



National Guard Bureau
Office of Legislative Liaison



FY23 House National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)

Summary of H.R. 7900 The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023

As of July 05th, 2022

	Passed in Committee	Passed in Chamber	Agreement	Final Passage	Signed into Law
House	June 23, 2022				
Senate					

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Executive Summary

This guide provides a short summary of the House Armed Services Committee's Fiscal Year 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

To obtain a complete understanding of any particular provision, users are encouraged to review the actual bill text. Bill text and the conference report can be found on NGB-LL's website: <https://www.nationalguard.mil/leadership/joint-staff/personal-staff/legislative-liaison/>. 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 for their own situational awareness.

Status:

On June 23, 2022, the House Armed Services Committee passed their FY23 National Defense Authorization Act. The bill authorizes a topline of nearly \$839 billion for FY23 national defense activities.

Highlights:

- Elevates the position of the Vice Chief of the National Guard Bureau to the rank of General
- Establishes a Space National Guard
- Establishes the eligibility of the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to be appointed Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
- Prohibits moving KC-135 aircraft from Primary Mission Aircraft Inventory to Backup Aircraft Inventory in the Air National Guard
- Reduces minimum quantity of Primary Mission A-10 Aircraft Inventory to facilitate transition of A-10 to F-16 aircraft at Fort Wayne ANGB, IN
- Retains C-130 total Aircraft Inventory
- Prohibits DoD from purchasing firefighting equipment containing per- and polyfluoralkyl substances if alternatives are available
- Requires the DoD to reimburse states for any firefighting costs related to wildfires started on lands controlled by DoD
- Requires backdating of the effective date of rank for NG officers due to undue delays in Federal Recognition
- Requires regular inspections of NG units for compliance with policies related to Sexual Assault, Sexual Harassment, and Suicide Prevention
- Authorizes \$50M increased funding for the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account
- Requires consent of the Chief Executive Officer for certain full-time National Guard duty performed in a State, Territory, or the District of Columbia
- Authorizes a 4.6% pay raise for service members
- Authorizes \$83.5M O&M for the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe program and \$50M O&M for STARBASE
- Authorizes \$100.316M for the National Guard Counter-Drug Program
- Authorizes \$5.878M for National Guard Counter-Drug Schools

- Authorizes \$350M increased funding for Army National Guard MQ-1 UAV
- Extends NG support for the Fireguard program until September 30, 2029
- Allows enlisted members (E-9 and below) to accept gifts from charitable or veterans service tax-exempt organizations

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	FY23 PB Request	HASC Mark	Delta from PB	SASC Mark	Delta from PB	Conference Report	FY23 Delta from PB
O&M	\$8,157,237	\$8,273,426	\$116,189				
MILCON	\$297,278	\$468,989	\$171,711				

Army National Guard End Strength

Army National Guard	FY23 PB Request	HASC Mark	Delta from PB	SASC Mark	Delta from PB	Conference Report	FY23 Delta from PB
End Strength	336,000	336,000	-				
AGR	30,845	30,845	-				
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	FY23 PB Request	HASC Mark	Delta from PB	SASC Mark	Delta from PB	Conference Report	FY23 Delta from PB
O&M	\$6,900,679	\$7,007,579	\$106,900				
MILCON	\$148,883	\$291,843	\$142,960				

Air National Guard End Strength

Air National Guard	FY23 PB Request	HASC Mark	Delta from PB	SASC Mark	Delta from PB	Conference Report	FY23 Delta from PB
End Strength	108,400	108,400	-				
AGR	26,630	26,630	-				
Dual Status Technicians	9,892	9,892	-				
ADOS	16,000	16,000	-				

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

Air Force Programs

Sec. 121. Modification of Inventory Requirements for Aircraft of the Combat Air Forces.

This section would reduce the minimum quantity of primary mission A-10 aircraft inventory required to be maintained by the Secretary of the Air Force in order to facilitate the transition of A-10 aircraft to F-16 aircraft at Fort Wayne Air National Guard Base, Indiana. This section would also reduce the

minimum inventory quantity of total tactical fighter aircraft the Secretary of the Air Force is required to maintain from 1,970 to 1,800 aircraft.

Sec. 122. Modification of Minimum Inventory Requirement for Air Refueling Tanker Aircraft.

This section would set an air refueling minimum inventory of 466 tanker aircraft for fiscal year 2023 and prevent the Air Force from moving KC-135 aircraft from Primary Mission Aircraft Inventory to Backup Aircraft Inventory in the Air Force Guard and Reserve.

Sec 124. Modification of Inventory Requirements and Limitations Relating to Certain Air Refueling Tanker Aircraft

This section would strike the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117-81) requirement of retiring no more than 18 KC-135 aircraft.

Sec. 126. Minimum Inventory of C-130 Aircraft.

This section would keep the C-130 total aircraft inventory at 271 with a sunset date of October 1, 2028.

Sec. 133. Requirements Study and Acquisition Strategy for the Combat Search And Rescue Mission of the Air Force.

This section would require the Secretary of the Air Force to conduct a study on the requirements for the Air Force combat search and rescue mission to meet the objectives of the most recent National Defense Strategy and to provide the result of this study to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives not later than March 30, 2023. This section would further require the Secretary to develop an acquisition strategy to meet the requirements identified under the directed study and to submit this strategy to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives not later than June 1, 2023.

Sec. 134. Plan for Transfer of KC-135 Aircraft to the Air National Guard.

This section would direct the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a briefing on the impact of providing aircraft to non-equipped classic association KC-135 Guard units would have on the aerial refueling capability of the Department of Defense.

Operations and Maintenance

Sec. 311. Equivalent Authority for Environmental Restoration Projects at National Guard Training Sites.

This section would clarify which National Guard training sites would be eligible for environmental restoration funds.

Sec. 343. Prohibition on Purchase by Department of Defense of Firefighting Equipment Containing Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

This section would prohibit the Department of Defense from purchasing firefighting equipment containing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances if acceptable alternatives are available.

Sec. 344. Standards for Response Actions with Respect to PFAS Contamination.

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to meet or exceed the most stringent standards between an enforceable State standard under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), an enforceable Federal standard under CERCLA, or a health advisory under the Safe Drinking Water Act when performing removal or remediation actions of PFOS or PFOA contamination from Department of Defense or National Guard activities found in drinking water or in groundwater that is not currently used for drinking water.

Sec. 345. List of Certain PFAS Uses Deemed Essential; Briefings on Department of Defense Procurement of Certain Items Containing PFOS or PFOA

This section would require the Department of Defense to provide a list of per- or polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) uses it deems essential and provide regular briefings on its efforts to procure PFOS- and PFOA-free items.

