



# Fiscal Year 2026 Senate Appropriations Committee Defense Appropriations Act

*Summary of S. 2572 – Department of  
Defense Appropriations Act, 2026*

As of July 31, 2025

**Bill Status**

	Passed in Committee	Passed in Chamber	Final Passage	Signed into Law
House	12 June 2025	18 July 2025		
Senate	31 July 2025			

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## Executive Summary

On July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025, the Senate Appropriations Committee passed S. 2572 Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Department of Defense Appropriations Bill by a vote of 26 to 3. The Senate is pending a floor vote on the legislation which will occur after their August recess. The Senate Defense Appropriations Bill provides a total discretionary allocation of \$851.9 billion.

This guide provides a summary of the Senate Appropriations Committee markup for the Defense Appropriations Act for FY26. To obtain a complete understanding of any particular provision, you are encouraged to review the actual legislative language. Bill text and report language can be found on the LL website: <https://www.nationalguard.mil/leadership/joint-staff/personal-staff/legislative-liaison/>.

### Highlights:

#### Joint:

- Funds both a 3.8 percent pay raise for all service members and 10 percent additional pay raise for junior enlisted servicemembers
- \$100M add for NG Counterdrug Program and \$10M add for NG Counterdrug Schools
- \$50M add for NG Youth Challenge
- \$25M add for the State Partnership Program (SPP)
- \$20M add for STARBASE

#### ARNG:

- \$108.5M for NGREA

#### ANG:

- \$1.5B over the President's Budget Request for eight C-130J for the ANG
- \$105M for NGREA
- \$14.9M add for C-130J modifications
- \$10M add for ANG Cyber Operations Squadrons Domestic Cyber Resilience
- \$10M for ANG environmental restoration

- **National Guard Accounts Overview**

**(All Dollars in Thousands)**

<b>Army National Guard</b>	<b>FY26 President's Budget Request</b>	<b>FY26 HAC-D Mark</b>	<b>Delta from Request</b>	<b>FY26 SAC-D Mark</b>	<b>Delta from Request</b>	<b>FY26 Conference</b>
ARNG Personnel	\$11,600,000	\$11,296,610	-\$303,390	\$11,521,333	-\$78,667	--
ARNG O&M	\$8,673,981	\$8,209,300	-\$464,681	\$8,689,508	\$15,527	--
NGREA	--	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$108,500	\$108,500	--

<b>Air National Guard</b>	<b>FY26 President's Budget Request</b>	<b>FY26 HAC-D Mark</b>	<b>Delta from Request</b>	<b>FY26 SAC-D Mark</b>	<b>Delta from Request</b>	<b>FY26 Conference</b>
ANG Personnel	\$6,030,000	\$5,671,499	-\$358,501	\$5,880,644	-\$149,365	--
ANG O&M	\$7,332,559	\$7,152,065	-\$180,494	\$7,320,674	-\$11,925	--
NGREA	--	\$235,000	\$235,000	\$105,000	\$105,000	--



# Army National Guard

## Army National Guard Personnel

(All Dollars in Thousands)

ARNG Personnel Appropriation	FY26 President Budget Request	FY26 HAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY26 SAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY26 Conference
PAY GROUP A TRAINING (15 DAYS & DRILLS 24/48)	\$2,975,241	\$2,875,688	-\$99,553	\$2,975,241	--	--
PAY GROUP F TRAINING (RECRUITS)	\$838,742	\$600,719	-\$238,023	\$838,742	--	--
PAY GROUP P TRAINING (PIPELINE RECRUITS)	\$68,878	\$62,762	-\$6,116	\$68,878	--	--
SCHOOL TRAINING	\$598,277	\$532,632	-\$65,645	\$598,277	--	--
SPECIAL TRAINING	\$859,514	\$870,556 <sup>1-2</sup>	\$11,042	\$877,859 <sup>5-9</sup>	\$18,345	--
ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT	\$5,015,560	\$4,926,256	-\$89,304	\$5,015,560	--	--
THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS	\$81,043	\$39,418	-\$41,625	\$81,043	--	--
EDUCATION BENEFITS	\$72,590	\$40,124	-\$32,466	\$72,590	--	--
UNDISTRIBUTED ADJUSTMENT	--	\$258,150 <sup>3-4</sup>	\$258,150	-\$96,857	-\$96,857	--
<b>TOTAL, TITLE I, ARNG PERSONNEL</b>	<b>\$10,509,845</b>	<b>\$10,206,305</b>	<b>-\$303,540</b>	<b>\$10,431,333</b>	<b>-\$78,512</b>	<b>--</b>
HEALTH CARE CONTRIBUTION (RC)	\$1,090,305	\$1,090,305	--	\$1,090,000	--	--
<b>TOTAL, NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL, ARMY</b>	<b>\$11,600,150</b>	<b>\$11,296,610</b>	<b>-\$303,540</b>	<b>\$11,521,333</b>	<b>-\$78,512</b>	<b>--</b>

