



National Guard Bureau  
Office of Legislative Liaison



# FY18 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)

*Summary of H.R. 2810*

*The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018*

*As of 16 November 2017*



## ***Status of FY18 NDAA Bills***

|        | Passed in<br>Committee | Passed in<br>Chamber      | Agreement                | Final Passage            | Signed into<br>Law |
|--------|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| House  | 28 June 2017<br>☑      | 14 July 2017<br>☑         | 09 November<br>2017<br>☑ | 14 November<br>2017<br>☑ |                    |
| Senate | 28 June 2017<br>☑      | 18 September<br>2017<br>☑ |                          | 16 November<br>2017<br>☑ |                    |

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## Executive Summary

This is a short summary of the Fiscal Year 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Bill text and conference report language can be found on NGB-LL's website: [www.nationalguard.mil/ll](http://www.nationalguard.mil/ll).

To obtain a complete understanding of any particular provision, users are encouraged to review the actual legislative language. Beyond the legislative provisions, there are a number of committee reports relevant to the National Guard. Committee reports are generally complied with as though they were legislative language. Readers are encouraged to review the report language section (starting on page 12) for situational awareness. A new section has been added to the summary to reflect legislative provisions in the House and Senate versions which were ultimately not adopted in the conference NDAA.

### Status:

On Thursday, 09 November, the House and Senate conferees released a compromise Fiscal Year 2018 National Defense Authorization Bill. It authorizes \$692.1 billion in discretionary spending (including \$65.8 billion for Overseas Contingency Operations) in fiscal 2018, about \$26 billion more than the President's Budget Request. Please note this is an authorization and not an appropriation.

### National Guard Highlights:

- Military technician conversion percentage of 12.6%. (Sec. 413)
- Authorizes ARNG end strength of 343,500 and ANG end strength of 106,600. (Sec. 411)
- Requires the CNGB, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, to submit an annual report on personnel, training, and equipment needs of the non-federalized National Guard. (Sec. 333)
- Provides for pre and post-mobilization TRICARE benefits for 12304b. (Sec. 511)
- Limits the number of members of the ARNG and ANG on full-time support at NGB to 6% of the authorized full-time end strength. (Sec. 416)
- Authorizes a pilot program on the use of retired senior enlisted members of the ARNG as ARNG recruiters. (Sec. 514)
- Requires a review and report on authorities for the employment, use, and status of NG and Reserve technicians. (Sec. 574)
- Requires a review and report on the effects of personnel requirements and limitations on the availability of members of the NG for the performance of funeral honors duty for veterans. (Sec. 573)
- Requires Comptroller General of the U.S. to assess and report on the Office of Complex Investigations with NGB. (Sec. 577)
- Directs an evaluation of the National Guard Counterdrug Program to assess its funding and determine how it aligns with DOD counter-narcotics goals, state-level plans, and program objectives. (Senate Directive Report Language )
- Requires the Army to develop a comprehensive modernization strategy explicitly addressing the Total Army's vision, end-state, key objectives, and warfighting challenges. (Sec. 1061)
- Requires the Secretary of Defense to submit a report describing the manner in which the Secretary will allocate funds to be used by the Air Force and National Guard to mitigate identified sources of PFOS. (Conference Directive Report Language)

- Increases the threshold for use of operation and maintenance amounts to carry out an unspecified minor military construction project from \$1.0 million to \$2.0 million. (Sec. 2802)

## National Guard Accounts Overview

**FUNDING AUTHORIZATIONS DO NOT EQUAL FINAL FUNDING. FINAL FUNDING LEVELS WILL BE DECIDED BY APPROPRIATIONS BILLS**



### Army National Guard - Authorization of Funding (All Dollars in Thousands)

| Army National Guard | FY18 PB Request | HASC Mark   | Delta from PB | SASC Mark   | Delta from PB | Conference Report | FY18 Delta from PB |
|---------------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| O&M                 | \$7,307,170     | \$7,379,580 | +\$72,410     | \$7,490,093 | +\$182,923    | \$7,491,553       | +\$184,383         |
| OCO for Base O&M    | -               | \$173,900   | +\$173,900    | -           | -             | -                 | -                  |
| OCO O&M             | \$108,111       | \$108,111   | -             | \$108,111   | -             | \$108,111         | -                  |
| MILCON              | \$210,652       | \$266,652   | +\$56,000     | \$294,152   | +\$83,500     | \$294,152         | +\$83,500          |

### Army National Guard End Strength

| Army National Guard         | FY18 PB Request | HASC Mark | Delta from PB | SASC Mark | Delta from PB | Conference Report | FY18 Delta from PB |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| End Strength                | 343,000         | 347,000   | +4,000        | 343,500   | +500          | 343,500           | +500               |
| AGR                         | 30,155          | 30,155    | -             | 30,155    | -             | 30,155            | -                  |
| Dual Status Technicians     | 25,507          | 25,507    | -             | 22,294    | -3,213        | 22,294            | -3,213             |
| Non-Dual Status Technicians | 1,600           | 1,600     | -             | 0         | -1,600        | 0                 | -1,600             |
| ADOS                        | 17,000          | 17,000    | -             | 17,000    | -             | 17,000            | -                  |



### Air National Guard - Authorization of Funding (All Dollars in Thousands)

| Air National Guard | FY18 PB Request | HASC Mark   | Delta from PB | SASC Mark   | Delta from PB | Conference Report | FY18 Delta from PB |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| O&M                | \$6,939,968     | \$7,104,268 | +\$164,300    | \$7,143,668 | +\$203,700    | \$7,050,768       | +\$110,800         |
| OCO for Base O&M   | -               | \$47,600    | +\$47,600     | -           | -             | -                 | -                  |
| OCO O&M            | \$15,400        | \$15,400    | -             | \$15,400    | -             | \$15,400          | -                  |
| MILCON             | \$161,491       | \$203,391   | +\$41,900     | \$187,491   | +\$26,000     | \$195,491         | +\$34,000          |

### Air National Guard End Strength

| Air National Guard          | FY18 PB Request | HASC Mark | Delta from PB | SASC Mark | Delta from PB | Conference Report | FY18 Delta from PB |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| End Strength                | 106,600         | 106,600   | -             | 106,600   | -             | 106,600           | -                  |
| AGR                         | 16,260          | 16,260    | -             | 16,260    | -             | 16,260            | -                  |
| Dual Status Technicians     | 21,893          | 21,893    | -             | 19,135    | -2,758        | 19,135            | -2,758             |
| Non-Dual Status Technicians | 350             | 350       | -             | 0         | -350          | 0                 | -350               |
| ADOS                        | 16,000          | 16,000    | -             | 16,000    | -             | 16,000            | -                  |

## **PROCUREMENT**

### **Sec. 131. Inventory requirement for Air Force fighter aircraft**

This section would amend section 8062 of title 10, United States Code, by adding a new subsection requiring the Secretary of the Air Force to maintain a minimum total active inventory of 1,970 fighter aircraft, within which the Secretary would also have to maintain a minimum of 1,145 fighter aircraft as primary mission aircraft inventory (combat coded). The section would also provide additional limitations on fighter retirements by requiring the Secretary of the Air Force to certify to the congressional defense committees that: (1) The retirement of such fighter aircraft will not increase the operational risk of meeting the National Defense Strategy; and (2) The retirement of such aircraft will not reduce the total fighter force structure below 1,970 fighter aircraft or primary mission aircraft inventory below 1,145 and would require a report setting forth the following: (a) The rationale for the retirement of existing fighter aircraft and an operational analysis of replacement fighter aircraft that demonstrates performance of the designated mission at an equal or greater level of effectiveness as the retiring aircraft; (b) An assessment of the implications for the Air Force, the Air National Guard, and the Air Force Reserve of the force mix ratio of fighter aircraft; and (c) Such other matters relating to the retirement of fighter aircraft as the Secretary considers appropriate.

Lastly, the section would also require a notification at least 90 days prior to the date on which a fighter aircraft is retired that includes the following: (1) A list of each fighter aircraft proposed for retirement, including for each such aircraft: (a) The mission design series type; (b) The variant; and (c) The assigned unit and military installation where such aircraft is based, and how such unit and installation is affected. (2) For each military installation and unit affected by the proposed retirement, changes, if any, to the designed operational capability (DOC) statement of the unit as a result of a proposed retirement. (3) Any anticipated changes in manpower authorizations as a result of a proposed retirement listed under (2) above.

### **Sec. 132. Prohibition on availability of funds for retirement of E-8 JSTARS aircraft**

This section states none of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2018 for the Air Force may be obligated or expended to retire, or prepare to retire, any E-8 Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System aircraft. The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not apply to individual E-8 Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System aircraft that the Secretary of the Air Force determines, on a case-by-case basis, to be non-operational because of mishaps, other damage, or being uneconomical to repair.

### **Sec. 133. Requirement for continuation of JSTARS aircraft recapitalization program**

This section provides if the budget request submitted to Congress for any fiscal year includes a request by the Secretary of the Air Force to cancel or modify the JSTARS aircraft recapitalization program, the Secretary of Defense shall submit, as part of such budget request, the report described in subsection (b). The report described in this subsection, is a report that includes the following: (1) The assumptions, rationale, and all analysis supporting the proposed cancellation or modification of the JSTARS aircraft recapitalization program. (2) An assessment of the implications of such cancellation or modification for meeting the mission requirements for air battle management and moving target indicator intelligence discipline of the Air Force, the Air National Guard, the Army, the Army National Guard, the Navy and Marine Corps, and the combatant commands. (3) A certification that the plan for the cancellation or modification of the recapitalization program would not result in an increased time during which there is a capability or capacity gap in providing battlefield management, command and control and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities to the combatant commanders. (4) Such other matters relating to the proposed cancellation or modification as the Secretary considers appropriate. The report under subsection (b) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex. In this section: (1) The term "budget request" means the budget materials submitted by the Secretary of Defense in support of the budget of the President for a fiscal year (submitted to Congress pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code). (2) The term "JSTARS aircraft recapitalization program" means the recapitalization program for the E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System aircraft as such program is proposed to be carried out in the budget request submitted to Congress for fiscal year 2018.

### **Sec. 134. Limitation on selection of single contractor for C-130H avionics modernization program increment 2**

This provision prohibits the Department of the Air Force from selecting a single contractor for the C-130H avionics modernization program increment 2 until the Secretary of the Air Force certifies to the congressional defense committees that every opportunity will be taken to make use of commercial-off-the-shelf technology

solutions and non-developmental items and that excessively restrictive military specification standards were not used as criteria to restrict or eliminate fair and open competition.

**Sec. 137. Cost-benefit analysis of upgrades to MQ-9 Reaper aircraft**

This section directs the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of the Air Force, shall conduct an analysis that compares the costs and benefits of the following: (1) Upgrading fielded MQ-9 Reaper aircraft to a Block 5 configuration. (2) Proceeding with the procurement of MQ-9B aircraft instead of upgrading fielded MQ-9 Reaper aircraft to a Block 5 configuration. Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report that includes the results of the cost-benefit analysis conducted under subsection (a). The report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

**Sec. 138. Plan for modernization of the radar for F-16 fighter aircraft of the National Guard**

This section directs the Secretary of the Air Force shall develop a plan to modernize the radars of F-16 fighter aircraft of the National Guard by replacing legacy mechanically-scanned radars for such aircraft with active electronically scanned array radars. Not later 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to the congressional defense committees the plan developed under subsection (a).