Sec. 383. Requirement of Secretary of Defense to Reimburse State Costs of Fighting Certain Wildland Fires.

This section would require the Department of Defense to reimburse states, post-enactment, for any firefighting costs related to wildfires started on lands controlled by the Department of Defense.

Sec. 384. Expanded Consultation in Training of National Guard Personnel on Wildfire Response.

This section would add the National Interagency Fire Center to the wildfire training consultation list for the National Guard.

Military Personnel Authorizations

Sec. 411 End Strength for Selected Reserve.

This provision authorizes 336,000 personnel for the Army National Guard and 108,400 personnel for the Air National Guard.

Sec. 412 End Strength for Reserve on Active Duty.

This provision authorizes 30,845 ARNG positions for the Army National Guard and 26,630 positions for the Air National Guard.

Sec. 413 End Strength for Military Technicians (Dual Status).

This provision authorizes 22,294 dual status technicians for the Army National Guard and 9,892 for the Air National Guard.

Sec. 414 Maximum Number of Reserve Personnel Authorized to be on Active Duty for Operational Support.

This provision authorizes 17,000 ADOS positions for the Army National Guard and 16,000 ADOS positions for the Air National Guard.

Military Personnel Policy

Sec. 512. Grade of Vice Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

This section would elevate the position of the Vice Chief of the National Guard Bureau to the rank of four-star general.

Sec. 513. Backdating of Effective Date of Rank for Reserve Officers in the National Guard Due to undue delays in Federal recognition.

This section would require backdating of the effective date of rank for reserve officers in the National Guard due to undue delays in Federal recognition.

Sec. 514. Financial Assistance Program for Specially Selected Members: Army Reserve and Army National Guard.

This section would provide the Secretary of the Army the authority to offer early commissioning to Reserve Officers' Training Corps students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields as an additional recruiting incentive, based on Army needs.

Sec. 515. Inspections of National Guard.

This section would require regular inspections of each National Guard unit for compliance with policies related to sexual assault, sexual harassment, and suicide prevention.

Sec. 516. Requirement of Consent of the Chief Executive Officer for Certain Full-Time National Guard Duty Performed in a State, Territory, or District Of Columbia.

This section would require the consent of the chief executives of both the sending State or territory and receiving State or territory, should the President deploy National Guard units out of State under section 502(f) of title 32, United States Code, orders.

Sec. 517. Extension of National Guard Support for Fireguard Program.

This section would extend the National Guard's support for the Fireguard program until September 30, 2029.

Sec. 518. Notice to Congress before Certain Actions regarding Units of Certain Reserve Components.

This section would require the Secretary of a military department to report to Congress before tasking the Reserve Component.

Sec. 522. Direct Acceptance of Gifts from Certain Sources by Enlisted Members

This section would allow all enlisted members (E-9 and below) to accept gifts from charitable or veterans service tax-exempt organizations.

Sec. 524. Elimination of Time Limit for Mandatory Characterizations of Administrative Discharges of Certain Members on the Basis of Failure to Receive COVID-19 Vaccine

This section would eliminate the sunset clause of section 736 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117-81) that mandated a service member receive an honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions if removed solely on the basis of not receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

Sec. 536. Addressing Sex-Related Offenses and Sexual Harassment Involving Members of the National Guard

This section would establish reporting requirements for sexual assault and sexual harassment allegations in the National Guard.

Sec. 565. Pilot Grant Program to Supplement the Transition Assistance Program of the Department of Defense

This section would implement a pilot program to optimize services available for transitioning service members, and provide valuable data for future transition efforts.

Health Care Provisions

Sec. 761. Inclusion of Exposure to Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances as Component of Periodic Health Assessments.

This section would direct the Secretary of Defense to include in periodic health assessments of members of the Armed Forces an evaluation of whether the member has been exposed to perfluoroalkyl substances or polyfluoroalkyl substances, and for other purposes.

Department of Defense Organization and Management

Sec. 911. Eligibility of Chief of the National Guard Bureau for Appointment as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

This section would make the Chief of the National Guard Bureau eligible to be appointed Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Sec. 921. Establishment of Space National Guard

This section would establish a Space National Guard comprised of National Guard forces in the states and U.S. territories in which the Space Force operates.

Sec. 922. No Effect on Military Installations

This section would clarify that nothing in this subtitle would require or authorize the relocation of any facility, infrastructure, or military installation of the Space National Guard or Air National Guard.

Sec. 923. Implementation of Space National Guard

This section would require the Secretary of the Air Force and the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to implement the provisions of this subtitle not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Sec. 924. Conforming Amendments and Clarification of Authorities

This section would provide clarifications of authorities pertaining to the Space National Guard, as established by this subtitle, and conforming amendments to title 10, United States Code.

General Provisions

Sec 1063. Continuation of Requirement for Annual Report on National Guard and Reserve Component Equipment

This section would repeal section 1061(c)(62) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328) and reestablish the requirement in section 10541 of title 10, United States Code for the annual submission of the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Report.

Sec. 1073. Equipment of Army Reserve Components: Annual Report to Congress

This section would amend section 10541(b)(10) of title 10, United States Code, to add the MQ-1C Gray Eagle Extended Range unmanned aircraft system to the annual National Guard and Reserve equipment report.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION

Sec. 2601. Authorized Army National Guard Construction and Land Acquisition Projects

This section would contain the list of authorized Army National Guard construction projects for fiscal year 2023. The authorized amounts are listed on an installation-by-installation basis. The State list contained in this Act is intended to be the binding list of the specific projects authorized at each location.

Sec. 2603. Authorized Air National Guard Construction and Land Acquisition Projects

This section would contain the list of authorized Air National Guard construction projects for fiscal year 2023. The authorized amounts are listed on an installation-by-installation basis. The State list contained in this Act is intended to be the binding list of the specific projects authorized at each location.

Sec. 2605. Authorization of Appropriations, National Guard and Reserve

This section would authorize appropriations for National Guard and Reserve military construction at the levels identified in section 4601 of division D of this Act.

SEC. 4601. MILITARY CONSTRUCTION.

