



National Guard Bureau
Office of Legislative Liaison



FY16 House Armed Services National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)

Analysis of H.R. 1735, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016



As of May 6, 2015

	Passed in Committee	Passed in Chamber	Agreement	Final Passage	Signed into Law
House	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> April 30 th , 2015				
Senate					

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Executive Summary

This guide provides a short summary of the Fiscal Year 2016 House Armed Services National Defense Authorization Act. To obtain a complete understanding of any particular provision, users are encouraged to review the actual legislative language.

Status:

On Thursday, April 30th, the House Armed Services committee passed H.R. 1735 the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016. The bill passed committee by a vote of 60-2.

The HASC proposal authorizes \$515 billion in spending for national defense and an additional \$89.2 billion for Overseas Contingency Operations for a total of \$604.2 billion. This is equivalent to the President's total request for \$611.9 billion in defense discretionary spending.

As part of the Overseas Contingency Operations account, the proposal funds \$38.3 billion in operation and maintenance activities in support of base budget requirements for national defense.**

Highlights:

- Provides \$250 million for the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account
- Provides \$7 million for the State Partnership Program
- Prohibits the retirement of the A-10
- Classifies National Guard dual status technicians as exempted personnel in the event of a government shutdown
- Direct Employment Pilot Program for the members of the National Guard and Reserves
- Requires an annual report on Personnel, Training and Equipment Requirements for the Non-Federalized National Guard to support civilian authorities in prevention and response to non-Catastrophic domestic disasters
- Modernizes the current military retirement system by blending the current defined benefit, cliff-vesting retirement plan with a defined contribution plan allowing service members to contribute to a portable Thrift Savings Plan account with a Government contribution matching program.
- Codifies the modular Airborne Fire Fighting System mission under Title 32 (as it currently operates) so National Guard retains mission authority
- Report language supporting an acceleration of the modernization effort both in terms of meeting FAA compliance by the 2020 deadline and acceleration of the increment 2 modernization plan
- Reporting language directing a Comptroller General Review of Homeland Response Forces

**Overseas Contingency Operations:

The proposal fully funds the President's request of \$50.9 billion for Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO). However, the committee added an additional \$38.3 billion to OCO to be used for base DOD requirements. (This section can be found in the funding tables under "OCO for Base Requirements.")

As a result, a portion of the PB requested Army National Guard O&M funding was moved to the "OCO for base requirements" account.

The bill funds OCO overall at \$89.2 billion.



National Guard Accounts Overview

Authorization of Funding

(All Dollars in Thousands)

Army National Guard	President's FY16 Budget Request	HASC Mark	Delta from PB	SASC Mark	Delta from PB	Conference Report	FY16 Delta from PB
O&M**	\$6,717,977**	\$4,090,159**	+\$513 **				
OCO O&M	\$60,845	\$60,845	\$0				
MILCON*	\$197,237	\$167,437	-\$29,800				
OCO O&M Base Requirements	**	\$3,141,808**	\$0				

**HASC moved a portion of the PB requested ARNG O&M to a new category of "OCO for Base Requirements". With the inclusion of the new funding category, ARNG O&M is \$513M above the PB request.

Army National Guard End Strength

Army National Guard	President's FY16 Budget Request	HASC Mark	Delta from PB	SASC Mark	Delta from PB	Conference Report	FY16 Delta from PB
End Strength	342,00	342,000	0				
AGR	30,770	30,770	0				
Dual Status Technicians	26,099	26,099	0				
Non-Dual Status Technicians	1,600	1,600	0				
ADOS	17,000	17,000	0				



Air National Guard

Authorization of Funding

(All Dollars in Thousands)

Air National Guard	President's FY16 Budget Request	HASC Mark	Delta from PB	SASC Mark	Delta from PB	Conference Report	FY16 Delta from PB
O&M*	\$6,956,210	\$6,895,610	-\$60,600				
OCO O&M*	\$19,900	\$19,900	0				
MILCON*	\$123,538	\$123,538	0				

Air National Guard End Strength

Air National Guard	President's FY16 Budget Request	HASC Mark	Delta from PB	SASC Mark	Delta from PB	Conference Report	FY16 Delta from PB
End Strength	105,500	105,500	0				
AGR	14,748	14,748	0				
Dual Status Technicians	22,104	22,104	0				
Non-Dual Status Technicians	350	350	0				
ADOS	16,000	16,000	0				

*Indicates that the funding is Authorized and is subject to Appropriations funded within the Fiscal Year 2015 Defense Appropriations Act, or the Fiscal Year 2015 Military Construction Appropriations Act

BILL TEXT:

Section 112—Report on Options to Accelerate Replacement of UH-60A Blackhawk:

Helicopters of Army National Guard This section would require the Secretary of the Army to submit a report to the congressional defense committees by March 1, 2016, containing detailed options for the potential acceleration of the replacement of all UH-60A helicopters of the Army National Guard.

Section 113—Prioritization of Upgraded UH-60 Blackhawk Helicopters within Army National Guard:

This section would require the Chief, National Guard Bureau to issue guidance within 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act that prioritizes UH-60 helicopter upgrades within the Army National Guard to those units with the highest flight hour aircraft and highest utilization rates. This section would also require the Chief to submit a report to the congressional defense committees within 30 days after issuing such guidance that describes such guidance.

Section 132-Backup Inventory Status of A-10 Aircraft:

This section would require that the Secretary of the Air Force not move more than 18 A-10 aircraft in the Active Component to backup flying status pursuant to an authorization made by the Secretary of Defense under section 133(b)(2)(A) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291). This section would also make a conforming amendment to section 133(b)(2)(A) by striking "36" and inserting "18".

Section 133 – Prohibition on Availability of Funds for Retirement of A-10 Aircraft:

This section prohibits the use of funds to retire, plan to retire, or place in storage or backup aircraft inventory an A-10 aircraft and requires the Air Force to maintain a minimum of 171 A-10 aircraft designated as primary mission aircraft inventory. This section also requires an independent assessment of the required capabilities or mission platform to replace the A-10.

