



# FY21 House Appropriations Committee Defense Appropriations Act



*As of July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

***Bill Status***

	Passed in Committee	Passed in Chamber	Final Passage	Signed into Law
House	July 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2020			
Senate				

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## Executive Summary

This guide provides a short summary of the committee markup for the House of Representatives Fiscal Year 2021 Defense Appropriations Act. To obtain a complete understanding of any particular provision, users are encouraged to review the actual legislative language. Bill text and report language can be found on the LL website: [www.nationalguard.mil/ll](http://www.nationalguard.mil/ll).

### Status:

On July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 the House Appropriations Committee passed the FY21 Defense Appropriations Act. The bill appropriates \$626.2 billion for base defense spending and \$68.4 billion for OCO, for a total of \$694.6 billion. The total is \$4.4 billion above the fiscal 2020 level.

### Highlights:

- Funds a 3% military pay raise
- Funds an end strength of 336,500 (500 above FY20) for the ARNG and 108,100 (400 above FY20) for the ANG
- Appropriates \$300M each for the ARNG and ANG in NAREA
- Adds \$75.1M for Youth Challenge
- Adds \$41.1M for STARBASE
- \$8.6B for ARNG Personnel, a decrease of \$191M from the FY21 PBR
- \$4.5B for ANG Personnel, a decrease of \$21M from the FY21 PBR
- \$7.6B for ARNG O&M, an increase of \$191M from the FY21 PBR
- \$1.06B for ARNG FSRM, an increase of \$188M from the FY21 PBR
- \$6.85B for ANG O&M, an increase of \$100.3M from the FY21 PBR
- \$195 M for National Guard Counter-Drug Program, an increase of \$101.7M from the FY21 PBR
- \$5.5M for National Guard Counter-Drug Schools
- Prohibits funds from being used to reduce authorized positions for National Guard military technicians
- Provides \$24.17M for State Partnership Program Activities (\$17.5M for ARNG / \$6.67M for ANG)

# National Guard Accounts Overview

(All Dollars in Thousands)

Army National Guard	FY21 President's Budget Request	FY21 HAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY21 SAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY21 Conference
ARNG Personnel	\$8,830,111	<b>\$8,639,005</b>	<b>\$191,106</b>			
ARNG Personnel OCO	\$195,314	\$195,314	--			
ARNG O&M	\$7,420,014	<b>\$7,611,147</b>	<b>\$191,133</b>			
ARNG O&M OCO	\$79,792	\$79,792	--			
NGREA	--	<b>\$300,000</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>			

Air National Guard	FY21 President's Budget Request	FY21 HAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY21 SAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY21 Conference
ANG Personnel	\$4,547,087	<b>\$4,525,466</b>	<b>\$21,621</b>			
ANG Personnel OCO	\$5,800	\$5,800	--			
ANG O&M	\$6,753,642	<b>\$6,853,942</b>	<b>\$100,300</b>			
ANG O&M OCO	\$175,642	\$175,642	--			
NGREA		<b>\$300,000</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>			



# Army National Guard

## Army National Guard Personnel

(All Dollars in Thousands)

ARNG Personnel Appropriation	FY21 President's Budget Request	FY21 HAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY21 SAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY21 Conference
PAY GROUP A TRAINING (15 DAYS & DRILLS 24/48)	\$2,711,190	\$2,711,190	--			
PAY GROUP F TRAINING (RECRUITS)	\$549,848	\$549,848	--			
PAY GROUP P TRAINING (PIPELINE RECRUITS)	\$45,649	\$45,649	--			
SCHOOL TRAINING	\$575,633	\$575,633	--			
SPECIAL TRAINING	\$817,826	<b>\$832,326<sup>1,2</sup></b>	<b>\$14,500</b>			
ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT	\$4,052,288	\$4,052,288	--			
THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS	\$29,324	\$29,324	--			
EDUCATION BENEFITS	\$48,353	\$48,353	--			
<b>TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 1 (BAC-01)</b>	<b>\$8,830,111</b>	<b>\$8,844,611</b>	<b>\$14,500</b>			
UNDISTRIBUTED ADJUSTMENT	--	<b>-\$207,140<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>\$207,140</b>			
TRAUMA TRAINING	--	<b>+\$1,534</b>	<b>\$1,534</b>			
<b>TOTAL, TITLE I, ARNG PERSONNEL</b>	<b>\$8,830,111</b>	<b>\$8,639,005</b>	<b>\$191,106</b>			

