



# FY26 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)

## Summary of S. 1071

	Reported by Committee	Passed by Chamber	Reported by Conference	Final Passage	Signed into Law
House	15 July 2025	10 Sep 2025	7 Dec 2025	10 Dec 2025	18 Dec 2025
Senate	9 July 2025	9 Oct 2025		17 Dec 2025	

As of 18 December 2025

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## Executive Summary

This guide provides a summary of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). For further bill text click here: [S.1071](#), for the report click here [Joint Explanatory Statement](#).

**Status:** On 7 December 2025, the House and Senate Conference Committee reported their version of the FY26 National Defense Authorization Act. The bill authorizes military and national security programs at the Department of Defense and Department of Energy.

**Highlights.** This legislation—

- Authorizes funding to support a 3.8 percent pay raise for military members.
- Authorizes Governors to direct AGR personnel to perform duties in response to, or in preparation for a disaster emergency for up to 14 days, or 46 with Secretary of Defense (SecDef) waiver (NGB Legislative Proposal—*Emergency Response Authority*). (Sec. 512)
- Authorizes officers to transfer from the Selected Reserve to the Inactive National Guard (NGB Legislative Proposal—*ING*). (Sec. 511)
- Authorizes military recruiters access to secondary schools (Similar to NGB Legislative Proposal—*RC Recruiter Access to High Schools*). (Sec. 531)
- Increased ANG AGR authorizations by 811 above the President's Budget Request but authorized 80 fewer ANG DSTs. (Sec. 412–413)
- Requires an increase in tanker total aircraft inventory to 502 over a three-year period. (Sec. 141)
- Extends the floor on A-10, KC-135, and C-130 aircraft through the end of FY26. (Secs. 141, 145, and 147)
- Directs the Secretary of the Air Force (SECAF) to submit a bomber roadmap which would include integrating the Air National Guard (ANG) and the Air Force Reserve into B-21 bomber aircraft operations. (Sec. 151)
- Directs SecDef to make changes to DoDI 5111.20 or any successor instruction, to ensure that in performing selection analysis for the State Partnership Program, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau shall consider the capacity of the National Guard of a state and the number of assigned countries. (Sec. 1206)
- Directs a review to identify differences in the interpretation and application of 10 U.S.C. § 130i in regard to counter-UAS practices for covered facilities or assets. (Sec. 912)
- Directs the Chief of the National Guard Bureau (CNGB) to provide a report on the number of National Guard members who received sexual assault prevention and response training in the preceding calendar year. (Sec. 514)
- Directs the SecDef to establish an Artificial Intelligence Futures Steering Committee which membership includes the Vice Chief of the National Guard Bureau. (Sec. 1535)
- **Does not** direct funds reimbursed by states for state active-duty missions to be re-directed to DoW for the repair and maintenance of assets used during those missions (NGB Legislative Proposal—*SAD Reimbursement*).
- **Does not** authorize two-year funding for the SPP.
- **Does not** expand health care license portability for National Guard health care providers (NGB Legislative Proposal—*NG Healthcare Federal License Reciprocity*).
- **Does not** eliminate all out-of-pocket costs for members of the selected reserve who choose to participate in the TRICARE dental program.
- **Does not** establish the Chief of the National Guard Bureau eligibility for appointment as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

## National Guard Accounts Overview

\*\*\*Funding levels are determined by appropriations bills limited by the authorized amounts below.\*\*\*

### Army National Guard - Authorization of Funding (in thousands USD)

	FY26 PBR	House	Delta	Senate	Delta	Conference	Delta
O&M	8,673,981	8,688,980	15,000	7,151,290	-1,522,680	8,427,282	-246,699
MILCON	151,880	303,680	151,800	1,760,580	1,608,705	430,230	278,350

### Army National Guard End Strength

	FY26 PBR	House	Delta	Senate	Delta	Conference	Delta
Strength	328,000	328,000	-	328,000	-	328,000	-
AGR	30,845	30,845	-	30,845	-	30,845	-
DSTs	21,294	21,294	-	22,294	+1,000	21,294	-
ADOS	17,000	17,000	-	17,000	-	17,000	-

### Air National Guard - Authorization of Funding (in thousands USD)

	FY26 PBR	House	Delta	Senate	Delta	Conference	Delta
O&M	7,332,590	7,152,060	-180,540	6,777,240	-555,357	7,331,738	-861
MILCON	188,646	210,492	21,846	1,304,172	1,115,526	810,746	622,100

