

House Armed Services Subcommittee FY26 NDAA Markups National Guard Equities

Chairman's Mark

- Reduces ANG O&M budget by \$80M
- Authorizes an additional \$211M for NG Youth Challenge
- Authorizes an additional \$120M Dental readiness for Reserve Components
- Authorizes an additional \$50M for STARBASE
- Authorizes full funding for NG Counterdrug Program and Schools
- Authorizes an additional \$151.8M in ARNG MILCON
- Authorizes an additional \$61M in ANG MILCON
- Authorizes an additional \$10M O&M for Robotic Targets for the Army National Guard
- Authorizes an additional \$5M O&M for Center for the Study of the U.S. National Guard for the Army National Guard

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

Army National Guard	FY26 PB Request	HASC Mark	Delta from PB
O&M	\$8,673,981	\$8,688,981	\$15,000
MILCON	\$151,880	\$303,680	\$151,800

Army National Guard End Strength

Army National Guard	FY26 PB Request	HASC Mark	Delta from PB
End Strength	328,000	328,000	-
AGR	30,845	30,845	-
Dual Status Technicians	21,294	21,294	-
ADOS	17,000	17,000	-

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

Air National Guard	FY26 PB Request	HASC Mark	Delta from PB
O&M	\$7,332,599	\$7,252,599	\$80,000
MILCON	\$188,646	\$249,646	\$61,000

Air National Guard End Strength

Air National Guard	FY26 PB Request	HASC Mark	Delta from PB
End Strength	106,300	106,300	-
AGR	25,171	25,171	-
Dual Status Technicians	10,405	10,405	-
ADOS	16,000	16,000	-

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LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS:

Section 121- Modification of Minimum Inventory Requirements for Air Refueling Tanker Aircraft.

This section would raise the air refueling aircraft floor to 504 by fiscal year 2027 and prohibit the reduction of KC-135 aircraft designated as Primary Mission Aircraft Inventory (PMAI) of the Reserve Components.

Section 122—Extension of Requirements Relating to C-130 Aircraft.

This section would keep the C-130 total aircraft inventory at 271 with a sunset date of October 1, 2026 and would provide an extension from 2025 to 2026 on prohibiting the reduction of C-130 aircraft assigned to the National Guard.

Section 354—Establishment of Center for the Study of the National Guard.

This section would establish the Center for the Study of the National Guard. The center would serve as a public-private partnership at an appropriate academic institution and the principal repository for historical documents and other records related to the National Guard. It shall conduct research and analysis related to the history and evolution of the Guard. Facilitate outreach efforts to increase public awareness of the National Guard. The center shall also support the Department of Defense in shaping policy decisions related to National Guard operations.

Section 511—Grades of Certain Chiefs of Reserve Components.

This section would amend title 10, United States Code, to require that the Chiefs of Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, and Air Force Reserve, and the Commander, Marine Forces Reserve, each serve in the grade of O-9.

Section 512—Prohibition on Consideration of Amount of Time of Service in Activation of Reserve Members.

This section would prevent the Armed Forces from discharging reservists or disapproving orders to Active Duty to prevent them from becoming eligible for a regular retirement.

Section 513—National Guard: Active Guard and Reserve Duty in Response to a State Disaster.

This section would authorize governors and Adjutants General to tailor the force composition of their disaster responses, by providing temporary access to Active Guard and Reserve personnel possessing high-demand, low-density skills that are vital during disaster response operations. **[NGB LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL]**

Section 701—Dental Readiness.

This section would provide no cost dental coverage under TRICARE for members of the Reserve Component.

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Section 1075— Budgeting and Funding Requirements for Northern Strike Exercise.

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to establish a budget line and provide adequate funding for the annual National Guard Bureau Northern Strike Exercise.

Section 4601 – Military Construction

Army National Guard				
State	Location	Project Title	FY26 Request	House Agreement
GU	Barrigada	National Guard Readiness Center Addition	\$55M	\$55M
IA	Waterloo	Vehicle Maintenance Shop	\$13.8M	\$13.8M
NH	Plymouth West	National Guard Readiness Center	\$26M	\$26M
NC	Salisbury	Aircraft Maintenance Hangar	\$0	\$69M
SD	Watertown	Watertown Complex	\$28M	\$28M
TX	Fort Hood	Smart Water Grid	\$0	\$19.8M
TX	Fort Hood	Central Energy Plant	\$0	\$34.5M
UT	Camp Williams	Power Generation & Microgrid	\$0	\$28.5M
VA	Sandston	Aircraft Maintenance Hangar	\$15.5	\$15.5M
Worldwide	Unspecified worldwide location	Design	\$13.58M	\$13.58M

