



# FY24 House Appropriations Committee Defense Appropriations Act



*As of October 13, 2023*

***Bill Status***

	Passed in Committee	Passed in Chamber	Final Passage	Signed into Law
House	22 June 2023	28 September 2023		
Senate	27 June 2023			

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### Executive Summary

This guide provides a short summary of the House of Representatives Fiscal Year 2024 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: <https://www.nationalguard.mil/leadership/joint-staff/personal-staff/legislative-liaison/>.

#### Status:

On June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the House Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Defense passed the FY24 Defense Appropriations Act and on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, the House Appropriations Committee passed the measure. The House Chamber passed the measure by a vote of 218-210 on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

The Defense Appropriations bill funds agencies and programs under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense (DOD) and Intelligence Community, including the Military Services, Central Intelligence Agency, and the National Security Agency. For Fiscal Year 2024, the bill provides \$826.15 billion in new discretionary spending, which is \$14.13 million below the President's Budget Request and \$28.41 billion – or 3.5% – over the FY23 enacted level.

#### Highlights:

- Funds a 5.2% military pay raise
- Funds an end strength of 325,000 for the ARNG and 108,400 for the ANG
- Appropriates \$312M for the ARNG and \$305M for the ANG in NGREA
- \$9.7B for ARNG Personnel, a decrease of \$17.2M from the FY24 request
- \$5.2B for ANG Personnel, a decrease of \$57.8M from the FY24 request
- \$8.6B for ARNG O&M, a decrease of \$70.7M from the FY24 request
- \$7.2B for ANG O&M, a decrease of \$2.9M from the FY24 request

- Provides \$22.2M to State Partnership Program (SPP) activities, and specifically highlights the value of the SPP to achieving National Defense Strategy objectives
- Provides \$23.5M for the Northern Strike exercise.
- Provides \$300M for National Guard Counter-Drug Program, an increase of \$198M from the FY24 request
- Provides \$30M for National Guard Counter-Drug Schools, an increase of \$24M from the FY24 request
- Provides \$84.9M above the request for National Guard Youth Challenge
- Provides \$53M above the request for Starbase
- Provides \$120M for additional modernized ARNG HMMWVs
- Provides \$120M above the request for additional UH-60M Blackhawks for the ARNG
- Provides ANG with \$487.2M for four C-130Js
- Provides ANG with \$96.5M for facility enhancements for future pilot training sites

# National Guard Accounts Overview

(All Dollars in Thousands)

Army National Guard	FY24 President's Budget Request	FY24 HAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY24 SAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY24 Conference
ARNG Personnel	\$9,783,569	\$9,766,369	-\$17,200	\$9,783,569	\$3,098	
ARNG O&M	\$8,683,104	\$8,612,404	-\$70,700	\$8,706,797	\$23,693	
NGREA	--	\$312,000	\$312,000	\$278,135	\$278,135	

Air National Guard	FY24 President's Budget Request	FY24 HAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY24 SAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY24 Conference
ANG Personnel	\$5,292,425	\$5,234,625	-\$57,800	\$5,264,865	-\$27,560	
ANG O&M	\$7,253,694	\$7,250,745	-\$2,949	\$7,268,605	\$14,911	
NGREA	--	\$305,000	\$305,000	\$255,128	\$255,128	



# Army National Guard

## Army National Guard Personnel

(All Dollars in Thousands)

