



National Guard Bureau  
Office of Legislative Liaison



# FY25 House National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)



## Summary of H.R. 8070 Service Member Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025

As of June 06, 2024

	Passed in Committee	Passed in Chamber	Agreement	Final Passage	Signed into Law
House	22 May 2024				
Senate					



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## Executive Summary

This guide provides a summary of the House Armed Services Committee's Fiscal Year 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

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

### Status:

On May 22, 2024, the House Armed Services Committee marked up and approved their fiscal year (FY) 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 8070). The bill authorizes \$883.7 billion for FY25 national defense programs. The full House is expected to bring this bill for floor consideration the week of June 10, 2024. The floor consideration will consist of the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) agreed upon bill and any amendments made in order by the House Rules Committee.

### Highlights:

- Authorizes the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to be eligible to be appointed Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
- Authorizes waiving fees and copays on the TRICARE Dental Program for all members of the Selected Reserve
- Authorizes the transfer of ANG space functions to the Space Force (Legislative Proposal 480) with a governor's consent
- Extends by one (1) year the period of performance for execution of activities pursuant to the State Partnership Program
- Keeps the C-130 total aircraft inventory at 271 with a sunset date of October 1, 2025
- Requires the SecAF to replace current ANG and Air Reserve air refueling aircraft with an equal air refueling aircraft capability
- Authorizes ANG & ARNG at President's budget (PB) requested end strengths
- Authorizes ANG & ARNG Dual Status Technicians and AGRs at PB requested end strengths
- Directs the Comptroller General to conduct a study on the staffing needs of the National Guard Bureau to administer its responsibilities related to FOIA requests
- Requires the SecAF, in coordination with the DANG, to develop and implement a plan to fully fund the establishment and maintenance of F-16 simulators at training centers of the ANG
- Directs the SecArmy, in coordination with the CNGB, to submit a briefing on the Army's strategy for long-term life cycle sustainment and modernization of the UH-72 Lakota fleet
- Directs the Secretary of the Defense to submit a report on the unique needs of the National Guard and Reserve Component Transition Assistance Program

**RECOMMENDED FUNDING AUTHORIZATIONS DO NOT EQUAL FINAL FUNDING. FINAL FUNDING LEVELS WILL BE DECIDED BY APPROPRIATIONS BILLS.**

**National Guard Accounts Overview**



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

National Guard	FY25 PB Request	HASC Mark	Delta from PB	SASC Mark	Delta from PB	Conference Report	FY25 Delta from PB
O&M	\$8,646,145	\$8,651,1145	\$5,000				
MILCON	\$362,129	\$448,529	\$86,400				

**Army National Guard End Strength**

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



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

Air National Guard	FY25 PB Request	HASC Mark	Delta from PB	SASC Mark	Delta from PB	Conference Report	FY25 Delta from PB
O&M	\$7,403,771	\$7,403,771	--				
MILCON	\$190,792	\$238,792	\$48,000				

**Air National Guard End Strength**

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

## PROCUREMENT

### Army Programs

#### **Sec. 111. Pilot Program on the use of Robotic Targets to Enhance the Lethality of the Reserve Components of the Army.**

This section would require the Secretary of the Army to carry out a pilot program to assess the use of moving robotic target systems into live fire training provided to infantry units of the Army Reserve and National Guard.

### Air Force Programs

#### **Sec. 151. Modification of Minimum Inventory Requirement for Air Refueling Tanker Aircraft.**

This section would modify the minimum inventory requirement from 466 to 474 and would prevent the Air Force from reducing the number of KC-135 aircraft designated as primary mission aircraft inventory within the reserve components of the Air Force.

#### **Sec. 152. Modification of Certain Primary Mission Aircraft Inventory Requirements for the Combat Air Forces of the Air Force.**

This section would modify the fighter aircraft minimum inventory requirement from 1,145 fighter aircraft to 1,106 fighter aircraft. This section would also modify the A-10 aircraft minimum inventory requirement from 135 A-10 aircraft to 96 A-10 aircraft.

#### **Sec. 153. Extension of Requirements Relating to C-130 Aircraft.**

This section would extend the prohibition on reduction of C-130 aircraft assigned to the National Guard and would keep the C-130 total aircraft inventory at 271 with a sunset date of October 1, 2025.

#### **Sec. 154. Limitation on Retirement of F-15E Aircraft Pending Fighter Aircraft Capabilities and Requirements Study.**

This section would prohibit the Secretary of the Air Force from retiring, preparing to retire, placing in storage, or on backup aircraft inventory status any F-15E aircraft until 180 days have elapsed following the date the Secretary of Defense provides the Fighter Aircraft Capabilities and Requirements study.