### Air National Guard End Strength

	FY26 PBR	House	Delta	Senate	Delta	Conference	Delta
Strength	106,300	106,300	-	106,300	-	106,300	-
AGR	25,171	25,171	-	25,982	+811	25,982	+811
DSTs	10,485	10,405	-80	10,744	+289	10,405	-80
ADOS	16,000	16,000	-	16,000	-	16,000	-

## LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

\*\*\*Flanking asterisks (\*) represent a provision altered from the House or Senate NDAA bills\*\*\*

### Army Programs

**\*Sec. 112. Multi-year Procurement Authority for UH-60 Blackhawk Aircraft.\***

Provides the Secretary of the Army (SECARMY) with the multi-year procurement authority for UH-60 Blackhawk aircraft, beginning with the Fiscal Year 2027 program year.

The conferees encourage the Secretary of the Army to consider the continued use of the UH-60 Blackhawk aircraft in the future.

**\*Sec. 113. Authorization to Initiate Early Production of Future Long-Range Assault Aircraft.\***

Accelerates the production of the Future Long-Range Assault Aircraft and ensure the program completes a rigorous developmental test flight campaign prior to delivering the platform to the operational forces or entering into full rate production.

### Air Force Programs

**Sec. 141. Modification of minimum inventory requirements for air refueling tanker aircraft.**

Requires the increase in tanker total aircraft inventory to 502 over a three-year period and provides more flexibility to the Air Force regarding where to station aircraft retained under this provision. This section would also prohibit the reduction of KC-135 aircraft designated as primary mission aircraft inventory within the reserve components of the Air Force.

**\*Sec. 144. Modification to Annual Report on Air Force Tactical Fighter Aircraft Force Structure.\***

Requires SECAF, in coordination with the Director of the Air National Guard, to develop a plan for the recapitalization and modernization of the fighter fleet of the ANG.

**\*Sec. 145. Extension of Requirements Relating to C-130 Aircraft.\***

Maintains the C-130 total aircraft inventory at 271 with a sunset date of October 1, 2028. This section would also provide an extension of prohibition on reduction of C-130 aircraft assigned to the National Guard from 2025 to 2028. This section also requires the SECAF to submit an annual report on the Air Force's C-130 inventory.

**\*Sec. 147. Modification to Minimum Inventory Requirement for A-10 Aircraft.\***

Prohibits SECAF from decreasing A-10 *total inventory* below 103 or reducing funding for A-10s. The conferees included the House provision that would allow an inventory reduction of *primary mission* aircraft to 93.

**\*Sec. 151. Bomber Aircraft Force Structure and Transition Roadmap.\***

Requires the SECAF to submit a comprehensive bomber roadmap detailing the planned force structure, basing, modernization, and transition strategy for the bomber aircraft fleet of the Air Force through fiscal year 2040. This would include integrating units of the ANG and Air Force Reserve into B-21 bomber aircraft operations.

**\*Sec. 153. Report on the F-47 Advanced Fighter Aircraft Program.\***

Requires the SECAF to provide a report on the F-47 aircraft program that includes a description of the program, the acquisition strategy of the program, and a proposed fielding strategy for the program. The proposed strategy would include integrating units of the Air National Guard and Air Force

Reserve into F-47 fighter aircraft operations, including planned force structure, association, training, and mobilization models.

**\*Sec. 164. Limitation on Procurement of KC-46 Aircraft Pending Certification on Correction of Deficiencies.\***

Limits delivery of the KC-46 aircraft until the SecDef submits to the congressional defense committees certain corrective action plans for all Category 1 deficiencies.

## **Energy and Environment**

**\*Sec. 314. Requirement to Support Training on Wildfire Prevention and Response.\***

Requires the U.S. Army and the U.S. Air Force, in consultation with the National Guard Bureau, to provide support for the training of appropriate National Guard personnel on wildfire prevention and response.

**\*Sec. 322. Strategy to Accelerate Remediation of Contamination From Perfluoroalkyl Substances and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances.\***

Requires the Department of Defense to develop a strategy and public dashboard to accelerate and track cleanup of PFAS contamination at military sites including National Guard facilities.

## **Military Personnel Authorizations**

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

Authorizes 328,000 personnel for the Army National Guard (ARNG) and 106,300 personnel for the ANG.