ARNG Personnel Appropriation	FY24 President's Budget Request	FY24 HAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY24 SAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY24 Conference
PAY GROUP A TRAINING (15 DAYS & DRILLS 24/48)	\$2,720,787	\$2,720,787	--	\$2,720,787	--	
PAY GROUP F TRAINING (RECRUITS)	\$600,118	\$600,118	--	\$600,118	--	
PAY GROUP P TRAINING (PIPELINE RECRUITS)	\$60,361	\$60,361	--	60,361	--	
SCHOOL TRAINING	\$591,765	\$591,765	--	\$592,765 <sup>5</sup>	\$1,000	
SPECIAL TRAINING	\$819,779	\$837,379 <sup>1-2</sup>	\$17,600	\$843,223 <sup>6-11</sup>	\$23,444	
ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT	\$4,941,628	\$4,941,628	--	\$4,941,628	--	
THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS	\$38,840	\$38,840	--	\$38,840	--	
EDUCATION BENEFITS	\$10,291	\$10,291	--	\$10,291	--	
<b>TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 1 (BAC-01)</b>	<b>\$9,783,569</b>	<b>\$9,801,169</b>	<b>\$17,600</b>	<b>\$9,808,013</b>	<b>\$24,444</b>	
UNDISTRIBUTED ADJUSTMENT	--	-\$34,800 <sup>3-4</sup>	-\$34,800	-\$21,346	-\$21,346	
<b>TOTAL, TITLE I, ARNG PERSONNEL</b>	<b>\$9,324,813</b>	<b>\$9,766,369</b>	<b>-\$17,200</b>	<b>\$9,786,667</b>	<b>\$3,098</b>	
HEALTH CARE CONTRIBUTION (RC)	\$971,647	\$971,647	--	\$972,000	--	
<b>TOTAL, NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL, ARMY</b>	<b>\$10,755,216</b>	<b>\$10,738,016</b>	<b>-\$17,200</b>	<b>\$10,758,667</b>	<b>\$3,098</b>	

1. Special Training; Program increase – State Partnership Program \$9,100
2. Special Training; Program increase – Northern Strike \$8,500
3. Undistributed Adjustment; Historical unobligated balances -\$27,000
4. Undistributed Adjustment; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion -\$7,800
5. School Training; Program increase: Army Mountain Warfare School operations \$1,000
6. Special Training; Program increase: Wildfire training \$8,500
7. Special Training; Program increase: Advanced trauma and public health direct training services \$3,044
8. Special Training; Program increase: Irregular warfare training exercises \$3,500
9. Special Training; Undistributed adjustment: Revised budget estimate -\$30,846
10. Special Training; Program increase: Exercise Northern Strike \$8,500
11. Special Training; Program increase: National Guard Mission Assurance Program \$1,000

## Army National Guard Operations & Maintenance

ARNG O&M Appropriation	FY24 President's Budget Request	FY24 HAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY24 SAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY24 Conference
MANEUVER UNITS	\$925,071	\$938,071 <sup>1</sup>	\$13,000	\$936,571 <sup>9</sup>	\$11,500	
MODULAR SUPPORT BRIGADES	\$201,781	\$201,781	--	\$196,781 <sup>10</sup>	-\$5,000	
ECHELONS ABOVE BRIGADE	\$840,373	\$833,373 <sup>2</sup>	-\$7,000	\$790,373 <sup>11</sup>	-\$50,000	