### HAC-D Footnotes:

1. Program increase from FY25 CR – State Partnership Program \$2,000
2. Program increase from FY25 CR – Exercise Northern Strike \$9,395
3. Historical unobligated balances from FY25 CR -\$43,850
4. Program increase from FY25 CR – 3.8 percent military pay increase & Junior Enlisted pay raise \$302,000

### SAC-D Footnotes:

5. Special Training; Program increase – Advanced Trauma & Public Health Direct Training Services \$3,000
6. Special Training; Program increase – Exercise Northern Strike \$9,395
7. Special Training; Program increase – Irregular Warfare Training Exercises \$4,000
8. Special Training; Program increase – Mobile Armed Forces Advanced Trauma Training \$1,350
9. Special Training; Program increase – Marksmanship Training \$600

## Army National Guard Operations & Maintenance

ARNG O&M Appropriation	FY26 President Budget Request	FY26 HAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY26 SAC-D Mark	Delta	FY26 Conference
MANEUVER UNITS	\$911,525	\$799,356	-\$112,169.00	\$911,525	--	--
MODULAR SUPPORT BRIGADES	\$210,737	\$193,483	-\$17,254.00	\$210,737	--	--
ECHELONS ABOVE BRIGADE	\$879,111	\$796,710 <sup>1</sup>	-\$82,401	\$879,111	--	--
THEATER LEVEL ASSETS	\$88,001	\$81,921	-\$6,080	\$88,001	--	--
LAND FORCES OPERATIONS SUPPORT	\$350,261	\$335,455	-\$14,806	\$361,261 <sup>4,5</sup>	\$11,000	--
AVIATION ASSETS	\$1,128,195	\$1,127,350	-\$845	\$1,128,195	--	--
FORCE READINESS OPERATIONS SUPPORT	\$810,263	\$710,072	-\$100,191	\$827,334 <sup>6-10</sup>	\$17,071	--
LAND FORCES SYSTEMS READINESS	\$34,354	\$34,222	-\$132	\$34,354	--	--
LAND FORCES DEPOT MAINTENANCE	\$179,622	\$216,390	\$36,768	\$179,622	--	--
BASE OPERATIONS SUPPORT	\$1,246,273	\$1,221,288	-\$24,985	\$1,246,273	--	--
FACILITIES SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION, & MODERNIZATION	\$1,275,984	\$1,217,554 <sup>2</sup>	-\$58,430	\$1,277,084 <sup>11</sup>	\$1,100	--
MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONAL HQ	\$1,203,158	\$1,206,973	\$3,815	\$1,210,158 <sup>12</sup>	\$7,000	--
CYBERSPACE ACTIVITIES – CYBERSPACE OPERATIONS	\$5,136	\$5,168	\$32	\$5,136	--	--
CYBERSPACE ACTIVITIES – CYBERSECURITY	\$24,096	\$20,397	-\$3,699	\$24,096	--	--
SERVICEWIDE TRANSPORTATION	\$6,460	\$7,671	\$1,211	\$6,460	--	--
ADMINISTRATION	\$45,919	\$53,988 <sup>3</sup>	\$8,069	\$45,919	--	--
SERVICEWIDE COMMUNICATIONS	\$9,373	\$18,165	\$8,792	\$9,373	--	--

