



# FY25 Senate National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)



## Summary of S. 4638 The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025



As of July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

	Passed in Committee	Passed in Chamber	Agreement	Final Passage	Signed into Law
<b>House</b>	22 May 2024	14 June 2024			
<b>Senate</b>	13 June 2024				

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## Executive Summary

This guide provides a summary of the Senate Armed Services Committee's Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 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 13, 2024, the Senate Armed Services Committee passed their FY25 National Defense Authorization Act, S. 4638. The bill authorizes a topline of \$911.8 billion for military and national security programs at the Department of Defense and Department of Energy.

### Highlights:

- Authorizes the transfer of covered Air National Guard (ANG) space functions and personnel to the United States Space Force (USSF). Includes a 10-year implementation period, and Governor consent is not required.
- Authorizes officers to transfer from the Selected Reserve to the Inactive National Guard (NGB Legislative Proposal).
- Authorizes the authority to extend military technicians until age 62 (NGB Legislative Proposal).
- Authorizes certain Army and Air Force reserve component general officers to serve in an active status for up to 60 days after ceasing to occupy a general officer position (NGB Legislative Proposal).
- Authorizes the exemption of National Guard Bilateral Affairs Officers (BAOs) from Active-Duty end strength limits.
- Directs the Secretary of the Air Force (SecAF) to submit a plan for sustainment and recapitalization of all 25 Air National Guard fighter squadrons.
- Authorizes funding to support a 4.5 percent pay raise for military members and a 2 percent pay raise for DOD civilian employees.
- Reforms basic pay rates by increasing monthly basic pay for junior enlisted servicemembers in the grades of E-1 through E-3.
- Authorizes the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to exempt any State National Guard from the National Guard Bureau's (NGB) leveling initiative within the ANG.
- Authorizes Defense Advisory Committee on Investigation, Prosecution, and Defense of Sexual Assault in the Armed Forces to conduct a study on the investigation and reporting of sexual assault in the National Guard. Directs the Adjutants General be treated as senior Department of Defense (DoD) officials for the purposes of investigation of reprisal allegations conducted by the Office of Complex Investigations.

## 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	FY25 PB Request	HASC Mark	Delta from PB	SASC Mark	Delta from PB	Conference Report	FY25 Delta from PB
O&M	\$8,646,145	\$8,651,145	\$5,000	\$8,610,430	-\$35,715		
MILCON	\$362,129	\$448,529	\$86,400	\$555,181	\$193,052		

### Army National Guard End Strength

Army National Guard	FY25 PB Request	HASC Mark	Delta from PB	SASC Mark	Delta from PB	Conference Report	FY25 Delta from PB
End Strength	325,000	325,000	-	325,000	-		
AGR	30,845	30,845	-	30,845	-		
Dual Status Technicians	22,294	22,294	-	22,294	-		
ADOS	17,000	17,000	-	17,000	-		



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

Air National Guard	FY25 PB Request	HASC Mark	Delta from PB	SASC Mark	Delta from PB	Conference Report	FY25 Delta from PB
O&M	\$7,403,771	\$7,403,771	-	\$7,395,495	-\$8,276		
MILCON	\$190,792	\$238,792	\$48,000	\$314,192	\$123,400		

### Air National Guard End Strength

Air National Guard	FY25 PB Request	HASC Mark	Delta from PB	SASC Mark	Delta from PB	Conference Report	FY25 Delta from PB
End Strength	107,700	107,700	-	108,300	600		
AGR	25,736	25,736	-	25,982	246		
Dual Status Technicians	10,744	10,744	-	10,744	-		
ADOS	16,000	16,000	-	16,000	-		

## LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

### Air Force Programs

#### **Sec. 134. Plan for Sustainment and Recapitalization of Air National Guard Fighter Fleet.**

The provision would require the SecAF to develop a plan for modernizing all 25 fighter aircraft squadrons in the ANG. In developing such a plan, the Secretary would be required to establish a timetable for modernizing all 25 fighter squadrons, and identify the resources required to execute the plan. The provision would also require the Secretary to provide a report to the congressional defense committees that includes the sustainment and recapitalization plan.