THEATER LEVEL ASSETS	\$107,392	\$105,392 <sup>3</sup>	-\$2,000	\$102,392 <sup>12</sup>	-\$5,000	
LAND FORCES OPERATIONS SUPPORT	\$62,908	\$62,908	--	\$62,908	--	
AVIATION ASSETS	\$1,113,908	\$1,102,908 <sup>4</sup>	-\$11,000	\$1,101,908 <sup>13</sup>	-\$12,000	
FORCE READINESS OPERATIONS SUPPORT	\$832,946	\$827,946 <sup>5</sup>	-\$5,000	\$820,605 <sup>14-18</sup>	-\$12,341	
LAND FORCES SYSTEMS READINESS	\$50,696	\$50,696	--	\$51,496 <sup>19</sup>	\$800	
LAND FORCES DEPOT MAINTENANCE	\$231,784	\$231,784	--	\$231,784	--	
BASE OPERATIONS SUPPORT	\$1,249,066	\$1,244,066 <sup>6</sup>	-\$5,000	\$1,253,800 <sup>20,21</sup>	\$4,734	
FACILITIES SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION, & MODERNIZATION	\$1,081,561	\$1,081,561	--	\$1,176,561 <sup>22,23</sup>	\$95,000	
MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONAL HQ	\$1,468,857	\$1,458,857 <sup>7</sup>	-\$10,000	\$1,481,857 <sup>24,25</sup>	\$13,000	
CYBERSPACE ACTIVITIES – CYBERSPACE OPERATIONS	\$9,566	\$9,566	--	\$9,566	--	
CYBERSPACE ACTIVITIES – CYBERSECURITY	\$15,710	\$15,710	--	\$16,710 <sup>26</sup>	\$1,000	
SERVICEWIDE TRANSPORTATION	\$7,251	\$7,251	--	\$7,251	--	
ADMINISTRATION	\$66,025	\$73,025 <sup>8</sup>	\$7,000	\$68,025 <sup>27,28</sup>	\$2,000	
SERVICEWIDE COMMUNICATIONS	\$113,366	\$113,366	--	\$113,366	--	
MANPOWER MANAGEMENT	\$8,663	\$8,663	--	\$8,663	--	
OTHER PERSONNEL SUPPORT	\$292,426	\$292,426	--	\$292,426	--	
REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT	\$3,754	\$3,754	--	\$3,754	--	
HISTORICAL UNOBLIGATION	--	-\$43,000	-\$43,000	--	--	
PROGRAM DECREASE – CIVILIAN WORKFORCE	--	-\$8,000	-\$8,000	--	--	
P.L. 115-68 IMPLEMENTATION	--	\$300	\$300	--	--	
PROJECTED UNDEREXECUTION	--	--	--	-\$20,000	-\$20,000	
<b>TOTAL, ARNG O&amp;M</b>	<b>\$8,683,104</b>	<b>\$8,612,404</b>	<b>-\$70,700</b>	<b>\$8,706,797</b>	<b>\$23,693</b>	

1. Maneuver Units; Program increase – Northern Strike \$13,000

2. Echelons Above Brigade; Unjustified growth -\$7,000

3. Theater Level Assets; Unjustified growth -\$2,000

4. Aviation Assets; Unjustified growth -\$11,000

5. Force Readiness Operations Support; Unjustified growth -\$5,000

6. Base Operations; Unjustified growth -\$5,000

7. Management and Operational Headquarters; Unjustified transfer -\$10,000

8. Administration; Program increase – State Partnership Program - \$7,000

9. Maneuver Units; Program increase: Exercise Northern Strike \$11,500

10. Modular Support Brigades; Unjustified growth: -\$5,000

11. Echelons Above Brigade; Unjustified growth: - \$50,000

12. Theater Level Assets; Unjustified growth: -\$5,000

13. Aviation Assets; Unjustified growth: -\$12,000

14. Force Readiness Operations Support; Unjustified growth: -\$20,000

15. Force Readiness Operations Support; Program increase: Irregular warfare training exercises \$3,500

16. Force Readiness Operations Support; Program increase: Advanced trauma and public health direct training services \$1,909

17. Force Readiness Operations Support; Program increase: International advanced trauma and public health direct training services \$750

18. Force Readiness Operations Support; Program increase: Wildfire training \$1,500

19. Land Forces Systems Readiness; Program increase: Enhanced NG emergency satellite communications capability \$800

20. Base Operations Support; Program increase: Aqueous film forming foam replacement related activities \$2,600

21. Base Operations Support; Program increase: PFAS cleanup and restoration \$2,134

22. Facilities Sustainment, Restoration & Modernization; Program increase \$60,000

23. Facilities Sustainment, Restoration & Modernization; ARNG MQ-1C AATS \$35,000

24. Management and Operational Headquarters; Program increase: Mental health providers \$8,000

- 25. Management and Operational Headquarters; Program increase: Star behavioral health program \$5,000
- 26. Cyberspace Activities-Cybersecurity; Program increase: NG Mission assurance Program \$1,000
- 27. Administration; Program decrease unaccounted for - \$4,000
- 28. Administration; Program increase: State Partnership Program \$6,000



