activities, including the activities and programs included within the National Intelligence Program and the Military Intelligence Program: *Provided*, That nothing in this section authorizes deviation from established Reserve and National Guard personnel and training procedures.

SEC. 8053. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau may permit the use of equipment of the National Guard Distance Learning Project by any person or entity on a space-available, reimbursable basis. The Chief of the National Guard Bureau shall establish the amount of reimbursement for such use on a case-by-case basis. (b) Amounts collected under subsection (a) shall be credited to funds available for the National Guard Distance Learning Project and be available to defray the costs associated with the use of equipment of the project under that subsection. Such funds shall be available for such purposes without fiscal year limitation.

SEC. 8061. Notwithstanding section 12310(b) of title 10, United States Code, a Reserve who is a member of the National Guard serving on full-time National Guard duty under section 502(f) of title 32, United States Code, may perform duties in support of the ground-based elements of the National Ballistic Missile Defense System.

SEC. 8063. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, or his designee, may waive payment of all or part of the consideration that otherwise would be required under section 2667 of title 10, United States Code, in the case of a lease of personal property for a period not in excess of 1 year to any organization specified in section 508(d) of title 32, United States Code, or any other youth, social, or fraternal nonprofit organization as may be approved by the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, or his designee, on a case-by-case basis.

SEC. 8071. The budget of the President for fiscal year 2018 submitted to the Congress pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, shall include separate budget justification documents for costs of United States Armed Forces' participation in contingency operations for the Military Personnel accounts, the Operation and Maintenance accounts, the Procurement accounts, and the Research, Development, Test and Evaluation accounts: *Provided*, That these documents shall include a description of the funding requested for each contingency operation, for each military service, to include all Active and Reserve components, and for each appropriations account: *Provided further*, That these documents shall include estimated costs for each element of expense or object class, a reconciliation of increases and decreases for each contingency operation, and programmatic data including, but not limited to, troop strength for each Active and Reserve component, and estimates of the major weapons systems deployed in support of each contingency: *Provided*

further, That these documents shall include budget exhibits OP–5 and OP–32 (as defined in the Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation) for all contingency operations for the budget year and the two preceding fiscal years.

SEC. 8113. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to propose, plan for, or execute a new or additional Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) round.

SEC. 8121. In addition to amounts provided elsewhere in this Act for military personnel pay, including active duty, reserve and National Guard personnel, \$206,400,000 is hereby appropriated to the Department of Defense and made available for transfer only to military personnel accounts: *Provided*, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority provided elsewhere in this Act.

Report Language

Reserve Components Full-Time Support

The Committee recognizes the important role performed by full-time support personnel in the National Guard and reserve components. The Committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, to submit a report to the congressional defense committees not later than 180 days after the enactment of this Act that describes how the number of full-time support personnel in the National Guard impacts the readiness of each reserve component.

Quarterly Cyber Operations Briefing

The Committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide quarterly briefings to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees on all named offensive and significant defensive military operations in cyberspace carried out by the Department of Defense not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter.

Cyber Air Force Specialty Code

While the Army and the Marine Corps have established cyber-unique military occupational specialties, the Air Force has not created a cyber-unique Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) for officers.

The Committee is aware that the Air Force has experienced challenges in its efforts to recruit and retain military personnel for its Cyber Mission Force and believes the establishment of a cyber AFSC could assist those efforts. The Committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to conduct a review of the establishment of a cyber-unique AFSC, including if such a specialty code could help recruit and retain cyber military personnel. The Committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a report to the congressional defense committees on the results of this review and its findings not later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act.

Trauma Training Program

The Committee recognizes the valuable support that universities, hospitals, and other military partners provide by offering civilian-based emergency response trauma and critical care training, including public health, bio-environmental, and biomedical instruction to sustain capabilities of the National Guard Enhanced Response Forces Packages, National Guard Homeland Response Forces, and Army Reserve Consequence Management Response Forces. The Committee encourages the Director of the National Guard Bureau and the Chiefs of the reserve components to continue pursuing advanced trauma and public health training with these civilian partners in order to maintain unit readiness.

Granular Activated Carbon

The Committee is concerned by actual and potential incidents of contaminated drinking water on and around military bases. The Committee understands that in more than one instance, the Services' use of firefighting foam during training exercises caused perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs) to enter the ground and drinking water supply. The Committee recognizes that using granular activated carbon is an effective way of removing PFCs from ground water and drinking water and encourages the Secretary of the Air Force to explore the use of granular activated carbon for the removal of PFCs that impact environmental and human health standards at all Air Force bases.

A-10 Wing Replacement

The Committee recommends \$103,000,000 above the budget request to restart the A-10 wing replacement program, which was included on the Air Force unfunded priorities list. The Committee notes that the included funds are expected to yield three production wing sets. Since 110 A-10 aircraft require new or overhauled wings and the estimated cost of the program could be as high as \$10,000,000 per wing set, completing A-10 wing replacements represents a significant investment over multiple fiscal years. The Committee expects the Secretary of the Air Force to follow through on the inclusion of A-10 wing replacements in the Air Force unfunded priorities list by programming the necessary resources to continue the program in future budget requests beginning with fiscal year 2019.

Remotely Piloted Aircraft

In order to more effectively meet the demand for Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) pilots, the Committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to submit a report to the congressional defense committees not later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act that describes the feasibility of university-based training for Air Force ROTC cadets as RPA pilots and sensor operators.