#### **Sec. 136. Annual Report on Air Force Tactical Fighter Aircraft Force Structure.**

The provision would require the SecAF, in consultation with the Director of the Air National Guard (DANG) and the Commander of the Air Force Reserve Command, to provide an annual report reflecting a 10-year plan for Air Force fighter aircraft force structure, recapitalization, training, and sustainment of the active and reserve components of the Air Force.

#### **Sec. 138. Modification of Inventory Requirements for Aircraft of the Combat Air Forces.**

The provision would authorize the Air Force to retire a portion of the current fighter aircraft inventory. The provision would approve the Air Force request to retire the following aircraft: (1) 56 A-10s; (2) 65 F-15C/Ds; and (3) 11 F-16C/Ds. The provision would not allow the Air Force to retire 26 F-15E or 32 F-22 aircraft. The committee does not agree with the Air Force assertion that retiring the F-15E and F-22 aircraft would result in acceptable risk.

### Operations and Maintenance

#### **Sec. 311. Implementation of Inspector General Recommendations Relating to Oversight of Defense Fuel Support Points.**

The provision would direct the Secretary of Defense (SecDef) to implement the recommendations of the Department of Defense Inspector General report, published April 11, 2024, titled, "Audit of the Defense Logistics Agency Oversight of Defense Fuel Support Points"

#### **Sec. 321. Interim Responses to Address Releases or Threatened Releases of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances.**

The provision would codify existing DoD policy for the military services to take action to address any release or threatened release of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances. This includes processes for DoD to expeditiously conduct a preliminary assessment and site inspection, if one has not already been conducted, and provide bottled water and water filtration, when necessary. The provision would also require a report regarding various elements related to the preliminary assessment or site investigation of facilities, their associated timelines, and any relevant explanations of actions taken.

#### **Sec. 342. Extension and Expansion of Incident Reporting Requirements for Department of Defense.**

The provision would extend the incident reporting requirement regarding lost and stolen weapons and include the Committees on Armed Services.

### Military Personnel Authorizations

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

The provision authorizes 325,000 personnel for the ARNG and 107,700 personnel for the ANG (600 above the budget request).

The provision would authorize an increase in end strength in the Selected Reserve of the ANG to offset any reductions that may occur as a result of transferring units and personnel from the ANG to the USSF in the states of Alaska, California, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, and Ohio, as well as personnel assigned to Headquarters, ANG. In addition to these offsets, the provision would authorize additional end strength in the Selected Reserve of the ANG to give the Air Force additional flexibility to address the re-leveling effort.

The committee further notes that, in addition to the specified increases in end strength authorized by this provision, the SecDef has the standing authority under section 115 of title 10, United States Code, to increase the end strength of the Selected Reserve by up to three percent of the authorized end strength for the applicable fiscal year.

**Sec. 412. End Strength for Reserve on Active Duty.**

The provision authorizes 30,845 ARNG positions for the ARNG and 25,982 positions for the ANG (246 above the budget request).

The provision would authorize an increase in end strength for the reserves on Active Duty in support of the Reserves in the ANG to offset any reductions that may occur as a result of transferring units and personnel from the ANG to the USSF in the states of Alaska, California, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, and Ohio, as well as personnel assigned to Headquarters, ANG. In addition to these offsets, the provision would authorize additional end strength in the Reserves on Active Duty in support of the Reserves of the ANG to give the Air Force additional flexibility to address the re-leveling effort.

The committee further notes that, in addition to the specified increases in end strength authorized by this provision, the SecDef has the standing authority under section 115 of title 10, United States Code, to increase the end strength of the Selected Reserve by up to three percent of the authorized end strength for the applicable fiscal year.

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

This provision authorizes 22,294 dual status technicians for the ARNG and 10,744 for the ANG.

The provision would also establish limits on the number of temporary technicians authorized to be employed within the end strengths set forth by this section to not more than 25 percent of the total authorized strength for each component.

The provision would also prohibit the coercion of a military technician (dual status) by a State into accepting an offer of realignment or conversion to any other military status, including as a member of the Active, Guard, and Reserve program of a reserve component. The provision would further specify that if a technician declines to participate in such a realignment or conversion, no further action may be taken against the individual or the individual's position.

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

The provision authorizes 17,000 ADOS positions for the ARNG and 16,000 ADOS positions for the ANG.