Air National Guard				
State	Location	Project Title	FY26 Request	House Agreement
AK	Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson	Base Supply Complex	\$46M	\$46M
GA	Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport	Dining Hall & Services Train Facility	\$27M	\$27M
MA	Otis Air National Guard Base	Dining Facility / EMEDS	\$31M	\$31M
MS	Key Field Air National Guard Base	Base Supply Warehouse	\$19M	\$19M

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NJ	Atlantic City Air National Guard Base	ADAL Maintenance Hangar Air National Guard/Shops	0	\$61M
OR	Portland International Airport	ADAL Communications Annex	\$16.5M	\$16.5M
PA	Harrisburg ANG Base	SOF Simulator Facility (MC-130J)	\$13.4M	13.4M
Worldwide	Unspecified Worldwide locations	Design	\$24.146M	\$24.146M
Worldwide	Unspecified Worldwide locations	Unspecified Minor Construction	\$25M	\$25M

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST:

F-15EX Total Force Mission Capability Prioritization Considerations

The committee remains concerned that F-15C/D aircraft assigned to Air National Guard units with aerospace control and air sovereignty alert mission responsibilities are past their planned service-life and urgently need to be recapitalized. While each of these units have been designated by the Air Force to receive either the F-15EX or the F-35A aircraft, scheduled timelines to replace the current aircraft are strained and could result in these units losing a portion or all of their aircraft due to obsolescence of parts or safety of flight restrictions before replacement aircraft arrive, potentially placing the homeland defense mission of these units at levels of unacceptable risk.

The committee expects the Secretary of the Air Force to make every effort to prioritize the Air National Guard in the laydown plan of the F-15E/X to eliminate the operational risk of interrupting the homeland defense mission at each unit assigned the aerospace control and air sovereignty alert mission during recapitalization of each units' F-15C/D aircraft with F-15EX aircraft while simultaneously supporting the nation's homeland defense mission. The committee also expects during a units' conversion to F-15EX aircraft that the Secretary avoid incurring operational risk to the homeland defense mission and develops fielding plans that maintain operational proficiency and currency of aircrews performing the homeland defense mission.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to submit a report to the congressional defense committees not later than March 16, 2026, that assesses the operational risk of interrupting the homeland defense mission at each unit assigned the aerospace control and air sovereignty alert mission during recapitalization of each units' F-15C/D aircraft with F-15EX aircraft while simultaneously supporting the nation's homeland defense mission. The report should also explain during the units' conversion to F-15EX aircraft how the Secretary plans to avoid incurring operational risk to the homeland defense mission, maintaining operational proficiency and currency of aircrews performing the homeland defense mission, the rationale for converting Active Duty units to the F-15EX before converting all Air National Guard units to the F-15EX that are

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assigned the homeland defense mission, and any other information the Secretary feels necessary to explain the F-15EX conversion process for Active Duty and Air National Guard units.

Counter Unmanned Aircraft Systems Authorities, Development, and Deployment

As noted in the committee report accompanying the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 (Public Law 118-159, H. Rept. 118-529), the committee remains concerned about the proliferation of small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) and the Department of Defense's capacity and capability to defend a "covered facility or asset" as defined in section 130i of title 10, United States Code. The committee notes that the Secretary of Defense has designated an executive agent to coordinate the research, development, test, and training of Counter-small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (C-sUAS) for the Department of Defense. The committee further notes that protecting Department of Defense facilities and assets against the novel UAS threat requires the development and deployment of appropriate capabilities. To date, the Department has failed to provide the required briefings and reports to Congress, including the "Counter Small Unmanned Aircraft System Defense at Military Installations" briefing required in H. Rept. 118-529.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Director of the Joint Counter-small Unmanned Aircraft Office (JCO) and other relevant entities within the Department of Defense as determined by the Secretary, to submit a report to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services not later than December 1, 2025, on the Department's efforts to evaluate, approve, develop, and deploy C-UAS for the protection of Department of Defense facilities and assets in the United States. The report shall be submitted in a classified format but may include an unclassified summary. The report should include the following information:

(1) a detailed description of the JCO's process for evaluating and approving Department of Defense facility applications for authorities granted under section 130i of title 10, United States Code, including the process for installation commanders to request authorities and equipment under such section, eligibility criteria, necessary coordination with the Federal Aviation Administration, the Federal Communications Commission, and other relevant agencies, and the average timeline of the evaluation, site survey, review, and approval process;

(2) a description of the training provided to installation commanders on the application process for securing C-UAS authorities and capabilities, including assistance provided in the preparation and submission of applications, and identification of which installation commanders have received such training as of the date of submission of the report;

(3) the number of facilities granted and utilizing C-UAS authorities as of the date of submission of the report;

(4) a description of any difficulties in providing C-UAS authorities and capabilities to certain categories of Department of Defense installations, including National Guard and Air National Guard installations;