## **RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION**

**Sec. 236. Requirement for a plan to build a prototype for a new ground combat vehicle for the Army**

This section requires the Secretary of the Army to submit a report to the congressional defense committees detailing the Army's plan to build a prototype for a ground combat vehicle. The committee directs the Army to submit this report within 90 days of the enactment of this Act.

## **OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE**

**Sec. 333. Annual report on personnel, training, and equipment needs of non-federalized National Guard**

This section would amend Section 10504 of title 10, to add "Annual Report On Non-Federalized Service National Guard Personnel, Training, and Equipment Requirements". Not later than January 31 of each of calendar years 2018 through 2020, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, shall submit to the recipients described in paragraph (3) a report that identifies the personnel, training, and equipment required by the non-Federalized National Guard— (A) to support civilian authorities in connection with natural and man-made disasters during the covered period; and (B) to carry out prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery activities relating to such disasters during the covered period. In preparing each report, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau shall (A) consult with the chief executive of each State, the Council of Governors, and other appropriate civilian authorities; (B) collect and validate information from each State relating to the personnel, training, and equipment requirements described in paragraph (1); (C) set forth separately the personnel, training, and equipment requirements for each of the emergency support functions of the National Response Framework; and each of the Federal Emergency Management Agency regions; (D) assess core civilian capability gaps relating to natural and man-made disasters, as identified by States in submissions to the Department of Homeland Security; (E) take into account threat and hazard identifications and risk assessments of the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security, and the States; and "(F) assess the budgets of each State to support the personnel, training, and equipment requirements of the non-Federalized National Guard.

The annual report shall be submitted to the following officials: The congressional defense committees, the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; the Secretary of Defense; the Secretary of Homeland Security; the Council of Governors; the Secretary of the Army; the Secretary of the Air Force; the Commander of the United States Northern Command; the Commander of the United States Pacific Command; the Commander of the United States Cyber Command.

**Sec. 350. Civilian training for National Guard pilots and sensor operator aircrews of MQ-9 unmanned aerial vehicles**

This section authorizes the Secretary of the Air Force to enter into one or more contracts with appropriate civilian entities in order to provide flying or operating training for Air National Guard pilots and sensor operator aircrew members in the MQ-9 unmanned aerial vehicle if the Secretary of the Air Force determines that Air Force training units lack sufficient capacity to train such pilots or sensor operator aircrew members for initial qualification in the MQ-9 unmanned aerial vehicle; pilots or sensor operator aircrew members of Air National Guard units require continuation training in order to remain current and qualified in the MQ-9 unmanned aerial vehicle; non-combat continuation training in the MQ-9 unmanned aerial vehicle is necessary for such pilots or sensor operator aircrew members to achieve required levels of flying or operating proficiency; and such training for such pilots or sensor operator aircrew members is necessary in order to meet requirements for the Air National Guard to provide pilots and sensor operator aircrew members qualified in the MQ-9 unmanned aerial vehicle for operations on active duty and in State status.

**Sec. 351. Training for National Guard personnel on wildfire response**

This section provides the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of the Air Force may, in consultation with the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, provide support for training of appropriate personnel of the National Guard on wildfire response and prevention, with preference given to military installations with the highest wildfire suppression need.

**MILITARY PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATIONS**

**Sec. 411. End strengths for Selected Reserve**

See table on Page 2

**Sec. 412. End strengths for Reserves on active duty in support of the reserves**

See table on Page 2

**Sec. 413. End strengths for military technicians (dual status)**

This section would authorize military technicians (dual status) for the reserve components of the Army and Air Force for fiscal year 2018, at the following levels: Army National Guard: 22,294; Army Reserve: 6,492; Air National Guard: 19,135; and Air Force Reserve: 8,880. These authorizations reflect the conversion of 12.6 percent of the technician population, as requested in the fiscal year 2018 budget request, to civilian employees under section 3101 of title 5, United States Code, or section 1601 of title 10, United States Code as authorized elsewhere in this Act to reflect the requirements of section 1084 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328).

**Sec. 414. Fiscal year 2018 limitation on number of non-dual status technicians**

This section would set the limit on the number of non-dual status technicians who may be employed in the Department of Defense as of September 30, 2018, at zero to reflect the requirements of section 1084 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328) converting non-dual status technicians to civilian employees under section 3101 of title 5, United States Code, or section 1601 of title 10, United States Code, by no later than October 1, 2017.

**Sec. 415. Maximum number of reserve personnel authorized to be on active duty for operational support**

See table on Page 2

**Sec. 416. Number of members of the National Guard on full-time duty in support of the reserves within the National Guard Bureau**

This section would limit the number of personnel authorized to be on full-time duty in support of the reserves within the National Guard Bureau to not exceed the number equal to six percent of the number authorized by section 412 of this Act.

**Sec. 506. Clarification of effect of repeal of statutory specification of general or flag officer grade for various positions in the Armed Forces**

This section would amend section 502 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328) to clarify that the grade of an officer serving as of the date of the enactment of that Act in a position whose statutory grade is affected by an amendment made by section 502 may not be reduced after that date by reason of such amendment as long as the officer remains in continuous service in such position after that date.

**RESERVE MANAGEMENT PROVISIONS**

**Sec. 511. Equal treatment of orders to serve on active duty under section 12304a and 12304b of title 10, United States Code**

This section amends 1074(d)(2) of title 10, United States Code, by striking “in support of a contingency operation under” and inserting “under section 12304b of this title or”. Section 1145(a)(2)(B) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “in support of a contingency operation” and inserting “under section 12304b of this title or a provision of law referred to in section 101(a)(13)(B) of this title”.

**Sec. 512. Service credit for cyberspace experience or advanced education upon original appointment as a commissioned officer**

This section amends Section 12207 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize if the Secretary of a military department determines that the number of commissioned officers with cyberspace-related experience or advanced education in reserve active-status in an armed force under the jurisdiction of such Secretary is critically below the number needed, such Secretary may credit any person receiving an original appointment as a reserve commissioned officer with a period of constructive service for the following: (A) Special experience or training in a particular cyberspace-related field if such experience or training is directly related to the operational needs of the armed force concerned. (B) Any period of advanced education in cyberspace-related field beyond the baccalaureate degree level if such advanced education is directly related to the operational needs of the armed force concerned.

**Sec. 513. Consolidation of authorities to order members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces to perform duty**

This section requires the Secretary of Defense to submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives legislative proposals designed to implement alternative approaches to reducing the number of statutory authorities by which members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces may be ordered to perform duty to not more than eight statutory authorities grouped into four duty categories to which specific pay and benefits may be aligned.

**Sec. 514. Pilot program on use of retired senior enlisted members of the Army National Guard as Army National Guard recruiters**

This section authorizes the Secretary of the Army to carry out a pilot program for the Army National Guard under which retired senior enlisted members of the Army National Guard would serve as contract recruiters for the Army National Guard. The Secretary of the Army shall design any pilot program conducted under this section to determine the following: (1) The feasibility and effectiveness of hiring retired senior enlisted members of the Army National Guard who have retired within the previous two years to serve as recruiters. (2) The merits of hiring such retired senior enlisted members as contractors or as employees of the Department of Defense. (3) The best method of providing a competitive compensation package for such retired senior enlisted members. (4) The merits of requiring such retired senior enlisted members to wear a military uniform while performing recruiting duties under the pilot program. If a pilot program is conducted under this section, the Secretary of the Army shall use funds otherwise available for the National Guard Bureau to carry out the program. If a pilot program is conducted under this section, the Secretary of the Army shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report containing an evaluation of the success of the pilot program, including the determinations described in subsection (b). The report shall be submitted not later than January 1, 2019.

## **MEMBER EDUCATION, TRAINING, TRANSITION, AND RESILIENCE**

### **Sec. 544. Two-year extension of suicide prevention and resilience program for the National Guard and Reserves**

This section would amend section 10219(g) of title 10, United States Code, to extend the authority for suicide prevention and resilience programs for the National Guard and Reserves until October 1, 2020.

## **MILITARY PERSONNEL POLICY**

### **Sec. 572. Review and reports on policies for regular and reserve officer career management**

This section requires the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretaries of the military departments, to conduct a review of the policies of the Department of Defense for the career management of regular and reserve officers of the Armed Forces pursuant to the Defense Officer Personnel Management Act and the Reserve Officer Personnel Management Act. Not later than July 31, 2018, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report setting forth the results of the review conducted under subsection (a).

### **Sec. 573. Review and report on effects of personnel requirements and limitations on the availability of members of the National Guard for the performance of funeral honors duty for veterans**

This section directs the Secretary of Defense to undertake a review of the effects of the personnel requirements and limitations described in subsection (b) with respect to the members of the National Guard in order to determine whether or not such requirements unduly limit the ability of the Armed Forces to meet the demand for personnel to perform funeral honors in connection with funerals of veterans. Not later than six months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the review undertaken pursuant to subsection (a). The report shall include the following: (1) A description of the review. (2) Such recommendations as the Secretary considers appropriate in light of the review for legislative or administrative action to expand the number of members of the National Guard available for the performance of funeral honors functions at funerals of veterans.

### **Sec. 574. Review and report on authorities for the employment, use, and status of National Guard and Reserve technicians**

This section requires the Secretary of Defense to conduct a review of the following: (1) Authority for the employment, use, and status of National Guard technicians under section 709 of title 32, United States Code (commonly referred to as the National Guard Technicians Act of 1968). (2) Authorities for the employment, use, and status of National Guard and Reserve technicians under sections 10216 through 10218 of title 10, United States Code. (3) Any other authorities on the employment, use, and status of National Guard and Reserve technicians under law. In conducting the review under subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense shall consult with the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, the Chief of Army Reserve, the Chief of Air Force Reserve, and representatives of National Guard and Reserve technicians, including collective bargaining representatives of such technicians. Not later than April 1, 2018, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report containing (1) the results of the review conducted under subsection (a), including a discussion of the matters set forth in subsections (b) and (e); and (2) such recommendations for legislative or administrative action as the Secretary considers appropriate in light of the review in order to improve and enhance the employment, use, and status of National Guard and Reserve technicians.

### **Sec. 575. Assessment and report on expanding and contracting for childcare services of the Department of Defense**

This section directs the Secretary of Defense to conduct an assessment of the feasibility and advisability of the following: (1) Expanding the operating hours of childcare facilities of the Department of Defense in order to meet childcare services requirements for swing-shift, night-shift, and weekend workers. (2) Using contracts with private-sector childcare services providers to expand the availability of childcare services for members of the Armed Forces at locations outside military installations at costs similar to the current costs for childcare services through child development centers on military installations. (3) Contracting with private-sector childcare services providers to operate childcare facilities of the Department on military installations.

(4) Expanding childcare services as described in paragraphs (1) through (3) to members of the National Guard and Reserves in a manner that does not substantially raise costs of childcare services for the military departments or conflict with others who have a higher priority for space in childcare services programs, such as members of the Armed Forces on active duty. Not later than September 1, 2018, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report containing the results of the assessment conducted under subsection (a).