**Sec. 415. Exemption of National Guard Bilateral Affairs Officers from Active-Duty End Strength Limits and Modification of Annual Reporting Requirement Regarding Security Cooperation Activities.**

The provision would exempt end strength requirements for members of the National Guard who serve as BAOs as a part of the National Guard State Partnership Program. Additionally, it would exclude such officers from annual reporting requirements under security cooperation activities.

## **Military Personnel Policy**

### **Sec. 505. Eligibility for Consideration for Promotion: Time-In-Grade and Other Requirements.**

The provision would authorize the Secretaries of the military departments concerned to preclude from consideration by a promotion selection board officers and warrant officers who have an established retirement date that is within 90 days after the date the selection board is convened. The Secretaries currently have the authority to preclude selection board consideration of officers with an established separation date within 90 days of the board.

### **Sec. 508. Consideration of Merit by Special Selection Review Boards.**

The provision would allow special selection review boards (SSRB) to sustain a promotion board's selection of an officer who is the subject of credible information of an adverse nature when such officer ranks in the top half of an order of merit development by the SSRB. The officer's qualifications would still be required to be comparable in qualification for promotion to those sample officers who were recommended for promotion by that promotion board.

### **Sec. 511. Permanent Modification to the Army National Guard and Air National Guard Inactive National Guard Statute.**

The provision would amend authorize officers to transfer from the Selected Reserve to the Inactive National Guard. [This section is a NGB Legislative Proposal]

### **Sec. 512. Expanded Authority to Continue Reserve Component Officers in Certain Military Specialties on the Reserve Active-Status List.**

The provision would authorize the Secretaries of the military departments to selectively continue on the reserve Active-Status list, for up to 40 years of commissioned service, Reserve component officers above the grade of O-2 in designated military specialties.

### **Sec. 513. Authority to Extend Military Technicians Until Age 62.**

The provision would authorize the retention of military technicians to age 62, rather than age 60 as authorized in current law. This change aligns authority to retain military technicians with recent changes that allow drill status national guardsmen to be retained until age 62 and supports the retention of experienced military technicians. [This section is a NGB Legislative Proposal]

### **Sec. 514. Extension of Time Period for Transfer or Discharge of Certain Army and Air Force Reserve Component General Officers.**

The provision would authorize Army and Air Force reserve component general officers to continue serving in an active status or on active duty for up to 60 days after ceasing to occupy a general officer position. [This section is a NGB Legislative Proposal]

### **Sec. 515. Transfer to the Space Force of Covered Space Functions of the Air National Guard of the United States.**

The provision would require the SecAF to transfer to the USSF the covered space functions of the ANG. Under a provision authorized elsewhere in this Act, such transfer shall not reduce the end strength authorization for the state ANG organizations affected by such transfers. The transfer does not require governor consent.

### **Sec. 516. Report on Effect of Air National Guard Unit Leveling.**

The provision would authorize the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to exempt any State National Guard from the NGB leveling initiative within the ANG. The provision would also require the NGB to provide a report to the Committees on Armed Services at least 60 days prior to implementing leveling within a State granted an exemption.

**Sec. 543. Investigations of Sexual Assaults in the National Guard.**

The provision would require the Defense Advisory Committee on Investigation, Prosecution, and Defense of Sexual Assault in the Armed Forces (DACIPAD) to review how states investigate and prosecute allegations of sexual assault with a National Guard nexus, and to make recommendations on improving investigations and reporting of sexual assaults within the National Guard. The provision would require the DACIPAD to submit a report to the Committees on Armed Services on this review. The provision would also specify that state Adjutants General are senior officials for the purposes of investigating allegations of reprisal.

**Sec. 551. Improving Effectiveness of the Future Servicemember Preparatory Course.**

The provision would modify course graduation requirements.

**Sec. 595. Improved Access to High School and College Students for Recruiting.**

The provision requires substantially equal access to secondary schools for military recruiters as is granted to postsecondary educational institutions and other prospective employers of secondary students. The provision would also amend section 983 of title 10, United States Code, to expand the existing requirement for colleges and universities to provide information about students whose attendance ended during the previous semester. This provision would require colleges and universities to provide students with a choice to consent to having their information released to the Department of Defense for recruiting purposes if such student disenrolls from school. Finally, the provision would make conforming amendments to section 8528 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-10).