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(5) an assessment of current technical capabilities to detect and track UAS in real-time, including the ability to track known UAS platforms and frequencies, unknown UAS signatures not registered within any current UAS library, and UAS not emitting detectable radio frequency transmissions;

(6) an assessment of current technical capabilities to neutralize, capture, or disable UAS while minimizing collateral effects within civilian airspace or populated areas;

(7) a description of ongoing research and development efforts to advance CUAS technologies for domestic Department of Defense installation protection, including anticipated milestones and deployment timelines;

(8) the number of military installations equipped with C-UAS systems, their operational readiness, and any identified gaps in coverage;

(9) an identification of priority installations for deployment of C-UAS equipment based on detected UAS activity, past incursions, site sensitivity, and assessed threat levels;

(10) a description of the technical limitations of existing C-UAS detect and defeat equipment available to installations approved for use of C-UAS authorities;

(11) required notification and reporting actions when responding to a UAS incursion using provided C-UAS authorities and capabilities;

(12) a description of any standardized training materials provided to installation commanders regarding C-UAS authorities;

(13) a description of the expectations and responsibilities of installation commanders regarding C-UAS authorities, including installations that do and do not qualify for authorities under section 130i of title 10, United States Code; and

(14) an evaluation of efforts to train personnel on C-UAS operations, establish standard response procedures, and ensure interoperability across different C-UAS technologies.

DIRECT REPORT LANGUAGE:

Domestic Operations Tactics Training Center for C-130J Aircrews

The committee recognizes the versatility and value of the C-130J aircraft in supporting a broad range of domestic operations to protect the United States, including natural disaster response, search and rescue, aeromedical evacuation, and wildfire suppression. These domestic operation missions are essential to national security, homeland defense, and civil support, especially in the face of increasing natural disasters and emergent domestic crises. The committee is aware of the success of the Advanced Airlift Tactics Training Center (AATTC) in providing advanced tactical training to aircrews in preparation for complex operational environments. Given the shared airframe and operational similarities, the committee believes there is value in exploring the feasibility of standing up a dedicated Domestic Operations C-130J Tactics Training Center, co-located with the AATTC, to enhance mission specific readiness and effectiveness of C-130J units conducting domestic support missions.

The committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force, in coordination with the Chief of

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the National Guard Bureau and Commander, U.S. Northern Command, to provide a briefing to HASC by March 1, 2026, on the feasibility of establishing a Domestic Operations C-130J Tactics Training Center. The briefing should also include opportunities for integration with existing AATTC infrastructure and instruction, coordination with state and federal agencies for interagency training.

Integration of Private, Nonprofit, and Public Sector Sources into the FireGuard Program

The committee recognizes the critical and lifesaving role that the FireGuard program plays in wildfire detection, response, and mitigation. The committee continues to support the use of multiple governmental sources for FireGuard response and analysis, and notes that the FireGuard program successfully utilizes inputs from the interagency to support state, territorial, local, and tribal governments' responses to wildfires.

The committee is also aware of the increasing remote sensing and wildfire detection capabilities of private, nonprofit, and public sector organizations with engagement in the space sector. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretaries of the Air Force and the Army, in coordination with the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, to each provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than January 1, 2026, detailing the National Guard Bureau's efforts to integrate these data sources and capabilities into the FireGuard program. The briefing should include the following elements:

- (1) a description of the current level of integration of private, nonprofit, and public sector data sources and capabilities into the FireGuard program; and
- (2) a description of the National Guard Bureau's plan to further integrate these data sources and capabilities into its programming to complement the National Guard Bureau in carrying out the FireGuard Program and acquisition pathways for integration.

National Guard Bureau and Reserve Component Infrastructure Deficiencies

The committee recognizes the systemic infrastructure challenges facing National Guard Bureau (NGB) facilities nationwide. Many of these installations suffer from outdated infrastructure, failing utilities, and degraded runways that compromise operational readiness. The committee recognizes the challenges experienced at Joint Forces Training Base—Los Alamitos, where significant pavement and sub-pavement degradation, inadequate lighting and paint stripe upkeep, and deteriorating barracks conditions have hindered the base's ability to support operations effectively. These conditions reflect broader infrastructure shortfalls across the National Guard and Reserve components, posing a risk to mission readiness.