**Sec. 577. Comptroller General of the United States assessment and report on the Office of Complex Investigations within the National Guard Bureau**

This section directs the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an assessment on the purpose, structure, and effectiveness of the Office of Complex Investigations within the National Guard Bureau. The assessment conducted shall address the following: (1) The purpose of the Office of Complex Investigations and the criteria used to determine which cases will be investigated by the office. (2) The services provided by the Office of Complex Investigations. (3) The authority under which the Office of Complex Investigations may investigate violations of State law. (4) The structure of the Office of Complex Investigations, including the number of individuals assigned, both permanently and temporarily, to the office; the organizational structure of the office; and the annual budget of the office, the source of funding, and the extent to which States are required to reimburse the Department of Defense for activities conducted by the office. (5) The extent to which the investigations conducted by the Office of Complex Investigations could be conducted by another State or Federal entity. (6) The policies governing the Office of Complex Investigations, and the extent to which the office adheres to these policies. (7) The training provided to investigators and other employees of the Office of Complex Investigations. (8) Any other matters the Comptroller General considers relevant to the assessment. Not later than October 31, 2018, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report containing the results of the assessment conducted under subsection (a).

**COMPENSATION, PERSONNEL BENEFITS AND RETIREMENT**

**Sec. 601. Fiscal year 2018 increase in military basic pay**

This section authorizes a 2.4% increase in military basic pay.

**Sec. 611. One-year extension of certain bonus and special pay authorities for reserve forces.**

This section would extend for 1 year the authority to pay 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, travel expenses for certain inactive-duty training, and income replacement for reserve component members experiencing extended and frequent mobilization for Active-Duty service.

**Sec. 616. Report regarding the national pilot shortage**

This section directs the Comptroller General of the United States to, not later than April 30, 2018, submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report regarding the extent of the national pilot shortage and the impact that such shortage has on the ability of the Department of Defense to retain pilots.

**Sec. 617. Special aviation incentive pay and bonus authorities for enlisted members who pilot remotely piloted aircraft.**

This section would amend chapter 5 of title 37, United States Code, to create a new authority to pay aviation incentive pay and bonuses to enlisted member remotely piloted aircraft (RPA) pilots with statutory caps of \$1,000 per month for aviation incentive pay and \$35,000 per year for aviation bonus pay, which is equivalent to the current caps under section 334 of title 37, United States Code, for pilots who are officers. This authority will also include the same business case analysis requirement for setting bonuses that is required under section 334 of title 37, United States Code, for pilots who are officers. The committee intends this authority to be a companion to the efforts precipitated by this committee to begin the training pipeline for enlisted RPA pilots in the United States Air Force. This authority would also be available for enlisted pilots in

the other services, such as the Army, where enlisted pilots are already utilized in the unmanned aerial vehicle community.

**Sec. 623. Technical correction regarding election to participate in modernized retirement system for reserve component members experiencing a break in service**

This section amends Section 12739(f)(2)(B)(iii) of title 10, United States Code, by striking “on the date of the reentry” and inserting “within 30 days after the date of the reentry”.

**Sec. 701. Continued access to medical care at facilities of the uniformed services for certain members of the reserve components**

This section amends paragraph (2) of section 1076d(f) of title 10, United States Code, to define ‘TRICARE Reserve Select’ to mean (A) medical care at facilities of the uniformed services to which a dependent described in section 1076(a)(2) of this title is entitled; and ‘(B) health benefits under the TRICARE Select self-managed, preferred provider network option under section 1075 of this title made available to beneficiaries by reason of this section and subject to the cost-sharing requirements set forth in such section 1075. Section 1076e is amended in the subsection heading, by striking “Retired Reserve”; by striking “Retired Reserve” the last place it appears; and by striking paragraph (2) and defining the term to mean ‘TRICARE Retired Reserve’ (A) medical care at facilities of the uniformed services to which a dependent described in section 1076(a)(2) of this title is entitled; and ‘(B) health benefits under the TRICARE Select self-managed, preferred provider network option under section 1075 of this title made available to beneficiaries by reason of this section and subject to the cost-sharing requirements set forth in such section 1075.

**Sec. 705. Physical examinations for members of a reserve component who are separating from the Armed Forces**

This section amends section 1145 of title 10, United States Code, to require the service secretary to provide a physical examination to a reserve component member during the 2-year period before the date on which the member separates from the Armed Forces in support of a contingency operation for a period of more than 30 days, if the member would not otherwise receive such an examination and elects an examination. The provision would require the service secretary to provide the physical examination during the 90-day period before the member's separation date, to issue orders for the member to receive the examination, and to provide a record of the examination to the member. Under this provision, the member would not be entitled to health benefits solely by reason of receiving a physical examination.

**Sec. 707. Expansion of sexual trauma counseling and treatment for members of the reserve components**

This section amends Section 1720D(a)(2)(A) of title 38, United States Code, by striking “on active duty”; and by inserting before the period at the end the following: “that was suffered by the member while serving on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training”.

**Sec. 732. Feasibility study on conduct of pilot program on mental health readiness of part-time members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces**

This section directs the Secretary of Defense to conduct a feasibility study and cost estimate for a pilot program that uses predictive analytics and screening to identify mental health risk and provide early, targeted intervention for part-time members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces to improve readiness and mission success.

## **STUDIES AND REPORTS**

**Sec. 1061. Army modernization strategy**

This section directs the Secretary of the Army to develop a modernization strategy for the total Army. The strategy required shall include the following: (1) A comprehensive description of the future total Army, including key objectives, war fighting challenges, and risks, sufficient to establish requirements, set priorities, identify opportunity costs, and establish acquisition time lines for the total Army over a period beyond the period of the current future-years defense program under section 221 of title 10, United States Code. (2) Mechanisms for identifying programs of the Army that may be unnecessary, or do not perform according to expectations, in achieving the future total Army. (3) A comprehensive description of the manner in which the future total Army intends to fight and win as part of a joint force engaged in combat across all operational

domains. (4) A comprehensive description of the mechanisms required by the future total Army to maintain command, control, and communications and sustainment. (5) A description of the combat vehicle modernization priorities of the Army over the next 5 and 10 years; the extent to which such priorities can be supported at current funding levels within a relevant time period; the extent to which additional funds are required to support such priorities; how the Army is balancing and resourcing such priorities with efforts to rebuild and sustain readiness and increase force structure capacity over this same time period; and how the Army is balancing its near term modernization efforts with an accelerated long-term strategy for acquiring next generation combat vehicle capabilities. Additionally, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an assessment of the modernization strategy. Not later than May 1, 2018, the Comptroller General shall provide to the congressional defense committees a briefing on the preliminary assessment of the Comptroller General under paragraph (1). The Comptroller General shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the final assessment of the Comptroller General under such paragraph. In this section, the term “total Army” means the active components and the reserve components of the Army.

**Sec. 1083. Modification of requirement relating to conversation of certain military technician (dual status) positions to civilian positions**

This section amends Section 1053(a)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016, as amended by section 1084(a)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017, is further amended by striking “20 percent” and inserting “12.6 percent”.

**Sec. 1084. National Guard accessibility to Department of Defense issued unmanned aircraft**

This section directs the Secretary of Defense, not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, in coordination with the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, the Commander of United States Northern Command, and the Commander of United States Pacific Command, shall conduct an efficiency and effectiveness review of the governance structure, coordination processes, documentation, and timing and deadline requirements stipulated in Department of Defense Policy Memorandum 15-002. In conducting the review, the Secretary shall take into account information and data points provided by State governors and State adjutant generals in assessing the efficiency and effectiveness of accessing Department of Defense issued unmanned aircraft systems for State and National Guard operations.

**Sec. 1092. Collaboration between Federal Aviation Administration and Department of Defense on unmanned aircraft systems**

This section authorizes the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration and the Secretary of Defense may collaborate on sense-and-avoid capabilities for unmanned aircraft systems.

**Sec. 1638. Exercise on assessing cybersecurity support to election systems of States**

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to incorporate the cybersecurity of elections systems of the States as a component of the Cyber Guard Exercise.

**Sec. 1644. Cyber posture review**

This section would require the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, the Attorney General, the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, and the Secretary of State, to conduct a cyber posture review. The purpose of the review would be to clarify U.S. cyber deterrence policy and strategy for the near term by conducting a comprehensive review of the cyber posture of the United States for the next 5 to 10 years. A report on the results of the review would be due no later than March 1, 2018, in unclassified and classified forms as necessary.

**OTHER FUNDING PROVISIONS**

**Sec. 1403 Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense-wide**

This section would authorize the additional appropriations for the Drug Interdiction and Counter- Drug Activities, Defense-wide at the levels identified in section 4501 of division D of this Act.

**Sec. 1508. Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense-wide**

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

**Sec. 2601. Authorized Army National Guard construction and land acquisition projects.****Army National Guard**

| State            | Location                            | Amount       |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Delaware .....   | New Castle .....                    | \$36,000,000 |
| Idaho .....      | Mission Training Center Gowen ..... | \$9,000,000  |
|                  | Orchard Training Area .....         | \$22,000,000 |
| Iowa .....       | Camp Dodge .....                    | \$8,500,000  |
| Kansas .....     | Fort Leavenworth .....              | \$19,000,000 |
| Maine .....      | Presque Isle .....                  | \$17,500,000 |
| Maryland .....   | Sykesville .....                    | \$19,000,000 |
| Minnesota .....  | Arden Hills .....                   | \$39,000,000 |
| Missouri .....   | Springfield .....                   | \$32,000,000 |
| New Mexico ..... | Las Cruces .....                    | \$8,600,000  |
| Virginia .....   | Fort Belvoir .....                  | \$15,000,000 |
|                  | Fort Pickett .....                  | \$4,550,000  |
| Washington ..... | Tumwater .....                      | \$31,000,000 |

**Sec. 2604. Authorized Air National Guard construction and land acquisition projects.****Air National Guard**

| State              | Location                                       | Amount       |
|--------------------|--|--------------|
| California .....   | March Air Force Base .....                     | \$15,000,000 |
| Colorado .....     | Peterson Air Force Base .....                  | \$8,000,000  |
| Connecticut .....  | Bradley IAP .....                              | \$7,000,000  |
| Indiana .....      | Hulman Regional Airport .....                  | \$8,000,000  |
| Kentucky .....     | Louisville IAP .....                           | \$9,000,000  |
| Mississippi .....  | Jackson International Airport .....            | \$8,000,000  |
| Missouri .....     | Rosecrans Memorial Airport .....               | \$10,000,000 |
| New York .....     | Hancock Field .....                            | \$6,800,000  |
| Ohio .....         | Toledo Express Airport .....                   | \$15,000,000 |
| Oklahoma .....     | Tulsa International Airport .....              | \$8,000,000  |
| Oregon .....       | Klamath Falls IAP .....                        | \$18,500,000 |
| South Dakota ..... | Joe Foss Field .....                           | \$12,000,000 |
| Tennessee .....    | McGhee-Tyson Airport .....                     | \$25,000,000 |
| Wisconsin.....     | Dane County Regional Airport/ Truax Field..... | \$8,000,000  |

**Sec. 2702. Prohibition on conducting additional base realignment and closure (BRAC) round.**

This section would prohibit an additional Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) round.

**Sec. 2802. Modification of thresholds applicable to unspecified minor construction projects**

This section would amend Section 2805(a)(2) of title 10, United States Code by striking “\$3,000,000” and inserting “\$6,000,000”. Section 2805(c) of such title is amended by striking “\$1,000,000” and inserting “\$2,000,000”.