Military Construction, Army National Guard			
State	Project Title	FY23 Request	House Agreement
Delaware/New Castle	Readiness Center	\$16,000	\$16,000
Florida/Palm Coast	Vehicle Maintenance Shop	\$12,000	\$12,000
Florida/Camp Blanding	Automated Multipurpose Machine Gun Range ¹	\$0	\$8,500
Florida/Camp Blanding	Scout Recce Gunnery Complex ²	\$0	\$16,200
Hawaii/Kapolei	Readiness Center Addition	\$29,000	\$29,000
Indiana/Atlanta	Readiness Center	\$20,000	\$20,000
Iowa/West Des Moines	Readiness Center	\$15,000	\$15,000
Louisiana/Camp Beauregard	Energy Resilience Conservation Investment Program Project ³	\$0	\$765
Louisiana/New Orleans	Munitions Administrative Facility ⁴	\$0	\$1,650
Louisiana/Abbeville	Readiness Center Planning and Design ⁵	\$0	\$1,650
Michigan/Camp Grayling	Readiness Center	\$16,000	\$16,000
Minnesota/New Ulm	Readiness Center	\$17,000	\$17,000
Nevada/Reno	Readiness Center Add/Alt	\$18,000	\$18,000
New York/Troy	Vehicle Maintenance Shop	\$17,000	\$17,000
North Carolina/McLeansville	Vehicle Maintenance Shop	\$15,000	\$15,000
Puerto Rico/Camp Santiago	Engineering/Housing Maintenance Shops (DPW)	\$14,500	\$14,500
Vermont/Bennington	Readiness Center	\$14,800	\$14,800
West Virginia/Buckhannon	Readiness Center Alt/Add	\$14,000	\$14,000
Wyoming/Sheridan	Vehicle Maintenance Shop	\$14,800	\$14,800
	Planning and Design	\$28,245	\$28,245
	Unspecified Minor Construction	\$35,933	\$35,933
	Unspecified Minor Construction	\$0	\$4,346
	Cost to Complete-Inflation Adjustment	\$0	\$138,600
Military Construction, Army National Guard Total		\$297,278	\$468,989

- 1. Rep Michael Waltz (FL) congressional add
- 2. Rep Michael Waltz (FL) congressional add
- 3. Rep Troy A. Carter (LA) congressional add
- 4. Rep Troy A. Carter (LA) congressional add
- 5. Rep Troy A. Carter (LA) congressional add

Military Construction, Air National Guard			
State	Project Title	FY23 Request	House Agreement
Alabama/ Birmingham International Airport	Security and Services Training Facility	\$7,500	\$7,500
Alabama/ Montgomery	F-35 Weapons Load Crew Training Facility	\$6,800	\$6,800
Arizona/Morris ANGB	Base Entry Complex ⁶	\$0	\$12,000
Arizona/Tucson International Airport	Land Acquisition	\$10,000	\$10,000
Florida/ Jacksonville ANGB	F-35 Construct Munitions Storage Area Admin-Jacksonville IAP Design ⁷	\$0	\$730
Florida/ Jacksonville ANGB	F-35 Munitions Maintenance and Inspection Facility Design ⁸	\$0	\$530
Florida/ Jacksonville ANGB	F-35 Construct Flight Simulator Facility	\$22,200	\$22,200
Indiana/ Fort Wayne International Airport	Munitions Maintenance & Storage Complex	\$12,800	\$12,800
Tennessee/ McGhee-Tyson Airport	KC-135 Maintenance Shops	\$23,800	\$23,800
	Planning and Design	\$28,412	\$28,412
	Unspecified Minor Construction	\$44,171	\$44,171
	Cost to Complete-Inflation Adjustment	\$0	\$122,900
Military Construction, Air National Guard Total		\$148,883	\$291,843

6. Rep Ann Kirkpatrick (AZ) congressional add

7. Rep John H. Rutherford (FL) & Rep Michael Waltz (FL) congressional add

8. Rep John H. Rutherford (FL) & Rep Michael Waltz (FL) congressional add

HASC Committee Report Requirements / Items of Interest

Report on A-10 Divestment

The committee notes that the authority to transition the A-10 unit at Fort Wayne Air National Guard Base, Indiana, to an F-16 unit was provided over five years ago in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (P.L. 114-328). The request to transition the same unit in the fiscal year 2023 budget request does not constitute a full divestment strategy, nor does it give the committee confidence that operational missions unfilled by the divestment of future A-10 aircraft will be effectively recovered. Placing the future A-10 fleet at risk in the name of cost savings without regard to operational requirements or identification of meeting specific metrics for current and future weapon systems is hasty and shortsighted and could prove costlier in future budgets as the Air Force attempts to quickly reconstitute those lost mission sets.

The committee notes the Secretary of the Air Force has failed to fully comply with the requirement in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (P.L. 117-103) to submit a report on any proposed divestments of the A-10 aircraft during the fiscal year 2023 future years defense plan (FYDP). The interim report attempts to explain a divestment strategy for a single fiscal year, but does not discuss a full FYDP plan, which the committee expected to be fully developed given the numerous years the Air Force has attempted to divest the A-10 platform.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to provide to the congressional defense committees no later than August 19, 2022, the complete report required in the fiscal year 2022, Consolidated Appropriations Act. In addition, the Secretary of the Air Force should include in that report a detailed plan of how remaining A-10 aircraft in service over the next 5 years will be sufficiently modernized to meet mission requirements. If a complete report is not submitted by August 19, 2022, the committee will take this lack of information into account when considering future requests from the Department for divestment of A-10 aircraft.

Retaining Tail Numbers on United States Air Force and Air National Guard Aircraft

The committee is aware that the United States Air Force has used tail numbers to identify and track individual aircraft since 1993. Typically, these tail numbers denote the aircraft's home unit, the fiscal year in which the aircraft was ordered, and the last three digits of the aircraft's serial number. The committee believes that tail numbers are a transparent and simple way to track the utilization, age, repairs, and upgrades provided to individual aircraft across the Air Force and Air National Guard. The committee also believes that tail numbers on aircraft should not be removed, modified, or changed once an aircraft is fielded.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a report to the House Committee on Armed Services no later than February 1, 2023, regarding the current use of tail numbers on aircraft within the Air Force and Air National Guard. The report should analyze if tail numbers could successfully be used to determine:

- (1) the assignment and maintenance history of an aircraft;
- (2) if tail numbers are currently changed when aircraft switch from Active Component to Reserve Component;
- (3) the Air Force's methodology for determining the average age, model number, utilization, and completed repairs and upgrades, within each unit in both the Active and Reserve components; and
- (4) if there are significant disparities between the average age, model number, utilization, and completed repairs and upgrades for aircraft within the Active Component versus the Reserve Component.