OTHER PERSONNEL SUPPORT	\$261,622	\$293,787	\$32,165	\$272,622 <sup>13</sup>	\$11,000	--
REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT	\$3,891	\$3,865	-\$26	\$3,891	--	--
HISTORICAL UNOBLIGATION		-\$67,660	-\$67,660	--	--	--
WORKFORCE ACCELERATION & RECAPITALIZATION INITIATIVE		-\$66,855	-\$66,855	--	--	--
HISTORICAL REVERTED BALANCES	--	--	--	-\$31,819	-\$31,819	--
PUBLIC LAW 115-68 IMPLEMENTATION	--	--	--	\$175	\$175	--
<b>TOTAL, ARNG O&amp;M</b>	<b>\$8,673,981</b>	<b>\$8,209,300</b>	<b>-\$464,681</b>	<b>\$8,689,508</b>	<b>\$15,527</b>	<b>--</b>

HAC-D Footnotes:

1. Program increase from FY25 CR – Exercise Northern Strike \$12,921
2. Program increase from FY25 CR – Facilities Sustainment, Restoration & Modernization \$70,000
3. Program increase from FY25 CR – State Partnership Program \$1,300

SAC-D Footnotes:

4. Land Forces Operations Support; Program increase – Mental Health Providers \$6,000
5. Land Forces Operations Support; Program increase – Star Behavioral Health Program \$5,000
6. Force Readiness Operations Support; Program increase – NG Marksmanship Training Center \$150
7. Force Readiness Operations Support; Program increase – Advanced Trauma & Public health Direct Training Services \$1,500
8. Force Readiness Operations Support; Program increase – Exercise Northern Strike \$12,921
9. Force Readiness Operations Support; Program increase – International Advanced Trauma & Public Health Training Services \$1,000
10. Force Readiness Operations Support; Program increase – Mobile Armed Forces Advanced Trauma Training \$1,500
11. Facilities Sustainment, Restoration & Modernization; Program increase – National Guard Readiness Center FSRM \$1,100
12. Management and Operational Headquarters; Program increase – Ridge Runner Irregular Warfare Exercises \$7,000
13. Other Personnel Support; Program Increase – Wildfire training \$11,000



## Air National Guard

### Air National Guard Personnel

(All Dollars in Thousands)

ANG Personnel Appropriation	FY26 President Budget Request	FY26 HAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY26 SAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY26 Conference
PAY GROUP A TRAINING (15 DAYS & DRILLS 24/48)	\$1,186,553	\$1,163,924	-\$22,629	\$1,186,553	--	--
PAY GROUP F TRAINING (RECRUITS)	\$92,503	\$78,601	-\$13,902	\$92,503	--	--
PAY GROUP P TRAINING (PIPELINE RECRUITS)	\$3,521	\$4,947	\$1,426	\$3,521	--	--
SCHOOL TRAINING	\$375,554	\$361,790	-\$13,764	\$375,554	--	--
SPECIAL TRAINING	\$257,086	\$272,101 <sup>1,2</sup>	\$15,015	\$265,636 <sup>6-8</sup>	\$8,550	--
ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT	\$3,643,207	\$3,475,160	-\$168,047	\$3,643,207	--	--
THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS	\$22,975	\$28,779	\$5,804	\$22,975	--	--
EDUCATION BENEFITS	\$17,387	\$15,496	-\$1,891	\$17,387	--	--
<b>TOTAL, BUDGET ACTIVITY 1 (BAC-01)</b>	\$5,598,786	\$5,398,648	-\$200,138	\$5,607,336	\$8,550	--
UNDISTRIBUTED ADJUSTMENT	--	-\$48,903 <sup>3-5</sup>	-\$48,903	-\$157,692 <sup>9</sup>	-\$157,692	--
<b>Total, Title I National Guard Personnel, Air Force</b>	\$5,598,786	\$5,351,895	-\$246,891	\$5,449,644	-\$149,142	--
HEALTH CARE CONTRIBUTION (RC)	\$431,362	\$431,000	-\$362	\$431,000	--	--
<b>Total, National Guard Personnel, Air Force</b>	\$6,030,148	\$5,782,858	-\$247,290	\$5,880,644	-\$149,142	--

#### HAC-D Footnotes:

1. Program Increase from FY25 CR – State Partnership Program \$1,000
2. Program Increase from FY25 CR – Exercise Northern Strike \$2,500
3. Historical unobligated balances from FY25 CR – \$18,933
4. Underexecution of strength from FY25 CR – \$167,970