#### **Sec. 156. Recapitalization of Air Refueling Tanker Aircraft of the Reserve Components of the Air Force.**

This section would require the Secretary of the Air Force to replace current Air National Guard and Air Reserve air refueling aircraft with an equal air refueling aircraft capability.

#### **Sec. 159. Plan for Establishment and Maintenance of F-16 Simulators at Air National Guard Training Centers.**

This section would require the Secretary of the Air Force, in coordination with the Director of the Air National Guard, to develop and implement a plan NLT June 1, 2025, to fully fund the establishment and maintenance of F-16 simulators at training centers of the Air National Guard. This section also requires the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a report NLT March 1, 2025, to the congressional defense committees on the plan developed and an assessment from the Secretary and the Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

## MILITARY PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATIONS

### Reserve Forces

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

This provision would authorize 325,000 personnel for the Army National Guard and 107,700 personnel for the Air National Guard.

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

This provision would authorize 30,845 ARNG positions for the Army National Guard and 25,736 positions for the Air National Guard.

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

This provision would authorize 22,294 dual status technicians for the Army National Guard and 10,744 for the Air National Guard.

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

This provision would authorize 17,000 ADOS positions for the Army National Guard and 16,000 ADOS positions for the Air National Guard. The personnel authorized here do not count against the end strengths authorized by section 401 or section 412 of this Act unless the duration on Active Duty exceeds the limitations in section 115(b)(2) of title 10, United States Code.

**MILITARY PERSONNEL POLICY**

**Reserve Component Management**

**Sec. 512. Expansion of Authority to Continue Reserve Officers in Certain Military Specialties on the Reserve Active-Status List.**

This section would provide the service secretaries the discretion to selectively continue designated officers of the reserve component and national guard up to 40 years of commissioned service.

**General Service Authorities and Military Records**

**Sec. 521. Transfer to the Space Force of Covered Space Functions of the Air National Guard of the United States.**

This section would authorize the transfer to the Space Force of covered space functions currently performed by the Air National Guard and includes particular provisions to facilitate the transfer. Of note, the language changed from “shall” transfer to “may” transfer and restores governor consent over the Air National Guard formations in their state performing space functions.

**Sec. 523. Merit-Based Principles for Military Personnel Decisions in the Department of Defense.**

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to ensure each personnel decision including military accession, promotion, and command selection is based on individual merit without regard to political affiliation, race, color, religion, national origin, sex, or marital status.

**Recruitment**

**Sec. 533. Reimbursement of Applicants to Certain Armed Forces for Certain Medical Costs Incurred During Military Entrance Processing.**

This section would authorize the Secretary of Defense to reimburse an individual who applies to join the Armed Forces and incurs costs for a medical appointment required for military entrance processing.

**Sec. 535. Recruitment Strategy for Members of the Armed forces who were Discharged or Dismissed on the Sole Basis of Failure to Obey a Lawful Order to Receive a Vaccine for COVID-19.**

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to develop and implement a strategy to recruit and reinstate service members discharged or dismissed from an Armed Force on the sole basis of failure to obey a lawful order to receive a vaccine for COVID-19.

#### **Member Transition**

##### **Sec. 564. Establishment of counseling pathway in the Transition Assistance Program for Members of Certain Reserve Components of the Armed Forces.**

This section would create a counseling pathway for members of the reserve components of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air force, or Space Force to receive the Transition Assistance Program.

#### **Other Personnel Matters, Reports, and Briefings**

##### **Sec. 591. Modification to Annual Reports on Racial and Ethnic Demographics in the Military Justice System.**

This section would require reports from military secretaries to contain statistics and other information on administrative separations and other administrative sanctions issued during the year covered by the report, including their active or reserve status.

##### **Sec. 594. Pilot Program to Allow Members in the Department of the Air Force to Grow Beards.**

This section would require the establishment of a pilot program to allow Airmen and Space Guardians to grow beards no later than 180 days after the enactment of this Act.

### **HEALTH CARE PROVISIONS**

#### **TRICARE and Other Health Benefits**

##### **Sec. 702. TRICARE Dental Plan for the Selected Reserve.**

This section would waive fees and copays on the TRICARE Dental Program for all members of the Selected Reserve.

##### **Sec. 704. Licensure requirement for certain health care professionals providing certain examinations to members of the reserve components.**

This section would amend Section 1094(d)(2) of title 10 by inserting “an examination or assessment under section 10206,” therefore adding certain Licensure for healthcare providers who provide reserve service members their annual physical evaluations.