### HAC-D Items

1. Program Increase – State Partnership Program: \$13,500
2. Program Increase - Critical Cybersecurity Skillsets \$1,000
3. Historical Unobligated Balances: -\$207,140

## Army National Guard Personnel (Overseas Contingency Operations)

ARNG Personnel (OCO) Appropriation	F21 President's Budget Request	FY21 HAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY21 SAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY21 Conference
PAY GROUP A TRAINING (15 DAYS & DRILLS 24/48)	\$62,718	\$62,718	--			
SCHOOL TRAINING	\$3,752	\$3,752	--			
SPECIAL TRAINING	\$107,242	\$107,242	--			
ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT	\$21,602	\$21,602	--			
<b>TOTAL ARNG PERSONNEL (OCO)</b>	<b>\$195,314</b>	<b>\$195,314</b>	<b>--</b>			

## Army National Guard Operations & Maintenance

ARNG O&M Appropriation	FY21 President's Budget Request	FY21 HAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY21 SAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY21 Conference
MANEUVER UNITS	\$769,449	\$769,449	--			
MODULAR SUPPORT BRIGADES	\$204,604	\$204,604	--			
ECHELONS ABOVE BRIGADE	\$812,072	\$812,072	--			
THEATER LEVEL ASSETS	\$103,650	<b>\$101,150<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$2,500</b>			
LAND FORCES OPERATIONS SUPPORT	\$32,485	\$32,485	--			
AVIATION ASSETS	\$1,011,142	\$1,011,142	--			
FORCE READINESS OPERATIONS SUPPORT	\$712,881	<b>\$713,414<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$533</b>			
LAND FORCES SYSTEMS READINESS	\$47,732	\$47,732	--			
LAND FORCES DEPOT MAINTENANCE	\$265,408	<b>\$263,908<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>\$1,500</b>			
BASE OPERATIONS SUPPORT	\$1,106,704	<b>\$1,154,304<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>\$47,600</b>			
FACILITIES SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION, & MODERNIZATION	\$876,032	<b>\$1,064,032<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>\$188,000</b>			
MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONAL HQ	\$1,050,257	\$1,050,257	--			
CYBERSPACE ACTIVITIES – CYBERSPACE OPERATIONS	\$7,998	<b>\$8,998<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>\$1,000</b>			
CYBERSPACE ACTIVITIES – CYBERSECURITY	\$7,756	\$7,756	--			
<b>TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 1 (BAC-01)</b>	<b>\$7,008,170</b>	<b>\$7,241,303</b>	<b>\$233,133</b>			
SERVICEWIDE TRANSPORTATION	\$8,018	\$8,018	--			
ADMINISTRATION	\$74,309	<b>\$78,309<sup>7,8</sup></b>	<b>\$4,000</b>			
SERVICEWIDE COMMUNICATIONS	\$66,140	\$66,140	--			
MANPOWER MANAGEMENT	\$9,087	\$9,087	--			
RECRUITING AND ADVERTISING	\$251,714	\$251,714	--			
REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT	\$2,576	\$2,576	--			
<b>TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 4 (BAC-04)</b>	<b>\$411,844</b>	<b>\$415,844</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>			
HISTORICAL UNOBLIGATION	--	<b>-\$5,000</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>			
RESTORE READINESS	--	<b>\$103,000</b>	<b>\$103,000</b>			
OVERESTIMATION OF CIVILIAN FTE TARGETS	--	<b>-\$50,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>			
UNDISTRIBUTED REDUCTION – EXCESS TO NEED	--	<b>-\$94,000</b>	<b>\$94,000</b>			
<b>TOTAL, ARNG O&amp;M</b>	<b>\$7,420,014</b>	<b>\$7,611,147</b>	<b>\$191,133</b>			

### HAC-D Items

- Insufficient Justification: -\$2,500
- Program Increase – Advanced Trauma Training Program: \$533
- Insufficient Justification: -\$1,500