5. Program Increase from FY25 CR – 3.8 percent military pay increase & junior enlisted pay raise \$138,000

SAC-D Footnotes:

6. Special Training; Program increase – Advanced Trauma & Public Health Direct Training Services \$4,500

7. Special Training; Program increase – Exercise Northern Strike \$2,500

8. Special Training; Program increase – Mobile Armed Forces Advanced Trauma Training \$1,550

9. Undistributed adjustment: Excess to need -\$157,692

### Air National Guard Operations & Maintenance (in thousands)

ANG O&M Appropriation	FY26 President Budget Request	FY26 HAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY26 SAC-D Mark	Delta from Request	FY26 Conference
AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS	\$2,501,226	\$2,535,639	\$34,413	\$2,505,726 <sup>4,5</sup>	\$4,500	
MISSION SUPPORT OPERATIONS	\$627,680	\$654,894 <sup>1</sup>	\$27,214	\$676,800 <sup>6-11</sup>	\$49,120	
DEPOT PURCHASE EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	\$1,024,171	\$967,407	-\$56,764	\$1,024,171	--	
FACILITIES SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION & MODERNIZATION	\$549,496	\$467,263 <sup>2,3</sup>	-\$82,233	\$550,716 <sup>12</sup>	\$1,220	
CONTRACTOR LOGISTICS SUPPORT AND SYSTEM SUPPORT	\$1,334,383	\$1,315,113	-\$19,270	\$1,258,081	--	
BASE OPERATING SUPPORT	\$1,094,310	\$1,078,592	-\$15,718	\$1,110,875	--	
CYBERSPACE SUSTAINMENT	\$16,134	\$14,291	-\$1,843	\$16,134	--	
CYBERSPACE ACTIVITIES	\$112,205	\$53,162	-\$59,043	\$112,205	--	
ADMINISTRATION	\$82,280	\$71,454	-\$10,826	\$82,280	--	
RECRUITING AND ADVERTISING	\$50,451	\$49,745	-\$706	\$50,541	--	
HISTORICAL UNOBLIGATION	--	-\$47,700	-\$47,700	-\$66,940	-\$66,940	
WORKFORCE ACCELERATION AND RECAPITALIZATION INITIATIVE	--	-\$7,795	-\$7,795	--	--	
PUBLIC LAW 115-68 IMPLEMENTATION	--	--	--	\$175	\$175	
<b>TOTAL, O&amp;M, AIR NATIONAL GUARD</b>	<b>\$7,332,599</b>	<b>\$7,152,065</b>	<b>-\$180,534</b>	<b>\$7,320,674</b>	<b>-11,925</b>	

HAC-D Footnotes:

1. Program increase from FY25 CR – State Partnership Program \$510
2. Program increase from FY25 CR – \$20,000
3. Program increase from FY25 CR – facility enhancements for future pilot training sites \$1,500

SAC-D Footnotes:

4. Aircraft Operations; Program increase – Exercise Northern Strike \$2,500
5. Aircraft Operations; Program increase – Wildfire training \$2,000
6. Mission Support Operations; Program increase – Advanced Trauma & Public Health Direct Training Services \$2,500
7. Mission Support Operations; Program increase – Joint Terminal Attack Controller Training \$5,000
8. Mission Support Operations; Program increase – Mental Health Providers \$5,000
9. Mission Support Operations; Program increase – Mobile Armed Forces Advanced Trauma Training \$1,620
10. Mission Support Operations; Program increase – State Partnership Program \$25,000
11. Mission Support Operations; Program increase – Wildfire Training \$10,000
12. Facilities, Sustainment, Restoration & Modernization; Program increase – F-35 Future Pilot Training Center Facilities Sustainment \$1,220

## **Legislative Provisions**

**Sec. 8053.** National Guard Distance Learning – (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau may permit the use of equipment of the National Guard Distance Learning Project by any person or entity on a space-available, reimbursable basis. The Chief of the National Guard Bureau shall establish the amount of reimbursement for such use on a case-by-case basis. (b) Amounts collected under subsection (a) shall be credited to funds available for the National Guard Distance Learning Project and be available to defray the costs associated with the use of equipment of the project under that subsection. Such funds shall be available for such purposes without fiscal year limitation.