### **DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT**

#### **Other Department of Defense Organization and Management Matters**

##### **Sec. 922. Eligibility of Chief of the National Guard Bureau for Appointment as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.**

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

### **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

#### **Other Matters**

##### **Sec. 1083. Frank A. LoBiondo National Aerospace Safety and Security Campus.**

This section would designate the campus and grounds of the Federal facility at which the 117th Fighter Wing of the New Jersey Air National Guard is stationed



as the “Frank A. LoBiondo National Aerospace Safety and Security Campus.”

**Civilian Personnel Matters**

**Sec. 1112. Increase in Military Leave Accrual and Accumulation for Federal Employees.**

This section would increase federal employee military leave from 15 days to 20 days.

**MATTERS RELATING TO FOREIGN NATIONS**

**Assistance and Training**

**Sec. 1201. Modification of Department of Defense State Partnership Program.**

This section would extend by 1 year the period of performance for execution of activities pursuant to the Department of Defense State Partnership Program under section 341(e)(1)(A) title 10, United States Code.

**CYBERSPACE-RELATED MATTERS**

**Reports and Other Matters**

**Sec. 1536. Independent Evaluation Regarding Potential Establishment of United States Cyber Force.**

This section directs the Secretary of Defense to enter into an agreement with the National Academies to conduct an evaluation regarding the advisability of establishing a separate Armed Force in the Department of Defense dedicated to operations in the cyber domain.

**MILITARY CONSTRUCTION**

**Military Construction**

**Sec. 2301. Authorized Air Force Construction and Land Acquisition Projects.**

This section would authorize appropriations for the Secretary of the Air Force to acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the installations or locations inside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

<b>Air Force: Inside the United States</b>		
<b>State</b>	<b>Installation or Location</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Arkansas	Ebbing ANG Base	\$73,000

**Sec. 2402. Authorized Energy Resilience and Conservation Investment Program Projects.**

This section would authorize appropriations for energy conservation projects for the Secretary of Defense to carry out energy conservation projects under chapter 173 of title 10, USC.

<b>ERCIP: Inside the United States</b>		
<b>State</b>	<b>Installation or Location</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Delaware	Major Joseph R. “Beau” Biden III National Guard/Reserve Center	\$22,050

**Sec. 2407. Extension of Authority to Carry out Certain Fiscal Year 2021 Projects.**

This section would extend the authorization of certain fiscal year 2021 Environmental Resilience and Conservation Investment Program projects until October 1, 2025.

<b>ERCIP Projects: Extension of 2021 Project Authorizations</b>
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State	Installation	Project	Original Authorized Amount
Arkansas	Ebbing ANG Base	PV Arrays and Battery Storage	\$2,600

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

This section would authorize appropriations for the Secretary of the Army to acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the Army National Guard locations inside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Army National Guard			
State	Location	FY2025 Request	House Agreement
AK	Fort Richardson	\$67,000	\$67,000
IA	Sioux City Armory	\$13,800	\$13,800
LA	Lafayette Readiness Center	\$33,000	\$33,000
MS	Southaven Readiness Center	\$33,000	\$33,000
MT	Malta Readiness Center	\$14,800	\$14,800
NV	Hawthorne Army Depot	\$18,000	\$18,000
NJ	Vineland	\$23,000	\$23,000
OK	Shawnee Readiness Center	\$29,000	\$29,000
PR	Gurabo Readiness Center	--	\$63,000
UT	Nephi Readiness Center	\$20,000	\$20,000
WA	Camp Murray	\$40,000	\$40,000
<b>Military Construction, Army National Guard Total</b>		<b>\$291,600</b>	<b>\$354,600</b>

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

This section would authorize appropriations for the Secretary of the Air Force to acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the Air National Guard locations inside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Air National Guard			
State	Location	FY2025 Request	House Agreement
AK	Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson	\$19,300	\$19,300
CA	Moffett Air Field	\$12,600	\$12,600
FL	Jacksonville International Airport	\$26,200	\$26,200
HI	Hickam Air Force Base	\$36,600	\$36,600
NJ	Atlantic City International Airport	\$18,000	\$18,000
NY	Francis S. Gabreski Airport	\$14,000	\$14,000
TX	Fort Worth	\$13,100	\$13,100
<b>Military Construction, Air National Guard Total</b>		<b>\$139,800</b>	<b>\$139,800</b>

**Sec. 2606. Authorization of Appropriations, National Guard and Reserve.**

This section authorizes funds to be appropriated for the costs of acquisition, architectural and engineering services, and construction of facilities as specified in the funding table in section 4601.

**Sec. 2607. Extension of Authority to Carry Out Certain Fiscal Year 2020 Projects.**

This section would extend the authorization of certain fiscal year 2020 projects until October 1, 2025.