MILITARY PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATIONS

Section 411 – Authorization End Strengths for Selected Reserve:

Section 412 – Authorization End Strengths for Reserves on Active Duty in Support of the Reserves

Section 413 – Authorization Eng Strengths for Military Technicians (Dual Status)

Section 414 – Authorization Fiscal Year 2016 Limitation on Number of Non-Dual Status Technicians

Section 415 – Maximum number of Reserve Personnel Authorized to be on Active Duty for Operational Support

Section 503 – Implementation of Comptroller General Recommendation on the Definition and Availability of Costs Associated with General and Flag Officers and their Aides:

RESERVE MANAGEMENT PROVISIONS

Section 511—Clarification of Purpose of Reserve Component Special Selection Boards as Limited to Correction of Error at a Mandatory Promotion Board:

This section would amend section 14502(b) of title 10, United States Code, concerning Reserve Component special selection boards and whether an officer or former officer could request a special selection board based on having not been selected by a previous special selection board

vice being considered by a mandatory promotion board convened under section 14101(a) of title 10, United States Code. This section would better align the statutory language regarding Active Duty and Reserve Component special selection boards.

Section 512 – Ready Reserve Continuous Screening Regarding Key Positions Disqualifying Federal Officials from Continued Service in the Ready Reserve:

This section would amend section 10149 of title 10, United States Code, to include members who occupy key Federal positions to the individuals who must be screened for continued service in the Ready Reserve.

Section 513 – Exemption of Military Technicians (Dual Status) from Civilian Employee Furloughs:

This section to classifies National Guard dual status technicians as exempted personnel in the event of a government shutdown

Section 514 – Annual Report on Personnel, Training and Equipment Requirements for the Non-Federalized National Guard to Support Civilian Authorities in Prevention and Response to Non-Catastrophic Domestic Disasters:

This section requires the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to provide an annual report on the National Guard Bureau's ability to carry out non-federalized missions in support of civilian authorities.

Section 515 – National Guard Civil and Defense Support Activities and Related Matters:

This section codifies the modular Airborne Fire Fighting System mission under Title 32 (as it currently operates) so National Guard retains mission authority.

CONSOLIDATION OF AUTHORITIES TO ORDER RESERVE COMPONENT TO PERFORM DUTY

Section 521—Administration of Reserve Duty:

This section would amend chapter 1209 of title 10, United States Code, by consolidating the number of Reserve Component status category authorities under which Reserve Component members may be called to duty from 30 to 6 and would direct the Secretaries concerned to develop policies and procedures to carry out these changes.

Section 522—Reserve Duty Authorities:

This section would amend chapter 1209 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the President and the Secretary of Defense to call a member of the Reserve Component, under their jurisdiction, to Active or Inactive duty and provide authorities on activation timeline limitations and compensation requirements.

Section 523—Purpose of Reserve Duty:

This section would amend chapter 1209 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the mobilization and limitations to mobilization as well as the call-up to Active Duty or Inactive duty of the Ready Reserve, Selected Reserve and certain members of the Individual Ready Reserve and would describe the purpose and limitations of such duty. This section would also authorize the Secretary of Defense to organize and administer the Reserve Components and would describe the authorities and limitations of such authorizations.

Section 524—Training and Other Duty Performed by Members of the National Guard:

This section would authorize the required training, field exercises and other duty performed by members of the National Guard and would additionally authorize the purpose, restrictions, and limitations of a call to order of the National Guard.

OTHER PROVISIONS

Section 563—Enhancements to Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program:

This section would amend section 582 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181) to expand eligibility for the program; add quality of life to the services for which the Secretary of Defense may enter into partnerships to provide services and grants under the program; provide flexibility in the number and timing of information, events, and activities. This section would authorize the required training, field exercises and other duty performed by members of the National Guard and would additionally authorize the purpose, restrictions, and limitations of a call to order of the National Guard. provided under the program; and require the Office for Reintegration Programs to assist in the collection and analysis of best practices regarding suicide prevention.

Section 565 – Recognition of Additional Involuntary Mobilization Duty Authorities Exempt from Five-Year Limit on Reemployment Rights of Persons Who Serve in the Uniformed Services:

This section amends Title 38 USC by including 12304a and 12304b authorities.

Section 567 – Direct Employment Pilot Program for the Members of the National Guard and Reserves:

This section authorizes the Secretary of Defense to establish a pilot program to enhance Department of Defense efforts to provide job placement assistance and related employment services directly to the National Guard and Reserves. This section requires, no later than March 1, 2019, for the Secretary of Defense to report on the results of the pilot program in coordination with the Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

Section 592—Honoring Certain Members of the Reserve Components as Veterans:

This section would create a new section 107A of title 38, United States Code, to recognize the service, in the Reserve Components, of certain service members by honoring them with status as veterans. This section would honor as a veteran any person who is entitled under chapter 1223 of title 10, United States Code, to retired pay for nonregular service or who, but for age, would be entitled under such chapter to retired pay for nonregular service, but would not create an entitlement to any benefit by reason of this section.

COMPENSATION, PERSONNEL BENEFITS AND RETIREMENT

Section 611—One-Year Extension of Certain Bonus and Special Pay Authorities for Reserve Forces:

This section would extend the authority, through December 31, 2016, for the Selected Reserve reenlistment bonus, the Selected Reserve affiliation or enlistment bonus, special pay for enlisted members assigned to certain high-priority units, the Ready Reserve enlistment bonus for persons without prior service, the Ready Reserve enlistment and reenlistment bonus for persons with prior service, the Selected Reserve enlistment and reenlistment bonus for persons with prior service, income replacement payments for Reserve Component members experiencing extended and frequent mobilization for Active Duty service, and the authority to reimburse travel expenses for inactive duty training outside of normal commuting distance.

Section 631—Full Participation for Members of the Uniformed Services in Thrift Savings Plan

This section would modernize the current military retirement system by blending the current defined benefit, cliff-vesting retirement plan with a defined contribution plan allowing service members to contribute to a portable Thrift Savings Plan account with a Government contribution matching program.

Section 632—Modernized Retirement System for Members of the Uniformed Services:

This section would modernize the current uniformed services retirement system by blending the current defined benefit, cliff-vesting retirement plan with a defined contribution plan, lump sum career continuation pay, and retention bonuses paid at defined career milestones, while continuing a 20 year defined annuity.

ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

Section 905 – Additional Requirements for Streamlining of Department of Defense Management Headquarters:

This section requires the Department of Defense to implement 20% reduction in management Headquarters Functions, as directed by the Secretary of Defense in July 2013, in management headquarters budget and personnel by September 30, 2019, for the covered organizations in the National Capital Region.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Section 1053 – Limitation on Transfer of Certain AH-64 Apache Helicopters from Army National Guard to Regular Army and Related Personnel Levels:

This section amends section 1712(b) of the FY15 NDAA to preserve the 60-day congressional review of the report from the National Commission on the Future of the Army. No movement may occur before the later of March 31, 2016 or the end of the 60-day period after Commission reports its findings

Section 1072-Repeal or Revision of Certain Reports Relating to Readiness:

This section would repeal or revise certain reporting requirements to include: (c) Amending chapter 1013 of title 10, United States Code, by striking section 10542, which requires an annual report on Army National Guard combat readiness

Section 1105 – Preference Eligibility for Members of the Reserve Components of the Armed Forces Appointed to Competitive Service:

This section grants hiring preferences for federal employment to members of a reserve component of the Armed Forces who have successfully completed Officer Candidate Training or entry level skill training, and performing a six-year commitment, completed 10 years of service, or retired.

Section 1203-Two-Year Extension of National Guard State Partnership Program:

This section would amend section 1205(i) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66) by extending the authorization for the National Guard State Partnership Program for 2 years, to September 30, 2018. This section amend section 1205 of the FY14 NDAA by providing greater oversight of the National Guard State Partnership Program. It creates a centralized account for the program and requires the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to develop and maintain a list of core competencies, with Secretary of Defense approval, to support the program.

Section 1404-Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense-Wide:

This section would authorize additional appropriations for Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense-Wide at the level identified in section 4502 of division D of this Act.

Sec. 2601 Authorization ARNG Construction

Sec. 2604 Authorization ANG Construction

OTHER FUNDING AUTHORIZATION PROVISIONS

Adds NGREA funding through OCO: \$250M

Add base Drug Interdiction and Counterdrug Activities funding: \$900.5M

Adds Drug Interdiction and Counterdrug funding through OCO: \$186M

Adds ARNG UH-60 M Model (MYP) funding: 8 additional aircraft: \$128M

Adds ARNG UH-60 A-L Models funding: additional 8 aircraft: \$8.8M

Adds M1 Abrams Tank Mod funding: \$40M

Adds F-16 AESA Integrations RDT&E funding: \$50M

Adds C-130 Eight-Bladed Propeller funding: \$30M

Adds C-130 T-56 3.2 Engine Mod funding: \$33.2M

Adds C-130 AMP funding: \$10M

Adds C-130J procurement funding (unfunded requirement): \$73M

Restores A-10 funding: \$682.7M

Restores ARNG Flying hours (unfunded requirement): \$48.3M

Reduces KC-46 Procurement: -\$24M and RDT&E funding: -\$200M

Adds State Partnership Program funding: \$7M

- \$5M through Military Personnel, \$1M ARNG administration services wide activities and \$1M in ANG Administration and Service Wide Activities

Adds STARBASE funding: \$20M

DIRECTIVE REPORT LANGUAGE

Counterdrug Activities:

The committee acknowledges the continued contributions of the National Guard to domestic counterdrug programs. The National Guard, working with law enforcement agencies and community-based organizations, performs interdiction and anti-drug activities to counter illicit drug trafficking. It also operates regional counterdrug training centers across the country to provide education and training to local, State, and Federal law enforcement in counternarcotics and global threat reduction efforts.

For the past 5 fiscal years, the budget request for National Guard Counterdrug Programs has not included sufficient funds to meet program requirements. Recognizing this shortfall in funding, Congress has consistently provided additional funds to enable the Guard to meet its requirements. However, this additional funding has been made available for execution by the Guard in the third or fourth quarter of the fiscal year, making it difficult for the Guard to execute it by the end of the fiscal year. The committee recognizes that this is not the most efficient or effective way to plan for and

execute a successful program. The committee continues to encourage the Department of Defense to submit an accurate budget request for National Guard Counterdrug Programs consistent with its requirements.

However, the committee also believes that, with appropriate planning, the National Guard should be able to obligate and expend additional funds, if made available, for its counterdrug programs even if received late in the fiscal year. Therefore, the committee directs the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to brief the House Committee on Armed Services, not later than October 1, 2015, on the Guard's plan for how it can improve its execution of additional funding should the program receive it. Lastly, as the tight fiscal environment continues, the committee continues to encourage the National Guard, in conjunction with the Secretary of Defense, to refine its priorities and missions.

KC-46A quarterly report

The committee supports the current acquisition strategy associated with the KC-46A aircraft. Therefore, the committee directs the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics to discontinue the quarterly reporting associated with the KC-46A aircraft required in the committee report (H.Rept. 112-78) accompanying the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012.

Long-range strike bomber

The Department of Defense has indicated that it intends to pursue the acquisition of future long-range strike capabilities for operating in anti-access/area denial environments. According to the budget request for fiscal year 2016, the Secretary of Defense expects to significantly increase annual investments in long range strike development over the next 5 years, with investments from fiscal year 2016-20 projected to total nearly \$14.00 billion. The acquisition of a new bomber is one of the key elements in the Department's planned long-range strike investments.

Given the size of the planned investments and the strategic importance of successfully acquiring a new bomber, the committee directs the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a review of the U.S. Air Force bomber acquisition program and to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by March 1, 2016, on the findings of the review. Specifically, the Comptroller General shall include an examination of the bomber program's technology maturity in comparison with other Air Force acquisition programs at similar milestone events. This brief should also include an examination of the Air Force's: (1) overall acquisition strategy; (2) technology, design, and production readiness; (3) development, testing, and fielding progress; (4) cost and schedule implications; and (5) technical performance.

The committee expects the Secretary of the Air Force shall ensure timely access to the necessary program information including, but not limited to, cost and budget information, detailed schedules, contractor data, program management reports, decision briefings, risk and technology readiness assessments, and technical performance measures.