## **Items of Interest**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Fiscal Year 2026 President's budget request for activities funded in the Department of Defense (DoD) appropriations bill totals \$830,737,798,000 in new budget authority, including \$514,000,000 in mandatory spending.

The Committee recommendation of \$852,454,000,000 includes funding to develop, maintain, and equip the United States Armed Forces and for other purposes, including \$514,000,000 in mandatory spending. The Committee recommendation is \$21,716,202,000 above the Fiscal Year 2026 President's budget request.

The Committee's recommendation for Fiscal Year 2026 is informed by growing evidence adversaries of the United States are investing heavily to threaten and undermine U.S. interests worldwide, their efforts are increasingly aligned, ongoing conflicts have challenged assumptions and exposed shortcomings of U.S. military capabilities, munitions inventories, technology innovation timelines, and industrial base capacity, and equipping the U.S. armed forces to credibly deter and defeat coordinated aggression on multiple fronts will require sustained investments in and modernization of the defense enterprise.

The Committee affirms the clearest signal of commitment to preserving America's military primacy is a pattern of sustained increases above inflation to topline defense budgetary authority. A strategy to prepare the DoD for the increasing likelihood of conflict in multiple theaters will require topline resources to grow accordingly. The Committee has repeatedly recommended appropriations in excess of budget requests submitted by previous Administrations of both parties. For example, the Committee reported a topline of \$18,763,879,000 above the President's budget request for Fiscal Year 2025.

Therefore, the Committee's recommendation of \$852,454,000,000 total budgetary authority is consistent both with past practice and with present and future requirements. The President has set bold objectives for the DoD. However, the Committee notes that without adequate resources meeting these objectives risks shortchanging the services' other existing obligations and requirements.

### **ARMY TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVE**

The Committee takes its role seriously in resourcing the United States Army for current and future fights. The Committee also supports the Army's desire to adapt and innovate to maintain superiority on the modern battlefield, with an emphasis on operationally relevant and reliable equipment delivered on time and at cost. As proven by other service transformations, an effective modernization effort requires a thorough analytic framework, a coherent strategy, clearly articulated requirements, and sound development, acquisition, and fielding solutions.

In the Fiscal Year 2026 President's budget request, the Army has proposed \$8,955,722,000 in spending increases and \$4,960,589,000 in spending cuts across twelve appropriation accounts. Some of these proposals have merit and should be pursued, such as greater integration of Unmanned Aerial Systems and counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems into lower-level units. Others raise concerns, like the abrupt cancellation of other programs, some of which the Army identified as top priorities only months prior. Such actions have created unpredictability for the other military services that were jointly invested in them, public and private industry, and international partners.

The Committee observes the Army is not the first service in recent years to strive for generational change. In March 2020, the Commandant of the Marine Corps presented Force Design 2030 to Congress. The Marine Corps articulated a desired end state achieved through an iterative process, backed by detailed analysis, and funded within existing resources. The Marine Corps' transparency with Congress helped overcome antibodies to admittedly controversial reforms, and Congress has supported and funded the Marine Corps' efforts.

The Committee is a willing partner to the Army, as demonstrated in its recommendations in this bill for certain budget line-item consolidation and divestment of certain systems. However, the Department of the Army's disjointed rollout of the Army Transformation Initiative [ATI], lack of transparency, and delay of formal budget documentation and analytic briefings, make it difficult for the Committee to make fully informed decisions on implementing and resourcing all the Army's requested initiatives. Absent a well-contemplated and articulated rationale, hasty modernization efforts can generate

unnecessary and unacceptable levels of risk. While the Committee acknowledges the significant opportunity that a successful transformation can afford the Army and the Joint Force, the Committee has yet to receive sufficient details regarding the analysis behind, and the purpose of, specific ATI decisions despite several months of attempted dialogue. Congress' constitutional duty to appropriate resources for the common defense makes Congress an intrinsic part of these deliberations.

Therefore, the Committee directs the Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Staff of the Army, not later than 30 days after the enactment of this act, to provide quarterly briefings to the congressional defense committees on a harmonized operational and investment strategy including: the threat assessments that informed proposed changes; force structure impacts; acquisition strategy and investment timelines; defense industrial base impacts; and implication for the Joint Force. Each of these briefings shall include, but are not limited to, representatives from the offices of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology; the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower & Reserve Affairs; the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Plans and Training (G--3/5/7); and the Deputy Chief of Staff for Programs (G--8).