4. Program Increase – PFAS Remediation: \$47,600
5. Program Increase: \$188,000
6. Program Increase – Cyber Security Training Center: \$1,000
7. Program Increase – State Partnership Program: \$3,500
8. Program Increase – State Partnership Virtual Language: \$500

### Army National Guard Operations & Maintenance (Overseas Contingency Operations)

ARNG O&M (OCO) Appropriation	FY21 President's Budget Request	FY21 HAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY21 SAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY21 Conference
MANEUVER UNITS	\$25,746	\$25,746	--			
MODULAR SUPPORT BRIGADES	\$40	\$40	--			
ECHELONS ABOVE BRIGADE	\$983	\$983	--			
THEATER LEVEL ASSETS	\$22	\$22	--			
AVIATION ASSETS	\$20,624	\$20,624	--			
FORCE READINESS OPERATIONS SUPPORT	\$7,914	\$7,914	--			
BASE OPERATIONS SUPPORT	\$24,417	\$24,417	--			
SERVICEWIDE COMMUNICATIONS	\$46	\$46	--			
<b>TOTAL, ARNG O&amp;M (OCO)</b>	<b>\$79,792</b>	<b>\$79,792</b>	<b>--</b>			



# Air National Guard

## Air National Guard Personnel

(All Dollars in Thousands)

ANG Personnel Appropriation	FY21 President's Budget Request	FY21 HAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY21 SAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY21 Conference
PAY GROUP A TRAINING (15 DAYS & DRILLS 24/48)	\$949,382	\$949,382	--			
PAY GROUP F TRAINING (RECRUITS)	\$97,078	\$97,078	--			
PAY GROUP P TRAINING (PIPELINE RECRUITS)	\$7,829	\$7,829	--			
SCHOOL TRAINING	\$361,527	\$361,527	--			
SPECIAL TRAINING	\$245,500	\$252,177 <sup>1,2</sup>	\$6,677			
ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT	\$2,857,955	\$2,857,955	--			
THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS	\$14,675	\$14,675	--			
EDUCATION BENEFITS	\$13,141	\$13,141	--			
<b>TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 1 (BAC-01)</b>	<b>\$4,547,087</b>	<b>\$4,553,764</b>	<b>\$6,677</b>			
UNDISTRIBUTED ADJUSTMENT	--	-\$30,540 <sup>3</sup>	\$30,540			
TRAUMA TRAINING	--	+\$2,242	\$2,242			
<b>Total, Title I National Guard Personnel, Air Force</b>	<b>\$4,547,087</b>	<b>\$4,525,466</b>	<b>\$21,621</b>			

### HAC-D Items

1. Program Increase - State Partnership Program \$4,677
2. Program Increase - Critical Skillsets Crosstraining: \$2,000
3. Historical Unobligated Balances: -30,540

## Air National Guard Personnel (Overseas Contingency Operations)

ANG Personnel (OCO) Appropriation	FY21 President's Budget Request	FY21 HAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY21 SAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY21 Conference
SPECIAL TRAINING	\$5,800	\$5,800	--			
<b>TOTAL, NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE (OCO)</b>	<b>\$5,800</b>	<b>\$5,800</b>	<b>--</b>			