Air Force Remotely Piloted Aircraft Manning Issues:

The committee is concerned about the Air Force's management of critical shortfalls in training remotely piloted aircraft (RPA) pilots and system operators. Demand for combat air patrols continues to increase, resulting in an unsustainable operation tempo and exodus from the service of trained RPA pilots and operators.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by January 1, 2016, with a complete human capital plan detailing the measures taken to mitigate the shortfalls in manning of RPA weapon systems. Specifically, the briefing shall address: (1) strategies and actual programs in place to increase manning in training,

increase retention of RPA operations personnel, increase crew ratios, and maintain a sustainable recruiting and retention program; and (2) a projected date by which the Air Force believes it will have mitigated the manning shortfall challenges that reside in the RPA community today.

Tracking for Non-Disability Mental Conditions:

The committee is encouraged by the progress the Department of Defense (DOD) has made in accounting for non-disability mental conditions but is still concerned that these conditions are not properly documented as a service member transitions from service. The committee believes that the Department of Defense needs to improve the identification of service members separated for non-disability mental conditions, and to provide reasonable assurance that service members, including Reserve Component members, separated for non-disability mental conditions are separated appropriately and in accordance with standard DOD procedures and documentation requirements. Therefore, the committee directs that the Secretary of Defense shall:

- (1) Develop methods to uniformly track separations due to non-disability mental conditions in an easily retrievable manner and conduct a comprehensive review of separation program designator codes, as well as any information shown on the Department of Defense Form 214.
- (2) Take steps to ensure there is an appropriately staffed process to identify administratively separated enlisted National Guard members who are unable to function effectively in the National Guard because of a non-disability mental condition.
- (3) Direct the military services to update their administrative separation policies to be consistent with DOD regulations for those service members separated for all non-disability mental conditions.
- (4) Ensure the military services implement processes to oversee separations for non-disability mental conditions, such as reinstating the requirement of annual compliance reporting of a sample of administrative separations, using current DOD policy requirements as review criteria for service members of all military services and their Reserve Components.
- (5) Ensure that the military services planned oversight of separations for non-disability mental conditions is implemented and incorporates Reserve and National Guard members separated for such conditions, or that the services implement other processes to oversee such administrative separations using current DOD policy requirements as review criteria for all service members, including Reserve and National Guard members.
- (6) Direct the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness to review any processes used by the military services to oversee such administrative separations to ensure compliance with DOD policy requirements.

Joint surveillance and target attack system sustainment report:

The E-8C aircraft was developed for ground surveillance, targeting, and battle management. Air battle managers onboard the E-8C joint surveillance target attack radar system (JSTARS) aircraft use its wide-area ground surveillance radar to build situation awareness and identify targets which are passed to strike assets or cross-cued with other intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance platforms.

The committee notes that the Department of the Air Force plans a JSTARS recapitalization program which would replace the aging E-8C aircraft with a modern, more efficient, and capable aircraft and mission systems, with an initial operational capability of 2023 and a full operational capability in subsequent years. Until the JSTARS replacement aircraft attains full operational capability, the committee believes that the current E-8C JSTARS aircraft will require a modest amount of sustainment funding, especially to address the issue of diminishing manufacturing sources.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to submit a report to the congressional defense committees by February 15, 2016, which describes all actions required to avoid degradation to the performance of the E-8C radar and fleet, each upgrade required to meet

minimum warfighter requirements for combat operations and to pace evolving threats during this period, and the Secretary's plan, schedule and budgets to accomplish this objective between fiscal years 2016 and the time that the JSTARS replacement aircraft achieves full operational capability.

Next Generation Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System operational Concepts:

The budget request contained \$44.3 million in PE 37581F for the Next Generation (NextGen) Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System (JSTARS) program. The committee is aware that the Department of the Air Force has a requirement for a new manned command-and-control/intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance aircraft given that the current, high-demand E-8C JSTARS aircraft are facing low availability rates, end-of-life issues, and growing sustainment costs.

The committee encourages the Air Force to take into consideration a platform that is able to grow and adapt for unknown future threats and game-changing technologies. In addition, the committee would like to better understand the relationship between the system requirements and how the Department of the Air Force intends to employ JSTARS in the future. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by February 29, 2016, detailing the planned operational mission concepts for the NextGen JSTARS. This briefing should include, but not be limited to, how the aircraft and mission system will be employed in various phases of peacetime and combat operations. Additionally, the briefing should explain concepts for mission training, aircraft maintenance, force protection, aircraft security, crew manning, and future sustainability and modernization to include growth margin. The committee recommends \$44.3 million, the full amount requested, in PE 37581F for the NextGen JSTARS program.

Comptroller General Assessment of Army and Air Force Training Requirements:

For more than a decade, the Army and Air Force focused the training of their forces on supporting operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Commanders established a range of resource-intensive training requirements deemed necessary to conduct missions in these locations and de-prioritized training in other areas. In the coming years, both the Army and Air Force will confront an increasingly complex security environment that will demand a wider range of missions, such as defeating terrorist organizations and responding to other emerging threats. To accomplish a broader set of missions, both military departments have established plans to refocus their training to conduct the full spectrum of military operations.

However, they face an environment of constrained budgetary resources until at least 2021. For example, in fiscal year 2013, the Department of Defense's operation and maintenance accounts were reduced by approximately \$20.00 billion under sequestration. Due to these reductions, the Army curtailed training for all units except those deployed, preparing to deploy, or stationed overseas; and the Air Force ceased flight operations from April through June 2013 for about one-third of Active Duty combat units and reduced the number of larger training exercises. The services face the possibility of sequestration-level funding again in fiscal year 2016.

The committee is concerned about the Army's and Air Force's ability to balance training investments with available resources and believes the services will need to fundamentally re-examine the requirements for training their forces. It further believes the military departments should explore whether they can achieve additional efficiencies or cost savings in their training approaches, such as by increasing reliance on simulator technologies to meet some training tasks.

Therefore, the committee directs the Comptroller General of the United States to provide to the congressional defense committees a report, by April 1, 2016, that evaluates Army and Air Force training requirements and includes an assessment of the following:

- (1) The extent to which the Army and Air Force have established readiness goals, plans, and timeframes to train their forces for full-spectrum operations;
- (2) The extent to which the Army and Air Force have adjusted training plans and identified resource needs in light of their experiences preparing forces for contingency operations in Iraq and Afghanistan;
- (3) The extent to which the Army and Air Force have considered options for increasing the use of simulated training and other technologies to achieve efficiencies or other cost savings in their training programs; and
- (4) Any other issues the Comptroller General determines appropriate with respect to Army and Air Force training. The committee also directs the Comptroller General to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by March 1, 2016, on the Comptroller General's preliminary findings.