## **MILITARY PERSONNEL OVERVIEW**

**Uniformed Members of the Armed Forces**.-The Committee recognizes the many sacrifices made by servicemembers in defending our Nation at home and abroad, as well as those made by their military families. In further recognition and support to servicemembers and their families, the Committee's recommendation fully funds the 3.8 percent military pay raise as requested in the Fiscal Year 2026 President's budget request, in addition to the junior enlisted pay raise authorized in the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2025 (Public Law 118-159).

**Strength Reporting**.-The Committee directs the Service Secretaries to provide monthly strength reports for all components to the congressional defense committees beginning not later than 30 days after enactment of this act. The first report shall provide actual baseline end strength for officer, enlisted, and cadet personnel, and the total component. The second report shall provide the end of year projection for average strength for officer, enlisted, and cadet personnel using the formula in the Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation Volume 2A, Chapter Two. For the active components, this report shall break out average strength data by base and direct war and enduring costs, and differentiate between the active and reserve components. It should also include the actuals and projections compared to the Fiscal Year 2026 budget request.

**Reserve Component Budget Reporting**.-The Committee continues its requirement for the Department of Defense to provide a semi-annual detailed report to the congressional defense committees showing transfers between subactivities within the military personnel appropriation. Reports shall be submitted not later than 30 days following the end of the second quarter and 30 days following the end of the fiscal year.

**Space Force Personnel Management**.-The Committee directs the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Financial Management and Comptroller) to provide quarterly reports to the congressional defense committees on actions taken to implement Title 17 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31) and section 514 of the

National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 (Public Law 118-159). Further, should a realignment of funds be required to implement these authorities, the Committee directs the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) to use normal prior approval reprogramming procedures in accordance with section 8005.

In addition, the Committee notes that the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Financial Management and Comptroller) continues to manually track expenditures for the Space Force's military personnel appropriation because the Defense Joint Military Pay System does not have a service code for the Space Force. As a result, a line of accounting reclassification is required to move expenditures from the Air Force active component military personnel appropriation account to the Space Force military personnel appropriation account. The Committee is concerned this manual financial accounting process will inevitably lead to human error as the end strength of the Space Force continues to grow and Airmen from the Department of the Air Force reserve components transfer to the Space Force. Therefore, the Committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to provide the congressional defense committees quarterly reports on steps taken to safeguard the financial accounting of the Space Force military personnel appropriation.

#### **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE BUDGET EXECUTION DATA**

The Committee directs the Secretary of Defense and Service Secretaries to continue to provide the congressional defense committees with quarterly budget execution data. Such data should be provided not later than 45 days after the close of each quarter of the fiscal year and should be provided for each O-1 budget activity, Activity Group, and Subactivity Group for each of the active, defense-wide, Reserve, and National Guard components. For each O-1 budget activity, Activity Group, and Subactivity Group, these reports should include the budget request and actual obligation amount, the distribution of unallocated congressional adjustments to the budget request, all adjustments made by the Department in establishing the Base for Reprogramming (DD Form 1414) report, all adjustments resulting from below threshold reprogrammings, and all adjustments resulting from prior approval reprogramming requests.

#### **REPROGRAMMING GUIDANCE FOR OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE ACCOUNTS**

The Committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit the Base for Reprogramming (DD Form 1414) for each of the Fiscal Year 2026 appropriation accounts not later than 60 days after the enactment of this act. The Secretary of Defense is prohibited from executing any reprogramming or transfer of funds for any purpose other than originally appropriated until the aforementioned report is submitted to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. The Committee directs the Secretary of Defense to use the normal prior approval reprogramming procedures to transfer funds in the services' operation and maintenance accounts between O-1 budget activities, or between Subactivity groups in the case of Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide, in excess of \$15,000,000. In addition, the Secretary of Defense shall follow prior approval reprogramming procedures for transfers in excess of \$15,000,000 out of the following readiness Activity Groups or Subactivity groups:

Air National Guard:

Activity Group "Flying Hours", which is only Subactivity Group 011F Aircraft Operations