C-130 force structure for Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve

The committee recognizes C-130 as our nation's premier tactical airlift aircraft and is the primary transport for airdropping troops and equipment into the battlefield. Equipped to respond to domestic needs and overseas contingencies, C-130s have a broad operational mission set, including airlift support, natural disaster relief, civil unrest response, aeromedical assistance, and national contingency response stemming from a catastrophic cyber, electromagnetic pulse or Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear attack. The latest-edition C-130J model makes technical and logistical advancements to the C-130H that increase usable space in the cargo compartment, reduce operating and support costs, boost technological capabilities, and other important enhancements that improve the overall readiness of the fleet. The committee emphasizes that tactical airlift remains a critical operational requirement for the Armed Services and modernizing our nation's tactical capabilities will be beneficial for decades to come.

As such, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force, in coordination with the Commander of Air Mobility Command, the Director of the Air National Guard, and Chief of the Air

Force Reserve, to provide a report to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services by January 31, 2023 that studies the benefits of outfitting the Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve with a full C-130J model fleet. Further, the Secretary must account for domestic mission requirements and whether they are being considered when determining where to make investments and explain their process of doing so.

Infrared suppression improvements for C-130 and C-17 aircraft

The committee notes that current infrared (IR) missiles and man-portable surface-to-air missile systems (MANPADS) are outpacing the existing IR countermeasure flare dispensing and directed energy defensive systems associated with military aircraft. Given the increase of this threat, the committee believes there is merit in providing a wider range of military aircraft that are capable of reducing engine IR baselines to decrease their IR signature and increase the effectiveness of their existing IR countermeasures (IRCM) systems.

The committee understands that with the installation of a highly cost effective and proven IR suppression system (IRSS), special operations AC-130W gunships have successfully decreased their IR signatures by at least 95 percent, substantially increasing their survivability and exponentially increasing the effectiveness of their existing IRCM systems. The committee also understands that the affordability of the IRSS provides the military services with an opportunity to rapidly and affordably employ this technology across a wider range of military aircraft to increase warfighter survivability and lethality.

As adversary missile capabilities continue to evolve and their proliferation increases globally, the committee believes the Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and the Air National Guard should leverage enhanced IR suppression systems to achieve greater heat signature reduction capabilities for its aviation fleets. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force, in coordination with the Secretary of the Navy, to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by October 3, 2022, on what planning and programming actions the Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and the Air National Guard are taking to reduce the IR signatures for each military service's C-130s and C-17 aircraft, and identify the resources necessary to implement an expanded IRSS installation program for these aircraft.

KC-135 ground cooling capability

The committee understands that the KC-135 aircraft routinely operates in environments where internal ground temperatures can reach well in excess of one hundred forty degrees Fahrenheit and that it has no organic or self-contained rollon/roll-off ground cooling capability. The KC-135 air cycle machine was designed to provide ground cooling, but is at times unreliable, and cooling air cannot be provided until the aircraft is operating at or above 2,000 feet above ground level. The committee understands that aircrew cooling has been a long-standing Air National Guard Critical requirement, but has yet to receive funding. The committee recommends additional funding for the National Guard and Reserve Component Equipment Account (NGREA) to meet this requirement. The committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than December 30, 2022, on the Air Force's plan to upgrade aircrew ground cooling on all variants of the KC-135.

KC-135 recapitalization mix

The Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve provide more than half of the Air Force's KC-135 aerial refueling aircraft. As the Air Force recapitalizes the KC-135 fleet, the committee is concerned regarding the proportional mix of aircraft between Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve and Active Duty. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by February 1, 2023, on the planned Active Duty, Air Force Reserves, and Air National Guard KC-135 recapitalization plan, including the allocation for each component.

National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account

The budget request contained no funds for a National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account. The committee has long been concerned about the availability of modern equipment needed to ensure the relevance and readiness of the National Guard and Reserve Components as an operational reserve and for their domestic support missions. The committee notes that the annual National Guard and Reserve Equipment Reports over the last several years identify continuing shortages in modernized equipment and challenges associated with efficiently fulfilling combat readiness training requirements.

The committee believes additional funds would help manage strategic risk and eliminate identified critical dual-use equipment shortfalls. The committee expects these funds to be used for the purposes of, but not limited to, the procurement and modernization of equipment and programs such as communications interoperability for Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams; containerized ice making systems; Mobile Tower System Airfield Lighting Systems; Security Forces Modular Ballistic Protection System; Security Forces Climate Clothing System; Tactical Combat Casualty Care Medical Kit; Cargo and Utility Vehicle Fleet Modernization; Rapid Response Shelters; Disaster Relief Mobile Kitchen Trailers; Less than Lethal Equipment Modernization; Critical Care Air Transport Team Kit; All Hazards Response Trailer Modernization; Hard Sided Expandable Small Air Mobile Shelter; and other critical dual-use unfunded procurement items for the National Guard and Reserve Components.

The committee recommends \$50.0 million for National Guard and Reserve equipment.

Collaboration on positioning, navigation, and timing research

The committee recognizes the need for assured positioning, navigation, and timing (PNT) capabilities in the event that the Global Positioning System (GPS) is denied or disrupted. The committee understands that maintaining an advantage with PNT capabilities requires the Department of Defense to collaborate with industry, academia, and other government entities on PNT.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than February 1, 2023, on the Department's collaboration with industry and academia on PNT research and development. The briefing should include:

- (1) how the Department currently collaborates with industry, and if there are any opportunities for further collaboration; and
- (2) what current capabilities exist within colleges and universities for PNT research, including the ability to conduct classified research, and how the Department can support academia to develop a future workforce with the technical skills needed to advance PNT capabilities.

The committee also directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a report to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than February 1, 2023, on the Nationwide Integration of Time Resiliency for Operations (NITRO) effort. Specifically, the report should address:

- (1) the mission need, if any, for a timing system independent of GPS to support domestic National Guard operations;
- (2) current capability gaps identified in domestic timing infrastructure;
- (3) an analysis of alternatives on systems to fill those gaps, including NITRO;
- (4) estimated funding requirements and timelines for implementing a solution that includes considerations for the end-user equipment required, and eventual sustainment of the system; and
- (5) how the Department is collaborating with other Federal, State, or local entities on the effort.

Active and Reserve Component Equipment Transfer Flexibility

The committee recognizes that over the years the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account (NGREA) has provided the Reserve Components additional resources to enhance their modernization, especially for those dual purpose items relevant and useful to military and civil support operations. The committee understands that there may be statutory and regulatory prohibitions or other limitations on the flexibility of services to transfer equipment from a Reserve

Component to an Active Component if the equipment was originally procured using NGREA appropriated funds. Such prohibitions and limitations may limit the services' flexibility even when such transfers are agreed upon by the components and could be mutually beneficial.

