



National Guard Bureau  
Office of Legislative Liaison



# FY19 House National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)



*Summary of H.R. 5515*

*The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019*

*As of June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018*



	Passed in Committee	Passed in Chamber	Agreement	Final Passage	Signed into Law
<b>House</b>	May 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2018	May 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2018			
<b>Senate</b>	May 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2018				

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## Executive Summary

This guide provides a short summary of the House Armed Services Fiscal Year 2019 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

To obtain a complete understanding of any particular provision, users are encouraged to review the actual legislative language. Bill text and the committee report can be found on NGB-LL's website: [www.nationalguard.mil/ll](http://www.nationalguard.mil/ll). Beyond the legislative provisions, there are a number of directive reports with specific relevance to the National Guard. Readers are encouraged to review this report language (starting on page 9) for their own situational awareness.

### Status:

On May 24<sup>th</sup>, the House passed the FY2019 National Defense Authorization Act. The bill authorizes \$708.1 billion in discretionary spending, including \$69 billion for overseas operations. The funding authorization is at the levels set by the 2018 Budget Agreement.

### Highlights:

- Authorizes an end strength of 343,500 for ARNG and 107,100 for ANG. (Sec. 411)
- Increases the authorized AGR end strength for the ANG by 3,601. (Sec. 412)
- Retains military technicians who lose dual status under certain circumstances. (Sec. 506)
- Designates dual-status technicians converted to Title 5 positions as competitive, not excepted, service. (Sec. 511)
- Increases the total number of available control grade positions authorized for the ANG. (Sec. 512)
- Authorizes a National Guard officer's date of rank to be backdated after federal recognition is granted. (Sec. 513)
- Authorizes the use of National Guard in case of a major disaster or request from a State Governor. (Sec. 517)
- Authorizes funding of National Guard in case of a major disaster or emergency declared under the Stafford Act (Sec. 518).
- Establishes a National Commission on Military Aviation Safety. (Sec. 1078)
- Authorizes the Secretary of the Army to establish a pilot program creating a National Guard cyber security training center for the ARNG. (Sec. 1635)
- Requires the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a study of the feasibility and advisability of establishing reserve component cyber civil support teams. (Sec. 1638)
- Authorizes the Secretary of Defense to close or realign a military installation if a Governor recommends the realignment or closure within the Governor's state or territory. (Sec. 2702)
- Requires the Secretary of the Army and Secretary of the Air Force review and report on processes for Federal Recognition of promotions of National Guard officers. (Committee Report Language)
- Requires the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to provide a report on the effectiveness of National Guard Bureau behavioral health programs. (Committee Report Language)
- Requires the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, in coordination with NORTHCOM and the Directors of the Army and Air National Guard, provide a report that provides an Incident Awareness and Assessment capability and capacity roadmap for the FY19-23 Future Years Defense Program. (Committee Report Language)

# National Guard Accounts Overview

**RECOMMENDED 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	FY19 PB Request	HASC Mark	Delta from PB	SASC Mark	Delta from PB	Conference Report	FY19 Delta from PB
O&M	\$7,399,295	\$7,469,295	+\$70,000				
OCO O&M	\$110,729	\$110,729	-				
MILCON	\$180,122	\$191,122	+\$11,000				

### Army National Guard End Strength

Army National Guard	FY19 PB Request	HASC Mark	Delta from PB	SASC Mark	Delta from PB	Conference Report	FY19 Delta from PB
End Strength	343,500	343,500	-				
AGR	30,595	30,595	-				
Dual Status Technicians	22,294	22,294	-				
ADOS	17,000	17,000	-				



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

Air National Guard	FY19 PB Request	HASC Mark	Delta from PB	SASC Mark	Delta from PB	Conference Report	FY19 Delta from PB
O&M	\$6,427,622	\$6,451,522	+\$23,900				
OCO O&M	\$15,870	\$15,870	-				
MILCON	\$129,126	\$191,126	+\$62,000				

### Air National Guard End Strength

Air National Guard	FY19 PB Request	HASC Mark	Delta from PB	SASC Mark	Delta from PB	Conference Report	FY19 Delta from PB
End Strength	106,600	107,100	-				
AGR	19,861	19,861	-				
Dual Status Technicians	18,969	18,969	-				
ADOS	16,000	16,000	-				

# BILL TEXT

## PROCUREMENT PROVISIONS

### **Sec. 111. National Guard and reserve component equipment report.**

This section would modify the annual National Guard and Reserve Component Equipment report, as required by section 10541 of title 10, United States Code, to include an assessment by the Chief of Staff of the Army and the Chief of the National Guard Bureau regarding modernization equipment parity between the active component, Army Reserve, and Army National Guard.

### **Sec. 142. Limitation on use of funds for KC-46A aircraft pending submittal of certification.**

This section would limit the funds authorized to be appropriated to procure three KC-46A aircraft until the Secretary of the Air Force certifies that both supplemental and military type certifications have been approved and that the first aircraft has been accepted by the Air Force.

### **Sec. 145. Multiyear Procurement Authority for C-130J Aircraft**

This section would authorize the Secretary of the Air Force to enter into one or more multiyear contracts for up to 52 C-130J aircraft beginning in fiscal year 2019, in accordance with section 2306b of title 10, United States Code.

### **Sec. 147. Findings and sense of Congress regarding KC-46 aerial refueling tankers.**

This section would express the sense of Congress in support of industry and Air Force ensuring that the first KC-46A tanker is delivered in fiscal year 2018.

## RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION PROVISIONS

### **Sec. 213. Prohibition on Availability of Funds for the Weather Common Component Program**

This section would restrict funding for further development of meteorological situational awareness sensor programs for unmanned aircraft systems, and require the Secretary of the Air Force to submit a report to the congressional defense committees that describes requirements, existing technologies, current program efforts, testing and evaluation, and a fielding plan for capabilities associated with providing meteorological situational awareness to unmanned aircraft aircrews.