<b>National Guard and Reserve: Extension of 2020 Project Authorizations</b>			
<b>State</b>	<b>Installation or Location</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Original Authorized Amount</b>
CA	Camp Roberts	Automated Multipurpose Machine Gun Range	\$12,000
PA	Moon Township	Combined Support Maintenance Shop	\$23,000

**Sec. 2608. Extension of Authority to Carry Out Certain Fiscal Year 2021 Projects.**

This section would extend the authorization of certain fiscal year 2021 projects until October 1, 2025.

<b>National Guard and Reserve: Extension of 2021 Project Authorizations</b>			
<b>State</b>	<b>Installation or Location</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Original Authorized Amount</b>
AR	Fort Chaffee	National Guard Readiness Center	\$15,000
CA	Bakersfield	National Guard Vehicle Maintenance Shop	\$9,300
PR	Fort Allen	National Guard Readiness Center	\$37,000
SC	Joint Base Charleston	National Guard Readiness Center	\$15,000

**Sec. 2609. Modification of Authority to Carry Out Fiscal Year 2022 Project for National Guard Readiness Center.**

This section modifies the previous authorization to construct a Fiscal Year 2022 National Guard Readiness Center project for Bennington National Guard Armory, Vermont, and authorizes the Secretary of the Army to construct the National Guard Readiness Center in Lyndon, Vermont.

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

This section extends the authorization to continue certain Fiscal Year 2022 projects until October 1, 2026.

<b>National Guard and Reserve: Extension of 2022 Project Authorizations</b>			
<b>State</b>	<b>Installation or Location</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Original Authorized Amount</b>
AL	Huntsville Readiness Center	National Guard Readiness Center	\$17,000
MA	Barnes ANGB	Combined Engine/ASE/NDI Shop	\$12,200
VT	Bennington National Guard Armory	National Guard Readiness Center	\$16,900

**Sec. 2831. Process for Strategic Basing Actions for the Department of the Air Force.**

This section would amend the process for strategic basing actions for the Department of the Air Force. The process and criteria also includes “a National Guard base” in the term “Strategic Basing Lead”.

**Sec. 2833. Improvement Relating to Access to Military Installation in United States.**

This section would amend access to military installation: standards for entry to military installations in United states. The term covered individuals includes retired members of the reserve components.

**Sec. 2844. Release of Interests Retained in camp Joseph T. Robinson, Arkansas, For use of Such Land as Training Area for the Arkansas Department of Public Safety.**

This section would release retained interest to Arkansas, which was used for training of the National Guard, specifically to the Arkansas Department of Public Safety.

**Sec. 4601. Military Construction Funding Tables.**

<b>Army National Guard</b>				
<b>State</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>FY25 Request</b>	<b>House Agreement</b>
AK	Fort Richardson	National Guard Readiness Center	\$67,000	\$67,000
IA	Sioux City Armory	National Guard Vehicle Maintenance Shop	\$13,800	\$13,800
LA	Lafayette Readiness Center	National Guard Readiness Center	\$33,000	\$33,000
MI	Detroit Olympia	Readiness Center Addition/Alteration (Design)	\$0	\$3,400
MS	Southaven Readiness	National Guard Readiness Center	\$33,000	\$33,000
MT	Malta Readiness Center	National Guard Vehicle Maintenance Shop	\$14,800	\$14,800
NV	Hawthorne Army Depot	Automated Qualification/Training range	\$18,000	\$18,000
NJ	Vineland	National Guard Vehicle Maintenance Shop	\$23,000	\$23,000
OK	Shawnee Readiness Center	National Guard Readiness Center	\$29,000	\$29,000
PR	Gurabo Readiness Center	National Guard Vehicle Maintenance Shop	\$0	\$63,000
UT	Nephi Readiness Center	National Guard Vehicle Maintenance Shop	\$20,000	\$20,000
WA	Camp Murray	National Guard/Reserve Center Building	\$40,000	\$40,000
Worldwide	Unspecified worldwide location	Design	\$25,529	\$25,529
Worldwide	Unspecified worldwide location	Unspecified Minor Construction	\$45,000	\$65,000
<b>Military Construction, Army National Guard</b>			<b>\$362,129</b>	<b>\$448,529</b>

<b>Air National Guard</b>				
<b>State</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>FY25 Request</b>	<b>House Agreement</b>
AK	Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson	Combat Rescue Helicopter Simulator	\$19,300	\$19,300
AZ	Tucson International Airport	Cost to Complete – Base Entry Complex	\$0	\$7,000
CA	Moffett Airfield	Combat Rescue Helicopter Simulator	\$12,600	\$12,600
CO	Buckley Space Force Base	Cost to Complete – Corrosion Control Facility	\$0	\$4,000