Therefore, the committee directs the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, in coordination with the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, to provide a briefing, not later than February 1, 2023, to the House Committee on Armed Services on existing prohibitions or limitations and potential changes to law or regulation that could allow the transfer of Reserve Component equipment purchased with NGREA appropriated funds to the Active Component. The briefing required shall include:

(1) any statutory or regulatory constraints or limitations that affect equipment transfers from the Reserve Component to the Active Component, if such equipment is originally procured with NGREA appropriated funds;

(2) any NGREA rules, regulations, or statutes that impact Active Component authority to accept equipment transfers from the Reserve Components if such equipment was originally procured with NGREA appropriated funds; and

(3) recommended statutory language, if any, that would remove prohibitions or provide flexibility for the transfer of equipment procured with NGREA appropriated funds from a Reserve Component to an Active Component.

Air Force Basing

The strategic basing process provides an enterprise-wide model for the Air Force to determine the future locations of their units, manpower, missions, and weapon systems. Basing these relatively stable number of airmen and equipment is a difficult task, namely due to the finite number of locations for which basing them would be useful and appropriate based on circumstances and conditions. The committee is aware of the Air Force's and Air National Guard's desire to reduce fleets of third- and fourth-generation aircraft to free up resources for fifth- and future-generation aircraft and capabilities, like the F-35, the Next Generation Air Dominance weapon system, and modified C-130Js. In order to wisely use the resources available to it, the committee encourages the Air Force and the Air National Guard to seek efficiencies while reviewing options for long-term basing for a wide variety of next generation aircraft, considering such factors as mission, installation capacity, environmental impacts, costs and strategic alignment, airspace, climate, and impacts to the community, like responding to natural disasters.

Army National Guard Powered Ascenders for Aviation Readiness

The committee is aware of the United States Coast Guard's procurement of powered ascenders to replace the MH-60T helicopter's Emergency Recovery Device (ERD). The ERD is the back-up hoist system required aboard all MH-60Ts, and the existing system is no longer supported. The powered ascender identified as the ERD replacement has passed every Coast Guard certification and has been approved for use on the MH-60T helicopter by the U.S. Coast Guard Aviation Training Center.

The committee recognizes the importance of similar redundant systems for Army National Guard rescue hoist operations in support of domestic emergency response. For units where rescue hoist operations are a mission-essential task, the committee believes lightweight, portable, powered ascenders with lift capacity equivalent to conventional rescue hoists provide significant improvements in aviation readiness for rescue hoist operations.

The Army National Guard must remain ready to respond to domestic emergencies. Modernizing Army National Guard UH/HH-60 Black Hawk helicopters will ensure the Army National Guard remains ready, lethal, and mission-relevant to the total force and in support of the National Defense Strategy. Therefore, the committee encourages the U.S. Army Program Executive Office-Aviation and Project Management-Utility Helicopter Office (Redstone Arsenal) to begin the process of publishing an Airworthiness Release for the powered ascender approved by the U.S. Coast Guard Aviation Training Center in order to provide State units of the National Guard with the option to purchase powered ascenders.

Data Dashboard for Aviation Status Tracking

The committee is aware that aviation enterprise automation systems, or data dashboards, are a valuable tool for maintaining situational awareness of assets. Having the ability to track flight hours, maintenance status and history, and equipment inventory, in real time, is invaluable for achieving a high readiness status and identifying places where efficiencies could be achieved. These systems have been shown to improve tracking, reduce costs, and provide clarity to complex processes, and the committee understands that similar benefits apply to the military.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by February 15, 2023, that will include:

(1) background on the aviation enterprise automation systems currently used by the Army, Navy, Air Force, and National Guard to track information related to their aviation assets including, but not limited to, flight hours, maintenance status and history, and equipment inventory;

(2) a review of aviation enterprise automation systems currently in use by the public or private aviation sector; their suitability for military use; and a review of their ability to reduce errors, display complex information in an easy-to-understand format, and provide real-time assessments;

(3) an assessment of how these other options differ from the Army's current systems and how they are similar, including whether the use of multiple systems might assist operations; and

(4) a cost analysis of these different systems.

Environmental Cleanup at National Guard Locations

The committee notes that section 316 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116-92) and section 314 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283) authorized the use of Defense Environmental Restoration Program funds for National Guard sites contaminated by perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) or perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) in order to facilitate the cleanup of defense communities around National Guard installations. The committee further notes that the Department of Defense has previously stated that the majority of the National Guard's environmental cleanup requirements result from PFOS and PFOA contamination. The committee is concerned that installations remain unaware of the changes to this authority and as a result are not utilizing Defense Environmental Restoration Program funds for this purpose to their fullest extent.

Therefore, the committee directs the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by December 15, 2022, on the measures taken to inform National Guard installations about this authority. The briefing shall include at a minimum the following:

(1) a breakdown of National Guard cleanup funding needs to include the percentage involving PFOS and PFOA; and

(2) plans to update the Defense Environmental Restoration Program Manual to reflect changes to statute and policy.

B-21 Total Force Integration

The committee notes the success of the Total Force Integration models between the Air Force's 509th Bomb Wing and the Missouri National Guard's 131st Bomb Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base (AFB) and the Air Force Reserve Command 307th Bomb Wing at Barksdale and Dyess AFBs. The Total Force Integration model improves the Air Force's ability to conduct its mission through the sharing of resources between the Active Duty and the Reserve Components, including aircraft, crews, maintenance, training and support. The combined employment of manpower between the Active Duty and Reserve Components provides surge capacity and maximizes efficiency to ensure mission success.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a briefing to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives not later than March 1, 2023, on the plans to pursue Total Force Integration with the B-21 fleet. This briefing shall include an updated Air Force bomber roadmap and the Air Force's plans for the integration of the Guard and Reserve Component personnel in the organizational structure of the B-21 enterprise.

DRL RC Duty Status Reform

The Committee understands the consolidation of over 30 Reserve Component duty statuses into at least four distinct categories should align pay and benefits to each category of work, providing parity and access across the joint force. Moreover, these actions are congruent with the Commission on the National Guard and Reserve commission of 2008 recommendations. However, the legislative proposal that would accompany Reserve Component Duty Status reform seems stalled as it works its way through the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Defense. Therefore, the Committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a report to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives, not later than December 1, 2022, on the status of the Reserve Component Duty Status Reform legislative proposal that would correlate pay and benefits with duty performed, while eliminating existing pay and benefits inequities between the Active Component and Reserve Component, to include any needed statutory changes in United States Code.