Comptroller General Assessment of Plans to Rebuild Readiness:

For more than a decade the Department of Defense has maintained a high pace of operations, and supporting those operations has had a severe impact on the readiness of the overall force. Today, relatively few non-deployed forces could assemble quickly to perform their full mission should a large-scale crisis occur. In recent months, the service chiefs have begun to sound an increasingly shrill alarm about the impacts this pace has had on their units and the personnel in them. The service chiefs have raised questions about their ability to maintain the current pace and rebuild readiness, especially if budgets are reduced to sequestration levels. Steady-state combatant command demands are high and growing, with some key current demands going unmet. Looking forward, demands are not likely to recede, as forces are now needed to stabilize emerging crises in the Middle East and Eastern Europe. According to the service chiefs, it will be at least 5 to 8 years (2020 to 2023) before their respective services can rebuild acceptable overall readiness levels.

Amid declining budgets and force structure, the committee is growing increasingly concerned about the Department's ability to rebuild readiness while meeting the persistent demands of the combatant commands. To inform its oversight, the committee directs the Comptroller General of the United States to submit a report to the congressional defense committees by April 1, 2016, that provides a comprehensive, independent assessment of the Department of Defense's efforts to rebuild readiness. The reviews that support this assessment should consider historical readiness trends and focus on assessing the plans of the military services going forward including:

- (1) The force structure planned to meet strategic guidance;
- (2) The goals for rebuilding required readiness and the underlying assumptions and analysis behind those goals;
- (3) The departmental or military service efforts to set interim goals and assess progress toward those goals; and
- (4) The barriers, if any, facing the military services in reaching their readiness goals and plans to mitigate those barriers.

The review should consider how the Department and military services will identify and address key capability and capacity gaps across the Department for major combat units as well as low-density units and personnel who are in perennially high demand. In assessing the plans, the Comptroller General should also consider how the Department intends to balance the demands of the combatant commands in the future with the need to provide a more sustainable pace for service members.

Given the key role of the military services in rebuilding readiness, the Comptroller General should, at a minimum, provide reports that assess the plans of the Departments of the Army, Air Force, and Navy. The Comptroller General may, at his discretion and in consultation with the committee,

provide additional reports that address recurrent themes across the Department, cross-cutting issues, or other issues deemed appropriate. The committee further directs the Comptroller General to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by February 15, 2016, on the Comptroller General's preliminary findings.

Civil Support Team Information Management System:

The committee is aware that the National Guard Bureau Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Teams (CST) currently field a system called the CST Information Management System (CIMS), to provide a common operating picture, promote information-sharing and real-time collaboration in an emergency situation, and support the CST mission of assisting and advising first responders and facilitating communications with other Federal resources. Given that other National Guard Bureau forces, such as the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and High explosive Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) and Homeland Defense Response Force (HRF) units are in need of similar capabilities, and in order for these forces to effectively communicate and operate during large scale domestic events, the committee encourages the National Guard Bureau to expand CIMS to those CERFP and HRF forces.

Furthermore, the committee believes it is important that this CIMS capability increase interoperability and efficiently use prior investments to expand and enhance communication capability without creating unwarranted redundancy.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a report to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives by November 1, 2015, detailing what steps have been taken to date to expand CIMS to CERFP and HRF units, as well as what action is planned with regard to the expansion of CIMS to CERFP and HRF forces to include timeline, milestones, and a detailed description of any other influencing factors.

Comptroller General Review of Homeland Response Forces:

The National Guard has completed fielding 10 regionally aligned Homeland Response Forces to assist civil authorities in responding to disasters, including Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives (CBRNE) incidents. The Homeland Response Forces are also meant to serve as a bridge between initial National Guard response to an incident and the arrival of assistance from Federal military forces. Each Homeland Response Force is designed to provide life-saving, command and control, and security capabilities and is expected to plan, train, and exercise within its designated region with the goal of establishing links between local, State, and Federal authorities. Previous Government Accountability Office work identified personnel, training, equipment, and command and control challenges with related National Guard response forces that could materially affect the preparedness or operational effectiveness of the Homeland Response Forces. The committee directs the Comptroller General of the United States to assess the preparedness of the Homeland Response Forces to accomplish their mission. The Comptroller General should provide a briefing on preliminary results of the assessment to the House Committee on Armed Services by March 1, 2016.

The assessment should address the following:

- (1) The current state of readiness of each Homeland Response Force with respect to personnel, training, and equipment on hand, and their capability to respond to CBRNE events.
- (2) The extent to which the Department of Defense has integrated the Homeland Response Forces operationally with other Federal and State-level response forces, including the National Guard's Civil Support Teams and CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Packages, and the Defense CBRNE Force.
- (3) Any related matters the Comptroller General finds appropriate. The committee further directs the Comptroller General to provide the Comptroller General's final results to the House Committee on Armed Services at a subsequent date and format to be agreed upon at the time of briefing.

Cyber Support to Civil Authorities:

The committee recognizes that the danger of disruptive and destructive cyber attacks is growing and that the U.S. military and civilian cyber infrastructure is being targeted by malicious government, criminal, and individual actors who try to avoid attribution. Although the Department of Defense generally does not resource support to civil authorities in response to a domestic cyber incident, the Department possesses an array of capabilities that may be requested when civilian response capabilities are overwhelmed or exhausted, or in instances where the Department offers unique capabilities not likely to be found elsewhere. For instance, the nexus with the authorities and responsibilities of the National Guard provides a valuable link between military capabilities and civilian State, local, tribal and Federal needs.

In 2012, the Government Accountability Office highlighted gaps in the Department of Defense's plans and guidance for assisting civil authorities in the event of a domestic cyber incident. The committee notes that the Department of Defense has worked in coordination with the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice to agree upon shared roles and responsibilities for Federal cyber security. The committee also notes that among the challenges the Department of Defense continues to face are determining the scope of the potential cyber support it may be requested to provide, and the appropriate mixture and involvement of Active and Reserve Component military cyber forces to meet anticipated defense cyber civil support needs. In testimony before the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities on March 4, 2015, the Commanding General of U.S. Army Cyber Command stated that "While title 10 authorities are clear, title 32 and State active duty require the application of varied State constitutional, legislative, and executive authorities and coordination with state Agencies and officials. While every State is different, there is merit in developing a common approach for authorities and capabilities to facilitate rapid and effective response in cyberspace."