**Sec. 596. National Commission on Quality of Life for the All-Volunteer Armed Force.**

The provision would establish an independent commission in the legislative branch to be known as the Commission on Quality of Life for the All-Volunteer Armed Force. The provision would require the Commission to submit to the Committees on Armed Services, not later than December 31, 2025, a report that includes its initial findings and preliminary recommendations related to improving quality of life for military members and Department of Defense civilian employees, with a final report and legislative proposals to be submitted at a mutually agreed time.

**Sec. 597. Military Entrance Processing Command Processing Pilot.**

The provision would require the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness to develop a 2-year pilot program for joint reserve component support to the United States Military Entrance Processing Command to accelerate the review of recruit medical records.

**Sec. 599. Evaluation of Recruits and Officer Candidates for Drug Use.**

The provision would require the SecDef to ensure that all prospective recruits and officer candidates undergo testing for controlled substances prior to enlistment or appointment as an officer in the Armed Forces.

**Compensation and Other Personnel Benefits**

**Sec. 601. Reform of Basic Pay Rates.**

The provision would reform basic pay rates by increasing monthly basic pay for junior enlisted servicemembers in the grades of E-1 through E-3. The increase in pay rates established by this provision would be in addition to the increase in monthly basic pay authorized by section 1009 of title 37, United States Code.

**Sec. 621. Calculation of Retired Pay for Certain Officers Who Served in Grade O-9 or O-10 and Retired in Grade O-8.**

The provision would create a special rule for officers having served in the temporary grades of O-9 or O-10 and who receive a conditional or permanent retirement in the grade of O-8. The provision would require that such officer's final retirement pay be the lower of the amount calculated under



the high-three year average formula pursuant to section 1407, or the final pay formula for members of the armed forces under section 1406 of title 10, United States Code, as if such officer first became a member of the Armed Forces prior to September 8, 1980.

**Sec. 625. Restrictions on Retired and Reserve Members of the Armed Forces Receiving Employment and Compensation Indirectly from Foreign Governments Through Private Entities.**

The provision would prohibit retired and reserve members of all branches of the Armed Forces, except the Coast Guard, from accepting employment, and compensation related to that employment, or payments or awards indirectly from a foreign government through a private entity.

**Sec. 626. Retroactive Effective Date of Promotions of Senior Officers of Armed Forces that were Delayed as a Result of Suspension of Senate Confirmation.**

The provision would authorize back pay to certain military officers who were confirmed by the Senate between December 5, 2023, and December 31, 2023. The provision would authorize pay starting from that date which is later: the date that is 30 days after the officer was placed on the Senate Executive Calendar, or the date on which the Secretary determines the officer would have been appointed to the grade for which they were nominated.

### **Health Care Provisions**

**Sec. 701. Health Care Licensure Portability for Tricare Network Providers Providing Mental Health Services to Members of the Armed Forces and Certain Family Members.**

The provision would authorize the SecDef to prescribe regulations to allow mental health providers, who provide care under the TRICARE program, to provide tele-mental health care services to members of the Armed Forces and their dependents without regard to the location of the provider or the patient.

**Sec. 723. Extension of Time for Modifications to Premium Sharing Plans under TRICARE Dental Program.**

The provision would extend from January 1, 2026, to January 1, 2027, the time to implement required modifications to the premium sharing plans of the TRICARE dental program.

### **Civilian Personnel Matters**

**Sec. 1113. Prohibition on Establishment of New Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Positions; Prohibition on Filling Vacancies.**

The provision would, beginning on January 1, 2025, prohibit the SecDef from establishing new positions within the Department of Defense with responsibility for matters relating to diversity, equity, and inclusion, or filling any vacancies in positions in the Department with responsibility for such matters.

### **Matters Relating to the Indo-Pacific Region**

**Sec. 1258. Returning Civic Action Teams to the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia.**

The provision would require the SecDef, in coordination with the Secretary of State, to submit a report to the Committees on Armed Services and Foreign Relations on the activities of civic action teams in the Republic of Palau under the Palau Compact of Free Association Act (Public Law 99–658). The report should also review the feasibility and advisability of restoring the presence of civic action teams in the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia, as authorized under the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (Public Law 99–239) and the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–188).

**Matters Related to Cyber Space**

**Sec. 1606. Independent Evaluation Regarding Potential Establishment of United States Cyber Force.**

The provision would require the DoD to enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to conduct an evaluation on the feasibility of establishing a separate Armed Force dedicated to the cyber domain, or refining and evolving the current organizational approach for U.S. Cyber Command.