**Sec. 412. End Strengths for Reserves on Active Duty in Support of the Reserves.**

Authorizes 30,845 ARNG positions for the ARNG and 25,982 positions for the ANG (811 above the budget request).

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

Authorizes 21,294 dual status technicians for the ARNG and 10,405 for the ANG (80 below the budget request).

Establishes 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.

Prohibits 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 Duty. 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.**

Authorizes 17,000 ADOS positions for the ARNG and 16,000 ADOS positions for the ANG.

## **Military Personnel Policy**

### **\*Sec. 511. Active and Inactive Transfers of Officers of the Army National Guard and Air Force National Guard.\***

Authorizes ARNG officers and warrant officers and ANG officers to transfer to the inactive National Guard. **(NGB Legislative Proposal)**

### **\*Sec. 512. National Guard: Active Guard and Reserve Duty in Response to a State Disaster.\***

Authorizes the chief executive of a state, with consent by the Secretary of Defense, to use Active Guard and Reserve members for up to 14 days for state disaster response duty each year, extendable for an additional 53 days for response to a catastrophic incident, with costs reimbursed by the state. **(NGB Legislative Proposal)**

### **\*Sec. 513. Report on Effect of Equipment Shortfalls on Ability of National Guard to Perform Homeland Defense Activities.\***

Amends Chapter 9 of title 32, United States Code, by requiring SecDef, in consultation with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Administration, to provide a report on equipment shortfalls and effect of shortfalls in the National Guard of each State.

### **\*Sec. 514. Report on National Guard Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Training\*.**

Directs the CNGB, in coordination with the SecDef, to provide a report, no later than 180 days after enactment, and no later than March 30 of each year thereafter through March 30, 2031, identifying the number of members of the National Guard, disaggregated by State, that received sexual assault prevention and response training in the preceding calendar year.

### **\*Sec. 515. Study and Report on Members of the Reserve Components: Consideration of Amount of Time of Service in Activation; Authority to Waive Limitation on Release From Active Duty.\***

Directs SecDef to conduct a study to determine whether Service Secretaries consider the amount of time in service or on active duty for an RC member when determining who to order to active duty.\*

### **\*Sec. 531. Recruiter Access to Secondary Schools.\***

Provides military recruiters with the same access to secondary schools that is provided to any prospective employer, institution of higher education, or other recruiters and provides access to at least one in-person recruitment event per academic year and to provide student contact information to military recruiters within 30 days of a recruiter's request. **(Similar to NGB Legislative Proposal)**

### **\*Sec. 549. Accreditation of National Guard Marksmanship Training Center.\***

Authorizes the Secretary of the Army to accredit the National Guard Marksmanship Training Center (hereinafter, "NGMTC"), located at Robinson Maneuver Training Center, Arkansas, as a U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command institution.

## **Compensation and Other Personnel Benefits**

### **Sec. 601. Codification of Applicability to Space Force of Certain Pay and Allowance Authorities.**

Amends title 37, United States Code, to codify the applicability of existing pay, allowance, and bonus authorities to members of the Space Force.

### **\*Sec. 613. Implementation of Aviation Incentive Pay for Members of Reserve Components.\***

Directs the SecDef to evaluate aviation incentive pay and make a specific determination regarding the percentage of such aviation incentive pay that is paid specifically to maintain skill certification or proficiency.

## **General Provisions**

### **\*Sec. 912. Joint Interagency Task Force 501.**

Establishes a joint activity known as ‘Joint Interagency Task Force 401’ to lead all DoD actions to defeat small unmanned aircraft systems (sUAS). Responsibilities include a review to identify differences in the interpretation and application of 10 U.S.C. § 130i with respect to the definition of “covered facility or assets”.

### **\*Sec. 1043. Modification of Requirements Relating to Support of Civil Authorities by Armed Forces.\***

Requires members of the Armed Forces, including the National Guard, to visibly display the name of the armed force in which such members operate when supporting civilian law enforcement agencies.

### **Sec. 1048. Authorization of Eastern Regional Range Complex for Multi-Domain Operations and Robotic Autonomous Systems Training, Testing, and Experimentation.**

Authorizes SecDef to designate and develop an Eastern Regional Range Complex for multi-domain operations and robotic autonomous systems training, testing, and experimentation.