Therefore, the committee directs the Comptroller General of the United States to assess the Department of Defense's plans and actions for providing support to civil authorities in the event of a domestic cyber incident, and to provide a report on the findings to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Comptroller General should provide a briefing on preliminary results to the House Committee on Armed Services by March 1, 2016, with the report to follow on a date agreed to at the time of briefing.

The assessment should address the following:

- (1) To what extent has the Department of Defense planned and identified its critical capabilities for responding to domestic cyber civil support incidents, including the use of Active and Reserve Component cyber capabilities and personnel for civil support?
- (2) To what extent has the Department of Defense trained and exercised for domestic cyber civil support incidents and coordinated with the Department of Homeland Security and other relevant Federal agencies?
- (3) To what extent has the Department of Defense or the Department of Homeland security developed a common approach for title 32 and State Active Duty forces that balances the differences in State approaches, authorities, and responsibilities?

C-130 modernization plan

The budget request contained \$8.5 million for procurement of C-130 modifications but included no funds for the T-56 3.5 engine modification or for the C-130 eight-bladed propeller upgrade. The T-56 3.5 engine modification lowers fuel consumption, improves performance, and improves engine life, and the eight-bladed propeller upgrade improves the thrust of the C-130's engine. In the committee report (H. Rept. 113-446) accompanying the Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, the committee expressed a concern that the Department of the Air Force has not been taking actions to ensure that the C-130H aircraft fleet is

being upgraded with modifications that address obsolescence, diminishing manufacturing sources, and increased operations and sustainment costs. The committee notes that for fiscal year 2016, the C-130H modernization program includes a center wing box replacement program and a program to address certain airspace compliance concerns. The committee supports this modernization program and encourages the Air Force to address cockpit modifications required to mitigate obsolescence and diminishing manufacturing sources. The committee believes that a comprehensive program should be developed to ensure that the C-130H has a service life through 2040 as currently planned.

The committee notes that the report of the 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review states that the Department of the Air Force will maintain 300 combat-coded C-130H and C-130J aircraft in the tactical airlift fleet inventory to support requirements and the objectives of the 2012 Defense Strategic Guidance. The committee further notes that the Department plans to divest C-130 aircraft in the Future Years Defense Program so that the tactical airlift fleet is reduced to 308, and the committee believes that that the Department of the Air Force inventory of C-130 aircraft should not be less than 308 aircraft. To provide for improved C-130H propulsion performance, reliability, and efficiency, the committee recommends \$71.7 million for C-130 modifications, an increase of \$33.2 million for the T-56 3.5 engine modification and an increase of \$30.0 million for the C-130 eight-bladed propeller upgrade.

C-130H Modernization

The committee is encouraged that the Chief of Staff of the Air Force has proposed a plan that finally addresses the committee's longstanding concern for the modernization of C-130H aircraft that reside primarily in the National Guard and Reserve components of the Department of the Air Force.

The Department of the Air Force has briefed the committee on multiple occasions on a new plan, which is being referred to as the Avionics and Modernization Program (AMP) Increments 1 and 2 that appears to address many of the committee's concerns. However, the committee remains concerned that the plan's timeline for implementation may still leave some C-130H aircraft non-compliant with future airspace requirements and still susceptible to increased diminishing manufacturing sources (DMS) and obsolescence issues. Specifically, the proposed timeline proposes to complete certain Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) compliance concerns by 2022, two years after FAA direction, requiring noncompliant aircraft to seek waivers or limit flight operations. Additionally, the AMP increment 2 only supports 8 aircraft modernizations per year which also does not appear to support a fleet viability requirement.

The committee supports an acceleration of the modernization effort both in terms of meeting FAA compliance by the 2020 deadline and acceleration of the increment 2 modernization plan. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to submit a report on the implementation of C-130H AMP Increments 1 and 2 to the congressional defense committees by March 1, 2016. At a minimum, this report should address:

- (1) The timeline for implementation of both AMP Increments 1 and 2;
- (2) An assessment to accelerate AMP Increment 1 to ensure all C-130H aircraft are compliant with all airspace requirements by 2020 to include the possibility of using existing contracting offices such as the Rapid Acquisition Office to accelerate these upgrades;
- (3) An assessment to accelerate the build rate for AMP Increment 2 in order to address future DMS and obsolescence issues; and (4) Any plans for recapitalization of Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve C-130 aircraft.

The committee understands that the Department of the Air Force will require additional resources to begin implementing this new plan and therefore recommends \$10.0 million for C-130 AMP, an increase of \$10.0 million.

Optimizing National Guard Training

The committee is concerned about the burden of temporary duty (TDY) and travel-dependent training regimes on some National Guard service members, including those Guard members requiring specialized certifications. The committee notes that many National Guard members have demanding civilian employment in addition to military service. The committee believes that the National Guard should optimize training regimes to minimize the amount of TDY and travel required to retain certifications and currency.

Increased use of virtual and constructive training, including simulation, may help alleviate some of the burden on Guard members by reducing time away from families and civilian employment. In order for the committee to better understand this issue, not later than September 30, 2015, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau shall provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services on options for better optimizing National Guard training regimes.

Army UH-60A to UH-60L Conversions for the National Guard

The budget request contained \$46.5 million in Aircraft Procurement, Army and \$227.9 million in Operation and Maintenance, Army for 40 UH-60A to UH-60L conversions.

The committee notes that based on the Army's current budget projections that Army National Guard units will not be able to replace their aging UH-60A Blackhawk aircraft until the end of fiscal year 2023. The committee further notes that this timeline depends on three separate Army programs: production of new UH-60M helicopters; the UH-60V upgrade program; and the UH-60A to UH-60L conversion program. The committee supports acceleration of all three programs in order to accelerate the timeline for replacement of UH-60A helicopters in the Army National Guard. Elsewhere in this Act, the committee includes legislation that would further explore acceleration options. However, the committee also supports action in fiscal year 2016 to generate additional upgraded UH-60 helicopters. The committee understands that the maximum number of UH-60A to UH-60L conversions in fiscal year 2016 is 48 helicopters.