**Military Construction**

**Sec. 2406. Extension of Authority to Carry Out Fiscal Year 2020 Project in Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania.**

This provision would extend the authorization of certain fiscal year 2020 Environmental Resilience and Conservation Investment Program projects until October 1, 2025.

<b>ERCIP Projects: Extension of 2020 Project Authorizations</b>			
<b>State</b>	<b>Installation</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Original Authorized Amount</b>
Pennsylvania	Fort Indiantown Gap	Install Geothermal and 413 kW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Array	\$3,950

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

The provision would authorize the following military construction projects for the ARNG for fiscal year 2025.

<b>Army National Guard</b>			
<b>State</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>FY2025 Request</b>	<b>Senate Agreement</b>
Alaska	Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson; NG Readiness Center	\$67,000	\$67,000
Georgia	Fort Eisenhower; NG Readiness Center (Design)	--	\$3,264
Iowa	Sioux City Armory; NG Vehicle Maintenance Shop	\$13,800	\$13,800
Kentucky	Fort Campbell; Readiness Center	--	\$18,000
Louisiana	Abbeville; NG Readiness Center (Design)	--	\$2,275
Louisiana	Lafayette Readiness Center; NG Readiness Center	\$33,000	\$33,000
Maine	Saco; Southern Maine Readiness Center (Design)	--	\$1,000
Mississippi	Southaven Readiness Center; NG Readiness Center	\$33,000	\$33,000
Montana	Malta Readiness Center, NG Vehicle Maintenance Shop	\$14,800	\$14,800
Nevada	Hawthorne Army Depot; Automated Qualification/Training Range	\$18,000	\$18,000
New Jersey	National Guard Training Center Sea Girt; Underground Electrical Distribution System	--	\$25,300

New Jersey	Vineland, NG Vehicle Maintenance Shop	\$23,000	\$23,000
Ohio	Lima; Readiness Center	--	\$26,000
Oklahoma	Shawnee Readiness Center, NG Readiness Center	\$29,000	\$29,000
Pennsylvania	Danville; Vehicle Maintenance Shop (Design)	--	\$3,400
Rhode Island	Quonset State Airport; Cost to Complete: Army Aviation Readiness Center	--	\$3,000
Tennessee	Fort Campbell; NG Readiness Center (Design)	--	\$1,980
Utah	Nephi Readiness Center; NG Vehicle Maintenance Shop	\$20,000	\$20,000
Washington	Camp Murray; National Guard/Reserve Center Building	\$40,000	\$40,000
Wisconsin	Rapids; NG Readiness Center (Design)	--	\$3,800
Worldwide Unspecified	Design	\$25,529	\$83,129
Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Minor Construction	\$45,000	\$92,433
<b>Military Construction, Army National Guard Total</b>		<b>\$362,129</b>	<b>\$555,181</b>

**Sec. 2604. Authorized Air National Guard Construction and Land Acquisition Projects.**

The provision would authorize the following military construction projects for the ANG for fiscal year 2025.

<b>Air National Guard</b>			
<b>State</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>FY2025 Request</b>	<b>House Agreement</b>
Alaska	Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Base Supply Complex	--	\$44,000
Alaska	Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson; Combat Rescue Helicopter Simulator	\$19,300	\$19,300
California	Moffett Airfield, Combat Rescue Helicopter Simulator	\$12,600	\$12,600
Florida	Jacksonville International Airport: F-35 Consolidated Weapons Training	\$26,200	\$26,200
Hawaii	Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam; Space Control Center	\$36,600	\$36,600
Kentucky	Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport; Response Force Warehouse (Design)	--	\$2,100
Maine	Bangor International Airport; Fuel Cell Hangar	--	\$48,000
Mississippi	Key Field, Adal Maintenance Hangar & Construct Amu Complex (Design)	--	\$5,600
Mississippi	Key Field; Base Supply Warehouse (Design)	--	\$1,900
Mississippi	Key Field; Corrosion Control Hangar (Design)	--	\$6,700
Mississippi	Key Field; Upgraded Fuel Hydrant System (Design)	--	\$1,000