### **Sec. 214. Limitation pending certification on the Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System recapitalization program.**

This section would restrict obligation of funding for the Advanced Battle-Management System (ABMS) of Systems initiative of the Department of the Air Force, as well as a portion of the proposed divestment of legacy E-8C aircraft contained in the fiscal year 2019 budget request. The restriction would remain in effect until the Secretary of the Air Force certifies to the congressional defense committees that the Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System (JSTARS) Recapitalization (Recap) program, as submitted and described in the fiscal year 2018 budget request, is proceeding unhindered with originally planned activities associated with engineering, manufacturing, and development; low-rate initial production; production; and initial contractor support. This section also would require the Comptroller General of the United States to provide a report to the congressional defense committees that assesses the acquisition strategy associated with ABMS, and would require the Secretary of the Air Force to submit a report to the congressional defense committees that includes a strategy for accelerating the JSTARS Recap program, while also managing appropriately the legacy fleet of E-8C aircraft. This section would also authorize use of JSTARS Recap program funding to maintain the program office's functionality.

## OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PROVISIONS

### **Sec. 337. Report on wildfire suppression capabilities of active and reserve components.**

This section expresses a sense of Congress that wildfires endanger national security and directs DoD to issue a report on wildfire suppression capabilities within the active and reserve components of the Armed

Forces, including the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System Program, and interagency cooperation with the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior.

## **MILITARY PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATIONS**

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

This section would authorize the following end strengths for Selected Reserve personnel, including the end strength for Reserves on Active Duty in support of the Reserves, as of September 30, 2019:

Army National Guard—343,500

Air National Guard—107,100

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

This section would authorize the following end strengths for Reserves on Active Duty in support of the Reserves as of September 30, 2019:

Army National Guard—30,595

Air National Guard—19,861

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

This section would authorize the following end strengths for military technicians (dual status) as of September 30, 2019:

Army National Guard—22,294

Air National Guard—18,969

### **Sec. 414. Maximum number of reserve personnel authorized to be on active duty for operational support.**

This section would authorize, as required by section 115(b) of title 10, United States Code, the maximum number of Reserve Component personnel who may be on Active Duty or full-time National Guard duty during fiscal year 2019 to provide operational support. The personnel authorized here do not count against the end strengths authorized by section 411 or section 412 of this Act unless the duration on Active Duty exceeds the limitations in section 115(b)(2) of title 10, United States Code.

Army National Guard—17,000

Air National Guard—16,000

### **Sec. 501. Expansion of authority to award constructive service credit for advanced education, experience, or training, upon original appointment as a commissioned officer.**

This section would amend sections 533 and 12207 of title 10, United States Code, to permit the Secretaries of the military departments additional discretion to determine the grade of certain individuals receiving an original appointment as a regular or reserve commissioned officer.

### **Sec. 503. Authority of selection boards to recommend officers of particular merit be placed at the top of the promotion list.**

This section would amend sections 616, 618, and 624 of title 10, United States Code, to allow officer promotion boards to recommend officers of particular merit be placed at the top of the promotion list, and to allow the Secretary of the military department concerned to re-order the promotion list accordingly.

### **Sec. 504. Deferred deployment for members who give birth.**

This section would standardize new mother deployment deferral policy across the military services, to include the Coast Guard.

**Sec. 506. Retention of military technicians who lose dual status under certain circumstances.**

This section would amend section 10216 of title 10, United States Code, to prevent dual-status military technicians who reach their time-in-service end date from losing their jobs due to separation from military service.

**Sec. 515. National Guard Youth Challenge Program.**

This section requires the Secretary of Defense to evaluate the pilot Jobs Challenge Programs and submit a report of findings and recommendations 120 days after the end of the fiscal year.

**Sec. 516. National Guard Youth Challenge Program.**

This section ensures equipment and facilities of the United States, a state, a county or a local government may also be transferred to the National Guard for purpose of carrying out the National Guard Youth Challenge Program.

**Sec. 517. Use of National Guard in case of a major disaster or request from a State Governor.**

This section authorizes the President to order members of the National Guard in a State to full-time National Guard duty or active Guard and Reserve duty under section 502(f) if the Governor requests it and the President declares that a major disaster exists.

**Sec. 518. Funding of National Guard in case of a major disaster or emergency declared under the Stafford Act.**

This section authorizes the President to make contributions to a State or local government for the purpose of reimbursing the Department of Defense for expenditures that arise from use of members of the National Guard and Reserve under section 502(f) of title 32, United States Code, to respond to a major disaster declared by the President.

**Sec. 519. Pilot program for EOD-qualified members of the Army National Guard to support civil authorities.**

This section authorizes a pilot program to examine the feasibility and effectiveness of the Army National Guard EOD soldiers in Title 32 status versus using the current Mobilization Day EOD soldiers mobilized in Title 10 status to provide this support.

**Sec. 522. Statement of Benefits**

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to provide Active Duty and Reserve service members an authoritative assessment of their earned GI Bill benefits prior to separation, retirement, or release from Active Duty or demobilization.

**Sec. 526. Public availability of reports related to senior leader misconduct.**

This section would require the Secretary of Defense and the Secretaries of the military departments to publish, on a public website, redacted reports of substantiated investigations of misconduct in which the subject of the investigation was an officer in the grade of O-7 and above, including officers who have been selected for promotion to O-7, or a civilian member of the Senior Executive Service.

**Sec. 541. Security clearance reinvestigation of certain personnel who commit certain offenses.**

This section would amend section 1564 of title 10, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Defense to conduct a security clearance background reinvestigation under expedited procedures for flag officers and Senior Executive Service personnel employed by the Department of Defense convicted of sexual assault, sexual harassment, fraud against the United States, or other serious crimes.

**Sec. 555. Extension of pilot program to assist members in obtaining post-service employment.**

This section would amend section 555 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291) to extend the authority for the pilot program under this section to September 30, 2023.

**Sec. 556. Direct employment pilot program for members of the reserve components and veterans.**

This section would allow the Secretary of Defense to carry out a pilot program that provides enhanced job placement and employment assistance for members of the National Guard and Reserve.

**Sec. 564. Department of Defense Education Activity misconduct database.**

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to establish a comprehensive policy and database regarding juvenile misconduct occurring in Department of Defense Education Activity schools.