FL	Jacksonville International Airport	F-35 Consolidated Weapons Training	\$26,200	\$26,200
HI	Hickman Air Force Base	Space Control Center	\$36,600	\$36,600
NJ	Atlantic City International Airport	F-16 Mission Training Center	\$18,000	\$18,000
NY	Francis S. Gabreski Airport	Combat Rescue Helicopter Simulator	\$14,000	\$14,000
OH	Rickenbacker International Airport	Cost to Complete – Small Arms Range	\$0	\$6,000
OR	Portland International Airport	Cost to Complete – Special Tactic Complex -- 1	\$0	\$7,000
OR	Portland International Airport	Cost to Complete – Special Tactic Complex -- 2	\$0	\$5,000
OR	Portland International Airport	Cost to Complete – Special Tactic Complex -- 3	\$0	\$5,000
TX	Fort Worth	C-130J ADAL Fuel Cell Building 1674	\$13,100	\$13,100
WY	Cheyenne Regional Airport	Cost to Complete – Construct Vm & Age Complex	\$0	\$4,000
Worldwide	Unspecified Worldwide locations	Design	\$10,792	\$10,792
Worldwide	Unspecified Worldwide locations	Unspecified Minor Construction	\$40,000	\$50,200
<b>Military Construction, Air National Guard</b>			<b>\$190,792</b>	<b>\$238,792</b>

#### HASC Committee Report Requirements / Items of Interest

##### Future Long Range Assault Aircraft Program (HASC Committee Report)

The committee applauds the significant progress and reduction of risk achieved on the Future Long Range Assault Aircraft (FLRAA) program and its advancement toward production and first-unit-equipped starting in 2030. The committee recognizes that the dental FLRAA tilt-rotor weapon system, based on the Bell-Textron V-280 Valor technology demonstrator, expects to deliver transformational vertical lift capability, fly twice-as-far and twice-as-fast as current operational helicopters, and provide speed and range critically needed in the Indo-Pacific and other theaters of operation. The committee notes that next-generation tilt-rotor technology utilized in the FLRAA is based on lessons incorporated from over 750,000 tilt-rotor flight hours, and represents a unique strategic capability, technology, and manufacturing advantage.

Given the leap-ahead nature of the FLRAA aircraft, the committee expects the Department of Defense to support the Department of the Army's efforts to expeditiously complete the development, testing, and fielding of the assault and medical evacuation configurations in the Active Duty Army, the Army Reserve, and the Army National Guard. Additionally, the committee encourages the Department of Defense to leverage the Army's FLRAA program to fulfill U.S. Special Operations Command and other military services' requirements for advanced vertical-lift capabilities.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by December 1, 2024, on its preliminary fielding plans for the assault and medical evacuation variants, and plans, efforts, and initiatives to facilitate expeditious sales to partner nations. Additionally, the committee directs the Secretary of the Navy, in coordination with the Secretary of the Air Force and the Commander, United States Special Operations Command, to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by

January 31, 2025, on the plans, concepts, and opportunities to leverage the Department of the Army's Future Long Range Assault Aircraft program to fulfill advanced vertical-lift capabilities that exist for the Department of the Air Force, the Department of the Navy, and U.S. Special Operations Command.

#### **MQ-1C Gray Eagle in Army National Guard Divisions (HASC Committee Report)**

The committee recognizes that the MQ-1C Gray Eagle is a dedicated, multi-mission, medium-altitude, long-endurance unmanned aircraft system (UAS) that provides enhanced, real-time reconnaissance, surveillance, targeting, communications, and intelligence capabilities to the warfighter. Moreover, the MQ1C Gray Eagle serves as a cornerstone of the Army's intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance and targeting enterprise. However, the committee notes differences in the Army National Guard's (ARNG) division structure compared to the Army's Active Components, largely due to the difference in their MQ-1C Gray Eagle inventories. The committee is concerned that this difference in structure and capability could disadvantage the ARNG when training and deploying with Active Components and potentially limit the ARNG divisions' ability to achieve full multidomain operational (MDO) capability. It may also complicate the transition for Active-Duty UAS pilots seeking positions in the ARNG after their Active-Duty tours. Therefore, the committee urges the Army to explore ways to enhance the ARNG's MDO capabilities and fulfill its Strategic and Operational Reserve missions by considering the establishment of MQ-1C Gray Eagle companies within the ARNG.