### **\*Sec. 1094. Irregular Warfare Exercise Laboratory.\***

Authorizes SecDef to establish and maintain an Irregular Warfare Exercise Laboratory. The laboratory would support the training, experimentation, preparation, and validation of the Armed Forces of the United States to conduct full-spectrum irregular warfare activities, and it would enable activities to build the capacity and interoperability of the security forces of friendly foreign countries.

## **Matters Relating to Foreign Nations**

### **\*Sec. 1206. State Partnership Program Selection Analysis.\***

Directs SecDef to make changes to DoDI 5111.20 or any successor instruction, to ensure that in performing selection analysis for the State Partnership Program, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau shall consider the capacity of the National Guard of a state and the number of assigned countries.

## **Cyberspace-Related Matters**

### **\*Sec. 1544. Integration Of Reserve Component into Cyber Mission Force.\***

Directs SecDef to carry out a study, NLT October 1, 2026, on the appropriate framework for structuring and organizing, including training and preparing, the reserve component personnel and units to be employed with the Cyber Mission Force for cyberspace operations.

### **\*Sec. 1535. Artificial Intelligence Futures Steering Committee.\***

Directs SecDef to establish a steering committee on advanced artificial intelligence capabilities analyzing the forecasted trajectory of artificial intelligence models and enabling technologies across multiple time horizons that could enable artificial general intelligence. Membership would include the Vice Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

## **Military Construction**

### **Sec. 2401. Authorized Defense Agencies Construction and Land Acquisition Projects.**

Authorizes SecDef to acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the installations or locations inside the United States

State	Location	Conference Agreement
Pennsylvania	Harrisburg Air National Guard Base	13,400

### **Sec. 2607. Extension of Authority to Carry Out Certain Fiscal Year 2023 Projects.**

Extends 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 FY 2027, whichever is later.

<b>National Guard and Reserve: Extension of 2023 Project Authorizations</b> (all numbers in thousands USD)			
State	Installation	Project	Authorized Amount
Alaska	Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson	Aircraft Maintenance Hangar	63,000
Arizona	Morris Air National Guard Base	Base Entry Complex	12,000
Arizona	Tucson International Airport	Land Acquisition	11,700
Arkansas	Camp Robinson	Automated Multipurpose Machine Gun Range	9,500
Florida	Gainesville	National Guard Readiness Center	21,000
Florida	Perrine	Army Reserve Center/AMSA	46,000
Hawaii	Marine Corps Base Kaneohe Bay	C-40 Aircraft Maintenance Hangar	116,964
Indiana	Fort Wayne International Airport	Munitions Maintenance & Storage Complex	16,500
Ohio	Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base	Small Arms Range	8,000
Puerto Rico	Camp Santiago Joint Maneuver Training Center	Engineering/Housing Maintenance Shops (DPW)	14,500
West Virginia	McLaughlin Air National Guard Base	C-130J Apron Expansion	10,000

### **\*Sec. 2803. Requirement for the Military Departments to Develop and Annually Update a 20-Year Infrastructure Improvement Plan.\***

Requires each of the military departments to develop and annually update a 20-year infrastructure improvement plan.

The intent for this provision to ensure that the departments' senior leaders strategically and realistically budget for the sustainment of their installations and facilities.

### **Sec. 4301. Administration and Service-Wide Activities.**

Authorizes \$100,000,000 for the National Guard Youth Challenge program.

### **Sec. 4501. Other Authorizations.**

Authorizes \$210,125,000 for the National Guard Counter-Drug Program.

**Sec. 4601. Authorized Army National Guard Construction and Land Acquisition Projects.**

Authorizes the following military construction projects for the ARNG for fiscal year 2026.