Activity Group “Weapons System Sustainment”, which includes Subactivity groups 011M Depot Purchase Equipment Maintenance and 011W Contractor Logistics Support and System Support

Army National Guard:

Subactivity Group 131 Base Operations Support

Subactivity Group 132 Facilities Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization

Subactivity Group 133 Management and Operational Headquarters

## **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OVERVIEW**

**Civilian Workforce.**-The Committee recognizes a capable and healthy civilian workforce is important to the success of the Armed Forces and commends the Secretary of Defense's stated commitment to aligning the Department of Defense's [DoD] civilian personnel with national security priorities. However, the Committee is concerned that initiatives to reduce the size of the civilian workforce were issued without a comprehensive analysis of organizational structures and mission-critical requirements across all components. These initiatives risk attrition of skilled civilian personnel, particularly in the military services' shipyards and depots. The Committee welcomes the DoD's efforts to recruit and hire skilled civilian employees but is concerned that significant delays in processing new employees by the Office of Personnel Management have impeded DoD and the military services' ability to fill critical civilian positions in a timely manner. The Committee expects the DoD to maintain a stable, effective, and appropriately-sized civilian workforce and ensure the hiring process is efficient and responsive to operational and strategic needs.

**Low-Cost Defenses Against Asymmetric Threats.**-The Committee welcomes the DoD's focus on the growing threat posed by adversary unmanned systems, and in addition to supporting investments in sophisticated countermeasures and defenses, encourages the Department to procure and adopt low-cost protections and defensive capabilities to safeguard critical infrastructure, surface ships, tactical ground vehicles from Unmanned Aerial Systems [UAS], Unmanned Surface Vessels [USV], and Unmanned Underwater Vehicles [UUV]. These asymmetric threats are proliferating rapidly and pose an increasing risk to forward-deployed units, critical infrastructure in the United States and overseas, and high-value platforms. The Committee notes that despite the availability of advanced counter-drone systems, many units lack even basic passive or layered defenses that could mitigate or prevent damage from unmanned threats.

The Committee is encouraged by the effectiveness of low-cost countermeasures observed in operational environments, including camouflage wire mesh, netting corridors suspended over roads, vehicle-mounted mesh cages, passive armor, lightweight overhead protection, concrete or metal fortifications, HESCO barriers, and simple dispersal tactics. These measures have proven effective in contested environments where traditional electronic warfare and kinetic options are either unavailable or ineffective, particularly against drones using fiber-optic or autonomous guidance systems.

Accordingly, the Committee directs the Service Secretaries to obligate not less than \$20,000,000 within Operation and Maintenance accounts in Fiscal Year 2026 to identify, procure, and deploy low-cost countermeasures including physical barriers, nets, passive

armor, camouflage concrete fortifications, HESCO barriers, low-cost electronic warfare systems, and compact directed energy enhancements tailored to austere and maritime environments. These investments shall be executed in compliance with the procurement thresholds applicable to Operation and Maintenance appropriations and should prioritize commercially available or rapidly fieldable solutions that can be implemented without significant development timelines or integration burdens.

The Committee further directs the Service Secretaries, in coordination with the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment and the Director of the Joint Counter-small Unmanned Aircraft Systems Office, to brief the congressional defense committees, not later than 120 days after enactment of this act, on implementation plans, capability gaps addressed, and any barriers to execution. This briefing shall also include a review and catalog of known vulnerabilities to unmanned threats across tactical platforms, fixed infrastructure, and critical enablers, and identify priority locations or systems where low-cost defenses would provide the greatest operational impact. Finally, the briefing shall also include lessons learned from U.S. security partners in Ukraine and Israel, who have faced increasing real-world unmanned threats from Russia and Iran.

**Drinking Water Contamination.**-The Committee remains concerned for the health and safety of individuals affected by per and polyfluoroalkyl substances [PFAS] at military installations and in surrounding communities, particularly in areas where PFAS persists in groundwater aquifers, which are crucial sources of drinking water. To provide sustained, consistent levels of funding to support PFAS cleanup, aqueous film forming foam replacement, and other related activities, the Committee recommends an additional \$135,000,000 over the Fiscal Year 2026 President's budget request of \$272,793,000 in the military services' environmental restoration accounts. The Committee directs the Service Secretaries to provide a spend plan to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate for these additional funds not later than 90 days after enactment of this act. The Committee further directs the Secretary of Defense and the Service Secretaries to include separate budget justification materials on PFAS remediation and aqueous film forming removal and disposal activities to the congressional defense committees not later than 30 days after the Fiscal Year 2027 President's budget request is delivered to Congress that includes an updated assessment of the entire funding requirement for those known costs.