**Sec. 581. Public availability of top-line numbers of deployed members of the Armed Forces.**

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to publicly make available the top-line numbers of members of the Armed Forces deployed for each country.

The Secretary would be able to waive the requirement in the case of a sensitive military operation if he determines the public disclosure of such numbers could reasonably be expected to provide an operational military advantage to an adversary, or the members of the Armed Forces are deployed for less than 30 days.

**Sec. 583. Report on general and flag officer costs.**

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the congressional defense committees on the costs of supporting general and flag officers.

**Sec. 585. Limitation on use of funds pending submittal of report on Army Marketing and Advertising Program.**

This section would limit the use of funds to not more than 60 percent of the amounts authorized to be appropriated by this Act for the Army Marketing and Research Group for fiscal year 2019, used for advertising and marketing activities to be obligated or expended until the Secretary of the Army submits a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on recommendations of the Army Audit Agency's audit of the Army's Marketing and Advertising Program concerning contract oversight and return on investment.

**Sec. 589. Assistance of states for deployment-related support of members of the Armed Forces undergoing deployment and their families Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program**

This section authorizes the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon program, which assists National Guard and Reservists families with assistance before, during, and after deployment, including outreach services for employment and financial counseling, suicide prevention, and housing advocacy.

## **RESERVE COMPONENT MANAGEMENT PROVISIONS**

**Sec. 511. Placement of National Guard military technicians (dual status) in the competitive service.**

This section would amend section 10508 of title 10, United States Code, to designate dual-status military technician positions that were converted to title 5 civilian employees in the fiscal year 2017 and 2018 National Defense Authorization Acts as competitive, not excepted, service positions.

**Sec. 512. Authorized strength and distribution in grade.**

This section would amend section 12011(a) and section 12012(a) of title 10, United States Code, to increase the total number of available control grade positions, which includes O-4, O-5, O-6, E-8, and E-9, authorized for the Air National Guard.

**Sec. 513. National Guard Promotion Accountability.**

This section would amend section 14308(f) of title 10, United States Code, to allow a National Guard officer's date of rank to be backdated, after Federal recognition is granted, and would require the Secretaries concerned to report to the Congress when a promotion scroll exceeds 200 days between date received and its date of publication.

**Sec. 514. Extension of authority for pilot program on use of retired senior enlisted members of the Army National Guard as Army National Guard recruiters.**

This section would extend the authority of the pilot program on use of retired senior enlisted members of the Army National Guard as Army National Guard recruiters until 2021.

**COMPENSATION, PERSONNEL BENEFITS AND RETIREMENT**

**Sec. 557. Extended duration of availability of Military OneSource Program services for members of the Armed Forces upon their separation or retirement.**

This section would extend the duration of availability of Military OneSource program services for members of the military departments and their immediate family members from 180 days following their separation or retirement to at least 1 year after their separation or retirement.

**Sec. 567. Report on wage determination for certain programs.**

This section requires National Guard Bureau to re-examine the contract and wage determinations for a contractor it utilizes for Guard support services, and to report its findings back to Congress.

**Sec. 611 . One-year extension of certain expiring bonus and special pay authorities.**

This section would extend, through December 31, 2019, income replacement payments for Reserve Component members experiencing extended and frequent mobilization for Active Duty service; would extend two critical recruitment and retention incentive programs for Reserve Component health care professionals; would extend accession and retention incentives for nuclear-qualified officers; and would extend the consolidated special and incentive pay authorities added to subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 37, United States Code, by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181).

Additionally, this section would extend the authority of the Secretary of Defense to prescribe a temporary increase in the rates of basic allowance for housing otherwise prescribed for a military housing area or a portion of a military housing area if the military housing area or portion thereof is located in an area covered by a declaration by the President that a major disaster exists.

**Sec. 732. Strategy to recruit and retain mental health providers**

This section requires the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the congressional defense committees (HASC and SASC) that describes the shortage of mental health providers of the Department of Defense and contains a strategy to better recruit and retain mental health providers.

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT**

**Sec. 813. Repeal of certain Department of Defense reporting requirements.**

This section would repeal certain Department of Defense recurring reporting requirements. The committee notes that excessive reporting requirements can impose costs on the Department of Defense that outweigh the intended benefits of each individual report, and can potentially impede the Department's ability to effectively direct resources to core objectives. In the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328), Congress initially directed a large group of recurring reporting requirements to sunset on December 31, 2021. This section continues to advance this streamlining effort.

**Sec. 879. Standardization of formatting and public accessibility of Department of Defense reports to Congress.**

This section would direct the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing not later than March 1, 2019, to the House Committee on Armed Services on a plan for implementing, not later than March 1, 2020, standardization of the formatting and public accessibility of unclassified Department of Defense reports required by Congress. The briefing shall address how the Department plans to ensure that reports are created in an open format that can be retrieved, downloaded, indexed, and searched by commonly used web search applications. An open format is one that is platform independent, machine readable, and made available to the public without restrictions that would impede reuse of that information. The briefing shall also address how the Department plans to provide a publicly accessible online repository of its unclassified reports to Congress required by provisions of law, including protocols for inclusion of reports which, although unclassified, may not be appropriate for public release in their entirety. The briefing shall address how the Department plans to include in the repository unclassified reports to Congress required by provisions of law issued since January 1, 2010.

**MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROVISIONS**

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

**Army National Guard**

<b>State</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Alaska .....	Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson .....	\$27,000,000
Illinois .....	Marseilles Training Center .....	\$5,000,000
Montana .....	Malta .....	\$15,000,000
Nevada .....	North Las Vegas .....	\$32,000,000
New Hampshire .....	Pembroke .....	\$12,000,000
North Dakota .....	Fargo .....	\$32,000,000
Ohio .....	Camp Ravenna .....	\$7,400,000
Oklahoma .....	Lexington .....	\$11,000,000
South Dakota .....	Rapid City .....	\$15,000,000

**Sec. 2612. Modification of authority to carry out certain fiscal year 2018 project.**

This section would modify the authority provided by section 2601 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (division B of Public Law 115-91) to authorize the Secretary of the Army to make certain modifications to the scope of a previously authorized construction project.