The committee is particularly concerned that NGB and Reserve Component installations receive lower prioritization in infrastructure investment compared to Active Component bases. While the Army's current infrastructure funding model prioritizes Active Component installations, the committee believes that NGB and Reserve

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facilities are too often relegated to receiving only residual funding. This has resulted in chronic deferred maintenance, an accumulation of unfunded infrastructure projects, and increased operational risks at Guard and Reserve installations. Given the critical role these bases play in our national defense, the Army must ensure that its infrastructure investment strategy does not impose excessive risks on NGB and Reserve facilities.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army, in coordination with the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, to submit a report to the HASC not later than March 1, 2026, on the Army's strategy for prioritizing and addressing infrastructure deficiencies at NGB and Reserve installations. The report shall include, at a minimum:

(1) a detailed assessment of infrastructure challenges at NGB and Reserve installations, including but not limited to runways, barracks, utilities, and training facilities;

(2) the Army's prioritization process for NGB and Reserve infrastructure funding relative to Active Component bases, including an analysis of the current investment strategy, how projects are ranked, and how risk assessments factor into funding allocations;

(3) the operational risks associated with underfunding of NGB and Reserve infrastructure; and

(4) a plan for addressing chronic infrastructure deficiencies at NGB facilities.

Future Long Range Assault Aircraft Medical Evacuation Capability for Army National Guard

The committee is aware of potential capability gaps in medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) platform availability, particularly within the National Guard. The Army's Future Long Range Assault Aircraft (FLRAA) procurement strategy, with initial fielding projected for 2031, could provide an opportunity to assess the optimal distribution of FLRAA MEDEVAC assets across the Active Component and National Guard to maximize operational readiness. The committee directs the Secretary of the Army to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 1, 2026, on the feasibility and strategic impact of integrating FLRAA MEDEVAC capabilities within the Army National Guard. The report shall include:

(1) an assessment of the current MEDEVAC capability distribution between the Active Component and National Guard, including readiness levels and operational effectiveness;

(2) an evaluation of potential National Guard units for initial FLRAA MEDEVAC fielding based on infrastructure, training readiness, and strategic location;

(3) a review of existing and projected MEDEVAC capability gaps and how FLRAA integration could address these gaps;

(4) an analysis of training and sustainment requirements for National Guard units to operate FLRAA MEDEVAC aircraft effectively; and

(5) a timeline and recommendations for FLRAA procurement and fielding within

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the National Guard.

Army Tactical Intelligence Targeting Node

The committee is aware of ongoing efforts within the Army to develop the Tactical Intelligence Targeting Access Node (TITAN) to modernize the Army's intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) ground stations. This type of capability enhances Army commanders' ability to collect, process, and disseminate critical battlefield information at the tactical edge, improves situational awareness, and supports long-range precision fires. The committee supports Army efforts to develop TITAN as a software-centric platform defined by modular open systems architecture in collaboration with multiple industry partners.

However, the committee is concerned the Army has not sufficiently developed and defined associated concepts of operation (CONOPS) and concepts of employment for the TITAN platform, nor a clear strategy to procure TITAN systems during low-rate initial production (LRIP) leading to effective and efficient transition to full-rate production. For example, absent a CONOPS regarding the anticipated echelon(s) for deployment of TITAN, operational test and evaluation may be hampered due to uncertainty regarding the characteristics of an operationally relevant and suitable environment.

The committee directs the Secretary of the Army to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than December 1, 2025, on the Army's schedule for procuring Tactical Intelligence Targeting Access Node (TITAN) systems and plan for how the Army intends to field TITAN to the Army's Active Duty, special operations forces, Reserve, and National Guard. This briefing should include, but not be limited to:

- (1) how the concept of operations for TITAN is being matured in time to inform development and operational test and evaluation;
- (2) how the Army is tracking progress for TITAN, to include metrics and milestones for deliverables;
- (3) an update on the current state of the Army TITAN, to include plans for production and deployment; and
- (4) a thorough analysis of the funding and resource requirements to ensure full-rate production and continued operation and sustainment of Army TITAN.

Army Transformation Initiative

While the committee supports the Army's intent to divest of systems that are no longer relevant on the battlefield, and to more rapidly field new systems, the committee is concerned with the manner in which the Army presented its plans to Congress, the lack of supporting analysis, and the apparent lack of strategy and vision for what the Army should look like in 2030, 2035, and beyond. The Army has yet to provide complete budgetary details, tradeoffs, and risk assessments of proposed divestments and investments of capabilities and programs associated with its Army Transformation

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Initiative. Additionally, the committee must be informed of the Army's future force structure and end strength targets in its pursuit of eliminating waste and optimization, as well as the details for planned unit inactivation's or assignments of new missions, broken out by Active and Reserve Components.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than October 1, 2025, that addresses fiscal year 2026 budgetary impacts and funding requirements across the Future Years Defense Program, capability-based requirements and identification of capability gaps as a result of planned divestments, and an implementation plan for the Army Transformation Initiative efforts.

In addition, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army to inform the congressional defense committees, not later than 30 days prior to implementation, of any additional proposed changes taking place as part of the Army Transformation Initiative or broader transformation efforts.