<b>Army National Guard</b> (all numbers in thousands USD)			
<b>State</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>FY2026 Request</b>	<b>Conference Agreement</b>
Arizona	Camp Navajo	--	0
Guam	Joint Forces Headquarters – Guam	55,000	55,000
Illinois	Jones NG Readiness Center	--	0
Illinois	Marseilles Training Center	--	3,050
Illinois	Peoria Armory	--	8,000
Indiana	Shelbyville Armory	--	55,000
Iowa	Waterloo Armory	13,800	13,800
Kentucky	Jackson Field	--	1,850
Michigan	Camp Grayling	--	4,400
Mississippi	Meridian Readiness Center & Army Aviation Support Facility	--	2,200
Mississippi	Camp Shelby	--	11,600
Nevada	Henderson Armory	--	0
New Hampshire	Plymouth Training Center	26,000	26,000
New York	Albany	--	90,000
New Mexico	Santa Fe Training Center	--	4,250
North Carolina	Salisbury Training Center	--	69,000
North Dakota	Jamestown Armory (Design)	--	5,200
Oregon	Naval Weapons Systems Training Facility Base	--	16,000
South Dakota	Watertown Training Center	28,000	28,000
Tennessee	Smyrna Training Site	--	4,000
Vermont	Swanton Armory	--	0
Virginia	Army Aviation Support Facility Sandston	5,500	15,500
Washington	Fairchild Air Force Base	--	3,800
Wisconsin	Black River Falls	--	0
Worldwide Un-specified	Design	13,580	13,580
Worldwide Un-specified	Facilities, Sustainment, Restoration & Modernization	--	0
Worldwide Un-specified	Unspecified Minor Construction	--	0
<b>Military Construction, Army National Guard Total</b>		<b>151,880</b>	<b>430,230</b>

**Sec. 4601. Authorized Air National Guard Construction and Land Acquisition Projects.**

This section authorizes the following military construction projects for the ANG for fiscal year 2026.

<b>Air National Guard</b> (all numbers in thousands USD)			
<b>State</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>FY2026 Re-quest</b>	<b>Conference Agreement</b>
Alaska	Eielson Air Force Base	--	15,000
Alaska	Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson	46,000	46,000
Georgia	Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport	27,000	38,400
Georgia	Savannah Combat Readiness Training Center	--	3,800
Illinois	Scott Air Force Base	--	6,000
Indiana	Fort Wayne International Airport	--	18,000
Iowa	Sioux Gateway Airport	--	220,000
Maine	Bangor Air National Guard Base	--	0
Massachusetts	Otis Air National Guard Base	31,000	31,000
Michigan	Selfridge Air National Guard Base	--	14,200
Mississippi	Key Field Air National Guard Base	19,000	25,700
Nevada	Reno-Tahoe International Airport	--	8,600
New Hampshire	Pease Air National Guard Base	--	16,000
New Jersey	Atlantic City International Airport	--	68,000
Oregon	Kinglsey Field Air National Guard Base	--	0
Oregon	Klamath Falls Airport	--	80,000
Oregon	Portland International Airport	16,500	16,500
Utah	Salt Lake City International Airport	--	145,000
Wisconsin	Volk Air National Guard Base	--	8,400
Worldwide Un-specified	Design	24,146	24,146
Worldwide Un-specified	Facilities, Sustainment, Restoration & Modernization	--	--
Worldwide Un-specified	Unspecified Minor Construction	25,000	25,000
<b>Military Construction, Air National Guard Total</b>		<b>188,646</b>	<b>810,746</b>

## **Legislative Provisions Not Adopted**

**Note: The below provision were originally included in either the House or Senate version of the NDAA, however, are NOT adopted in the final conferenced version of the bill.**

### **Treatment of funds received by National Guard Bureau as reimbursement from States.**

Does not include the Senate bill provision (Sec. 515) that would amend section 710 of title 32, United States Code, to direct funds received by NGB from a State, D.C. or territory to only be able to be used by DoD for the repair or maintenance of assets used by National Guard units while operating under State active duty status. **(NGB Legislative Proposal—State Active Duty Reimbursement)**

### **Reimbursement of National Guard for Research, Development, Test and Evaluation Expenses.**

Does not include the House bill provision (Sec. 227) that would authorize funds for research, development, test, and evaluation to be available for reimbursement of pay, allowances, and other expenses which would otherwise be incurred against appropriations for the reserve components of the Armed Forces, including the National Guard.

### **Establishment of Center for the Study of the National Guard.**

Does not include the House bill provision (Sec. 355) that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish a center, to be known as the "Center for the Study of the National Guard" at an appropriate academic institution.

However, the conferees note the importance of the National Guard as well as maintaining its great legacy. We encourage the Department of Defense to explore the option of establishing a center for the study of the National Guard utilizing a Private-Public Partnership.

### **Excluding Members of the National Guard Performing Certain Duty from Counting for Active-Duty End Strengths.**

Does not include the House bill provision (Sec. 415) that would exclude members of the National Guard performing military intelligence operations from counting against active-duty end strengths.