## Air National Guard Operations & Maintenance

ANG O&M Appropriation	FY21 President's Budget Request	FY21 HAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY21 SAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY21 Conference
AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS	\$2,476,205	<b>\$2,464,205<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$12,000</b>			
MISSION SUPPORT OPERATIONS	\$611,325	<b>\$615,125<sup>2,3,4</sup></b>	<b>\$3,800</b>			
DEPOT MAINTENANCE	\$1,138,919	<b>\$1,118,919<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>\$20,000</b>			
FACILITIES SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION & MODERNIZATION	\$323,605	<b>\$433,605<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>\$110,000</b>			
CYBERSPACE ACTIVITIES	\$16,380	\$16,380	--			
CYBERSPACE SUSTAINMENT	\$27,028	\$27,028	--			
CONTRACTOR LOGISTICS SUPPORT AND SYSTEM SUPPORT	\$1,100,828	\$1,100,828	--			
BASE OPERATING SUPPORT	\$962,438	<b>\$978,938<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>\$16,500</b>			
<b>TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 1 (BAC-01)</b>	<b>\$6,656,728</b>	<b>\$6,755,028</b>	<b>\$98,300</b>			
ADMINISTRATION	\$48,218	\$48,218				
RECRUITING AND ADVERTISING	\$48,696	<b>\$45,696<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>\$3,000</b>			
<b>TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 4 (BAC-04)</b>	<b>\$96,914</b>	<b>\$93,314</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>			
HISTORICAL UNOBLIGATION	--	<b>-\$10,000</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>			
RESTORE READINESS	--	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>			
OVERESTIMATION OF CIVILIAN FTE TARGETS	--	<b>-\$25,000</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>			
UNDISTRIBUTED REDUCTION – EXCESS TO NEED	--	<b>-\$60,000</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>			
<b>TOTAL, O&amp;M, AIR NATIONAL GUARD</b>	<b>\$6,753,642</b>	<b>\$6,853,942</b>	<b>\$100,300</b>			

### HAC-D Items

1. Insufficient Justification: -\$12,000
2. Program Increase – Trauma Training Program: \$1,800
3. Program Increase – State Partnership Program: \$1,500
4. Program Increase – State Partnership Virtual Language: \$500
5. Unjustified Increase: -\$20,000
6. Program Increase: \$110,000
7. Program Increase – PFAS Remediation: \$16,500
8. Insufficient Justification: -\$3,000

## Air National Guard Operations & Maintenance (Overseas Contingency Operations)

ANG O&M (OCO) Appropriation	FY21 President's Budget Request	FY21 HAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY21 SAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY21 Conference
MISSION SUPPORT OPERATIONS	\$3,739	\$3,739	--			
DEPOT MAINTENANCE	\$61,862	\$61,862	--			
CONTRACTOR LOGISTICS SUPPORT AND SYSTEM	\$97,108	\$97,108	--			
BASE SUPPORT	\$12,933	\$12,933	--			
<b>TOTAL, ANG O&amp;M (OCO)</b>	<b>\$175,642</b>	<b>\$175,642</b>	<b>--</b>			

## General Provisions

### Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities

The Committee recommendation includes \$421,029,000 for Counter-Narcotics Support, which supports the counter-narcotics activities of United States Northern Command and United States Southern Command, including the Joint Interagency Task Force South. The Committee also supports the provision of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance assets to these combatant commands to support their counter-drug operations. The Committee recommendation transfers \$31,768,000 from Counter-Narcotics Support to the National Guard Counter-Drug Program. The Committee recommendation also transfers \$26,006,000 requested for international programs under Counter-Narcotics Support to International Security Cooperation Programs managed by the Defense Security Cooperation Agency to build the capacity of countries in the Northern Command and Southern Command areas of responsibility to counter illicit drug trafficking. The budget request for fiscal year 2022 should request funding for these programs in a manner similar to the Committee recommendation for this fiscal year.

The Committee is concerned with the misrepresentation by the Department of Defense regarding the purposes for which funds were requested under this heading in fiscal year 2020. The Department of Defense has reallocated \$47,400,000 from Counter-Narcotics Support for activities that were neither requested by the Department nor appropriated by Congress, namely to fund southwest border barrier construction. Such actions deny the Committee its constitutional and oversight responsibilities and the Committee recommendation for fiscal year 2021 does not continue funding programs that were reduced as a result of the Department's actions. The Committee is also concerned with the proper management of funds appropriated under this heading. The Committee understands that the Department of Defense delayed transfers from this account to other appropriations for months while estimates for border construction were being developed. In lieu of the intended source, other appropriations were used to implement programs normally funded under this heading. The Committee expects the Secretary of Defense to ensure that funding provided under this heading is properly managed and executed in a timely manner.