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

**Air National Guard**

<b>State</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Amount</b>
California .....	Channel Islands Air National Guard Station .....	\$8,000,000
Hawaii .....	Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam .....	\$17,000,000
Illinois .....	Greater Peoria Regional Airport .....	\$9,000,000
Louisiana .....	Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans. ans.	\$39,000,000
Minnesota .....	Duluth International Airport .....	\$8,000,000
Montana .....	Great Falls International Airport .....	\$9,000,000
New York .....	Francis S. Gabreski Airport .....	\$20,000,000
Ohio .....	Mansfield Lahm Airport .....	\$13,000,000
	Rickenbacker International Airport .....	\$8,000,000
Pennsylvania .....	Fort Indiantown Gap .....	\$8,000,000
Virginia .....	Joint Base Langley-Eustis .....	\$10,000,000

**Sec. 2824. Technical correction of description of Limestone Hills Training Area Land Withdrawal and Reservation, Montana.**

This section would amend section 2931 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (division B of Public Law 113–66) to adjust the acreage of withdrawn public land in Broadwater County, Montana.

**BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE ACTIVITIES**

**Sec. 2702. Additional authority to realign or close certain military installations.**

This section would provide the Secretary of Defense with authority to close or realign a military installation if the Secretary receives notification from the Governor of a State or territory that recommends the realignment or closure of a military installation within the Governor's State or territory.

**Sec. 2703. Prohibition on conducting additional Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) round.**

This section would affirm that nothing in this Act shall be construed to authorize an additional Base Realignment and Closure round.

**OTHER PROVISIONS**

**Sec. 1011. Department of Defense support for combating opioid trafficking and abuse.**

This section would express the sense of Congress regarding the nationwide opioid epidemic affecting millions of U.S. citizens. The section would also increase, by \$20.0 million, Department of Defense National Guard counterdrug programs to support the Federal Government's efforts to combat the opioid crisis.

**Sec. 1078. National Commission on Military Aviation Safety.**

This section would establish a National Commission on Military Aviation Safety. The commission would undertake a comprehensive study and deliver a report not later than June 1, 2019, on military aviation mishaps occurring between fiscal years 2013-18.

**Sec. 1634. Pilot program authority to enhance cybersecurity and resiliency of critical infrastructure.**

This section would authorize the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security, to provide technical personnel to the Department of Homeland Security to enhance cooperation, collaboration, and unity of government efforts in support of the protection of critical infrastructure from cyber incidents and significant cyber incidents.

**Sec. 1635. Pilot program on regional cyber security training center for the Army National Guard.**

This section would authorize the Secretary of the Army to carry out a pilot program to establish a National Guard cyber security training center for members of the Army National Guard.

**Sec. 1638. Study and report on reserve component cyber civil support teams.**

This section would require the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a study on the feasibility and advisability of establishing cyber civil support teams comprised of Reserve Component members, primarily operating under the command and control of the Governor of each State, to prepare for and respond to cyber incidents, cyber emergencies, and cyber attacks. The Secretaries concerned shall provide a report to 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 not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act on the results of the study, to include their final determination on the feasibility of, advisability and necessity of establishing Reserve Component cyber civil support teams for each State, and if so, proposed legislation.

**Sec. 1664. Layered defense of the United States homeland.**

This section would express the sense of Congress in support of the Department of Defense's efforts to provide layered defense of the homeland, and would require the Director of the Missile Defense Agency, in coordination with the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Commander of U.S. Northern Command, and Commander of U.S. Pacific Command, to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives by January 31, 2019, on options to increase layered protection of the U.S. homeland, to include the continental United States, Hawaii, and Alaska, from both the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

## **OTHER FUNDING AUTHORIZATIONS**

Authorizes \$192M for AH-64E to address ARNG shortfalls (Army Procurement)

Authorizes \$85M for additional UH-60Ms for ARNG (Army Procurement)

Authorizes \$25M for ARNG HMMWV Modernization Program (Army Procurement)

Authorizes \$55M for C-130 propeller upgrade (Air Force Procurement)

Authorizes \$74M for C-130 engine enhancement program (Air Force Procurement)

## **COMMITTEE REPORT LANGUAGE**

***Apache attack helicopters***

The committee understands the Army's current aviation modernization and equipping strategy that resulted from the Army's Aviation Restructure Initiative currently resources the Army National Guard (ARNG) to retain 4 attack reconnaissance battalions for a total of 72 AH-64 Apache attack helicopters. The committee notes that these ARNG attack reconnaissance battalions would be equipped with 18 AH-64 attack helicopters as compared to the Active Component battalions that are equipped with 24 AH-64 attack helicopters. The committee is aware the ARNG is no longer solely the strategic reserve of the past, but also an operational force, and provides significant capability through rotational support to combatant commanders. The committee believes that given the current global threat environment, reliance on ARNG capabilities is expected to increase.

Therefore, the committee believes that all 4 ARNG attack reconnaissance battalions should be equipped with 24 AH-64 attack helicopters, the same as Active Component battalions, in order to improve overall readiness and compatibility between the ARNG and Active Component. The committee encourages the Secretary of the Army to plan, program, and budget for 24 additional AH-64 attack helicopters to address ARNG requirements across the Future Years Defense Program.

#### ***Light utility helicopter***

The budget request included \$6.4 million for utility helicopter modifications to the UH-60 Black Hawk and the UH-72A Lakota helicopters, but contained no funding for UH-72A life-cycle sustainment and product improvements. The UH-72A Lakota helicopter provides general aviation support for aviation units in the Active and Reserve Components. The committee supports the requirement to conduct midlife sustainment and product improvement activities for the UH-72A, and includes funding to conduct the analysis, engineering, certification, and risk reduction activities necessary to update the UH-72A Life Cycle Support Plan. The committee also recognizes that the UH-72A was initially fielded without aircraft survivability equipment, which could potentially limit the Active Component and Army National Guard's utilization of the UH-72A platform. As reflected in Division D of this Act, the committee recommends additional funding for the National Guard and Reserve Component Equipment Account (NGREA). The committee understands that while no requirements have been formally identified for UH-72A Lakota ballistic armor or aircraft survivability equipment by the National Guard Bureau, should a requirement be put forth, the committee expects the Army National Guard to utilize NGREA funds.