# Air National Guard

## Air National Guard Personnel

(All Dollars in Thousands)

ANG Personnel Appropriation	FY24 President's Budget Request	FY24 HAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY24 SAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY24 Conference
PAY GROUP A TRAINING (15 DAYS & DRILLS 24/48)	\$1,125,121	\$1,125,121	--	\$1,125,121	--	
PAY GROUP F TRAINING (RECRUITS)	\$106,460	\$106,460	--	\$106,460	--	
PAY GROUP P TRAINING (PIPELINE RECRUITS)	\$4,405	\$4,405	--	\$4,405	--	
SCHOOL TRAINING	\$319,496	\$319,496	--	\$319,496	--	
SPECIAL TRAINING	\$217,458	\$222,258 <sup>1-2</sup>	\$4,800	\$229,098 <sup>6-10</sup>	\$11,640	
ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT	\$3,475,783	\$3,475,783	--	\$3,475,783	--	
THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS	\$27,540	\$27,540	--	\$27,540	--	
EDUCATION BENEFITS	\$16,162	\$16,162	--	\$16,162	--	
<b>TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 1 (BAC-01)</b>	<b>\$5,292,425</b>	<b>\$5,297,225</b>	<b>\$4,800</b>	<b>\$5,304,065</b>	<b>\$11,640</b>	
UNDISTRIBUTED ADJUSTMENT	--	-\$62,600 <sup>3-5</sup>	-\$62,600	-\$39,200	-\$39,200	
<b>Total, Title I National Guard Personnel, Air Force</b>	<b>\$5,292,425</b>	<b>\$5,234,625</b>	<b>-\$57,800</b>	<b>\$5,264,865</b>	<b>-\$27,560</b>	
HEALTH CARE CONTRIBUTION (RC)	\$371,866	\$371,866	--	\$372,000	--	
<b>Total, National Guard Personnel, Air Force</b>	<b>\$5,664,291</b>	<b>\$5,606,491</b>	<b>-\$57,800</b>	<b>\$5,636,865</b>	<b>-\$27,560</b>	

1. Special Training; Program Increase – State Partnership Program \$2,800
2. Special Training; Program Increase – Northern Strike \$2,000
3. Undistributed Adjustment; Historical unobligated balances -\$26,000
4. Undistributed Adjustment; Projected underexecution -\$33,000
5. Undistributed Adjustment; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion -\$3,600
6. Special Training; Program increase: Advanced trauma and public health direct training services \$2,840
7. Special Training; Program increase: State Partnership Program \$2,800
8. Special Training; Program increase: Wildfire training \$6,000
9. Special Training; Undistributed adjustment: Revised budget estimate -\$41,200
10. Special Training; Program increase: Exercise Northern Strike \$2,000

## Air National Guard Operations & Maintenance

ANG O&M Appropriation	FY24 President's Budget Request	FY24 HAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY24 SAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY24 Conference
AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS	\$2,498,675	\$2,468,675 <sup>1</sup>	-\$30,000	\$2,478,675 <sup>9</sup>	-\$20,000	
MISSION SUPPORT OPERATIONS	\$656,714	\$667,265 <sup>2-4</sup>	\$10,551	\$669,748 <sup>10-14</sup>	\$13,034	
DEPOT MAINTENANCE	\$1,171,901	\$1,173,901 <sup>5</sup>	\$2,000	\$1,149,901 <sup>15</sup>	-\$22,000	