**Sec. 2878. Report on hurricane damage to Department of Defense assets**

This section requires the Secretary of Defense, not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to submit to the congressional defense committees a report on damage to Department of Defense assets and installations from hurricanes during 2017.

## CONFERENCE DIRECTIVE REPORT LANGUAGE

### **Environmental Restoration Activities at National Guard and Reserve Locations**

The conferees direct the Secretary of Defense to deliver recommendations to the conferees no later than 30 days after the enactment of this Act on how the Department could: (1) Reimburse state or municipal agencies that expended funds to investigate or provide alternative water supplies, due to the release of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, when release came from a Department of Defense facility; and (2) Authorize access to the Environmental Restoration Account, established in 10 U.S.C. 2703, to address the investigation and any required removal or remedial action for the release of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances when the release took place from an Air or Army National Guard facility operating under a title 32 authority.

### **Operation and Maintenance, Air National Guard, Facilities Sustainment, Restoration and Modernization**

The conferees direct that not later than December 31, 2017 the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth a description of the manner in which the Secretary will allocate funds which shall be used by the Air Force and the National Guard to take actions to mitigate identified sources of polyfluoroalkyl substances at sites as a result of surveys conducted by the Armed Forces so as to restore public confidence in potable water which may be affected in such sites.

### **Sexual assault prevention and response**

The conferees direct the Department of Defense to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives no later than March 1, 2018 on the status of the Department's implementation of the Government Accountability Office's recommendations in GAO-17-217 report, dated February 2017, titled "Sexual Assault: Better Resource Management Needed to Improve Prevention and Response in the Army National Guard and Army Reserve."

### **Briefing on a database of emergency response capabilities of the Department of Defense**

The conferees are aware the Department has worked with its Federal and State partners to identify and document defense capabilities that may be needed in domestic emergencies. However, the conferees believe it is imperative for the Department to have comprehensive visibility on the cyber talent and cyber capabilities available in both the Active and Reserve Components in order to further develop and resource such capability needs for domestic response and other mission areas. The conferees note the Department of the Army's talent management programs, including the Cyber Warrior Database (CWARD). CWARD is intended to capture relevant expertise, knowledge, skills, and abilities within the Army Cyber community in order to enable effective mission planning and human resource management. The conferees support this effort and encourage widespread adoption of common cyber talent and capability management tools among the service components. The conferees direct the Secretary of Defense to brief the congressional defense committees, not later than 60 days after enactment of this act, on the process used to track Department of Defense capabilities applicable to domestic emergency response. The briefing shall include information determining if and how those current processes can be expanded to include tracking cyber capabilities for the Active and Reserve Component, and if those processes can be dynamically updated and used to inform the development of operational plans and concepts of operations.

### **Authorization for National Guard and Reserve Unfunded Requirements for Military Construction**

The conference agreement includes authorization for sixteen projects from the National Guard and Reserve's unfunded requirements list: \$32.0 million for a Consolidated Mission Complex, Phase 2 at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia; \$32.0 million for an Aircraft Maintenance Hangar (Addition) at Springfield, Missouri; \$30.0 million for a Reserve Center at Lewis-McChord, Washington; \$26.0 million for a Reserve Center at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico; \$19.0 million for an Enlisted Barracks, Transient Training at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; \$15.0 million for a Readiness Center Add/Alt at Fort Belvoir, Virginia; \$9.0 million for an Enlisted Barracks Transient Training at MTC Gowen, Idaho; \$9.0 million for an Indoor Small Arms Range at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, Minnesota; \$8.5 million for a Vehicle Maintenance Instruction Facility at Camp Dodge, Iowa; \$8.0 million to Construct Small Arms Range at Hulman Regional Airport, Indiana; \$8.0 million to Construct Small Arms Range at Tulsa International Airport, Oklahoma; \$8.0 million to Construct Small Arms Range at Jackson International Airport, Mississippi; \$8.0 million to Construct Small

Arms Range at Dane County Regional Airport/Truax Field, Wisconsin; and \$3.1 million for a Munitions Training/Admin Facility at NAS JRB Fort Worth, Texas.

**National Guard and Reserve Equipment**

The conference committee authorizes \$250 million for the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account

## **SASC COMMITTEE REPORT LANGUAGE**

**Arctic Search and Rescue**

The committee is aware that growing international interest in the Arctic has led to increasing commercial and security activity in the High North. With this steady surge in demand, the committee remains concerned by the limited capabilities of the United States to conduct search and rescue operations throughout the Arctic region. The committee notes that the Department of Defense's Report to Congress on Strategy to Protect United States National Security Interests in the Arctic Region, a report required by this committee in Section 1068 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (P.L. 114-92), identified the need for additional personnel recovery capability in this region. Specifically, the report calls for "forward deployed/based assets in a sustainable location and/or rapidly deployable air drop response/sustainment packages suitable to remote land, cold water, or ice pack operating environments." The committee understands that the Alaska National Guard currently possesses two air-dropped, palletized Arctic Sustainment Packages (ASPs) to enable the survival of fifty individuals for three or more days in extreme Arctic conditions. The ASP is rapidly deployable over varied terrain, and allows personnel to survive and operate in the High North. In light of emerging commercial and security requirements in the region, the committee believes that additional ASPs are needed to meet personnel recovery requirements, and urges the Secretary of Defense to prioritize their resourcing.

**C-130H modernization**

The committee remains committed to the Air Force's Avionics Modernization Program (AMP), and urges the Air Force to pursue the most rapid upgrade possible of the 176 C-130H aircraft. The committee continues to support the current two-increment AMP upgrade strategy, but is concerned that extensive development needlessly delays completion of both AMP increments despite availability of commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) and non-developmental item (NDI) technologies, including glass cockpit and autopilot systems and components, that are available and in use on C-130 aircraft today. Achieving the best possible value/capability for the taxpayer and the Air Force is the goal. Therefore, the committee expects the Secretary of the Air Force to maximize efforts to procure COTS and NDI solutions and that minimize use of unnecessary military standard (MIL-STD) systems. This approach must adhere to the intent of Section 2377 of Title 10, United States Code, and comprehensively apply the tenets of DoD's Better Buying Power (BBP) 3.0 policy. COTS/NDI solutions are currently flying on both U.S. Government and civilian C-130 aircraft that are lighter, less expensive, and have proven reliability at or above that of the MIL-STD solutions. Such cost effective solutions should be embraced to the maximum extent possible and practical.

Therefore, the Secretary of the Air Force is directed to provide a briefing to the congressional defense committees within 180 days of enactment of this Act that details (1) how the intent of Section 2377 of Title 10, United States Code, and the prescribed processes of DoD BBP 3.0 have been vigorously applied to defining both the technical requirements and acquisition strategy for AMP Increments 1 & 2, including the Air Force's creation of incentives to offerors for accelerated and cost-capped implementation; (2) how the standards requirements applied to the C-130 cockpit modernization are not excessive given the operational mission profiles and considering other COTS technologies already operational these aircraft; and (3) how the proposed solution will reduce total ownership cost to the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve units that must then operate and maintain the aircraft.

**F-16 Block 40/50 Mission Training Centers**

The Secretary of the Air Force has directed the Air Force to accelerate procurement of additional F-16 Mission Training Centers (MTC) suites for Air National Guard use in order to provide continuity of training between live and virtual scenarios, develop and maintain required combat readiness without dependence on the availability of off-station resources, reduce flight operations tempo and flying hour cost required to gain equal training readiness, reduce travel cost, reduce personnel tempo impacts for pilots, and increase dwell

time for wings, allowing more deployment flexibility. Additional MTCs 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 40/50 pilots, resulting in enhanced readiness.

**Establishment of Office of Complex Investigations within the National Guard Bureau**

The committee directs the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, no later than April 1, 2018, a status report on the official establishment of the Office of Complex Investigations that lays out the manning documents and turn-over rates for such office.

**HMMWV Rollover Mitigation**

The committee is concerned by the number of High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) rollover accidents that have occurred in recent years, after the vehicles were up-armored to improve ballistic protection and resistance to mines and improvised explosive devices. The committee understands that commercial-off-the-shelf solutions are available to mitigate the problem of rollover accidents. The committee encourages the Army and Army National Guard to work expeditiously to mitigate the risk of HMMWV rollover accidents. In particular, HMMWV Modernization activities should be specifically directed to mitigate the risk of rollovers and loss of control accidents in the existing Army and National Guard fleet by supporting retrofit installation of antilock braking systems and electronic stability control kits. The committee requests that the Department of the Army provide a briefing on plans to mitigate rollover accidents within the HMMWV fleet.

**Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System (JSTARS)**

The E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System (JSTARS) aircraft has long provided significant joint air command and control in both land and maritime arenas. The committee is pleased that the budget request includes some funding to continue this program's essential warfighting function until the JSTARS Recapitalization Program reaches Full Operational Capability (FOC) in 2028. The committee expects that the Department of the Air Force will take no action to prematurely retire E-8C aircraft before the JSTARS Recap program reaches this milestone. The committee is greatly concerned that a lengthy JSTARS Recap acquisition program could result in a capabilities gap which will leave the combatant commanders without an acceptable level of ground moving target indicator and battle management command and control capability for several years. Accordingly, the committee encourages the Secretary of the Air Force to fund all necessary modifications, including, but not limited to, Prime Mission Equipment-Diminishing Manufacturing Sources (PME-DMS) on all 16 E-8C aircraft and to maintain all E-8C aircraft in a singular configuration and deployable state to continue world-wide missions, avoid degradation of mission performance, and meet Combatant Commander requirements for operations during the period.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than November 1, 2017, that describes, in detail, a strategy to sufficiently address manning, sustainment, modernization, and viability deficiencies that would resolve capability gaps, shortfalls, and deficiencies of the E-8C fleet of aircraft. The briefing should include a strategy that addresses right-sizing and balancing unit manning among the Total Force; maintaining proficient and current aircrews to meet operational requirements; resolving obsolescence and diminishing manufacturing sources of parts and supply; necessary mission system upgrades and operational enhancements across the E-8C fleet to keep the aircraft viable and relevant until the JSTARS Recapitalization aircraft is fielded; resolving maintenance deficiencies; standardizing existing aircraft capabilities in areas such as imagery servers and the Automated Information System; and the associated cost, budget, and timeline required to implement the strategy.

**Light Utility Helicopter Industrial Base**

The committee notes that the Army's Aviation Restructure Initiative repurposed UH-72A Lakota Light Utility Helicopters (LUH) to become the primary entry-level training helicopter at the United States Army Aviation Center of Excellence (USAACE) at Fort Rucker. The committee understands that the Army has a helicopter pilot shortage of about 700 pilots, which generates a need for additional LUHs to meet pilot training requirements.

In addition to USAACE, the Army National Guard also utilizes UH-72A helicopters for Security and Support missions. The committee understands that unmet requirements for UH-72A exist presently at USAACE, Combat Training Centers, and the Army Test and Evaluation Command. The committee understands that

the Army issued a Justification and Approval (J&A) for 16 Lakotas without providing for full and open competition in December 2015. The pre-award J&A was subsequently protested in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims (COFC). The committee further understands that the Army appealed the COFC's initial ruling in October 2016, but no exact timeline for a final ruling is known.