The Committee recommendation does not include the \$20,000,000 requested in fiscal year 2021 for southwest border barrier construction, and section 8134 prohibits funds in this Act from being used for that purpose. Moreover, section 8135 of the Act returns any unobligated funds, which were transferred by the Department of Defense on February 13, 2020 for southwest border barrier construction, to their original accounts to be used for the original purposes for which they were appropriated by Congress. The Committee recognizes the important role of the National Guard Counter-Drug program in assisting local and state agencies in addressing national drug-related challenges. The Committee encourages the administrators of the National Guard Counter-Drug program to continue their coordination with communities, regions, and other organizations to help alleviate the national drug problem. The Committee notes the recommendations contained in Government Accountability Office report 19-27 and encourages the Chief of

the National Guard Bureau to issue guidance on the operation and administration of the National Guard drug Program in order to improve program performance.

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

The Committee recommends \$1,000,000,000 for the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account. Of that amount, \$300,000,000 is for the Army National Guard; \$300,000,000 is for the Air National Guard; \$160,000,000 is for the Army Reserve; \$65,000,000 is for the Navy Reserve; \$15,000,000 is for the Marine Corps Reserve; and \$160,000,000 is for the Air Force Reserve to meet urgent equipment needs in the coming fiscal year.

This funding will allow the National Guard and reserve components to procure high priority equipment used by these components for both their military missions and missions in support of State governors. The funding within this account is not to be used to procure equipment designated as high-density critical equipment, major weapon systems, aircraft, and other equipment central to a unit's ability to perform its doctrinal mission. The funding within this account is not to be used to procure equipment purchased by the senior Service, to expand or accelerate current Service procurement plans, to purchase expendable items, or to purchase facilities or equipment for any requirement able to be satisfied elsewhere.

The Committee directs the Secretary of Defense to ensure that the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account is executed by the Chiefs of the National Guard and reserve components with priority consideration given to the following items: acoustic hailing devices; airborne and ground detect and avoid systems; containerized ice making systems; crash-worthy, ballistically tolerant auxiliary fuel systems; counter-UAS systems; gamma radiation protection; helmet-mounted display system; hypervisor-based cross domain access solution; modular small arms ranges and small arms training simulators and tools; radiological screening portals; training systems and simulators; and virtual language training systems.

### **Legislative Provisions**

**Sec. 8042** prohibits funds made available in this Act from being used to reduce authorized positions for military technicians (dual status) of the Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Army Reserve, and Air Force Reserve unless such reductions are a direct result of a reduction in military force structure.

**Sec. 8044** provides for reimbursement to the National Guard and reserve when members of the National Guard and reserve provide intelligence or counterintelligence support to the combatant commands, defense agencies, and joint intelligence activities.

**Sec. 8053** provides conditions for the use of equipment of the National Guard Distance Learning Project, on a space available, reimbursable basis.

**Sec. 8060** provides for the use of National Guard personnel to support ground-based elements of the National Ballistic Missile Defense System.

**Sec. 8062** provides for a waiver by the Chief of the National Guard Bureau or his designee for all or part of consideration in cases of personal property leases of less than one year.

### **Items of Interest**

#### **TRAUMA TRAINING PROGRAM**

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

## **JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS ANALYSIS CELLS**

Intelligence fusion centers are information sharing hubs that provide threat-related information to federal, state, and local agencies. These centers allow the flexibility to determine which critical infrastructure areas merit the dedication of resources on each governmental level. The Committee recognizes that the National Guard Bureau is developing a Joint Force Headquarters Analysis Cell concept to expand state-level intelligence capabilities. As this work progresses, the Committee encourages the Chief, National Guard Bureau to consult with state-level entities, particularly individual state National Guard units who specialize in this area, to integrate key aspects of concepts that have already proved successful at the state level.

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE**

The Committee is troubled by the ongoing epidemic of sexual assault in the military and at the Service academies and believes that this will persist until a change in culture occurs across all Services at every level. The Department of Defense provides an annual report to Congress which provides details on sexual assaults involving servicemembers. However, the most recent report's findings make it clear that more action by the Department is necessary to combat this widespread problem. In addition to the annual report, the Committee directs the Director of the Department of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO) to brief the House and Senate Appropriations Committees not later than 30 days after the enactment of this Act and quarterly thereafter, on the initiatives the Department is implementing to reform how the military prevents, responds to, and adjudicates sexual assault cases, as well as the efforts underway to develop robust research, evaluation, and analytics to assess the effectiveness of its prevention efforts.