#### **UH-72 Lakota Lifecycle Sustainment and Modernization (HASC Committee Report)**

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

The committee directs the Secretary of the Army, in coordination with the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, to submit a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by December 31, 2024, on the Army's strategy for long-term life cycle sustainment and modernization of the Lakota fleet inclusive of, but not limited to:

- (1) a lifecycle sustainment course of action analysis for the Lakota fleet that addresses fleet aging, long-term sustainment, attrition, and the impacts and opportunities associated with the end of UH-72A production in lieu of the UH-72B. This analysis will assess and compare at least two separate courses of action. The first assumes the long-term sustainment of the existing fleet of 460 UH-72A's and 18 UH-72B's. The second will address the sustainment costs and timing associated with a cascade plan to redistribute, recapitalize, resell, or dispose of UH-72As in lieu of the UH-72B aircraft;
- (2) a remanufacturing analysis of the UH-72A to UH-72B. The analysis shall include an assessment of the cost and readiness benefit of harvesting components not applicable to a remanufactured UH-72B for reuse on the enduring UH-72A fleet at locations such as Ft. Novosel; and
- (3) an analysis that provides potential concepts of operations for the use of Army National Guard Security & Support (S&S) Battalions in semi-permissive, deployed environments for operations consistent with the S&S role including but not limited to counter-narcotics, reconnaissance, and light utility operations, and to include an assessment of aircraft modifications required to conduct various mission profiles.

### **Alaska Air Sovereignty Alert Mission Assessment (HASC Committee Report)**

The committee is aware that the United States Air Force has recently assigned the F-16 aggressor squadron based at Eielson Air Force Base the air sovereignty alert mission in support of United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) and North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD). The committee understand this decision was made to preserve combat readiness for Air Force F-22 and F-35A aircraft based in Alaska but has concerns on the suitability of these F-16s for this new mission, and the potential negative readiness impact on combat air training capability for the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex (JPARC). Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force, in coordination with the Director of the Air National Guard, to provide a report to the House Committee on Armed Services by February 1, 2025, on the following:

- (1) an assessment of the suitability, capability, and capacity of existing F-16 aircraft, pilots, maintenance, support personnel, and mission operations facilities at Eielson AFB to perform all required tasks associated with the NORAD aerospace control alert mission;
- (2) an assessment of joint training impacts associated with reduced adversary air training sorties resulting from the new F-16 mission designation;
- (3) a comparative assessment of the NORAD aerospace control alert mission if performed by a dedicated F-15EX squadron operated by the Alaska Air National Guard; and
- (4) a comparative estimate of recurring and non-recurring costs associated with the active-duty F-16 and Air National Guard F-15EX options.

### **KC-135 Advanced Automation Roadmap (HASC Committee Report)**

The committee recognizes that the Air Force and Air National Guard intend to operate the KC-135 aircraft through 2050 to provide aerial refueling capacity sufficient for meeting the National Defense Strategy. With nearly 600 KC-135 aircraft in the Air Force inventory and the need for additional analysis around recapitalization and the next-generation aerial refueling system, the KC-135 will continue to provide much-needed aerial refueling capacity.

Additionally, the committee remains concerned about the Air Force's pilot shortage and challenges in recruiting and retaining pilots with growing competition from the commercial sector. Significant advancements in commercially available advanced aircraft automation systems are underway that could potentially provide more operational flexibility by enabling reduced crew or remote piloting operations for transport aircraft such as the KC-135 and C-130. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to submit a report to the House Committee on Armed Services no later than May 1, 2025, on the Air Force's efforts to leverage commercially developed advanced automation technologies that enable existing aircraft to be operated without flight crew onboard. The report shall address issues including, but not limited to:

- (1) a status update on existing and planned requirements for the integration of advanced automation capabilities into Airlift and Air Refueling aircraft in the fleet.
- (2) a procurement strategy that enables the Air Force to rapidly leverage advanced aircraft automation technologies being developed for the commercial aviation market from innovative technology firms.
- (3) Identifying specific opportunities to scale advanced aircraft automation technologies being developed by small businesses through the Air Force's use of the Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) program.
- (4) Efforts to move advanced aircraft automation technologies from the research and development phase into production and to a program of record that delivers deployable capabilities to support the warfighter.

### **Army National Guard Airborne Tactical Extraction Platform (HASC Committee Report)**

The committee is aware that multiple state units of the National Guard have demonstrated a potential need to purchase airborne tactical rescue equipment. The committee is aware that

multiple state Army National Guard aviation leaders have indicated their intent to purchase new airborne tactical rescue equipment platforms that allow for quicker, safer, and more efficient helicopter rescues during natural disasters such as floods, wildfires, and hurricanes.