The committee further understands that the Fiscal Year 2017 Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 115–31) appropriated funding for the Army to procure 28 UH–72A helicopters “in support of ongoing mission requirements at the Army Aviation Center of Excellence at Fort Rucker, the Combat Training Centers, and the Army Test and Evaluation Center.” In testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee on May 25, 2017, the Acting Secretary of the Army, Robert M. Speer, stated that “the 2017 funding is held up in the same protest”. The committee understands the Secretary's statement to mean that the Army does not intend to obligate funding for the 28 Lakotas funded by Congress in P.L. 115– 31 in a timely manner.

The committee understands that there is dispute over the Army's interpretation of its obligations pursuant to P.L. 115–31. The committee notes that the language on Lakota procurement contained in P.L. 115–31 is clear, directive, and legally binding. The committee is concerned about the impact of continued contracting delays on the Army's pilot training capability and the UH–72A industrial base.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army to reexamine the Army's position on obligating funding for the 28 Lakota helicopters appropriated in P.L. 115–31. The committee urges the Secretary to avoid conflating issues which may be legally separate and distinct. No later than 30 days after the enactment of this Act, the committee requires the Secretary to provide to congressional defense committees a report which includes a legal analysis on its position regarding obligating funding for Lakotas as directed by Congress in P.L. 115–31. The report shall also include a plan for the Army to mitigate its pilot shortage.

#### **Primary aircraft assigned to Air National Guard rescue squadrons**

The committee finds that National Guard rescue squadrons in Alaska, California, and New York play a critical role in rescue response throughout the United States during times of disaster or crisis, a mission that prepares these units remarkably well for success in combat. The committee notes that certain rescue squadrons, in addition to civilian and deployment requirements conducted by all National Guard rescue squadrons, are tasked with alert requirements in support of active duty missions. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to report to the congressional defense committees no later than 180 days after the passage of this Act on the readiness of Air National Guard units to meet active duty alert mission requirements and whether such units have the appropriate number of primary aircraft assigned to fully execute all assigned missions.

#### **SUSV Replacement Rapid Acquisition Strategy**

The committee understands that extreme cold weather conditions and difficult terrains like deep snow, tundra, mud, swamps, and wetlands create mobility challenges for U.S. ground forces. In fact, the Chosin Reservoir Campaign during the Korean War realistically depicted the adverse effects that extreme cold weather operating conditions had on U.S. Forces.

The committee is aware that in 1983, the U.S. Army first began to field the M973 Small Unit Support Vehicle (SUSV)—a 14-person, tracked, semi-amphibious vehicle capable of navigating a wide range of otherwise impassable terrain that traditional wheeled and tracked vehicles cannot traverse. The SUSV travels with a footprint of just 1.8 pounds per square inch—less pressure than the human foot exerts—and is much better equipped to traverse difficult terrains like deep snow, tundra, mud, swamps, and wetlands. The committee is concerned that due to a limited availability of repair parts and no Army program to help support or maintain them, many of these 30-plus year old SUSVs are being cannibalized for parts to keep the few functional one remaining running and the entire fleet has just five years left on their projected life cycle before they will be classified obsolete. Currently there are approximately 200 SUSVs spread across the U.S. Army and the National Guard in states such as Alaska, Colorado, Minnesota, and Vermont, and other states, such as Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, and New Hampshire have an articulated requirement for the SUSV's unique capabilities.

The committee is also aware that on February 12, 2017, Headquarters, Department of the Army, G8, validated the requirement for a Joint All-Terrain/All-Weather Support Vehicle (JAASV) However, the committee is concerned that any program sourcing solution for the SUSV would not be sourced at this time

and that the requirement will compete for funding in Program objective Memorandum 2019–2023. The committee is also concerned that allied and near peer Competitor countries are developing extreme cold weather ground transportation capabilities that far exceed U.S. military capabilities, notably the recent advances in all-weather/cross-country mobility being demonstrated by new Russian specialty vehicles.

The committee believes that the U.S. Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, and National Guard forces currently need a tactical vehicle that will provide transportation for a squad-sized element, emergency medical evacuation, command and control capability, and general cargo transportation on- and off-road in a wide range of otherwise impassable terrain, to include ice and extreme cold weather conditions to support year-round training and missions. The committee believes that the newly identified requirement—the JAASV—will enhance joint operations and facilitate interoperability under the adverse conditions that demand all-terrain, all-weather cross-country mobility that traditional wheeled and tracked vehicles cannot traverse.

**Total force integration initiatives for rescue squadrons in the reserve component of the U.S. Armed Forces**

The committee is aware that the National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force—a report requested by this committee in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112–329)—recommended that “new equipment will arrive at Air Reserve Component units simultaneously with its arrival at Active Component units in the proportional share of each component . . . The Air Force should no longer recapitalize by cascading equipment from the Active Component to the Reserve Components.”

Further, the Commission members testified to this committee that “There is no more significant element to an integrated total force than a fully integrated fielding plan for all equipment, especially aircraft.”

The committee notes that the Air Force concurred with this recommendation without reservation and highlighted the KC–46 and F–35 Lightning II programs as examples of this commitment. While the committee is encouraged that the Air Force has prioritized the fielding of the HH–60G replacement programs, and reaffirms the need to field this critical capability to the total force as rapidly as possible, the committee remains concerned that the Air Force has not observed the principle of concurrent and proportional fielding for the fielding of the HH–60G replacement program.

The committee is aware that the Air Force plans to field the HH–60G Ops Loss Replacement helicopter to National Guard Rescue Squadrons until the HH–60W is fielded to all components in 2030. However, the committee believes the Air Force’s current fielding plan does not fulfill the letter or spirit of the Commission’s recommendation of concurrent and proportional fielding, and that the Air Force has not provided sufficient grounds to justify an exception to this fundamental component of total force integration.

The committee believes that the Air Force’s fielding plan should prioritize the integrated fielding of the HH–60G replacement program to units that are scheduled to deploy overseas in support of contingency operations, that stand alert in support of active-duty missions, and that maintain high levels of readiness to rapidly deploy in support of alert missions overseas.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to review its fielding plan of the HH–60G replacement programs, and urges the Air Force to provide recommendations on how it intends to fulfill its commitment to comply with the Commission’s recommendation.

**Air National Guard advertising reduction**

The budget request included \$6.9 billion in Operation & Maintenance, Air National Guard (OMANG), of which \$97.2 million was for SAG 042J Recruiting and Advertising. The committee understands that within the Recruiting and Advertising request was an increase of \$60.5 million to fund additional marketing and advertising efforts. The committee notes this request would nearly triple the Air National Guard’s advertising budget. The committee believes these funds can be better aligned for other readiness priorities. Accordingly, the committee recommends a decrease of \$45.0 million in OMANG to SAG 042J Recruiting and Advertising.

**Defense environmental international cooperation program**

The budget request included \$34.7 billion in Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide (OMDW) 030, of which \$960,000 was for the Defense Environmental International Cooperation (DEIC) program.

The committee notes that the Army National Guard and other military units are frequently called upon to respond to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HA/DR) crises around the world. The DEIC enables the Army National Guard to share best practices and lessons learned from its own HA/DR missions and promote the sustainment of mission capability among our allies, in order to develop and enhance their own self-sufficient HA/DR capabilities with a limited amount of funding. For example, given the ongoing readiness challenges of the United States Southern Command and its limited resources to conduct its HA/DR mission,

the Army National Guard has used the DEIC to provide training and capability development to countries within the region so that they can remove debris and otherwise respond in the event of an earthquake or hurricane. Accordingly, in order to continue the enhancement of the Department's readiness and HA/DR capabilities, including those of the Army National Guard, the committee recommends an increase of \$1.0 million in OMDW for the DEIC program.

**Encouraging the use of the Innovative Readiness Training program**

The committee is aware that readiness challenges continue to face the Armed Forces due to budgetary constraints. The committee continues to recognize the value of the Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program, which allows Military Services realistic, joint training opportunities for National Guard, Reserve, and Active-Duty members.

The committee values the IRT program for its low cost and high benefit to achieving measurable military readiness. The committee strongly encourages the Department of Defense to continue utilizing IRT programs to provide mission-essential training, prioritizing programs that directly support Active-Duty missions. Examples of IRT activities include, but are not limited to, constructing rural roads and airplane runways, small building and warehouse construction in remote areas, transportation of medical supplies, and military readiness training in the areas of engineering, health care and transportation for under-served communities.

The committee understands the IRT program offers complex and challenging training opportunities for domestic and international crises. The committee is also aware that states that utilize the IRT program include Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Carolina, North Dakota, Wyoming, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

The committee strongly encourages the Department of Defense to continue to fully utilize IRT programs that provide hands-on and mission-essential training and that are available to active, reserve, and National Guard forces.

**Military training for operations in densely populated urban terrain**

The committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit to the congressional defense committees a report no later than March 1, 2018 on plans and initiatives to enhance existing urban training concepts, capabilities, and facilities that could provide for new training opportunities that would more closely resemble large, dense, heavily populated urban environments. The report shall include specific plans and efforts to provide for a realistic environment for the training of large units with joint assets and recently fielded technologies to exercise new tactics, techniques, and procedures, including consideration of anticipated urban military operations in or near the littoral environment and any relevant cyber vulnerabilities.

The report shall also include consideration of multiple training facility options and the costs and benefits associated therewith, including non-traditional options, such as leased facilities and National Guard facilities or other facilities owned or operated by a state government. The committee notes that there has been sustained congressional interest in improving joint urban training strategies and capabilities for more than two decades and encourages the Department to draw upon the results of past studies on this matter. The report shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

**ROTC Cyber Institute**

There remains a nationwide shortage of 500,000 cyber professionals and correspondingly a universal need for an increase in cybersecurity education and training. The Army Cyber Branch created in 2015 and formed 41 total Cyber Mission Force teams, as well as 21 United States Army Reserve and Army National Guard Cyber Protection Teams. The first 33 teams began deploying once reaching minimum competency. There

remains an urgent need to commission lieutenants into cyber branch and there is significant competition for talent with the private sector. A program to establish ROTC Cyber Institutes for purposes of accelerating the development of foundational expertise in critical cyber operational skills for future military and civilian leaders of the Armed Forces and Department of Defense of the United States including such leaders of the Reserve Components could help address these shortfalls. Ideal programs should include: instruction and practical experiences that lead to accredited cyber certifications in the field; targeted strategic foreign language proficiency training for such future leaders designed to significantly enhance critical cyber operational capabilities; mathematical foundations of cryptography and courses in cryptographic theory, and; programs to expand the pool of qualified cyber instructors necessary to support cyber education.

The Committee directs the Secretary of Defense to conduct a feasibility study of establishing ROTC Cyber Institutes, including an assessment of the suitability of one or more Senior Military Colleges hosting such an institute, for the purposes of accelerating the development of foundational expertise in critical cyber operational skills for future military and civilian leaders of the Armed Forces and Department of Defense of the United States including such leaders of the Reserve Components. This study should include an assessment of existing partnerships at the colleges or universities under consideration, and if or at what level they meet the above program recommendations, a description of current curriculum that advances cyber competency, additional authorities needed, costs associated with implementing new partnerships and any existing plans to establish such institutes. This study should be submitted to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives by no later than December 1, 2017.