F-15C and Air Force Fighter Mix

The Committee is concerned by indications from the Air Force that it may seek to divest the F-15C fleet before an advanced air superiority capability is fielded. The Committee is further concerned by the removal of funds for F-15C Eagle Passive/Active Warning and Survivability System and wing service life extension from the future years defense plan. The Committee understands that the Air Force is currently studying the future optimal mix of fourth and fifth generation fighter aircraft and that the Department of Defense is engaged in forming a new National Defense Strategy, both of which should inform Air Force proposals for the F-15C fleet. The Committee notes that in recent years the Air Force has proposed, with little success, to trade away current tactical air capacity to create budgetary headroom for other priorities. The Committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to keep the Committee fully informed of all Air Force studies regarding the F-15C fleet (including modification programs) and the composition of the fighter aircraft force, and will carefully review any future proposals regarding the F-15C fleet to ensure that all mission areas can be suitably met.

Improved Turbine Engine Program

The Committee commends the Army for advancing the research of the Improved Turbine Engine Program and for exploring ways to accelerate the development and fielding of this program. The Improved Turbine Engine Program is intended to develop a more fuel efficient and powerful engine for the current UH-60 Black Hawk and AH-64 Apache helicopter fleets. This new engine will increase operational capabilities in high and hot environments, increase range, and improve fuel efficiency while reducing the Army's logistical footprint, and operational and support costs. Given the positive progress of this program, the Committee recommends fully funding the Improved Turbine Engine Program in fiscal year 2018 and encourages the Secretary of the Army to ensure that the program is robustly funded in future years budget submissions.

Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System

The Committee recommendation fully funds the budget request of \$417,021,000 for the Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System (JSTARS) recapitalization program. In order to ensure that the Air Force remains on schedule to contract for development of the new JSTARS platform in fiscal year 2018, the recommendation includes a legislative provision that prohibits the use of funds to continue pre-milestone B activities beyond March 31, 2018, except for source selection and other activities necessary to enter the engineering and manufacturing development phase.

The Committee expects that the Air Force will not take steps to prematurely retire existing mission capable E-8 JSTARS aircraft prior to the current estimated initial operational capability (not later than fiscal year 2024) for the new JSTARS platform. The Air Force has indicated that no determination has yet been made regarding the phase-out of the E-8 fleet. The Committee recognizes that the retirement of E-8 aircraft is partially dependent on the progress of the recapitalization program, but is concerned that the Air Force has not programmed funds to modify the E-8 fleet in order to meet air traffic control mandates and has been unable to provide an estimate for such modifications. Therefore, the Committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to submit a report to the congressional defense committees on the estimated cost and schedule for integrating, procuring, and installing necessary avionics upgrades for the E-8 fleet in order to meet air traffic control mandates. The report shall be submitted not later than January 31, 2018.

Air-To-Ground Tactical Weapon Systems

The Committee recognizes the future need for an air-to-ground, fighter aircraft-capable tactical weapon system to replace existing systems and enhance capabilities against peer competitors. The Committee encourages the Secretary of the Air Force to study and test multi-mode weapon systems that can be mounted on fighter aircraft and effectively meet identified requirements to engage a range of tactical ground targets, including armor, ships, ground vehicles, and air defense systems. The Committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to submit a report to the congressional defense committees on current and future air-to-ground tactical weapon systems efforts not later than 60 days after the enactment of this Act.

Counterterrorism Efforts to Build Partnership Capacity in the United States Southern Command Area of Responsibility

The Committee recognizes that the United States Southern Command historically has been engaged in successful counter-drug partnership programs while its counterterrorism building partnership capacity efforts have been limited by a lack of funding and authorities. The Committee notes that Department of Defense officials agree that it is time to expand counterterrorism efforts to build the capacity of nations within the United States Southern Command area of responsibility. These efforts would focus on tactical level training, sensitive site exploitation, biometric assessment, basic mission planning, close quarters battle, and urban movement. Once tactical units of partner nations show an acceptable level of proficiency in these tasks, training focus would shift to more advanced tactical tasks and higher level mission planning efforts including operations and intelligence fusion. To master these tasks, partner nations will likely require equipment, limited small scale construction, and extensive training. The Committee encourages the Secretary of Defense to expand its counterterrorism efforts to the nations within the United States Southern Command area of responsibility. Building partnership capacity within each partner nation will allow effective host government management of their own counterterrorism strategy.

National Guard and Reserve Equipment

The Committee recommends \$1,000,000,000 for National Guard and Reserve Equipment. Of that amount, \$330,000,000 is for the Army National Guard; \$330,000,000 is for the Air National Guard; \$130,000,000 is for the Army Reserve; \$50,000,000 is for the Navy Reserve; \$10,000,000 is for the Marine Corps Reserve; and \$150,000,000 is for the Air Force Reserve to meet urgent equipment needs that may arise in the coming fiscal year. This funding will allow the National Guard and reserve components to procure high priority equipment that may be used by these units for both their combat missions and their missions in support of state governors. The funding within this account is not to be used to procure equipment that has been designated as high density critical equipment, major weapon systems, aircraft, and other equipment central to a unit's ability to perform its doctrinal mission. The funding within this account is not to be used to procure equipment that should be purchased by the senior Service, to expand or accelerate current Service procurement plans, to purchase expendable items, or to purchase facilities or equipment for any requirement that can be satisfied elsewhere. The Committee directs the Secretary of Defense to ensure that the National Guard and Reserve Equipment account shall be executed by the Chiefs of the National Guard and reserve components with priority consideration given to the following items: acoustic hailing devices, active electronically scanned array radars, advanced targeting pods, crashworthy ballistically tolerant auxiliary fuel systems, electromagnetic in-flight propeller balance systems, joint threat emitters, large aircraft infrared countermeasures, modular and self-contained ranges, satellite broadband for aircraft, training systems/simulators, unmanned systems for rapid emergency search and rescue support, unstabilized gunnery crew and small arms trainers, and wireless mobile mesh self-healing network systems.