The Committee recognizes SAPRO's efforts to implement a comprehensive policy to ensure the safety, dignity and well-being of all members of the military. Despite seeing promising outcomes from some newly implemented SAPRO programs, the most recent Department report from 2019 on the prevalence of sexual assault in the military is disturbing. The report found the number of sexual assaults in the military rose by 38 percent from 2016 to 2018 with roughly 20,500 servicemembers experiencing sexual assault, up from an estimated 14,900 in 2016. The report also found the sexual assault rate for women jumped a shocking 50 percent. While the Department touts increased reporting as a measure of success, only a third of all sexual assaults in the military were reported according to the 2019 report. Despite these dire findings and rhetoric from leadership in the Department and the Services, the budget for sexual assault prevention and response remains stagnant. The fiscal year 2021 budget proposes to cut funding for SAPRO by \$5,000,000 at the Department level. The Committee is appalled by the Department's failure to prioritize funding to address the systemic cultural problems associated with sexual assault in the military and the Service academies. In recent years, Congress has given the Services numerous new tools and responsibilities to improve the military justice system. In particular, the Special Victims' Counsel program was created to provide sexual assault survivors with attorneys to represent their interests in criminal proceedings. The program has proved so critical and successful that it was expanded to serve survivors of domestic violence in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020. Despite the inherent importance of the Special Victims' Counsel program and the growing caseload of Special Victim Advocates, the Department fails to request dedicated funding in its annual budget request. Although the Services have taken the role of the Special Victims' Counsel program seriously, the Committee is disappointed by the Department's apparent apathy towards providing adequate funding to sustain a longstanding program.

The Committee recommends \$282,934,000, an increase of \$5,000,000 above the budget request, for sexual assault prevention and response programs at the Department and Service levels and provides an additional \$40,000,000 for the Department of Defense SAPRO for the Special Victims' Counsel program for transfer to the Services, including the National Guard and reserve components.

## **SUICIDE PREVENTION AND OUTREACH**

The Committee is alarmed by the growing number of suicides among servicemembers. The Department's first Annual Suicide Report, released in 2019, found a statistically significant increase in the military's suicide rate among active duty servicemembers. The report found in just five years the rate of suicide rose by more than one-third, from 18.5 to 24.8 suicides per 100,000 active duty members. For the National Guard, the report found the rate of suicide was statistically higher than that of the American population at 30.6 suicides per 100,000 members of the National Guard regardless of duty status. The Committee recognizes that programs like the National Guard Bureau's national counseling and suicide prevention peer-to-peer outreach programs are vital to reducing the number of suicides among guardsmen. The Committee encourages the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to continue supporting such programs. The Committee

acknowledges the Defense Suicide Prevention Office's (DSPO) hard work and dedication to advance holistic, data- driven suicide prevention through its partnership with the Services. However, the most recent report emphasizes the need for a more dedicated response to address the troubling rise of suicide among servicemembers. Despite statements by the Secretary of Defense that the military, "has the means and the resources to get ahead of this and do better than our civilian counterparts," the Department's investment in DSPO is negligible at best. The budget for staffing and programming of DSPO has remained flat despite the uptick in suicides among servicemembers. Instead of seeking to expand resources available to the Services, the Department has prioritized finding nominal cuts through the Defense-Wide Review for this office. The Committee is disappointed by the Department's failure to prioritize appropriate resources for DSPO and invest in efforts to understand the efficacy and effectiveness of its own suicide prevention programs.

In addition to the Annual Suicide Report, the Committee directs the Director of the DSPO to brief the House and Senate Appropriations Committees not later than 30 days after the enactment of this Act and quarterly thereafter, on the initiatives the Department is implementing to prevent military suicide, as well as the efforts underway to develop robust research, evaluation, and analytics to assess the effectiveness of its prevention efforts. Further, the Committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, not later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act, and monthly thereafter, a report on suicide among members of the armed forces. The report shall provide the number of suicides, attempted suicides, and occurrences of suicidal ideation involving a member of the armed forces, including the reserve components. The report all include the gender, age, rank, and method of suicide for each.