The committee recommends \$16.4 million, an increase of \$10.0 million, in utility helicopter modifications for UH-72A life-cycle sustainment and product improvements. Further, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by February 8, 2019, on the Army's long-term sustainment strategy for the UH-72A Lakota helicopter fleet.

#### ***Unmanned aerial system units for Army National Guard***

The committee understands the Army's current fielding plan for MQ-1C Gray Eagle units includes Active Duty combat aviation brigades and intelligence units, and that at present no systems are planned for fielding to the Army National Guard. However, the committee notes that there are many missions involving military support to civilian authorities for which the MQ-1C Gray Eagle could contribute, including wildfire response, search and rescue, border security, counternarcotics, and communications support during emergencies.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by March 1, 2019, on the potential utility, feasibility, and cost of establishing MQ-1C Gray Eagle units in the Army National Guard. The briefing shall include, at a minimum, a detailed analysis of the resources needed to create a minimum of two Gray Eagle companies in the Army National Guard, and an analysis of how such units could provide support to civilian authorities for domestic emergencies.

#### ***A-10 replacement wings***

The base budget request contained \$98.7 million for A-10 aircraft modifications, of which \$79.2 million was included for the A-10 wing replacement program. The committee notes that increases for fiscal years 2017 and 2018 will enable the Department of the Air Force to begin a second wing replacement program for an additional 110 A-10 replacement wings.

The committee continues to believe that sustainment of the 281-aircraft A-10 fleet helps to meet Air Force fighter aircraft capacity requirements. The committee notes that A-10 force structure consists of five Air Reserve Component and four Active Duty squadrons, and that any fewer than nine squadrons will not meet future combatant commander demand for A-10 aircraft. Consequently, subsequent to the test and evaluation of the F-35A and A-10C required by section 134 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328), the Department should not take any action to reduce the number of A-10 squadrons. Accordingly, the committee believes the Department of the Air Force should accelerate the A-10 wing replacement program.

The committee recommends \$163.7 million in the base budget for A-10 modifications, an increase of \$65.0 million for the A-10 wing replacement program. The committee also notes that multiyear contracting strategies have resulted in more efficient and cost effective acquisition programs, and believes such a strategy could also result in cost savings for the A-10 wing replacement program. 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 15, 2019, on Department of the Air Force plans to utilize a multiyear contracting strategy to procure A-10 replacement wings.

Additionally, the committee notes that exercising the option to deliver the remaining 110 wings on the contract that expired in September 2016 could have resulted in cost savings compared to current plans to contract separately for a second wing replacement program. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a report to the House Committee on Armed Services, not later than February 15, 2019, on the cost of the additional 110 A-10 replacement wings using a second contract compared to the cost of exercising the option to procure the 110 A-10 replacement wings on the original contract.

#### ***Air Force enlisted pilot implementation initiatives***

The committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 4, 2019, on the plan to implement the enlisted pilot aircrew requirements of Section 1052 of the FY17 NDAA for the MQ-9 enterprise of the Active, Guard, and Reserve components of the Air Force. Furthermore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to submit a report to the congressional defense committees not later than April 1, 2019, on the costs, benefits, and feasibility of authorizing enlisted Airmen or Warrant Officers as pilots, navigators, or weapon systems operators on all Air Force aircraft or rotorcraft platforms. The report should also assess and explain any policy or guidance impediments that would preclude enlisted Airmen or Warrant Officers from serving as pilots, navigators, or weapon systems operators.

#### ***C-130H modernization efforts***

The committee notes that the C-130H aircraft that are flown primarily by the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve continue to provide critical tactical airlift capabilities and will continue to support this mission for years to come. The committee further notes that in order to sustain mission capability and effectiveness, various sustainment and improvement initiatives are currently underway. The committee supports all of these initiatives however, it does recognize that shortfalls still remain. Specifically, the C-130H Avionics Modernization Program (AMP) addresses cockpit modernization needs of the aircraft however; the AMP program does not include the flight engineers control panel, which is a key component of the cockpit. Failure to upgrade the flight engineer control panel could leave the C-130H fleet with continued obsolescence issues post AMP. If the Air Force were to decide to upgrade this equipment at a later date, they will have missed the efficiencies of conducting those upgrades concurrent with the AMP upgrades. Therefore, the committee encourages the Air Force to explore the possibility of upgrading the C-130H flight engineer overhead control panel using readily available off the shelf technology. Furthermore, if the Air Force determines that these upgrades are necessary, they should make every effort to upgrade the aircraft in parallel with the AMP program in order to minimize disruption to the operation of the C-130H fleet and mission.

#### ***C-130H propulsion systems upgrade***

The budget request contained \$22.1 million for procurement of C-130 modifications but no funds for C-130H propulsion systems upgrades. The committee continues to support the upgrade of C-130H/LC-130H aircraft with the T56 3.5 engine enhancement and NP2000 8-bladed propeller. The committee notes that the Air National Guard (ANG) completed testing of the T56 3.5 engine enhancement and reported results that exceeded expectations for fuel savings and performance. The committee understands that the ANG expects to issue a full test report in the summer of 2018, to be followed by a business case analysis for upgrading the entire fleet of C-130H/LC-130H aircraft. Additionally, the committee is aware that fiscal year 2016 and 2017 propulsion upgrade funds have been put on contract. The committee expects the Air Force to include the necessary funds to accelerate C-130H/LC-130H upgrades in future base budgets. The committee recommends \$129.0 million for the C-130H/LC-130H propulsion systems upgrade program.

### ***Total Force C-17 Fleet Management Plan***

The committee notes that the Air Force must carefully manage the life cycle of each of its 222 C-17 strategic airlift aircraft assigned to the Regular, Reserve, and Air National Guard Components from an enterprise point of view in order to extract the maximum amount of utility from this limited resource. The committee is also aware that the Air Force is unable to meet its current requirement for strategic airlift as outlined by the fiscal year 2013 Mobility Capability Requirements Study (MCRS). Furthermore, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (Public Law 115-91) directed the Secretary of Defense to carry out a new MCRS.