New Jersey	Atlantic City International Airport; F-16 Mission Training Center	\$18,000	\$18,000
New York	Francis S. Gabreski Airport, Combat Rescue Helicopter Simulator	\$14,000	\$14,000
North Carolina	Salisbury, Flight Facility (Design)	--	\$6,300
Pennsylvania	Pittsburgh International Airport, Entry Control Facility (Design)	--	\$4,600
Texas	Fort Worth, C-130J Adal Fuel Cell Building 1674	\$13,100	\$13,100
West Virginia	Mclaughlin Air National Guard Base, Squadron Operations Facility (Design)	--	\$3,200
Worldwide Unspecified	Design	\$10,792	\$10,792
Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Minor Construction	\$40,200	\$40,200
<b>Military Construction, Air National Guard Total</b>		<b>\$190,792</b>	<b>\$314,192</b>

**Sec. 2607, 2608, 2609. Extension of Authority to Carry Out Projects.**

The provision would extend the authorization of funds for 13 projects until October 1, 2025, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2026, whichever is later.

<b>National Guard and Reserve: Extension of 2021 Project Authorizations</b>			
<b>State</b>	<b>Installation</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Original Authorized Amount</b>
Arkansas	Fort Chaffee	NG Readiness Center	\$15,000
California	Bakersfield	NG Vehicle Maintenance Shop	\$9,300
California	Camp Roberts	Automated Multipurpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range	\$12,000
Indiana	Hulman Regional Airport	Construct Small Arms Range	\$8,000
Massachusetts	Devens Reserve Forces Training Area	Automated Multipurpose Machine Gun Range	\$8,700
North Carolina	Asheville	Army Reserve Center/Land	\$24,000
Pennsylvania	Moon Township	Combined Support Maintenance Shop	\$23,000
Puerto Rico	Fort Allen	NG Readiness Center	\$37,000
South Carolina	Joint Base Charleston	NG Readiness Center	\$15,000
Texas	Fort Worth	Aircraft Maintenance Hangar Add/Alt	\$6,000
Texas	Joint Base San Antonio	F-16 Mission Training Center	\$10,800
Virgin Islands	St. Croix	Army Aviation Support Facility	\$28,000
Virgin Islands	St. Croix	CST Ready Building	\$11,400

**Sec. 2610. Modification of Authority to Carry Out Certain Fiscal Year 2022 Projects.**

The provision would extend the authorization of funds for 11 projects until October 1, 2026, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2027, whichever is later.

<b>National Guard and Reserve: Extension of 2022 Project Authorizations</b>			
<b>State</b>	<b>Installation</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Original Authorized Amount</b>
Alabama	Huntsville Readiness Center	NG Readiness Center	\$17,000
Georgia	Fort Moore	Post-Initial Military Training Unaccompanied Housing	\$13,200
Indiana	Grissom Air Reserve Base	Logistics Readiness Complex	\$29,000
Massachusetts	Barnes Air National Guard Base	Combined Engine/ASE/NDI Shop	\$12,200
Mississippi	Jackson International Airport	Fire Crash and Rescue Station	\$9,300
New York	Francis S. Gabreski Airport	Base Civil Engineer Complex	\$14,800
Ohio	Wright-Patterson Air Force Base	AR Center Training Building/ UHS	\$19,000
Texas	Kelly Field Annex	Aircraft Corrosion Control	\$9,500
Vermont	Bennington National Guard Armory	National Guard Readiness Center	\$16,900
Wisconsin	Fort McCoy	Transient Training Officer Barracks	\$29,200
Wyoming	Cheyenne Municipal Airport	Combined Vehicle Maintenance and ASE Complex	\$13,400

**Sec. 2611. Modification of Authority to Carry Out Fiscal Year 2022 Project.**

The provision would authorize the SecARMY to construct the National Guard Readiness Center in Lyndon, Vermont.

**Sec. 2805. Requirement that Damaged or Destroyed Facilities are Built Back with Resilience.**

The provision would ensure that any military construction project to repair, restore, or replace a damaged or destroyed facility is designed and constructed to prevent future damage or destruction by the proximate cause of the damage or destruction of the facility.