**Environmental Restoration Program Transparency.**-The Committee directs the Secretary of Defense to continue to provide the congressional defense committees with quarterly budget execution data for the Department of Defense and military services' environmental restoration accounts. Such data should be provided not later than 45 days after the close of each quarter of the fiscal year.

**Child Development Center Abuse Investigation.**-The Committee directs the Secretary of Defense to initiate an independent review of the DoD efforts to respond to and report child abuse at Child Development Centers [CDC] not later than 90 days after enactment of this act. The Committee further directs that this review be conducted by an entity independent of the DoD. This review shall evaluate how the DoD: (1) takes proactive measures and accountability while promoting transparency; (2) administers victim support, promotes awareness, and identifies abuse; (3) communicates to families; and (4) manages

investigations. This review shall also identify and evaluate completed and ongoing reforms undertaken by the DoD to improve these areas of effort and make recommendations for additional reforms that should be implemented to close remaining gaps. A report on the independent review's findings and recommendations shall be provided to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than 210 days of the date the review commences. In addition, the Committee directs the DoD Inspector General to conduct an investigation into referred reports of child abuse at the Ford Island Child Development Center near Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and brief the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate of its findings.

**Addressing Sexual Assault.**-The Committee continues to support the DoD efforts to eradicate the crime of sexual assault. The Committee especially commends the important work that the prevention workforce and special victims' counsels do in supporting and assisting victims of sexual violence in the DoD community. The Committee recommends \$47,000,000 above the Fiscal Year 2026 President's budget request for the DoD to continue the Special Victims Counsel [SVC] program. Further, the Committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than 90 days after enactment of this act on the DoD and military services' implementation of recommendations from the Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault in the Military, the SVC program, and other sexual assault prevention initiatives undertaken in calendar year 2025.

**Mold Remediation.**-The Committee is concerned about the prevalence of mold in military facilities, including barracks. Therefore, the Committee directs the Service Secretaries to prioritize remediation activities on this in its Fiscal Year 2026 spend plans.

## **NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE EQUIPMENT ACCOUNT**

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$350,000,000. This is \$350,000,000 above the budget estimate. The appropriation includes direction for the component commanders of the Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Marine Forces Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Army National Guard, and Air National Guard to submit to the congressional defense committees a detailed assessment of their component's modernization priorities, not later than 30 days after enactment of this act. The Committee directs the Secretary of Defense to ensure that the National Guard and Reserve Equipment account is executed by the Chiefs of the National Guard and reserve components with priority consideration given to the following items: construction equipment systems; ballistic and multi-band laser eye protection; human performance wearable technology; heavy dump trucks; National Security Agency compliant, multiple network configurable, secure tactical voice bridge; and man-portable radiological nuclear detection systems.

## **AIR FORCE PROCUREMENT**

**Classic Associations.**-The Committee notes that there are six Air National Guard [ANG] units that operate under classic associations with their active-duty counterparts. While these ANG units do not own aircraft, they are operationally integrated into the active unit that maintains operational control of the mission set. The Committee understands that informal agreements exist between active and guard units that provide small numbers of

backup aircraft to the Guard units. The Committee notes that the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2024 (Public Law 118-47) directed the Secretary of the Air Force to pursue a memorandum of agreement to formally recognize such agreements. The Committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to brief the congressional defense committees on the status of these agreements not later than 90 days after the enactment of this act.

#### **DRUG INTERDICTION AND COUNTER-DRUG ACTIVITIES, DEFENSE**

The Committee reaffirms its longstanding support for the drug interdiction and counter-drug activities of the Department and notes the funding increases provided by appropriations including an additional \$208,957,000 in Fiscal Year 2025 and \$290,635,000 in Fiscal Year 2024 for activities provided in the Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense appropriation. Therefore, the Committee directs the Under Secretary of Defense, Comptroller to provide quarterly funding execution data. The Committee further directs the Comptroller General to provide a brief on executed activities.