This study is to take into account attrition for the first time, which is likely to result in a higher requirement for strategic airlift.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by February 1, 2019, on the Total Force C-17 Fleet Management Plan. This briefing should include: (1) a table and timeline that shows when C-17s will be retired by tail number; (2) various courses of action that could be pursued and the impact to meeting the strategic airlift requirements; (3) limitation or impediments to controlling the retirement timeline of C-17 aircraft; and (4) legislative relief that could enable better management of the fleet through retirement.

### ***Total Force KC-135R net centric operations and battlespace awareness***

The committee is aware that all three Air Force components of the Total Force (Regular, Air National Guard, and Reserve) operate the KC-135 Stratotanker, which is Air Mobility Command's primary air refueling platform. The KC-135 provides approximately 87 percent of air refueling support to U.S., allied, and coalition military aircraft.

The committee believes that upgrades to KC-135 defensive systems, including tactical data link technologies, situational awareness displays that bring real-time threat information, and secure radio capability, greatly enhance KC-135 air refueling, airlift, and aeromedical evacuation missions. These systems are meant to protect the aircraft during takeoff, landing, and refueling flight regimes. Also, the systems offer protection during normal refueling flight operations against both infrared and radar-guided air-to-air missiles. Furthermore, the committee believes that upgrades to the KC-135 Real-Time Information in the Cockpit (RTIC) system would enhance network capability and provide a common processing and display platform resulting in consolidated situational awareness.

As reflected in division D of this Act, the committee recommends additional funding for the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account. The committee expects the Secretary of the Air Force to consider using these funds to modernize the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve with RTIC and self-protection commercial off-the-shelf solutions through a competitive process.

### ***Future Vertical Lift***

The committee understands that dedicated investment in incremental rotorcraft upgrades has kept America's current vertical lift aviation capabilities viable, and will continue to enable the fleet to bridge capability gaps through the near term. The committee believes that as more dangerous threats emerge at an accelerated pace in the mid-term, unwavering investment in advanced future disruptive technologies like Future Vertical Lift (FVL) will enable rotorcraft aviation to retain overmatch through significant capability improvements in reach, speed, protection, and lethality.

The committee notes that the Army leads the Department of Defense's rotorcraft technology portfolio, which needs additional research and development funding to regain America's world leadership in rotorcraft innovation. Because of America's eroding lead in rotorcraft capability, the committee encourages the Department to explore opportunities to accelerate the FVL program in order to meet national security challenges. The committee expects the Department to maximize full and open competition in doing so.

The committee believes that fiscal years 2019 and 2020 are pivotal years for the FVL modernization efforts, as critical technology demonstrations provide essential evidence during the completion of the FVL analysis of alternatives, and the Army uses this data and analysis to inform its path forward. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by

December 3, 2018, on the outcome of the analysis of alternatives and on any other analysis utilized in deciding the Army's priority of rotorcraft investment for FVL prior to the release of a request for proposal.

### ***Improved Turbine Engine Program***

The Improved Turbine Engine Program (ITEP) is a competitive acquisition program designed to develop a more fuel efficient and powerful engine to upgrade and enhance the performance and operational readiness of the current Black Hawk and Apache helicopter fleets. This new engine will increase operational capabilities in high altitudes and hot conditions while reducing operating and support costs. The committee has supported significant Army investments into competitive technology development programs for turbine engines over the past decade. During this time, the Army has made significant progress in maturing technologies that will lower ITEP programmatic risk with the goal of improving warfighting capabilities. In addition, the committee has encouraged the Army to prioritize maintenance and sustainment costs for ITEP to ensure the continued affordability of the program.

The committee also acknowledges the benefits of improved fuel efficiencies through lower specific fuel consumption that the ITEP will bring to the battlefield. This program represents a cost-effective approach to modernizing Army aviation and the committee continues to encourage the Army to pursue opportunities to accelerate the fielding of this capability. The committee recognizes 2019 as a crucial year for the program with Engineering Manufacturing Development (EMD) source selection slated for first quarter fiscal year 2019. Given the positive progress of this critical program, the committee is fully funding ITEP in fiscal year 2019 and encourages the Army to robustly fund ITEP in the EMD phase of the program.

### ***Briefing on Security Forces Assistance Brigade Location Plan***

The committee recognizes that a future Security Forces Assistance Brigade (SFAB) construct should highly encourage an expansion of alliances and partnerships as called for in the 2018 National Defense Strategy. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services, not later than January 1, 2019, on the strategic alignment decision matrix and installations plan for the fielding of the Security Forces Assistance Brigades. The plan shall include an assessment of the feasibility and advisability of stationing SFABs appropriately to address the requirements of the geographic combatant commands.

### ***Air Refueling Capability and Capacity***

The committee notes that air refueling capability is a critical component of logistical capacity and that the Air National Guard fulfills the majority of air refueling requirements. The committee notes that section 144 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (Public Law 115-91) required the Secretary of Defense to carry out a mobility capability and requirements study that includes an assessment of the air refueling tanker aircraft military requirement. Upon completion of the study, the committee is interested in how the Air Force will support the requirements for force structure and strategic laydown of aircraft necessary to implement the study.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services, not later than March 1, 2019, on how the Air Force will support the requirements for aerial refueling. At a minimum, the briefing shall include:

- (1) the current and future laydown plans for air refueling locations;
- (2) an overview of air refueling operations per air refueling wing locations to include the number of sortie requests, the number of sorties fulfilled, and the locations or missions the sorties supported;
- (3) fully mission capable and aircraft availability rates for all air refueling wings over the past 5 years;
- (4) an assessment of how the Air National Guard force structure, across all States and territories, can be leveraged to support current and emerging air refueling requirements;
- (5) a description of the long-term plan to maintain adequate refueling capability to meet current and emerging requirements;
- (6) a review of manpower levels across the air refueling force, an identification of current and projected skill set gaps, and recommendations on how to address these gaps; and
- (7) an overview of how the Air Force will determine the disposition of KC-135 aircraft as they are replaced by arrival of KC-46 aircraft.