### **FireGuard Program: Program of Record; Authorization.**

Does not include the House bill provision (Sec. 516) that would authorize the FireGuard Program as a program of record through December 31, 2031.

However, the conferees direct the SecDef to submit a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives not later than June 1, 2026, on the FireGuard Program. The briefing shall include at a minimum:

(1) For the 5 years preceding enactment of this Act, a list of the States, counties, municipalities, and Tribal governments that received information under the FireGuard program, to include a map for each year analyzed that shows the locations of wildfires for which the FireGuard provided information to the above listed entities;

(2) An assessment of the average length of time between initial detection of the fire via satellite until alerts were sent to appropriate authorities and the factors that impact the speed at which data is shared; and

(3) A review of what, if any, efforts are being made to integrate aerial surveillance data from non-Department of Defense sources, and any relevant barriers to that integration.

### **Limitations Applicable to the Authority to Transfer Space Functions of the Air National Guard to the Space Force.**

Does not include the Senate bill provision (Sec. 516) that would specify any personnel transfer to the Space Force must be a one-time event and cannot be used as precedent for future transfers without gubernatorial approval.

However, the conferees note that section 514 of the Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 (Public Law 188-159) was expressly and intentionally limited in scope. Section 514 only authorized the transfer of 578 personnel billets assigned to nine specified units and Headquarters, Air National Guard, from the Air National Guard to the Space Force as a part of the consolidation of space capabilities into the Space Force. That legal authority did not establish any precedent that would waive or reduce any state governor's authorities under section 104 of title 32, United States Code; or section 18238 of title 10, United States Code, to prevent future transfers of personnel, billets, or units from the National Guard to another component of the Armed Forces without such governor's consent.

**Study and Report on National Guard Capabilities in Cyber Incident Response.**

Does not include the House bill provision (Sec. 517) that would authorize a study on National Guard capabilities in cyber incident response.

However, the conferees are encouraged by the increased integration of the National Guard in cyber incident response operations, but we remain concerned that this critical capability is not being fully leveraged to meet emerging national security needs. Therefore, we direct the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives not later than 180 days after the enactment of this Act, evaluating the capabilities and authorities of the National Guard in responding to cyber incidents affecting national security. Such report shall be developed in consultation with the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, and shall address the following: (1) An assessment of the current roles and responsibilities of the National Guard in cyber incident response, including: (a) engagements under Federal authority, such as those pursuant to title 10, United States Code; and (b) deployments under state authority, initiated by Governors pursuant to title 32, United States Code, or state law. (2) An analysis of existing legal authorities governing the National Guard's participation in cyber incident response, including any limitations or gaps in such authorities; (3) An evaluation of resource allocation for National Guard cyber response capabilities, including personnel, equipment, and funding; (4) An assessment of training programs and needs for National Guard personnel to effectively respond to cyber incidents, including joint training with Federal agencies and private sector entities; (5) A review of coordination mechanisms between the National Guard, Federal agencies (including the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency), State governments, and private sector partners involved in cyber incident response; and (6) An identification of challenges or barriers to enhancing the National Guard's role in cyber incident response and recommendations to address such challenges.

**Assistance for Certain Youth and Charitable Organizations.**

Does not include the House bill provision (Sec. 519) that would include the Young Marines, the Naval Sea Cadet Corps, and the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary among the organizations eligible to receive assistance from the National Guard.

However, the conferees note that United States Code, already provides the Secretary of Defense with flexibility to designate additional youth and charitable organizations for the purposes of National Guard support, rendering additional statutory language unnecessary. The Department of Defense and National Guard Bureau are encouraged to continue applying this authority consistently across the States and territories.

**Feasibility Study Regarding Funeral Honors Duty.**

Does not include the House bill provision (Sec. 520) that would require the SecDef, in consultation with the Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to conduct a feasibility study on the provision of funeral honors, including options to mitigate impacts on the National Guard Bureau and to compensate veterans service organizations for associated expenses.

However, the conferees direct the SecDef, not later than October 1, 2026, to conduct a feasibility study to:

(1) Determine how the Secretary can provide funeral honor details under section 1491 of title 10, United States Code, without negatively affecting the ability of the National Guard Bureau to fulfill operational and mission requirement; and

(2) Identify policies and practices that could prevent lapses in such provisions. Not later than 90 days after completion of this study, the Secretary is directed to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the results.