The committee recommends \$55.4 million, an increase of \$8.8 million, in Aircraft Procurement, Army and \$314.6 million, an increase of \$86.7 million, in Operation and Maintenance, Army for 48 UH-60A to UH-60L conversions.

Bradley Fighting Vehicles

The committee is aware that the US Army is working to standardize its fleet of Bradley Fighting Vehicles to two digital configurations; the M2A3 and the M2A2 ODS-SA. The committee understands that the majority of Active Duty and National Guard units are equipped with the most advanced versions of these vehicles that include digitized fire control and communications systems. The committee is aware that two units in particular, the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and the Nevada National Guard, as well as several other active duty Brigade Engineer Battalions are equipped with the least modernized M2A2-ODS variant.

The committee acknowledges that the Bradley Family of Vehicles, to include the M2A2 ODS, M2A2 ODS-SA, and M2A3, share the same materiel engineering and construction with no differences in protection or survivability and that all three variants are deployable for combat. The committee is concerned that soldiers in the units M2A2 ODS versions lack the technical proficiency necessary to operate the advanced Bradley vehicles utilized in combat operations. The committee is concerned that this could degrade combat effectiveness and pose additional risk to units who deploy with the older Bradley variant.

The committee understands that the Army provides new equipment training for units scheduled to fall-in on equipment with unfamiliar capabilities upon deployment to combat theaters of operation. The committee also understands that the Army maintains a program of record for remanufacturing M2A2-ODS Bradley's that ceased production in 2014 and notes that the budget request did not include funding to modernize these remaining vehicles. As such, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army to brief the House Committee on Armed Services by February 15, 2016 on what resources would be required to maintain the readiness and technical proficiency of these units as well as current and long terms plans for modernizing the remaining vehicles.

M1 Abrams Tank Fleet Configuration

The committee notes that the M1A2 System Enhancement Program (SEP) v2 Abrams tank is the Army's premier ground combat system and has demonstrated its value on the battlefields of Iraq. Its built-in test system ensures that diagnosis and repair are fast and efficient, improving combat availability and saving operational costs. Improved digital displays provide tank commanders and crews with a better understanding of their tank's operational status and their situation on the battlefield.

However, despite the capabilities of the M1A2 SEP v2, the committee is aware that the Army maintains two configurations of Abrams tanks, and believes that this dual configuration is inefficient and increasingly expensive. The committee further notes that all Armor Brigade Combat Teams (ABCT) in the active component are equipped with M1A2 SEP v2 tanks, but that only two out of seven ABCTs in the National Guard are equipped with new M1A2 SEP v2 tanks. The other five ABCTs in the National Guard, and the three separate Combined Arms Battalions, are equipped with less-capable M1A1 Situational Awareness (SA) tanks. The committee is also aware that Army schools currently provide training solely on M1A2 SEP v2s, meaning that Army National Guard soldiers attending an Army armor school are trained on M1A2 SEP v2 tanks, which is not the vehicle they will operate in their units. Finally, the committee also notes that the Army intends to begin fielding a new version of the M1 Abrams tank, the M1A2 SEP v3, in 2018. The committee understands that this tank will be an incremental improvement from the M1A2 SEP v2 and retain significant commonality.

The committee believes that the Army should take advantage of upcoming changes to its ABCT force structure to achieve a pure fleet of M1A2 SEP v2 tanks across both the active duty Army and Army National Guard. The committee believes that maintaining only one type of tank in the Army will reduce support and training costs, allow better integration the Army National Guard, and provide a more capable overall tank fleet for the Army. The committee directs the Secretary of the Army to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by January 30, 2016, on the potential force structure changes and production programs necessary to achieve a pure fleet of M1 Abrams tanks across the Army.

A-10 aircraft

The committee notes that the Department of the Air Force plans to retire 164 A-10 aircraft in fiscal year 2016. For fiscal year 2015, the Department of the Air Force proposed the retirement of 100 A-10 aircraft and in H.R. 4435, the Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, as reported by the House Committee on Armed Services, the committee included a provision that would prohibit the use of funds authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense to be obligated or expended to retire A-10 aircraft. The committee notes that since last year, A-10 aircraft have been deployed for combat in Operation Inherent Resolve and to Europe as part of theater security packages. The committee continues to believe that the capabilities provided by the A-10 including persistent, effective, and precise close air support; interdiction; airborne forward air control; combat search and rescue; and strike control and reconnaissance, are critical to meet national security requirements. The committee further notes

that with the proposed retirement of the 164 A-10 aircraft in fiscal year 2016, the Department expects to be 181 fighter aircraft short of its 2,000-aircraft fighter requirement, and the committee believes that retiring 164 A-10 aircraft in fiscal year 2016 presents an unacceptable capacity risk.

Air National Guard Wildfire Assistance

The committee notes that the U.S. Global Change Research Program has determined that the frequency of large wildfires and the length of the fire season have increased substantially in recent decades. The committee acknowledges that the U.S. Geological Survey Federal Fire Occurrence Database indicates that the occurrences of catastrophic wildfires in the United States are more prevalent in the western half of the country. Air National Guard units flying C-130 aircraft equipped with Modular Airborne Firefighting System (MAFFS) have been an integral part of wildfire suppression, saving not only property but lives. The committee acknowledges that as catastrophic wildfires continue to grow in severity, it is important to provide the assistance of our Air National Guard. The committee believes that MAFFS should be located in positions that maximize the effectiveness of MAFFS units consistent with the highest probability of risk for the United States.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to prepare a brief to the House Committee on Armed Services by September 1, 2015 that assess the locations of C-130 MAFFS units. Such a briefing should provide a listing of the current United States Air Force units, their utilization rates, and a future force allocation determination that most efficiently utilizes the MAFFS units. This briefing shall specifically assess opportunities to expand coverage of MAFFS units in the western United States.