Establishment of Center for the Study of the U.S. National Guard

The committee notes that the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines all have research centers and archives devoted to collecting and telling their histories, which results in outreach and educational programs, including the publication of official histories. These efforts are used to set planning paradigms for future wars and to remember the efforts of those services in past conflicts. The U.S. National Guard, despite its 300-year history of service in every American conflict, is the one major component of the armed forces without an archive and research center. Establishing a repository for National Guard documents, histories, oral histories, and other related materials in a research center that also serves as a think tank would facilitate the study of the National Guard and its history.

The committee supports the establishment of a national Center for the Study of the U.S. National Guard. The committee believes such a center will help the Department of Defense study, improve, and institutionalize decisions about international strategy, deploying the National Guard overseas, and will continue to write the history of our brave National Guard men and women into the epic of America at war.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the congressional defense committees by February 1, 2022 on the feasibility of establishing a Center for the Study of the National Guard at an academic institution, the barriers to establishing such a center, and the timeline for establishing the Center. The report should include recommendations for the location of the proposed center, with special consideration to academic centers that have relationships with the National Guard Bureau, strong academic programs in military history, and proximity to major National Guard installations.

Gaps in Writings on National Guard History

The committee acknowledges that the history of the National Guard is rich and complex, and that many areas remain to be explored by historians. The committee encourages and supports collaboration between historians and the History Office of the National Guard Bureau to help preserve its unique history. Therefore, the committee directs the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to provide a report to the House Armed Services Committee by March 1, 2023, that lists any identified gaps in the existing cannon of National Guard history to better enable historians' efforts to more holistically document the past.

National Guard and Reserve Community Outreach Program

The committee understands the importance of community engagement for all components of the military. The committee also acknowledges the recommendation from the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service to improve military outreach around the country. Expanded community building efforts, including greater access to military bases and facilities via public tours, partnerships between National Guard and Reserve units and local schools, and enhanced promotion of military service by Members of Congress, will significantly increase engagement between the military and the broader American public, shatter myths, and provide a new

generation of Americans with firsthand information about military life. Moreover, recent data from the Department of Defense indicates the propensity to serve for young adults has declined over the last 10 years.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Director of the National Guard Bureau, to submit a report to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 1, 2023, that includes the following:

(1) ongoing National Guard and service Reserve Component outreach efforts in local communities and whether these efforts are codified as programs of record;

(2) any targeted recruiting efforts in underrepresented markets in terms of geographic location, academic institutions, fields of study, and other segments of the population eligible for recruitment;

(3) activities that build awareness and potential recruitment opportunities of the military in local communities;

(4) partnership activities with school districts, schools, and community service organizations that would help build enduring relationships in the local community;

(5) the cost of these outreach efforts, activities, and programs, to include those that have dedicated funding over the Future Years Defense Plan; and

(6) recommendations from the Department of Defense, National Guard, and service Reserve Components on steps needed to improve local community outreach efforts intended to build awareness of the military and positively increase the propensity to service to include funding, personnel, policy, and legislation.

National Guard Federal Tuition Assistance

The committee notes the challenges with approving and disbursing Federal Tuition Assistance funding since the adoption of the new Army Educational Services system ArmyIgnitED, in March 2021. Despite the committee's requests for additional information and an expedited resolution, the system has still not reached full functionality. National Guard and Reserve Component service members, who are more likely to be enrolled in college while serving, are disproportionately impacted by these challenges.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army to submit a report to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 1, 2023, that includes an evaluation of:

(1) whether it is feasible to permit States to administer and disburse Federal Tuition Assistance funding for National Guard and Reserve Component service members;

(2) how the Secretary plans to mitigate the backlog of tuition assistance requests while making sure that service members are not disadvantaged;

(3) how the States would have the ability to approve requests for obligations that are verified by the educational services support personnel and the respective educational institutions; and

(4) if States could be granted the option to opt-in or opt-out of using the ArmyIgnitED system for requesting, approving, and disbursing Federal Tuition Assistance funding.

National Guard State Active Duty Missions Report

The committee is interested in the effect of State Active Duty missions on overall readiness and availability of the National Guard in the event of the need for title 32, United States Code, or title 10, United States Code, activation of a National Guard unit. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than January 31, 2023, detailing how the Department of Defense evaluates the readiness, retention, and other factors of National Guard readiness in light of the requirement to support State Active Duty missions.

National Guard War College

The committee acknowledges the importance of joint professional military education for National Guard personnel. Accordingly, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by March 1, 2023, on the feasibility of

establishing a National Guard War College. The briefing shall include, at a minimum, the roles, mission, organization, budget, curriculum, possible campus locations, student body composition to include interagency/international students, and requirements validation.

National Guard-Coast Guard Board

The committee notes the important contributions of the National Guard and the Coast Guard to the Joint Force. Accordingly, the committee directs the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, in consultation with the Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, to provide a report to the House Committee on Armed Services by March 1, 2023, on the feasibility of establishing a National Guard-Coast Guard Board. The report shall include, at a minimum: the roles, mission, organization, membership, frequency of meetings, and matters of concern to the National Guard or Coast Guard.

Recruitment and Retention Incentives within Cyber Career Fields

The committee recognizes that the military services face strong competition from the private sector in attracting and retaining individuals with critical skills, particularly within the cyber domain. The private sector has an advantage of offering superior pay, a more casual work environment, and better opportunities than the military services, to name a few. To mitigate the monetary advantage, the military services have offered incentive bonuses to retain cyber talent, however, it is unclear whether monetary bonuses have been effective and if other incentive options may be more appealing to the workforce.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Defense, in coordination with each of the military services' Active and Reserve Components, to submit a report to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than December 31, 2022, on the use of recruitment and retention bonuses paid, and other incentives provided, to individuals in cyber career tracks in order to formulate a better appraisal of the incentive structures necessary for the military to remain competitive in attracting such individuals and ensure that service branches are fully utilizing the incentives at their disposal. The report should focus on bonuses within the last ten years and should incorporate Active Duty, Reserve, and National Guard in its assessment.

Report on Establishment of a National Guard Ranger Battalion

The committee recognizes that the National Guard has been employed as an operational reserve force, with requirements to fulfill many of the same mission sets as the Active Component. The National Guard maintains two Special Forces Groups as a relief for the Active Component's Special Forces Groups. The creation of a Ranger Battalion for the National Guard would provide much needed dwell time for the Active 75th Ranger Regiment units, while increasing readiness and capacity of the nation's premier light infantry unit. As such, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army to submit a report to the House Committee on Armed Services, not later than March 1, 2023, assessing the feasibility of establishing a Ranger battalion in the National Guard, including the required resources and timeline for activating the unit. Additionally, the report should also assess the feasibility of the Army National Guard and the 75th Ranger Regiment allowing physically and mentally qualified service members within the National Guard to apply for the Ranger Assessment and Selection Program.