**Sec. 2808. Obligation and Execution of Design Funds for Military Construction Projects.**

The provision would require the SecDef to ensure that the construction agent in charge of a military construction project enters into a contract within 90 days. The committee notes that that in recent years it has taken up to 12 months for design projects to be put under contract, and then an additional 12 months for the contracts to be completed, leading to unnecessary project delays; therefore, the provision would also require that for any project less than \$150.0 million, the design work must be at least 35 percent completed within 180 days of award.

## **SASC Committee Report Requirements / Items of Special Interest**

### **Enhance National Guard Infantry Lethality**

The committee recognizes the need to provide Reserve and National Guard infantry units additional opportunities to conduct realistic live fire training on state-of-the-art moving robotic target systems. The committee encourages the Army to establish reserve component training sites that: (1) Utilize autonomous robotic targets capable of conducting realistic training scenarios consistent with combat operations; (2) Objectively score trainee performance; (3) Operate at distances greater than 100 meters; (4) Survive live fire exercises from 6.8 millimeter rounds of the Next Generation Squad Weapon of the Army; and (5) Fully function in all reasonably expected weather conditions and across diverse geographic landscapes.

### **Multi-Domain Capabilities in the Army National Guard**

The committee commends and remains supportive of the Army's efforts to develop, mature, and field Multi-Domain Task Forces (MDTFs) optimized for contested environments and supports the current plan to field five MDTFs as published in the recent Total Army Analysis. As the Army seeks opportunities to expand multi-domain capabilities across the force, the committee recommends the Army consider establishing similar capabilities within the ARNG. While the committee recognizes the high demand, low density nature of these unique forces, it is important for the Army to consider creative ways to both expand critical capabilities across the total force and take advantage of the ability of the reserve components to access soldiers with critical skills.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army (SecARMY) to brief the Committees on Armed Services, not later than February 28, 2025, on its efforts to expand MDTF-like capabilities into its reserve components.

### **UH-72 Lakota Helicopter Sustainment and Modernization**

The committee is concerned that the Army lacks an executable plan to address the long-term sustainment and modernization of the UH-72A/B Lakota Light Utility Helicopter. The committee recognizes the significant contributions of the Lakota helicopter to homeland defense, force generation, and installation support. It has proven to be a versatile, reliable, and cost-effective platform across a range of missions. However, the committee is concerned with accelerated aging of the fleet due to higher than programmed employment and the lack of a defined and budgeted long-term sustainment strategy. Recognizing the typical acceleration of flying hour costs as fleets age across all Army aviation platforms, and as the Lakota approaches 20-years of service, the committee is interested in understanding the Army's lifecycle sustainment plan for the Lakota.

Therefore, the committee directs the SecARMY, in consultation with the CNGB, to submit a report to the congressional defense committees not later than April 15, 2025, on the Army's strategy for long-term life cycle sustainment and modernization of the Lakota fleet.

### **Establishing a Trench Warfare Training Range Complex**

The committee notes the use of trench warfare and long defensive lines in Ukraine and believes that Army forces should be prepared to fight in comparable conditions.

Therefore, the committee directs the SecARMY to submit a report to the Committees on Armed Services, not later than March 15, 2025, that describes the trench warfare capabilities of the Army and the advisability and feasibility of establishing a training range complex for trench warfare for the use by the Army and other military services.

The committee encourages the Secretary to consider a training range that: 1) Is an installation of the Army National Guard; 2) Has enough space to maneuver in an area that would not create conflicts with other training activities; 3) Has enough space to maneuver to accommodate more than one trench line with supporting field fortifications and obstacles in order to simulate a defense

in depth; 4) Contains access to two sides of a river in order to enable trench warfare training in conjunction with wet gap crossings; and, 5) Is a Level 1 Training Site designated by the Department of Defense.

#### **Investigations of Sexual Assaults in the National Guard**

The provision would require the Defense Advisory Committee on Investigation, Prosecution, and Defense of Sexual Assault in the Armed Forces (DACIPAD) to review how states investigate and prosecute allegations of sexual assault with a National Guard nexus, and to make recommendations on improving investigations and reporting of sexual assaults within the National Guard. The provision would require the DACIPAD to submit a report to the Committees on Armed Services on this review. The provision would also specify that state Adjutants General are senior officials for the purposes of investigating allegations of reprisal.