The committee understands that the air worthiness release process is currently going through evaluation and is near completion, but approval and publication are still pending based on the final evaluation by the Army's System Readiness Directorate.

The committee notes that the Army National Guard may soon need new airborne tactical rescue equipment for essential domestic and rescue missions. As such, the committee is concerned with the delays in the full certification process of new airborne tactical rescue equipment with live loads and encourages the Army to expeditiously move through the certification process while maintaining the appropriate steps that ensure a fully functioning, safe, and reliable platform for the Army National Guard.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than December 1, 2024, on the anticipated time frame for completing the air worthiness release process, and any technical, logistical, or funding challenges associated with completing the air worthiness release for new airborne tactical rescue equipment.

**Advanced Airlift Tactics Training Center and Air Mobility Command in Contested Logistics in the Indo-Pacific Region  
(HASC Committee Report)**

The committee recognizes the significant contributions of the Advanced Airlift Tactics Training Center (AATTC) for the mission and warfighting capabilities of the Air Mobility Command. The Department is prioritizing training for an environment in which an adversary or near-peer competitor intentionally engages in activities or generates conditions, across any domain, to deny, disrupt, destroy, or defeat friendly force logistics operations, facilities, and activities, especially in the Indo-Pacific Region. The tyranny of time and distance make this region especially challenging for the projection of forces and sustainment of war fighting capabilities.

The Air Mobility Command is key across all five core capabilities of the fly, fix and support functions including airlift, air refueling, aeromedical evacuation, air mobility ground support operations (Global Air Mobility Support System), and command and control in contested, degraded, and operationally limited environments, particularly in the Indo-Pacific Region.

The AATTC is crucial to increasing the war fighting effectiveness and survivability of mobility forces. The National Defense Strategy also focuses on the importance of training with allies and partners, and the AATTC is critical to providing advanced tactical training to airlift aircrews of the Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve Command, Air Mobility Command, Air Combat Command, Air Force Special Operations Command, United States Marine Corps, and allied partners in preparation for a contested logistics environment in the Indo-Pacific Region.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force, in coordination with the Commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by December 1, 2025, on plans to enhance logistical warfighting readiness across Air Mobility Command formations, sister services, and allied partners through the AATTC to better prepare our forces for the threats, distances, and geography that will challenge us in a Pacific campaign.

**Army Multi-Domain Task Force Structure  
(HASC Committee Report)**

The Army's Multi-Domain Task Forces (MDTFs) represent the critical centerpiece in operationalizing the Army's Multi-Domain Operations concept to transform into a modern force.



The committee understands the Army's desire to design the structure and role of MDTFs to counter anti-access and aerial denial capabilities across the spectrum of conflict against near-peer adversaries. The ability to provide long range precision effects will enable the Army to provide the joint force a counter to hybrid threats posed by both Russia and China and additional freedom of maneuver which will be critical in a high-end conflict.

However, the committee is concerned about how the Army intends to operationally employ MDTFs and incorporate them with other Army formations, as well as how it intends to incorporate National Guard and Reserves forces into these plans. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than December 31, 2024, on MDTF future employment and force structure. The briefing should include the following information:

- (1) benefits of MDTF experimentation and lessons learned that can be adopted within other Army formations;
- (2) operational concepts to employ MDTFs in war-time or crisis scenarios;
- (3) plans or requirements to leverage joint-storage facilities for MDTF sustainment;
- (4) an outline of plans or concepts to employ Reserves and National Guard forces to support MDTF operations; and
- (5) current status of each MDTF, timelines to operationalize each, and impediments to reaching full operational capability before 2027.

#### **Air Force Undergraduate Pilot Training Briefing (House Report)**

The committee recognizes that the United States leads the world in training military pilots, both American and international, and has done so for the past 50 years. The committee supports the Department of the Air Force's Pilot Training Transformation initiative and its efforts to modernize undergraduate pilot training (UPT) through implementing advanced technology and modern instructional techniques. The committee believes transforming UPT involves integrating emerging technologies, modernizing instructional methods, and adapting to evolving military requirements.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than February 28, 2025, on its UPT modernization efforts. The briefing shall include, at a minimum:

- (1) a review of current United States and international UPT programs, including internationally manned and operated programs;
- (2) a comparison of the identified UPT programs, to include aircraft operated, integration of virtual and augmented reality, and pilot production rates;
- (3) an assessment of opportunities to expand internationally manned and operated UPT programs in the United States by further integrating international partners;
- (4) ongoing efforts by the Department of the Air Force to utilize data analytics, artificial intelligence, and simulations to enhance UPT programs in the United States;
- (5) a detailed list of any additional resources or authorities that Congress could provide to support UPT programs and encourage participation by international partners; and
- (6) recommendations for policies or initiatives that could improve pilot production rates, including through internationally manned and operated UPT programs such as the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training Program.