**Transition Assistance Program challenges for the National Guard and Reserves**

The committee is concerned about uneven participation rates by eligible members of the National Guard and Reserves in the Department of Defense's Transition Assistance Program (TAP). To help ensure greater participation of eligible servicemembers in TAP, the committee directs the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness to collect information on any challenges facing demobilizing members of the National Guard and Reserves regarding the timing and location of TAP courses. Additionally, the Secretary should consider the addition of related questions to the TAP online assessment tool, which are specific to members of the National Guard and Reserves.

**Report on action to address mental health of remotely piloted aircraft community**

The Air Force is pursuing efforts to improve the quality of life and quality of service of the remotely piloted aircraft (RPA) community. This plan seeks to address the burden on RPA crews due to significant demand for persistent intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, and strike capabilities. The committee is concerned about the potentially unique impacts on RPA pilots and airmen who are stationed in the United States while operating aircraft engaged in combat abroad. Section 1712A of title 38, United States Code, provides for counseling and mental health services for a veteran or member of the Armed Forces who engaged in combat by "remotely controlling an unmanned aerial vehicle, notwithstanding whether the physical location of such veteran or member during such combat was within such theatre of combat operations or area." A 2011 School of Aerospace Medicine report titled "Psychological Health Screening of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Operators and Supporting Units," found "there is a high incidence of emotional exhaustion/fatigue among RPA operators as a group in comparison to noncombatant airmen" and that "efforts to reduce occupational burnout should focus on operational stressors and be equally devoted to weapon- and nonweapon-deploying RPA operators."

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on steps the Air Force, Air Force Reserve, and Air National Guard are taking to address the mental health of RPA pilots and airmen supporting RPA operations, particularly those stationed in the United States flying missions with aircraft assigned operationally to Combatant Commands. This report should also include detailed efforts the Air Force is taking to retain these pilots, given the potential for exhaustion and occupational stress.

**Encouraging Air Force Rescue Unit Associations**

The committee notes that United States Air Force rescue squadrons, including those in the reserve component, deliver critical combat and emergency support to military and civilian personnel in harm's way, both at home and abroad. Whether called upon to provide combat search and rescue or to respond to a natural disaster, Air Force rescue squadrons are an adaptable and invaluable capability for the nation.

The unique nature of the rescue mission lends itself well for a robust partnership between Active, Reserve, and National Guard rescue units. In particular, experience gained by National Guard units while performing their domestic duties, under title 32, United States Code, provides important opportunities to prepare units for success in combat environments. The committee believes that the significant experience residing in reserve component rescue squadrons should be better leveraged to benefit the Total Force. Issued in 2014, the report of National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force—a report required by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (P.L. No. 112–239)—recommended forming additional associate units comprised of both active and reserve component personnel and equipment. As part of the House Report of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (H. Rept. 114–537), the House of Representatives further encouraged the Air Force to consider forming associate units with the three Air National Guard combat search and rescue units in Alaska, California, and New York.

The committee believes the Air Force should accelerate the creation of combat search and rescue associate units to promote efficiency, leverage Reserve Component expertise, improve readiness across the Total Force, and expand interoperability between Active and Reserve Components.

#### **National Guard Counterdrug Program**

The National Guard Counterdrug Program (NGCP) is a federally-funded program that provides military-specific skill-sets to law enforcement agencies and community-based organizations to address the supply and demand for illicit drugs. The timing and allocation of funding continues to be a limiting factor for the NGCP and impedes the effective sustainment of relationships with supported agencies and impacts the retention of highly-trained individuals.

With such challenges in mind, the committee is interested in the allocation of resources to best support the Department of Defense (DOD) counternarcotics efforts. In October 2015, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) reported that the National Guard had developed performance measures to report on its counterdrug program, but the information collected was not being used to evaluate and inform funding for state-level programs or oversee the counterdrug schools training.

While the National Guard has developed its Threat Based Resource Model (TBRM) to determine the severity of the drug threat, and is using it to determine funding levels for each state within the counterdrug program, the committee is concerned that the states' use of the funds has not produced results in line with each state's counterdrug objectives. The committee would like to have a better understanding of how the NGCP allocates and expends resources in alignment with its stated objectives.

Accordingly, the committee directs the Comptroller General of the United States to evaluate the NGCP's approach to resource allocation, to include the following: (1) A description of how the NGCP aligns with the Department of Defense's overarching counter-narcotics objectives; (2) A description of how the National Guard determines funding and distribution percentages for each state in the TBRM; (3) An assessment of the extent to which funding for the National Guard counterdrug program is expended in accordance with approved state plans; and (4) An assessment of the extent to which the National Guard Counterdrug Program is achieving its stated objectives.

The committee directs the Comptroller General to brief the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives not later than March 15, 2018, on preliminary findings of the evaluation with a final report to follow by June 30, 2018.

#### **National Guard role in enhanced border security**

The committee acknowledges an increased emphasis on enhancing our nation's border security to address illegal immigration, illicit drug smuggling, human trafficking, and other criminal activities that threaten our national security. The committee notes there may be additional opportunities for National Guard units to conduct valuable unit and individual training events that would contribute to readiness as well as enhanced border security.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of the Air Force to submit to the congressional defense committees, in consultation with the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, the Commander of U.S. Northern Command and the Secretary of Homeland Security, a report by December 1, 2017, with recommendations on how the Army National Guard and Air National Guard could gain effective

unit and individual training while also enhancing the border security capabilities of the continental United States. This report should contain a description of: the types of activities that would achieve such training and enhanced border security; the costs associated with such activities and the delineation of state and federal funding required; the potential impact on operations and personnel tempo for tasked units; any limitations of current operating authorities for each potential training activity; and any other information the Secretaries consider relevant.

## **HASC COMMITTEE REPORT LANGUAGE**

### **Digital Transformation of the Recruiting Process**

The committee understands that the Department of Defense and the military departments are working to improve and modernize the military recruiting process. However, the committee is aware that additional modernization is required to optimize recruiting and entrance processing. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the military services, to provide a briefing to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives no later than April 1, 2018, on the plan to modernize military recruiting and entrance processing. The briefing shall include:

- (1) how the enlistment and commissioning workflow process can be modernized to improve workflow by minimizing paperwork and maximizing paperless transactions;
- (2) how the military services measure effectiveness and return on investment for recruiting and advertising; and
- (3) how the military services are using data analytics to improve recruiting.

### **GI Bill Benefit Review**

The committee recognizes the substantial benefit the Post 9-11 GI Bill provides service members to further their or their dependent's education. Due to the length of service requirements to earn the benefit or transfer the benefit to a dependent, many service members have experienced difficulty understanding how much of the benefit they have earned. The committee is aware that service members, both Active Duty and in the Reserve Components, have had to reimburse the government for unauthorized use of the benefit due to not meeting the length of service requirements. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by November 30, 2017, on whether providing service members information on their remaining entitlement upon discharge from service would be feasible and appropriate. The committee believes relevant information would include the amount of the Post 9-11 GI Bill benefit each service member has earned prior to separation, retirement or release from military service, including whether or not they have completed any additional service obligation for transferring the benefit to a dependent.

### **Military Child Custody Protections**

The committee remains concerned that service members are not receiving necessary information related to State child custody laws governing their dependents. While the Secretaries of the military departments are currently required to provide notice of child custody protections under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, the military departments do not have uniform requirements to provide information on State child custody laws. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretaries of the military departments, to provide a briefing to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives not later than March 1, 2018, on the information and resources currently provided to service members regarding State child custody laws. The briefing shall include an analysis of how best to standardize the dissemination of this information to all affected service members, as well as an analysis of when, and how often, the information should be provided to these service members.

### **Pilot Shortage Assessment**

The committee recognizes that the services are having difficulty addressing shortfalls in critical career fields that are vital for the readiness of our Armed Forces, specifically in the pilot career field. The committee is concerned about the Air Force's retention and recruitment issues within the fighter pilot community. The committee notes that the Air Force provided written testimony to the committee on February 7, 2017, stating that the Air Force was short 723 fighter pilots below requirement and 1,555 pilots short across all mission areas. Therefore, the committee encourages the Secretary of the Air Force to evaluate all options for

improving the recruitment and retention of Air Force pilots. As part of such an assessment, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a briefing to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives by December 1, 2017, on the extent to which moving pilot or other aviation billets to the Active Guard and Reserve Components would address these shortages.

#### **Pre-Command Audit Training Course**

The committee believes that good financial management and auditability are important responsibilities of military leaders at all levels and is concerned that responsible officers receive inadequate training on these matters in the course of their careers. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit a

report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives by March 1, 2018, on the current programs of education used to train those officers assuming a command billet or a billet directly responsible for financial management on their responsibilities regarding financial management and auditability. Additionally, the committee directs the Comptroller General of the United States to submit a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives by June 1, 2018, that provides an assessment of the programs identified in the Secretary's report. The report of the Comptroller General shall also include an overview of current law and the Department of Defense's financial management and audit efforts to be in compliance with statutory guidance, as well as general financial management training requirements for command billets or billets requiring management of Department of Defense funds.

#### **Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder**

The committee acknowledges the efforts of the Department of Defense and the military services to diagnose and treat military members suffering from posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Despite the progress that has been made, the committee believes that more needs to be done to ensure service members seek and receive the treatment they deserve. The committee continues to believe PTSD is underreported and underdiagnosed, leading to unnecessary suffering and some service members receiving other than honorable discharges that are unwarranted. The committee wishes to stay informed of the Department's progress in addressing these concerns and directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives not later than December 1, 2017, on the extent to which service members are seeking PTSD treatment; steps the military services are taking to eliminate the stigma sometimes associated with seeking treatment; and efforts by the military services to ensure commanders carefully weigh a diagnosis of PTSD when adjudicating involuntary separations.

#### **TRICARE Pharmacy Pilot Program**

The committee notes that section 743 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328) authorizes the Secretary of Defense to conduct a pilot program to evaluate whether extending additional discounts for prescription drugs filled at retail pharmacies will maintain or reduce cost for the Department of Defense. This pilot gives the Secretary of Defense the authority to implement a pilot program that would test prescription drug acquisition cost parity in the TRICARE pharmacy program. The committee believes there is merit in executing the pilot program in order to determine if TRICARE pharmacy costs to the Department can be reduced through decreased acquisition costs, lower administrative fees, and competition, while restoring beneficiary access to brand-name maintenance prescription drugs at all dispensing retail pharmacies. Therefore, the committee encourages the Secretary to promptly utilize the authority granted under section 743 and implement the pilot program. In the event the Secretary declines to conduct the pilot, the committee directs the Secretary to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by September 15, 2017, on the analytical basis for that decision.