#### **Aeromedical Squadrons in the Air National Guard**

The committee is concerned about the ability of the DoD and civil authorities to transport and treat individuals wounded or exposed to chemical, biological, or radiological incidents. A conflict with near-peer adversaries would require unique aeromedical capabilities to ensure that warfighters can reach specialized patient care facilities. Domestic incidents such as infectious disease outbreaks or chemical attacks also necessitate particular capabilities to ensure patients can be transported and treated while protecting caregivers and the general population. The National Guard's status under titles 10 and 32, United States Code, enable it to support both combatant commanders and civil authorities.

Therefore, the committee directs the ANG to provide a briefing to the congressional defense committees, not later than March 1, 2025, on the utility and feasibility of augmenting the number of available aeromedical squadrons and the total number of authorized Active Guard Reserve personnel within the National Guard and reserve components. The briefing should specifically address the addition of specialized ANG Critical Care Aeromedical Transportation Teams.

#### **Briefing on Air National Guard Releveling Efforts**

The committee is aware that the ANG intends to proceed with planned force structure changes to full-time National Guard support—Active, Guard, and Reserve (AGR) and dual-status military technicians—beginning in fiscal year 2025, in an effort to standardize personnel levels among units performing similar missions. The committee recognizes the potential utility and benefits standardization can bring to the force, particularly in planning and managing the force across all 54 states and territories. Nevertheless, the committee has heard concerns from certain states that the proposed changes may be detrimental to readiness and to airmen and their families. The committee appreciates the ANG's recent decision to move forward with this initiative in a limited way, ensuring that States having expressed concern will maintain their current level of AGRs as the ANG works with the States to affect a seamless and efficient transition to a level set force, considering state equities.

Therefore, the committee directs the SecAF, in consultation with the CNGB, to submit a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services, not later than January 1, 2025, on its full-time support releveling initiative. The briefing should include detailed data on where and which positions would shift, and how it plans to address concerns raised by states to these plans, together with an estimated cost of full implementations.

#### **National Guard Rotary Wing Accident Prevention and Safety Improvements**

On March 14, 2023, the Comptroller General of the United States published a report entitled, "National Guard Helicopters: Additional Actions Needed to Prevent Accidents and Improve Safety" (GAO-23-105219). In its report, the Comptroller General made six recommendations.

The committee notes that the sixth recommendation is identified as closed, but the remaining recommendations remain open. In light of the aviation accidents that triggered this report, and the numerous accidents that have occurred in the intervening period, to include accidents involving loss of life, the committee remains concerned about the emphasis and resources the Army and Air Force are placing on this critical issue.

Therefore, the committee directs the SecARMY and the SecAF to submit a report to the Committees on Armed Services, not later than January 15, 2025, on the actions by each service to implement these GAO recommendations as well as any other measures each service is implementing to improve training, resources, and manning requirement of National Guard helicopter units.

#### **Briefing on Requirements for Limited Bomber Re-Alerting**

The committee notes that the October 2023 report by the Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States included a series of recommendations to strengthen defense against two near-peer adversaries, including a recommendation to "initiate planning and preparations for a portion of the future bomber fleet to be on continuous alert status, in time for the B-21 Full Operational Capability date."

Therefore, the committee directs the SecAF, in coordination with the Commander, U.S. Strategic Command, to provide a briefing to the congressional defense committees, not later than January 1, 2025, on the requirements for, and implications of, returning between 5 to 10 long-range heavy bombers to alert status in the event that such an action should become necessary to meet operational requirements.

#### **Report on the Former Eaker Air Force Base**

The committee believes it is useful for the DoD to understand what assets are available for potential use, such as formerly closed air bases. The committee recognizes that DoD must weigh the probable costs and potential benefits associated with any such decisions.

Therefore, the committee directs that, not later than April 30, 2025, the SecAF shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services a report on the feasibility and advisability of a reactivation of Eaker Air Force Base in Blytheville, Arkansas to serve as an Air Force Training Center. The study shall include: (1) An overall assessment of the existing base facilities at Eaker Air Force Base including the current condition of runways, taxiways, control tower(s) and hangars; (2) A strategic assessment of the geography and location of the base and its usefulness for potential training or operational missions; (3) An estimate of the overall cost of reactivation to the DOD, including annual operations and maintenance costs; (4) The conditions under which opening an Air Force Training Center would be to the benefit of the Air Force or the Air National Guard; and (5) The types of aircraft that could viably train at the base if reactivated. The report shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.