FACILITIES SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION & MODERNIZATION	\$370,188	\$466,688 <sup>6</sup>	\$96,500	\$482,065 <sup>16-18</sup>	\$111,877	
CONTRACTOR LOGISTICS SUPPORT AND SYSTEM SUPPORT	\$1,280,003	\$1,262,003 <sup>7</sup>	-\$18,000	\$1,260,003 <sup>19</sup>	-\$20,000	
BASE OPERATING SUPPORT	\$1,089,579	\$1,094,579 <sup>8</sup>	\$5,000	\$1,071,579 <sup>20</sup>	-\$18,000	
CYBERSPACE SUSTAINMENT	\$19,708	\$19,708	--	\$19,708	--	
CYBERSPACE ACTIVITIES	\$49,476	\$49,476	--	\$49,476	--	
ADMINISTRATION	\$68,417	\$68,417	--	\$68,417	--	
RECRUITING AND ADVERTISING	\$49,033	\$49,033	--	\$49,033	--	
HISTORICAL UNOBLIGATION	--	-\$43,000	-\$43,000	--	--	
PROGRAM DECREASE – CIVILIAN WORKFORCE	--	-\$26,000	-\$26,000	--	--	
PROJECTED UNDEREXECUTION	--	--	--	-\$30,000	-\$30,000	
<b>TOTAL, O&amp;M, AIR NATIONAL GUARD</b>	<b>\$7,253,694</b>	<b>\$7,250,745</b>	<b>-\$2,949</b>	<b>\$7,268,605</b>	<b>\$14,911</b>	

1. Aircraft Operations; Unjustified growth -\$30,000

2. Mission Support Operations; Program increase – State Partnership Program \$3,300

3. Mission Support Operations; Program increase – ANG JTAC contractor support \$8,000

4. Mission Support Operations; Unjustified request -\$749

5. Depot Purchase Equipment Maintenance; Program increase – KC-135 \$2,000

6. Facilities Sustainment, Restoration & Modernization; Program increase – facility enhancements for future pilot training sites \$96,500

7. Contractor Logistics Support and System Support; Unjustified growth -\$18,000

8. Base Operations Support; Program Increase – resilience training \$5,000

9. Aircraft Operations; Unjustified growth: -\$20,000

10. Mission Support Operations; Program increase: Advanced trauma and public health direct training services \$2,034

11. Mission Support Operations; Program increase: Mental health providers \$5,000

12. Mission Support Operations; Program increase: State Partnership Program \$2,500

13. Mission Support Operations; Program increase: Training and equipment for KC-135 classic associations \$2,000

14. Mission Support Operations; Program increase: Wildfire training \$1,500

15. Depot Purchase Equipment Maintenance; Unjustified growth: -\$22,000

16. Facilities Sustainment, Restoration & Modernization; Program increase: \$20,000

17. Facilities Sustainment, Restoration & Modernization; Program increase: Additional facility enhancements for future foreign military pilot training sites \$90,977

18. Facilities Sustainment, Restoration & Modernization; Program increase: Repair hangar fire systems \$900

19. Contractor Logistics Support and System Support; Unjustified growth: -\$20,000

20. Base Support; Unjustified growth: -\$18,000

## General Provisions

### ACTIVE, RESERVE, and NATIONAL GUARD MILITARY PERSONNEL

In title I of the Act, the Committee recommends a total of \$177,922,024,000 for active, reserve, and National Guard military personnel, a decrease of \$951,942,000 below the budget request due to projected under execution of funds. The Committee recommendation provides full funding necessary to increase basic pay for all military personnel by 5.2 percent, effective January 1, 2024. The Committee recommendation also includes additional targeted funding increases for certain enlisted grades.

### **National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account**

The Committee recommends \$1,000,000,000 for the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account. Of that amount, \$312,000,000 is for the Army National Guard; \$305,000,000 is for the Air National Guard; \$155,000,000 is for the Army Reserve; \$55,000,000 is for the Navy Reserve; \$18,000,000 is for the Marine Corps Reserve; and \$155,000,000 is for the Air Force Reserve to meet urgent equipment needs in the coming fiscal year. This funding will allow the National Guard and reserve components to procure high priority equipment used by these components for both their military missions and missions in support of State governors. The funding within this account is not to be used to procure equipment 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 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 able to be satisfied elsewhere.