### ***Report on Processes for Federal Recognition of Promotion of Commissioned National Guard Officers***

The committee is concerned that delays in federal recognition of National Guard promotions may be increasing and that these lengthy delays result in National Guard officers being deployed and doing the work of the rank to which they are being promoted while receiving the pay of their current rank. The committee notes that such delays deprive National Guard members of the pay to which they are entitled, reduce their time in rank, and may pose retention problems by giving National Guard members an incentive to leave military service.

Therefore the committee directs the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of the Air Force to each undertake a comprehensive review of the policies and procedures of the Department of the Army and the Department Air Force, as applicable, for the Federal recognition of promotions of commissioned officers of the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard, as the case may be, and to report the results of this review to the congressional defense committees by December 1, 2018. The report shall:

- (1) describe the average time between receipt by the military department concerned of scrolls (as defined in Department of Defense Instruction 1310.02) indicating the promotion of commissioned officers in the National Guard and their publication during the five-year period ending on the date of the House passage of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019;
- (2) describe and assess various approaches for streamlining the process by which the military department concerned approves Federal recognition scrolls, including through—
  - (A) additional automation;
  - (B) reduction in required steps; or
  - (C) delegation of authority to conduct required reviews; and
- (3) make recommendations for legislative or administration action to implement an approach under paragraph (2) if the Secretary concerned considers such approach feasible, advisable, and appropriate.

### ***Direct Report Language on National Guard Mental Health***

The Committee remains concerned about the high rate of suicides in the reserve component and specifically, within the Army National Guard. The Committee is aware of numerous efforts by the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to increase access and resources for Guardsmen to receive behavioral health treatment and support. The Committee also supports the establishment of a more integrated and holistic approach to resilience and fitness across the National Guard to better assess and improve the operational readiness of Guardsmen by carrying out pilot programs as required. Therefore, the Committee directs the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to provide a report to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than 1 March 2019, on the effectiveness of National Guard Bureau behavioral health programs like resiliency, suicide prevention, and other mental health outreach efforts.

### ***DOD Support to Combating the Opioid Epidemic***

The committee is deeply concerned about the rising numbers of opioid-related deaths in the United States. This nationwide health epidemic affects millions of people and their families. The abuse of opioids, both prescription and illicit opioids, is a public health emergency as categorized by the President in January 2018. This crisis highlights national security concerns including illicit trafficking of opioids, synthetic opioids, to include Fentanyl, and precursors for the production of opioids by transnational criminal organizations (TCOs), and their networks which have supply chains that extend into south and East Asia. The committee believes that the Department of Defense can play a vital role in support of lead U.S. agencies to address this crisis.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense, no later than September 30, 2018, to submit a report to the House Committee on Armed Services with an assessment of the assistance the Department is providing to lead U.S. government agencies to combat the opioid crisis. This report should include an assessment of resources available to assist other U.S. government partners in their strategy to combat the opioid epidemic to include the United States Postal Service, and an analysis of potential opportunities for the Department to provide assistance in the future.

***Assessment of Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Involuntary Mobilization Plans to Support Special Operations Activities***

During review of the fiscal year 2019 President's budget request and related activities in support of Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC), the committee determined that a small number of Air National Guard units and all Air Force Reserve Command units that support AFSOC missions and force presentation requirements do not possess a current, validated involuntary mobilization plan that complies with various Department of Defense, Department of the Air Force, and Special Operations Command instructions or policies. The committee is concerned that without sufficient and validated involuntary mobilization plans that detail how the Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve Command intend to support AFSOC as operational reserve units, should the need arise for Special Operations Command to fully mobilize forces in support of global special operations activities, the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Command may lack the capability and capacity to support the mission.

Therefore, the committee directs the Comptroller General of the United States to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 1, 2019, that assesses involuntary mobilization plans for Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Command units that support Air Force Special Operations missions and activities. The Comptroller General should assess, at a minimum:

- (1) the existence and recency of an involuntary mobilization plan;
- (2) the sufficiency and validity of the plan as compared to a unit's Designed Operational Capability statement, authorized and assigned manpower levels, authorized and assigned equipment, facilities, and support functions necessary to execute the plan;
- (3) comparison with existing Department of Defense policy and regulations governing mobilization-to-dwell and deployment-to-dwell goals and objectives;
- (4) any discrepancies, shortfalls, or gaps associated with the aforementioned areas of assessment; and
- (5) any additional information the Comptroller General would find useful to support the briefing.

***Civil Support Team Information Management System***

The committee is aware that the National Guard Bureau Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams (CST) currently field the CST Information Management System (CIMS). CIMS provides a common operation picture and promotes information sharing and real-time collaboration. CIMS also supports the CST mission of assisting and advising first responders and facilitating communications with other Federal resources in an emergency.

The committee encourages the expansion of CIMS to establish an enterprise-wide capable tool, commonly referred to as the National Guard Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Response Enterprise Information Management System 2018+ (NG CIMS 2018+). The committee believes that expansion will increase the capabilities of the CIMS to support other National Guard Bureau forces, such as the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and High-Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package and Homeland Defense Response Force units.

The committee notes that the timeline the Department of Defense previously presented to the committee in their September 8, 2015, report "Civil Support Team Information Management System" has been delayed.

The committee, therefore, directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by October 1, 2018, on the plan for the development of NG CIMS 2018+, including a description of timelines, milestones, fielding, and completion dates.