#### **Report on Air National Guard C-130J Formal Training Unit.**

Does not include the House bill provision (Sec. 549G) that would require the SECAF in consultation with the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, to submit a report regarding the Air National Guard C-130J Formal Training Unit.

However, the conferees direct the SECAF to submit a report, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, regarding the Air National Guard C-130J Formal Training Unit. The report shall include: (1) The determination and reasoning of the Secretary whether such unit is adequate for Air National Guard pilot and loadmaster throughputs; (2) The determination of the Secretary whether there is a backlog of C-130J pilots and loadmasters in the Air Force and Air National Guard; (3) How many pilots and loadmasters are trained through such unit each year; and (4) The determination of the Secretary whether the plan for training through such unit for fiscal years 2027 through 2030 is adequate for the Air National Guard recapitalization to C-130Js.

#### **Dental Readiness.**

Does not include the House bill provision (Sec. 701) that would provide no cost dental coverage under TRICARE for members of the Reserve Component.

#### **TRICARE Coverage for Increased Supply for Contraception.**

The agreement does not include the House bill provision (Sec. 704) that would require TRICARE to allow Active Duty servicemembers, and their beneficiaries, to receive up to a full year's supply of contraception.

#### **Expansion of Health Care License Portability for Members of the National Guard Performing Training or Duty.**

Does not include the House bill provision (Sec. 725) that would expand health care license portability for National Guard health care providers for duty and training purposes from a specific 502(f) status to all duty statuses under Title 32, United States Code.

However, the conferees note that the Senate Report accompanying S.2296 (S. Rept. 119-39) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026, contained a provision that required the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, in consultation with the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, to provide a briefing on licensure portability for National Guard medical providers and whether existing law presents barriers to generating readiness. We look forward to receiving the briefing not later than March 31, 2026. **(NGB Legislative Proposal)**

#### **Eligibility of Chief of the National Guard Bureau for Appointment as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.**

Does not include the House bill provision (Sec. 919) that would add the Chief of the National Guard Bureau as eligible for appointment as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

#### **Budgeting and Funding Requirements for Northern Strike Exercise.**

Does not include the House bill provision (Sec. 1078) that would require the SecDef to establish a budget line and provide adequate funding for the annual National Guard Bureau Northern Strike Exercise.

However, the conferees note that the annual Northern Strike Exercise is a large, all-domain reserve forces exercise. We believe it provides a realistic, decisive action training environment as well as robust training experiences for units and leaders to strengthen joint all-domain warfighting capabilities. Further, it fills a critical gap in resourced readiness building multidomain exercises for National Guard combat formations. Resident within the State of Michigan, Northern Strike is conducted twice a year (winter and summer) within the four-season National All-Domain Warfighting Center's contested multi-domain operating environment. Using a combination of integrated live, virtual, and constructive models and simulations, participants increase Mission Essential Task proficiencies and build readiness through repetitive task iterations at echelon by training for combat operations as part of the joint team. We believe that Northern Strike is at the forefront of unmanned aerial systems and counter unmanned aerial systems training that provide individual servicemembers critical exposure to current, real-world threats. Accordingly, we encourage the Department of Defense to establish recurring funding for this critical exercise series.

**Modification of the State Partnership Program (SPP).**

Does not include the House bill provision (Sec. 1207) that would authorize two-year funding for the SPP.

**Report on Replacement of Time Division Multiplexing Lines at Armories of the Air National Guard and the Army National Guard.**

Does not include the House bill provision (Sec. 1544) that would direct the Secretaries of the Air Force and the Army to submit a joint report detailing the cost, timeline, and operational impact of replacing outdated Time Division Multiplexing in armories of the Air National Guard and the Army National Guard.

However, the conferees believe the Army and Air Force should continue their efforts replacing Time Division Multiplexing lines with modern communication technologies in armories of the Air National Guard and the Army National Guard. Therefore, we direct the Secretary of the Air Force and the Secretary of the Army to jointly submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report including:

- (1) An identification of the Time Division Multiplexing lines technologies to be replaced and the replacement modern communication technologies, including the current deployment of such technologies across the Department of Defense;
- (2) An explanation of the costs associated with replacing Time Division Multiplexing lines technologies identified under paragraph (1), including any changes to sustainment costs, and the sources of funding to pay for such costs;
- (3) An assessment of the operational effects associated with the replacement technologies identified under paragraph (1); and
- (4) The current timelines and resources allocated for such replacement.