Air Refueling Recapitalization Strategy

The committee notes that the Department of Defense continues to develop a long-range plan to replace the KC-10 Extender and KC-135 Stratotanker fleets with the KC-46A Pegasus, as well as the KC-Y and KC-Z programs. The committee strongly reiterates the importance of maintaining our nation's robust air-refueling capability in a current fiscal environment that has required our forces to be more agile and rapidly deployable. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to brief the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives by September 30, 2015 on the Air Force's long-range air refueling recapitalization plans, including the Air Force's strategy to meet air refueling demands specific to the Asia-Pacific area of responsibility.

F-16 block 40/50 mission training center

The budget request did not contain any funds for other aircraft support equipment and facilities, or for the procurement of an F-16 block 40/50 mission training center for the Air National Guard. An F-16 block 40/50 mission training center (MTC) is a distributed mission operations-capable flight simulator for F-16 block 40 and 50 weapons systems. Each MTC includes high-fidelity simulator cockpits, instructor operator stations, a threat server, and briefing and debriefing capability. Each MTC is also capable of linking to geographically distributed high-fidelity combat and combat support training devices including command and control and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance systems. This capability allows the warfighters at home station to exercise and train at the operational and strategic levels of war, as well as conduct networked unit-level training. The committee notes that the F-16 block 40/50 MTC allows F-16 block 40 and block 50 pilots to train in scenarios that are either impossible or too expensive to conduct in home-station flying training, and believes that the MTC significantly improves F-16 pilot skill and readiness to perform actual combat missions with increased effectiveness. The committee understands that F-16 block 40/50 MTCs are currently planned for Hill Air Force Base (AFB), Shaw AFB, and Holloman AFB in the continental United States. The committee further understands that other F-16 block 40 or 50 pilots located in the continental United States would need to travel to one of the three MTC locations, and believes an additional MTC would save travel costs and make the F-16 block 40/50 MTC more available to Active Duty, Reserve, and Air National Guard F-16 block 40 and 50 pilots, resulting in enhanced readiness.

Consequently, the committee recommends \$24.7 million for other aircraft support equipment and facilities, an increase of \$24.7 million, for procurement of an additional MTC for the Air National Guard.

Joint surveillance and target attack system sustainment report

The E-8C aircraft was developed for ground surveillance, targeting, and battle management. Air battle managers onboard the E-8C joint surveillance target attack radar system (JSTARS) aircraft use its wide-area ground surveillance radar to build situation awareness and identify targets which are passed to strike assets or cross-cued with other intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance platforms. The committee notes that the Department of the Air Force plans a JSTARS recapitalization program which would replace the aging E-8C aircraft with a modern, more efficient, and capable aircraft and mission systems, with an initial operational capability of 2023 and a full operational capability in subsequent years. Until the JSTARS replacement aircraft attains full operational capability, the committee believes that the current E-8C JSTARS aircraft will require a modest amount of sustainment funding, especially to address the issue of diminishing manufacturing sources.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to submit a report to the congressional defense committees by February 15, 2016, which describes all actions required to avoid degradation to the performance of the E-8C radar and fleet, each upgrade required to meet minimum warfighter requirements for combat operations and to pace evolving threats during this period, and the Secretary's plan, schedule and budgets to accomplish this objective between fiscal years 2016 and the time that the JSTARS replacement aircraft achieves full operational capability.

KC-46A quarterly report

The committee supports the current acquisition strategy associated with the KC-46A aircraft. Therefore, the committee directs the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics to discontinue the quarterly reporting associated with the KC-46A aircraft required in the committee report (H.Rept. 112-78) accompanying the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012.

F-16 active electronically scanned array radar upgrade

The budget request contained \$148.3 million in PE 27133F for F-16 squadrons, but contained no funding to conduct integration and testing for an F-16 active electronically scanned array (AESA) radar upgrade.

The committee notes that, despite the termination of the combat avionics programmed extension suite (CAPES), the Department of the Air Force is considering a new effort to upgrade F-16 radars from the current APG-68 system to a modern AESA radar system. Further, the committee understands that this potential radar upgrade program is based upon a developing joint operational urgent need (JOUN) that specifically requires an AESA radar upgrade to the F-16 aircraft that perform the aerospace alert control mission. The committee supports taking all appropriate steps to meet this JOUN as soon as possible.

The committee expects the Department of the Air Force to minimize program concurrency between development, testing, and production for any such F-16 AESA radar upgrade. Specifically, the committee expects the Department to proceed in a manner that ensures proper integration and testing of radar upgrades so that the AESA upgrades meet requirements. Accordingly, the committee recommends \$198.3 million, an increase of \$50.0 million, in PE 27133F to conduct integration and testing for an F-16 AESA radar upgrade, and encourages the Department of the Air Force to budget for development and procurement of this upgrade in the Future Years Defense Program.

National Guard and Reserve Component Equipment Account

The budget request for Overseas Contingency Operations contained no funding for National Guard and Reserve Component equipment account. Elsewhere in this Act, the committee notes that the base budget request contained \$3.1 billion for procurement of National Guard and Reserve Component equipment. Given the uncertainty of the current and projected fiscal environment, the availability of equipment needed to sustain and modernize the National Guard and Reserve Components as an operational reserve and for their domestic support missions remains a concern. The committee recognizes the National Guard and Reserve Components continue to report significant equipment shortages in modernized equipment. For example, the committee notes there are significant modernization and capability challenges associated with the current Air National Guard aircraft charged with the Aerospace Control Alert mission.

The committee believes additional funds would help eliminate identified shortfalls in the areas of critical dual-use equipment. The committee expects these funds to be used for the purposes of, but not limited to, the procurement of aircraft, avionics and radar upgrades for legacy strike fighter aircraft, wheeled and tracked combat vehicles, tactical wheeled vehicles, ammunition, small arms, tactical radios to include single channel ground and airborne radio systems, non-system training devices, logistics automation systems, sense and avoid system upgrades for unmanned aerial systems, civil support communication systems, semipermanent humidity controlled aircraft shelters, chemical/biological protective shelters, internal and external fuel tanks for rotorcraft, F-16 center display units, mobile ad hoc network emergency communications equipment, and other critical dual-use, unfunded procurement items for the National Guard and Reserve Components.

The committee recommends additional funding for a National Guard and Reserve Component equipment account within the Overseas Contingency Operations budget request. The committee also recommends \$3.1 billion, the full amount of the base budget request, for National Guard and Reserve equipment.