The Committee directs the Secretary of Defense to ensure that the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account is executed by the Chiefs of the National Guard and reserve components with priority consideration given to the following items: acoustic hailing devices; crash-worthy, ballistically tolerant auxiliary fuel systems for UH-60 helicopters; degraded visual environment systems; improved thermal acoustic blanket; KC-135 aircraft emergency response refuel equipment kits; KC-135 aircrew ground cooling units; land surveying systems; lightweight, rapidly deployable, computer-based artillery call for fire training and simulation; litter stabilization systems; modular small arms ranges and small arms training simulators and tools; secure enterprise, emergency, and social communication; software defined radios; UH-72A/B mission equipment modernization; and upgraded commercial-off-the-shelf ground mapping for C- 130 aircraft.

### **Legislative Provisions**

**Sec. 8044** prohibits the use of funds to reduce authorized positions for military technicians (dual status) of the Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Army Reserve, and Air Force Reserve unless such reductions are a direct result of a reduction in military force structure.

**Sec. 8046** provides for reimbursement to the National Guard and reserve when members of the National Guard and reserve provide intelligence or counterintelligence support to the combatant commands, defense agencies, and joint intelligence activities.

**Sec. 8052** provides conditions for the use of equipment of the National Guard Distance Learning Project, on a space available, reimbursable basis.

**Sec. 8053** prohibits funds to retire C-40 aircraft, with certain exceptions.

**Sec. 8054** prohibits the use of funds to procure end-items for delivery to military forces for operational training, operational use or inventory requirements.

**Sec. 8058** provides for the use of National Guard personnel to support ground-based elements of the National Ballistic Missile Defense System.

**Sec. 8060** provides for a waiver by the Chief of the National Guard Bureau or his designee for all or part of consideration in cases of personal property leases of less than one year.

**Sec. 8076** prohibits the use of funds from being used to transfer program authority relating to current tactical unmanned aerial vehicles from the Army and requires the Army to retain responsibility for and operational control of the MQ-IC Unmanned Aerial Vehicle.

**Sec. 8099** places restrictions on the use of funding for military parades.

**Sec. 8133** prohibits the use of funds to integrate an alternative engine on any F-35 aircraft.

**Sec. 8137** provides funds to increase pay for certain enlisted grades.

**Sec. 8141** prohibits funds to implement, administer, apply, enforce, or carry out measures relating to the Department of Defense diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility strategy, certain executive orders, and execute activities that promote or perpetuate divisive concepts related to race or sex.

**Sec. 8142** prohibits the use of funds to perform surgical procedures or hormone therapies for the purposes of gender affirming care.

**Sec. 8143** prohibits the use of funds to promote, host, facilitate, or support a drag queen story hour for children on United States military installations or for military recruiting programs that feature drag queens.

**Sec. 8144** prohibits the use of funds to recruit, hire, or promote any person who has been convicted of charges related to child pornography or other sexual misconduct.

**Sec. 8145** prohibits the use of funds for paid leave and travel or related expenses of a federal employee or their dependents for the purposes of obtaining an abortion or abortion-related services.

**Sec. 8147** prohibits funds to carry out any program, project, or activity that promotes or advances Critical Race Theory or any concept associated with Critical Race Theory.

**Sec. 8148** prohibits the use of funds to label communications by United States persons as misinformation, disinformation, or mal-information or to partner with or fund nonprofits or other organizations that pressure private companies to censor lawful and constitutionally protected speech.

**Sec. 8150** prohibits funds to take any discriminatory action against a person, wholly or partially, on the basis that such person speaks, or acts, in accordance with a sincerely held religious belief, or moral conviction, that marriage is, or should be recognized as, a union of one man and one woman.