Report on National Guard Activations to Support Domestic Operations

The committee directs the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to submit a report to the Committee on Armed Service of the House of Representatives by March 31, 2023, on the domestic operations missions supported by National Guard activations.

This report should include the funding and the Military Personnel Appropriation man-days broken out by fiscal year and cover the period from FY2013 through FY2022. It should include all Title 32 orders and any Title 10 orders that support domestic operations, like supporting border security along the southwest border. For activations under Title 10 and Title 32 Section 502(f), the break out of mission sets should include details on the activity performed. For example, any activation related to COVID-19 response should include what the National Guard member was

doing, which might include support to testing or vaccination efforts, airport screening, substitute teaching, driving buses, or staffing nursing homes.

Report on Providing DD214 or Equivalent Legal Documents to Members of the Reserve and National Guard at the End of their Service

The committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a report to House Armed Services Committee regarding a plan to provide separating or retiring National Guard or Reserve servicemembers a DD214 or equivalent legal document no later than October 15, 2023. This report must outline the plan to expand DD214 access to separating members of the Reserves or National Guard from the Marine Corps, Army, Navy, Air Force, or Space Force. The report must also outline any alternate document that would be issued instead of a DD214, to include a servicemembers final pay or substantial part of that pay, final rank, and time in service.

Special Forces Transition from Active Duty to Reserve Units

The committee recognizes the unique qualifications possessed by U.S. Army Special Forces service members, who undergo years of tactical, irregular warfare, medical, culture, and language training. The committee believes it is essential to retain these unique qualifications in both the Active Duty and the National Guard. To mitigate retention challenges within the Army Special Forces community and maintain as many of these highly skilled individuals in the Army, the committee believes a formal transition program between the Active Duty and National Guard Special Forces should be instituted. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army to submit a report to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than April 1, 2023, outlining a plan to transition Active Component Special Forces service members more seamlessly, who plan to end their Active Duty term of service, to the 19th and 20th Special Forces Group in the National Guard. The report should consider the feasibility of maintaining National Guard liaison officers within 1st Special Forces Command who are able to coordinate the transition of exiting Active Component Special Forces service members to the Special Forces Groups in the National Guard. The report should also examine possible incentives for transferring to the National Guard vice the Inactive Ready Reserve, and the net cost of providing these incentives to exiting Active Component Special Forces service members, compared to the cost of onboarding and training new Special Forces service members into the National Guard.

Swift Water Training for the National Guard

The committee appreciates that the National Guard has a long history in responding to natural disasters. Across the nation, the Air National Guard and Army National Guard often are the first on the scene in assisting states dealing with wildfires, hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods. The Committee understands that flooding is the most common natural disaster in the United States, occurring in 98 percent of the nation's counties. In particular, quick-rising floods, and the swift waters they can cause, are most often caused by heavy rains over a short period and can happen anywhere. Yet, one-third of people who die in swift water incidents are first responders, like the National Guard, and most have never trained on an actual submerged vehicle. Instead, around the world, emergency services personnel are training in creeks and rivers, which carry bacteria and reach dangerous temperatures in the winter.

The committee believes that a controlled yet realistic training environment is essential to protect our flood rescue teams, like our guardsmen. For that reason, the committee applauds Harris County Sheriff's Office in Houston, Texas, and Fayetteville Technical Community College in Cumberland County, North Carolina, for their plans to open indoor swift water rescue training facilities. These facilities will allow emergency personnel to train year-round for a wide variety of dangerous swift-water and floodwater rescue scenarios, with water simulations deep enough to submerge a vehicle, and can be heated and controlled for water current. These facilities can also provide year-round access to realistic, clean, repetitive training.

In 2017, Hurricane Harvey was a devastating Category 4 hurricane that made landfall on Texas and Louisiana in August 2017, causing catastrophic flooding and more than 100 people. In 2019, Tropical Storm Imelda dumped torrential rains over the Houston-area, killing at least two

people, while rescuers in boats pulled hundreds from flooded cars. And in April 2022, a Texas National Guard soldier was washed away while attempting to rescue two migrants who struggled as they tried to cross the Rio Grande in Eagle Pass.

Most National Guard soldiers have had no swimming or water rescue training, yet in an increasingly flood-prone world, it is essential that emergency personnel are trained in dealing with swift water and flood water rescues. But it can be difficult and dangerous to arrange such training on a regular basis in natural, outdoor settings. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army, in coordination with the Secretary of the Air Force, to provide a briefing to the House Armed Services Committee by March 31, 2023, on existing and planned indoor swift water rescue training for National Guard units in hyper-realistic flood rescue scenarios, such as the use of clean, filtered, temperature-controlled, treated water; controllable water levels, current, and flow; environmental effects (like rain, lightning, and thunder); the ability to train with an actual submerged vehicle (such as a car, train, plane, or bus); and the use of vehicle wreck extraction tools.

Reserve and National Guard Retirement Process Fairness

The committee notes the discrepancy in retirement processes and timelines between active duty members of the Armed Forces and those serving in the reserves and guard. Active duty members may apply for retirement up to a year prior to the completion of their required years of service allowing for the timely completion of all administrative requirements and the ability to retire as soon as eligible. Reserve and guard service member must fully complete their required years of service and be issued the additional paperwork required for their retirement request and thus are prevented from retiring on the date they become eligible. This process discriminates against service members from the guard and reserve forces, preventing them from retiring on their earliest eligible date. Therefore, the committee directs the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness to provide a report to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than January 31, 2023, on the discrepancy in retirement processes and timelines between active duty members of the Armed Forces and those serving in the reserves and guard. The report should include the reasoning for the different retirement requirements, an analysis of the service members affected and an assessment of the operational and readiness impacts of issuing preliminary notices of retirement eligibility to guard and reserve service members no later than six months before the completion of their required years of service.

Reserve Periodic Health Assessments Mobile Applications

The committee understands that the National Guard has moved forward in making mobile applications available when requested by a State National Guard unit, and that the National Guard units using the application are seeing improvement in medical readiness assessment. The committee, in seeing this positive outcome in the National Guard, encourages the Chief of the Navy Reserve, Chief of the Army Reserve, and the Chief of the Air Force Reserve to implement a mobile application, fully compliant with the Department of Defense cybersecurity protocols, that would enable reservists to complete the Periodic Health Assessment on a smartphone, tablet, computer, or other handheld mobile device and connect directly with providers. The committee recommends that the application incorporate a flexible interface that allows users to adopt it with minimal resources. Additionally, the committee strongly encourages that such application should incorporate standardized approaches to handle data definition and mapping, cybersecurity, device protocols and quality assurance testing and support.