#### **Armored brigade combat team modernization**

The committee understands that Budget Control Act of 2011 (Public Law 112-25) funding levels have reduced buying power, disrupted modernization plans, and reduced the Army's capability advantage over near-peer, high-end competitors. The committee notes that Army modernization funding declined 74 percent from 2008-2015 as a result of the drawdown from two wars and the imposition of the budget caps by Public Law 112-25. Perhaps most significant is that research and development (R&D) funding has been reduced by 50 percent, and appears to be concentrated in the later stages of R&D at the prototyping and system design and development stages, which are the precursors to fielding new capabilities. The Vice Chief of Staff of the Army stated, in testimony before the House Committee on Armed Services, that today's Army is "out-ranged, outgunned, and outdated; and on our present course, the U.S. Army will not be sufficiently modern to deter and defeat potential enemies." The committee is concerned that the tactical overmatch that U.S. ground

forces have enjoyed for decades is being diminished, or in some cases, no longer exists. The committee believes the consequences of reduced modernization funding are most dramatic with respect to ground combat vehicle modernization. While the Army has definitive plans in place for Army aviation modernization, and has worked to establish mature acquisition strategies using multiyear procurement contracts for aviation platforms, the same cannot be said for ground combat vehicle modernization. The committee believes there is an immediate need for a more accelerated ground combat vehicle modernization strategy that should include the development of a next generation infantry fighting vehicle and main battle tank, while also looking for ways to accelerate needed upgrades for legacy combat vehicles in the near term to address immediate threats. The committee understands the armored brigade combat team (ABCT), which is comprised of

Abrams tanks, Bradley fighting vehicles, M109A7 Paladin self-propelled artillery, M113 Armored Personnel Carriers, Armored Multipurpose Vehicles, M88 Improved Recovery Vehicles, Joint Light Tactical Vehicles, and other systems is the only full-spectrum force in the Army's force structure. Over the past several National Defense Authorization Acts, the committee has noted concerns regarding the reduction of active ABCTs and the Army's ability to have sufficient numbers of fully ready active ABCTs to meet combatant commander steady-state and contingency plan requirements. The committee has also taken action to prevent further reductions in ABCT force structure, and prevent any production breaks in the combat vehicle industrial base. Given the return of armored units to the European theater, as well as the Army's plans to increase ABCT capacity, the committee believes that these actions have been validated. However, the committee remains concerned about the stability of ABCT modernization funding in fiscal year 2018 and beyond, and encourages the Army to fully modernize at least one ABCT per year. The committee directs the Secretary of the Army, in consultation with the Chief of Staff of the Army, to provide a report to the House Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Armed Services by April 5, 2018, on the Army's plan for executing its ground combat vehicle modernization strategy. Elements of the report should include: the Army's combat vehicle modernization priorities over the next 5 and 10 years; the extent to which those priorities can be supported at current funding levels within a relevant time period; the extent to which additional funds are required to support such priorities; detail how the Army is balancing and resourcing these priorities with efforts to rebuild and sustain readiness and increase force structure capacity over this same time period; and explain how the Army is balancing its near-term modernization efforts with an accelerated long-term strategy for acquiring next generation combat vehicle capabilities. The committee also directs the Comptroller General of the United States to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by May 1, 2018, on the Comptroller General's preliminary assessment of the Army's report on the ground combat vehicle modernization strategy. The committee further directs the Comptroller General to provide a report on the Comptroller General's final assessment to the House Committee on Armed Services at a date to be determined at the time of the briefing. The Comptroller General's review should focus in particular on how the Army has developed its modernization priorities for the next 5 years, and examine how the Army is balancing and resourcing these priorities with efforts to rebuild and sustain readiness and increase force structure capacity over this time period. Additionally, the review should evaluate the extent to which the Army has balanced its near-term modernization efforts with its long-term strategy for acquiring new capabilities.

#### **Small unit support vehicle recapitalization strategy**

The committee understands the Army's family of small unit support vehicle (SUSV) fleet is used by Army units that train and operate in extreme cold weather conditions, and that this vehicle provides those units with unique capabilities not found elsewhere in the Army. In addition, while the committee is aware of the Army's effort to refurbish some of the fleet, the committee notes that legacy SUSVs are beyond their economic useful life and have become increasingly difficult to maintain. In the committee report (H. Rept. 114-537) accompanying the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017, the committee required a briefing on the potential requirement for a replacement to the SUSV fleet. The briefing indicated the Army National Guard has established an SUSV overhaul program; however, this overhaul does not provide any additional capability. The committee remains concerned regarding the capability and capacity of the Army's SUSV fleet, and therefore directs the Secretary of the Army to conduct a business case analysis (BCA) to determine whether the Army should develop or procure a replacement for the small unit support vehicle designated SUSV. The BCA should include the following elements:

- (1) an analysis of how the SUSV fleet will be affected if a replacement for the vehicle is not developed or procured;
- (2) an explanation of the costs associated with refurbishing the SUSV fleet;
- (3) a description of specific requirements for a new SUSV vehicle and whether there is a vehicle available that would meet such requirements; (4) an analysis that compares the costs and benefits of the procuring

of a new SUSV to the costs and benefits of refurbishing the SUSV fleet; and (5) recommendations for the most cost-effective approach to addressing the needs of the SUSV fleet. The committee directs the Secretary of the Army to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by March 1, 2018, on the results of the BCA.

**Tactical Network Review**

The committee directs the Secretary of the Army to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by September 29, 2017, that details the network study results and the Army's recommended way ahead.

**Heavy Equipment Transport System Modernization Strategy**

The committee directs the Secretary of the Army to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by December 1, 2017, on the Army's strategy for upgrading current HETS and HET trailers.

**A-10 to F-16 transition at Fort Wayne, Indiana**

The committee notes that section 134 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328) included a subsection that authorizes the Secretary of the Air Force to carry out the transition of the A-10 aircraft unit at Fort Wayne Air National Guard Base, Indiana, to an F-16 aircraft unit, as described by the Secretary in the Force Structure Actions map submitted in support of the budget request for fiscal year 2017. The committee understands that the Secretary of the Air Force has not yet planned for or announced this transfer, and encourages the Secretary to execute this transfer as soon as possible. The committee remains concerned about the status of other A-10 and F-16 basing decisions for the Active Duty Air Force, Air Force Reserve, and Air National Guard. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by September 1, 2017, on an update of A-10 and F-16 basing decisions for the Active Duty Air Force, Air Force Reserve, and Air National Guard.

**E-8C Joint Surveillance and Target Attack Radar System**

The committee acknowledges that the E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System (JSTARS) is a proven Air Force Battle Management Command and Control platform enabled by leveraging its extremely capable active radar system that provides invaluable moving target indicator (MTI) intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) targeting information to multiple users both on the ground and in airborne attack platforms. The demand for MTI capability within each geographic combatant commander's area of responsibility far exceeds what JSTARS can currently provide due to its limited fleet size and strained crew resources. The committee also notes that the current fleet of 16 E-8C aircraft has issues and challenges the Air Force must successfully navigate to maintain viability until the current fleet of E-8C aircraft is replaced by the JSTARS Recapitalization program beginning in the late 2020s. Despite these issues and challenges, the committee is confident that the Secretary of the Air Force can develop a successful legacy JSTARS to JSTARS Recapitalization transition plan that would not prematurely retire E-8C aircraft, reassign crews or maintenance personnel, or otherwise create an MTI ISR capability gap or capacity deficit greater than what existing levels of aircraft should be providing currently. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than November 1, 2017, that describes, in detail, a strategy to sufficiently address manning, sustainment, modernization, and viability deficiencies that would resolve capability gaps, shortfalls, and deficiencies of the E-8C fleet of aircraft. The briefing should include a strategy that addresses right-sizing and balancing unit manning among the Total Force; maintaining proficient and current aircrews to meet operational requirements; resolving obsolescence and diminishing manufacturing sources of parts and supply; necessary mission system upgrades and operational enhancements across the E-8C fleet to keep the aircraft viable and relevant until the JSTARS Recapitalization aircraft is fielded; standardizing existing aircraft capabilities in areas such as imagery servers and the Automated Information System; a basing construct that would allow E-8C aircraft to operate simultaneously, if needed, from three forward operating locations, similar to other Air Force aircraft like the RC-135 and E-3A; and the associated cost, budget, and timeline required to implement the strategy. Finally, the committee also directs the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a report to the congressional defense committees not later than March 1, 2019, that explains in detail all aspects of how and when the Air Force will transition from legacy JSTARS aircraft capability to JSTARS Recapitalization aircraft capability.

**F-15C capability, capacity, and recapitalization**

The committee notes that during the hearing on March 22, 2017, titled "The Current State of the U.S. Air Force," before the Subcommittee on Readiness of the House Committee on Armed Services, Air Force witnesses testified that the Department of the Air Force is likely to decide during fiscal year 2019 budget deliberations whether or not to proceed with an option of divesting F-15C aircraft from the Air Force inventory and replacing those aircraft with upgraded F-16 aircraft. The committee notes that the Air Force is executing a service life extension program to upgrade the F-15C with an improved radar and missile warning system, as well as airframe structural enhancements. The committee strongly supports the Eagle Passive Active Warning and Survivability System (EPAWSS) modernization program for the F-15C fleet. The committee recalls that the Air Force has previously stated a requirement to extend the service life of the F-15C aircraft fleet to fill the air superiority mission capacity gap created by the truncation of the F-22 procurement program to only 187 aircraft. Similarly, the committee also recalls that the Air Force planned to keep the F-15C viable

until the Air Force's next-generation air dominance aircraft is fielded to avoid a capacity gap in the air superiority mission area. Additionally, the committee is unaware of any warfighting analysis within the Department of Defense that would validate replacing F-15C capability and capacity with upgraded F-16 aircraft to fulfill requirements of the air superiority mission area. The committee does not understand how the Air Force would grow to its desired number of 60 fighter squadrons by retiring a significant number of F-15C aircraft and replacing those with aircraft already in the Air Force inventory. As well, the committee is concerned such a decision would exacerbate the substantial personnel shortage that currently exists within the F-16 maintenance enterprise by having to retrain and qualify F-15C personnel to maintain F-16 aircraft. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than February 28, 2018, that provides detailed information on the following: the Air Force's weapon system sustainment and service-life plan for the F-15C aircraft, to include EPAWSS integration; when and with which material option(s) the Air Force plans to recapitalize air superiority mission capability provided by modernized F-15C aircraft, without incurring a reduction in capacity, if the F-15C is retired; how and when the Air Force plans to grow, and with which aircraft, to 60 fighter squadrons; any analysis completed by the Department of Defense that validates that the air superiority mission capability and capacity provided by a modernized F-15C can be supplanted with an upgraded F-16; and forecasted mission transition plans for locations and units that currently possess or support F-15C aircraft, personnel, operations, or maintenance activities if F-15C aircraft are retired.