## **Items of Interest**

### **DIVESTMENTS and DECOMMISSIONINGS**

The Committee is concerned the Services are reducing personnel, operations, and sustainment for aircraft and ships prior to the congressional approval of corresponding divestment and decommissioning proposals. The Committee notes that over the past several fiscal years, Congress has rejected many of these proposals and has provided increased funding for the costs of keeping these assets in service. The Committee is specifically concerned by these actions as they relate to the Navy Littoral Combat Ships, Air National Guard aircraft, and Air Force Reserve Command aircraft. In the case of the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Command, the divestment of aircraft without identified replacement missions increases uncertainty for personnel and local communities. While the Committee understands the phasing required for a divestment or decommissioning action, the Committee expects the Services to not initiate these actions until formally approved by the congressional defense committees.

### **DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY PROGRAMS**

The Committee also supports training programs for Taiwan, including through the National Guard State Partnership Program or similar programs, as well as strategic evaluations to improve Taiwan's security cooperation programs.

The Committee recommendation also supports institutional capacity building programs for Mexico. The Committee supports the inclusion of Mexico in the National Guard State Partnership Program to enhance Mexico's counterdrug efforts.

The Committee notes that Colombia has a National Guard State Partnership Program with the South Carolina National Guard.

### **VIRTUAL LANGUAGE TRAINING**

The Committee notes that foreign language skills are instrumental in building and maintaining global alliances and partnerships and encourages the National Guard Bureau to continue its virtual language training program. The Committee further directs 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 includes

the number of Guardsmen receiving virtual language training and level of proficiency achieved, a description of program marketing and sign-up procedures, a listing of classes and languages taught, a comparison of language training offered with current State Partnership Program participants, and funding programmed for National Guard language training through the future years defense program.

#### **TACTICAL AIR CONTROL PARTY DIVESTITURE**

The Committee is concerned about the Air Force's potential divestiture of Tactical Air Control Party units from the Air National Guard prior to the completion of an evaluation by the Air Force. Therefore, the Committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to refrain from taking any action to reduce the number of Tactical Air Control Party units in the Air National Guard until the Air Force, in consultation with the National Guard Bureau, has completed its evaluation.

#### **COMBAT READINESS TRAINING CENTERS**

The Committee is concerned about reductions in the fiscal year 2024 President's budget request for operation of the Air National Guard's four combat readiness training centers. The Committee notes the centers' critical role in training airmen through robust joint aerial combat exercises against simulated near-peer threats. The Committee encourages the Secretary of the Air Force to provide adequate and consistent resources for the continuation of such training.

#### **DRUG INTERDICTION AND COUNTER-DRUG ACTIVITIES**

The Committee recommendation includes \$300,000,000 for the National Guard Counter-Drug Program, of which \$30,000,000 is provided for equipment, including equipment to enhance the National Guard's digital forensics capabilities. The recommendation also includes \$30,000,000 for the National Guard Counterdrug Schools Program.

The Committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide the following briefings to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees not later than 60 days after the enactment of this Act:

- (1) a briefing on current Administration strategies to counter illicit fentanyl and synthetic opioid production, including the Strategic Implementation Plan to Commercially Disrupt the Illicit Fentanyl Supply Chain, and any Department of Defense activities and programs in support of these strategies; and
- (2) a briefing on the National Guard Governors State Plans Program as it relates to measures to counter the flow of illicit fentanyl and synthetic opioids into the United States, including a description of plans approved and denied by the Department during the previous year.

The Committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide the following reports to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees not later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act:

- (1) a report on the performance, capacity, and throughput of each of the five counterdrug schools and an analysis of whether the current number of schools is meeting training demands; and
- (2) a report on commercial technologies that are available, in development, or that could be modified to detect or otherwise combat the flow of illicit fentanyl and synthetic opioids into the United States.

#### **COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INSTRUCTIONS**

The Committee directs the Comptroller General of the United States to review Department of Defense Instruction 3000.14, Counterdrug and Counter-Transnational Organized Crime Policy, and Instruction 3100.01B National Guard Counterdrug Support Program, and examine whether such documents unduly limit the ability of the Department of Defense and National Guard Bureau to support counterdrug efforts under the law. The Comptroller General shall submit a report to the congressional defense committees not later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act.