National Guard Efforts to Counter Transnational Criminal Organizations

The committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, to submit a report to the House Committee on Armed Services by February 1, 2023, on Department of Defense efforts to counter drug trafficking by transnational criminal organizations.

This report should include:

(1) a list of existing Department of Defense authorities to undertake counternarcotics activities; and

(2) the role of the National Guard in meeting the Department of Defense's objectives with respect to counternarcotics, counter illicit trafficking, counter threat finance, and transnational criminal organizations.

Department of Defense's Support for Civil Authorities at the Southern Land Border of the United States

The committee is concerned about the current level of illegal activity at the southern land border of the United States and the national security risk it represents. The committee recognizes that the Department of Defense has provided critical support to U.S. Customs and Border Protection along the southern border and that the Department's presence has deterred crime and improved the overall security situation. While the committee acknowledges that securing the southern land border of the United States is not the mission of the Department of Defense, it is interested in how and where the Department is providing defense support for civil authorities at the southern border.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 1, 2023, on the Department of Defense's support for civil authorities at the southern land border of the United States and the Department's desired outcome regarding security along the southern land border of the United States. This briefing will include, but is not limited to:

(1) the Department of Defense's role in securing the southern land border of the United States;

(2) plans to address current and anticipated border support mission requirements as part of the annual planning, programming, budgeting, and execution process of the Department;

(3) efforts by the Department of Defense, or updates to existing efforts, to cooperate with Mexico with respect to border security;

(4) the impact on National Guard readiness; and

(5) an assessment of how the Department of Defense's defense support for civil authorities at the southern land border of the United States reinforces the security in the area of geographic responsibility of the U.S. Northern Command.

Report on Department of Defense Bases and Training Centers Able to Support Joint All-Domain Operations Training in Arctic Conditions

The committee recognizes the continued strategic importance of the Arctic region to the national interests of the United States. The committee further recognizes that several of the military services and the Department have published strategies that highlight the importance of having forces and equipment that are prepared, capable, and trained to operate in the extreme weather environments of the Arctic. The committee notes that in order to support these strategies the Department must identify all training facilities and ranges within the Active Component and the National Guard that can support Joint All-Domain Operations (JADO) training in weather environments similar to that of the Arctic.

Therefore, the committee directs the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, in coordination with the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, to submit a report to the House Committee on Armed Services by December 23, 2022, that identifies existing training facilities and ranges within the Active Component and the National Guard located in and outside the continental United States that can support JADO training. At a minimum, the report shall include:

(1) a list of JADO capable facilities and ranges that can replicate the extreme weather environment of the Arctic within and outside the continental United States belonging to the National Guard and the Active Component;

(2) training capabilities and opportunities available at each of these locations;

(3) a comparison of the transportation logistics to deploy units, personnel, and equipment to Arctic training capable JADO locations within the continental United States versus those outside the continental United States;

(4) ways in which the Department and the National Guard Bureau can leverage more efficient utilization of these facilities; and

(5) any other matters the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy and the Chief of the National Guard Bureau determines to be relevant.

National Guard State Partnership Program Academy

The committee notes the State Partnership Program (SPP) has been an invaluable tool for improving relationships with the more than 90 partner nations in the program and the demand from potential partner nations to join SPP is remarkable. Many of our partner countries are asking for increased contact and deeper ties, especially in the wake of the crisis and events in Ukraine. Accordingly, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a report to the House Committee on Armed Services by March 1, 2023, on the feasibility of establishing a State Partnership Program Academy operated by the National Guard. The report shall include, at a minimum: the roles, mission, organization, budget, possible academy locations to include overseas locations, curriculum, and requirements validation.

Enhanced National Guard Theater Security Cooperation in Oceania

The committee recognizes the importance of enhanced theater security cooperation with the nations that comprise the region of Oceania. In this context, the National Guard is a unique tool of national security for enhancing partnerships with the countries in this region. To that end, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense, not later than March 1, 2023, to provide the House Committee on Armed Services a briefing on the opportunities for enhancing the role of the National Guard in the region that includes:

(1) a description of the cooperation between the National Guard and the nations of the Oceania region during the preceding calendar year, including mutual visits, exercises, and training opportunities;

(2) an evaluation of the feasibility of enhancing cooperation between the National Guard and the nations of the Oceania region on a range of activities, including disaster and emergency response, cyber defense and communications security, military medical cooperation, and programs for National Guard advisors to assist in training the military and police forces of Oceania nations;

(3) recommendations to enhance such cooperation and improve interoperability, including through familiarization visits, cooperative training and exercises, and co-deployments; and

(4) any other matter the Secretary of Defense considers appropriate.

State Partnership Program Bilateral Affairs Officers

The committee recognizes the State Partnership Program plays an important role in supporting the security cooperation objectives of the United States and the geographic combatant commands by developing enduring relationships with partner countries and carrying out activities to build partner capacity, improve interoperability, and enhance U.S. access and influence. Persistent engagements are crucial to developing a tailored approach to improve the readiness of U.S. and partner forces to meet emerging challenges. Bilateral affairs officers from the National Guard, assigned to the U.S. Embassy located in the State's partnership country, play a crucial role in achieving the objectives of the State Partnership Program. The committee supports and encourages each State with an active State Partnership Program to assign a bilateral affairs officer to the relevant U.S. Embassy to coordinate State partnership activities, execute partnership support plans, and build enduring relationships between the United States and its partner country.

South Carolina National Guard Land Use

The committee notes that the South Carolina National Guard and the Department of Energy have signed a permit to allow use of 750 acres at the Savannah River Site for military training and permanent facilities to support expanded and emerging training requirements. The committee understands that the National Guard Bureau and Department of the Army continue to address barriers that have prevented the formal establishment of the training site. The committee supports the establishment of the site that leverages the key partnership between the Savannah River

National Laboratory and the South Carolina National Guard to expedite the deployment of innovative technologies through technical demonstrations, exercises and training. Additionally, the committee would support the expansion of the partnership with recognized federal and state entities to address national security interests such as cyber, electronic warfare, digitally secured advanced manufacturing, hardening the grid, countering weapons of mass destruction, scalable autonomy for both next generation ground and aerial vehicles along with human factors research.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army to prepare a brief for the House Committee on Armed Services by March 1, 2023, as to options the Secretary is considering to take advantage of the mutual benefits of a Savannah River National Laboratory and the South Carolina National Guard partnership and options to expand the future utility of the site.