**F-35 Lightning II aircraft program**

The committee continues to support the F-35 Lightning II program. The F-35 Lightning II aircraft is the Department of Defense's largest acquisition program, which will eventually deliver 2,443 F-35 aircraft to the Departments of the Navy and Air Force. The committee notes the Department of Defense has taken delivery of over 285 F-35 aircraft. The committee believes that the F-35 will form the backbone of U.S. air combat superiority for decades to come, replacing or complementing the legacy tactical fighter fleets of the Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps with a dominant, multirole, fifth-generation aircraft capable of projecting U.S. power and deterring potential adversaries. The committee notes that, for the F-35 program's international partners and foreign military sales customers, the F-35 will become a cornerstone for future coalition operations and will enhance the strength of our security alliances. The committee understands the F-35 Lightning II program is approximately 90 percent through its system development and demonstration (SDD) phase, which is planned to be completed not later than the second quarter of fiscal year 2018 and will provide capabilities required by the Departments of the Navy and Air Force in a final software block known as block 3F. At a hearing held by the House Committee on Armed Services' Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces on February 16, 2017, the F-35 program executive officer (PEO) testified that the F-35 program is making solid progress as it grows and accelerates. The committee notes that looking beyond completion of the SDD phase of the F-35 program, the follow-on effort, known as the follow-on modernization (FOM) or block 4 program, is moving forward and will be executed as a continuation of the F-35 program with full transparency and reporting on cost, schedule, and performance as if it were a new program. The committee fully supports development and delivery of a FOM software increment that will provide vitally important additional combat capabilities such as advanced electronic protection, nuclear weapon delivery, and additional air-to-ground precision munitions. The committee believes that the FOM is critical to improve the F-35's warfighting capabilities to keep pace with rapidly maturing adversary threat aircraft and integrated air defense systems, and expects that the FOM engineering, manufacturing, and development contract award will take place as scheduled in late 2018. The committee is aware the budget request for SDD is \$231.0 million over the previous year's projection for SDD in fiscal year 2018, and that this additional amount is

necessary due to delays in software development, the need to address problems found during testing, and funding reductions in prior years...The committee understands that such a block buy contracting strategy would generate cost savings of approximately \$2.0 billion. Accordingly, elsewhere in this Act, the committee includes a provision that would authorize the Secretary of Defense to enter into one or more contracts, beginning with the fiscal year 2018 program year, for the procurement of economic order quantities for material and equipment for the F-35 program, to be used in F-35 procurement contracts in fiscal years 2019 and 2020.

**Collaboration with Federal Aviation Administration on Unmanned Aerial Systems (Title XXVII)**

The committee believes that the significant military training demand for Unmanned Aerial Systems suggests that Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations regarding line-of-sight requirements be reevaluated. The committee encourages the Secretary of Defense and the Administrator of the Federal Aviation

Administration to continue to collaborate on the development of plans and policies that would allow the Department's Unmanned Aerial Systems to operate within military operating area airspace contiguous to existing restricted airspace without line-of-sight requirements. Furthermore, the committee is interested in understanding in detail the Department's current engagement on this issue with the Federal Aviation Administration. Therefore, the committee directs the Chair of the Department of Defense's Policy Board on Federal Aviation to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services, not later than March 1, 2018, detailing the board's efforts to advocate for the elimination regulatory restrictions that prevent routine access to national airspace for the Department of Defense's Unmanned Aerial Systems.

**High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle external fire suppression systems**

The committee is aware that in 2008 the Army pursued Work Directive 379 in response to an operational needs statement, and that the purpose of the directive was to explore options for fluid-based fires in the fuel tank and engine compartment of Army High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWV). The committee is also aware that one of the recommendations resulting from this effort was to continue testing of fuel tank, engine, and tire improvements that could potentially reduce the risk of fluid-based fires. However, despite this recommendation, the Army chose not to pursue such improvements or validate a requirement for an external fire suppression system (EFSS) for Army HMMWVs. Given the evolution of fire suppression technology since this evaluation was conducted, the committee believes that the Army should reconsider the potential requirement for an EFSS for Army and Army National Guard HMMWVs. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army, in coordination with the Chief, National Guard Bureau, to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by September 1, 2017, on the advisability and feasibility of such a system being installed on Army and Army National Guard HMMWVs as part of HMMWV modernization and recapitalization programs.

**Polyfluoroalkyl Substances**

The committee notes that perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) are part of a class of man-made chemicals that are used in many industrial and consumer products to make the products resist heat, stains, water, and grease. In the 1970s, the Department of Defense and commercial airports began using aqueous film forming foam (AFFF), which contained these chemical compounds, to extinguish petroleum fires. The committee notes that on May 19, 2016, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued new Lifetime Health Advisories (LHAs) under the Safe Drinking Water Act for combined PFOS and PFOA concentrations at 70 parts per trillion. Since EPA issued these new LHAs, the Department of Defense has completed testing of the 480 drinking water systems at locations where the Department supplies drinking water. In addition, the Department is currently working through The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9601) (CERCLA) process to conduct preliminary assessments and site inspections to identify sites where PFOS and PFOA may have been released by the Department of Defense. This activity includes performing tests of privately owned drinking water wells near military installations where warranted. These efforts will be used to inform future cleanup actions, and the Department incorporates LHA information when assessing risk to human health under CERCLA. The committee understands that the Department of Defense spent approximately \$200.0 million through December 31, 2016, in response to PFOS and PFOA. This funding has been used to conduct preliminary assessments and site inspections, test drinking water systems, and provide mitigations such as bottled water or drinking water filtration systems where water systems tests indicate PFOS/PFOA above the LHA levels. The committee notes that the Department was unable to program funds specifically for these actions in the fiscal year 2016 or fiscal year 2017 budget requests and have been funding their

response to PFOS/PFOA using existing funds originally programmed for other response actions. The committee is supportive of the Department's near-term efforts to respond to PFOS and PFOA and believes it is critical for the Department to continue its outreach and engagement with local communities with drinking water systems that have PFOS/PFOA detected above the LHAs and may have been impacted by the Department's activities. Furthermore, the committee believes it is important for the Department to fully plan, program, and budget for actions related to PFOS and PFOA in order to meet its responsibilities under the CERCLA, the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f), and other applicable Federal statutes, rules, and regulations. Finally, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than September 30, 2017, on the Department's response to PFOS/PFOA. The briefing should provide the following:

- (1) the locations on or in proximity to current and former military installations where the Department has conducted testing of military, public, and private drinking water systems and a summary of the results of those tests where PFOS/PFOA levels were detected in excess of the LHA levels;
- (2) the locations on or in proximity to current and former military installations where the Department has conducted groundwater testing where PFOS/PFOA may have been released and a summary of the results of those tests where PFOS/PFOA levels were detected in excess of the LHA levels;
- (3) short-term mitigations that have been funded and provided by the Department, both on military installations and in the surrounding communities, where PFOS/PFOA levels were detected in excess of the LHA levels;
- (4) the process and timeline for identifying and resourcing long-term remediation on military installations or in the surrounding communities where PFOS/PFOA levels were detected in excess of the LHA levels; and
- (5) research conducted in pursuit of less environmentally harmful AFFF blends containing less or no PFOS/PFOA.

#### **National Guard CBRN Enterprise Report**

The committee is aware that since the 1998 report on National Guard and WMD response, there has not been an updated study on the readiness, roles and tasks of the National Guard in both Title 10 and Title 32 as it relates to the Chemical Biological and Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) threats has not been conducted to mirror evolving threats and technology including increased asymmetric threats; new chemical and biological threats, UAV and drone technology, and cyber warfare or maturing federal and state homeland defense architecture and policies. This Committee believes it is appropriate to re-examine our National Guard CBRN enterprise and recommends that the Chief of the National Guard Bureau conduct a comprehensive study of its current federal, state and local Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear operations, equipment and training requirements in light of today's threats. The report should highlight strengths as well as gaps and seams in the interagency planning and execution process. The committee directs the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, working in close coordination with other state and federal agencies and stakeholders across multiple levels of government, to provide a report detailing the following, no later than September 30, 2019; (1) Define and clarify the roles and missions, structure, capabilities and training of the National Guard, as well as identifying emerging gaps and shortfalls in light of current CBRN threats to our country (2) By State and territory, comment on the resources each state has (Title 32 and Title 10) that are available to respond to a CBRN attack, proposing adaptations and updated response plans to combat current threats. (3) The readiness and resourcing status of forces listed in (2), (4) Current strengths and areas of improvement in working with State and Federal interagency partners, (5) Current assessments that are in place that address both readiness and resourcing of Title 32 and Title 10 forces postured to respond to CBRN incidents.

#### **Modernization of UH-60 A/L aircraft bound for Afghanistan aviation forces**

The committee encourages the office of the secretary of defense (OSD) to develop strategies to modernize analog flight and crew advisory instruments in the UH60 A/L aircraft bound for Afghanistan aviation forces. The committee understands the aging analog systems in the UH60 A/L are being phased out in favor of digital glass flight displays that provide increased situational awareness and avoid growing obsolescence and reduced readiness. The committee notes that the digital glass flight displays have the added benefit of more efficient delivery of information to the pilot and copilot, easier scan of flight parameters, and more intuitive use of this information in the control of safe flight operations. The committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the House committee on Armed Services by December 1, 2017, on OSD's strategy to transition UH60 A/L aircraft bound for Afghanistan aviation forces.

### **Aircraft Stationing, Basing, and Laydown Process**

The committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a report to the House Committee on Armed Services by January 31, 2018, on each military service's existing process for stationing, basing, and laydown decisions for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter. Specifically, the report should detail how the current selection criteria take into consideration elements such as capacity, availability, and access to training areas and whether military requirements may drive changes to the criteria for future stationing, basing, or laydown decisions. The report shall address how each military service assesses the importance of having immediate access to training areas and how each service accounts for the impact of weather at the training areas. Finally, the report shall also address how current basing criteria consider the capacity, availability, and access to training areas in support of the other services or to host joint exercises to fully utilize the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter's capabilities when making their basing decision.

### **Army Aviation Restructure Initiative**

The committee is concerned about the status of Army attack aviation following the decision to execute the Aviation Restructure Initiative in 2013. The committee is aware that the decision to reduce attack and reconnaissance aviation battalions by 37% and realign most attack helicopters from the Army National Guard to the active component was made to meet the demands of strategic planning at the time. However, the committee notes there is a shortfall of both warrant officer and commissioned officer pilots in the active component. Meanwhile, there is a cadre of experienced and qualified Guard pilots that can help bridge this gap. The committee is concerned that this cadre may not remain a viable option, as the nation is facing a pilot shortage crisis and commercial airlines are now specifically targeting helicopter pilots. This mismatch of resources has created a situation where aircraft are assigned to bases with no pilots to fly them. The committee believes this scenario could negatively affect the ability of the Army to support combatant commanders' future needs. Furthermore, the committee needs to gain a better understanding of the overall operational impacts for National Guard Apache battalions given the current plan to retain 18 aircraft per unit in the National Guard instead of the 24 that their active-duty counterparts will have.

Accordingly, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army, in coordination with the Director of the National Guard Bureau, to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services, not later than December 31, 2017, on the status of Army attack aviation readiness. The briefing should also provide updates on new factors that affect the Army's ability to maintain a robust attack aviation capability over the next 3 years, including a plan to recruit and retain the required number of qualified attack helicopter pilots.

## **LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS NOT ADOPTED**

**Authority to increase primary aircraft authorization of Air Force and Air National Guard A-10 aircraft units for purposes of facilitating A-10 conversion (Senate Sec. 133)**

**Authority to carry out environmental restoration activities at National Guard and Reserve locations (Senate Sec. 341)**

**Direct employment pilot program for members of the National Guard and Reserve (House Sec. 504)**

**Plan to meet demand for cyberspace career fields in the reserve components of the Armed Forces (Senate Sec. 515)**

**Sexual assault prevention and response (House Sec. 532)**

**Adjustment to Basic Allowance for Housing at with dependents rate of certain members of the uniformed services (Senate Sec. 603)**

**Modification of eligibility for TRICARE Reserve Select and TRICARE Retired Reserve of certain members of the reserve components (Senate Sec. 703)**

*National Guard flyovers of public events (House Sec. 1037)*

*Findings and sense of Congress regarding the National Guard Youth Challenge Program (House Sec. 1071)*

*Enhancement of database of emergency response capabilities of the Department of Defense (Senate Sec. 1442)*