***National Guard Access to Department of Defense Owned Unmanned Aircraft Systems***

The committee notes that section 1084 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (Public Law 115-91) required that not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of Public Law 115-91, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, the Commander, U.S. Northern Command, and the Commander, U.S. Pacific Command, complete an efficiency and effectiveness review of the governance structure, coordination processes, documentation, and timing requirements stipulated in Department of Defense policy memorandum 15-002, "Guidance for the Domestic Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)." In addition, not later than 30 days after the policy review is completed, the Secretary of Defense is required to submit the results of the review to the congressional defense

committees. The committee expects that during the policy review, Department of Defense officials will implement a processing timeline for reviewing National Guard UAS utilization requests that appropriately balances reviewing the request for compliance with established policy and reviewing the request in a timely manner that coincides with the responsiveness, urgency, and operational planning factors dictated by the specific mission the UAS capability is being requested to support.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than 30 days after the policy review required by section 1084 of Public Law 115-91 is completed. The briefing should include information related to the processing timeline that the Secretary established during the policy review and how the timeline will be implemented.

#### ***Report on NORTHCOM Response to Hurricane Maria***

In 2017, the United States witnessed Hurricane Maria, which had a devastating impact on Puerto Rico and required a Federal Government response. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in collaboration with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator, to submit a report by December 1, 2018 on the ongoing U.S. Government recovery effort of Hurricane Maria. The report shall include the following elements: (a) statistics on ongoing power outages; (b) the number of deaths in each U.S. state or territory affected; (c) measures to improve hurricane emergency response plans for insular areas and/or territories of the United States.

#### ***Review of National Guard Capabilities in Support of Incident Awareness and Assessment Mission Operations***

The committee notes there is inconsistency among National Guard and Department of the Air Force officials in expressing what type of capabilities and which platforms are required to support the Incident Awareness and Assessment (IAA) mission of the National Guard. The committee requires clarification regarding the National Guard's current and future capability and capacity requirements to execute the IAA mission in support of Domestic Operations (DOMOPS) when National Guard personnel are on duty or mobilized under title 32, United States Code, authority, and in support of Defense Support to Civil Authorities (DSCA) when National Guard personnel are on duty or mobilized under title 10, United States Code, authority. The committee believes it is critical for the Department of Defense to maintain a sufficient capability, capacity, and responsiveness among the Active and Reserve components of the Department when supporting missions related to homeland defense and responding to natural disasters or declared emergencies.

Therefore, the committee directs the Chief, National Guard Bureau, in coordination with the Commander, U.S. Northern Command, the Director, Air National Guard, and the Director, Army National Guard, to provide a report to the congressional defense committees by October 1, 2018, that provides an Incident Awareness and Assessment capability and capacity roadmap for the National Guard covering the 2019 to 2023 Future Years Defense Program (FYDP). The report should describe, at a minimum:

- (1) the validated capability and capacity requirements defining the IAA mission in support of U.S. Northern Command, State Governors, and other Government agencies;
- (2) the specific platforms and quantities of platforms the National Guard will leverage, maintain, or procure to support IAA capability and capacity requirements;
- (3) a schedule depicting specific platforms that will be procured, maintained, or divested in support of IAA capabilities and capacity over the covered time period;
- (4) a schedule depicting specific platforms and associated modernization and upgrades that will be accomplished over the covered time period;
- (5) the required funding needed and currently programmed in the FYDP to support individual platforms within the IAA portfolio of capabilities; and
- (6) any capability or capacity gaps or shortfalls that are identified over the covered time period.

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

The budget request for Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) contained no funding for a National Guard and Reserve Component equipment account. Elsewhere as reflected in division D of this Act, the committee notes that the base budget request contained \$3.4 billion for procurement of National Guard and Reserve

Component equipment and \$219.9 million in the OCO request for Army National Guard and Army Reserve other procurement programs.

The committee remains concerned about the availability of equipment needed to sustain and modernize the National Guard and Reserve Components as an operational reserve and for their domestic support missions. The committee notes that National Guard and Reserve Components are often reliant upon overused and outdated equipment, creating a widening capability gap with the Active Component, and have been unable to maintain pace with rapid technological change. The committee believes additional funds are required to address identified equipment shortfalls and improve compatibility with Active Components. The committee expects these funds to be used for the purposes of, but not limited to, the procurement of rotorcraft; avionic and radar upgrades for legacy strike fighter aircraft to include Navy Reserve F-18 strike fighters; wheeled and tracked combat vehicles; tactical wheeled vehicles; ammunition; small arms; tactical radios (to include single channel ground and airborne radio systems); UH-72A Lakota survivability upgrades; UH-60 disaster response equipment, such as rescue hoists, water buckets, and radios; non-system training devices; vehicle convoy operations trainers; unstabilized gunnery trainers and virtual convoy operations trainers; sense and avoid system upgrades for unmanned air systems; and explosive ordnance disposal man-portable robots & lightweight X-ray systems and other unfunded procurement items for the National Guard and Reserve Components.

The committee recommends additional funding for a National Guard and Reserve Component equipment account within the Overseas Contingency Operations budget request. The committee also recommends \$3.4 billion, the full amount of the base budget request, for National Guard and Reserve Component equipment and also recommends \$219.9 million in the OCO request for Army National Guard and Army Reserve.

### ***Cyber Scholarship Program***

The budget request contained \$7.9 million in PE 33140D8Z, for the defense-wide Information Security Systems Program. Section 1649 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (Public Law 115-91) amended chapter 112 of title 10, United States Code, to establish the Department of Defense Cyber Scholarship Program. The committee believes the Cyber Scholarship program may alleviate the challenges the Department of Defense is experiencing in recruiting and retaining cybersecurity personnel. Additionally, the committee believes that providing additional opportunities under the program will be beneficial in addressing Department requirements for a qualified cyber workforce, especially if the Department focuses on educating the public and relevant academic institutions about this program. The committee also believes that Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) programs at universities that offer degrees in cyber studies and related fields provide an opportunity to leverage and expand partnerships to assist in closing the gap of trained cyber warriors in the military.

Therefore, the committee recommends \$17.9 million, an increase of \$10.0 million, in PE 33140D8Z. Further, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by February 1, 2019, on the implementation and utilization of the Cyber Scholarship Program, to include efforts to educate the public and focus on institutions with high-quality computer science, engineering, and cybersecurity programs, including historically black colleges and universities, and minority-serving institutions. The briefing should also include implementation and utilization of efforts to leverage ROTC at institutions with cyber studies as a way to expand the pool of talented technical applicants.