#### **Base Selection for Tanker Recapitalization (HASC Committee Report)**

The committee recognizes the Department of the Air Force's need for change in order to remain competitive in an era of Great Power Competition. Part of this change includes the need for a tanker capability that can ensure the Air Force's need to project power globally. The committee is concerned about the aging tanker fleet, particularly in the Air National Guard. Many of the KC-135s in service are over 60 years old, leading to increased maintenance costs and decreased

reliability. This aging fleet also faces risks associated with structural fatigue and obsolescence. Because of the wide-reaching repercussions associated with these decisions, the committee remains interested in the Air Force's base selection.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by December 31, 2024, on all basing decisions for the KC-46A refueling tankers made to date. Further, the committee implores the Department to strictly adhere to the basing criteria outlined by the Secretary.

**Comptroller General Study of National Guard Bureau Staffing for Freedom of Information Act Requests  
(HASC Committee Report)**

The committee is concerned about the existing staffing structure of the National Guard Bureau related to the receipt, processing, and fulfillment of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, and how it may impact timeliness and accuracy in its administration of such requests.

The volume of FOIA requests submitted to the National Guard Bureau has steadily increased since fiscal year 2020 and has been administered by an understaffed office, resulting in extended wait times to fulfill FOIA requests. Additionally, in fiscal year 2021 the National Guard Bureau FOIA office was removed from the purview of the National Guard Bureau General Counsel and housed independently with no fixed legal support. The committee is concerned that understaffing, an increased number of cases, and an absence of legal oversight may be contributing factors to the National Guard Bureau FOIA Office experiencing a severe backlog of cases.

To better understand the staffing needs of the National Guard Bureau, address the volume of incoming cases and the existing backlog, and restore public confidence in the National Guard Bureau's FOIA process the committee directs the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the staffing needs of the National Guard Bureau to administer its responsibilities related to FOIA requests, which shall, at a minimum include the following:

- (1) the extent to which the National Guard Bureau has established policies and processes for responding to FOIA requests;
- (2) the extent to which the National Guard Bureau has mechanisms in place to oversee timeliness goals and compliance with procedures, policies, regulations, and the law;
- (3) the extent to which the National Guard Bureau has conducted a staffing analysis to determine its personnel needs for managing its FOIA program;
- (4) the extent to which the National Guard Bureau has identified any organizational gaps or challenges associated with oversight of the FOIA program; and
- (5) any other matters the Comptroller General deems appropriate. The committee further directs the Comptroller General to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by March 1, 2025, on the Comptroller General's preliminary findings and present final results in a format and timeframe agreed to at the time of the briefing.

**Enhanced Collaboration between the Office of Strategic Capital and the Service Reserve Components  
(HASC Committee Report)**

The committee supports the development of the Office of Strategic Capital and its mission to strengthen the Department's enduring technological advantages through partnerships with private capital providers, capital markets instruments, and technical assistance to bridge the transition gap between proof of concept and full-scale production. Many of the financial and technical skills needed to realize the full potential of OSC are found amongst military Reservists working in the private sector. The committee urges the Service Reserve Components to support OSC by leveraging unfilled Individual Mobilization Augmentee billets, Active Duty for Operational Support orders, and encouraging military Reserve members with the requisite economic skill sets to use their 14 days of Annual Training to support the office.

Therefore, the committee directs the Chief of Army Reserve, in coordination with the Chief of Air Force Reserve, Chief of Navy Reserve, Commander of Marine Corps Reserve and Chief of the National Guard Bureau, to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services, not later than December 1, 2024, on how the Service Reserve Components and the National Guard Bureau can innovatively utilize Individual Mobilization Augmentee billets, Active Duty for Operational Support orders, and Annual Training orders, to optimally augment the mission of the Office of Strategic Capital.

**Feasibility Study on the Implementation of Army Future Soldier Prep Course Curriculum in National Guard Youth Challenge Programs  
(HASC Committee Report)**

The committee recognizes the value of the National Guard Youth Challenge Program (NGYCP) in instilling at-risk youth, ages 15 – 18, with values, life skills, and self-discipline needed to succeed as productive citizens. Since its inception in 1993, the NGYCP has produced over 200,000 graduates from dozens of States across the nation, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. However, a 2023 report from the U.S. Government Accountability Office found that the Department of Defense and the National Guard Bureau have not established program-wide performance goals and measures and have not implemented a standardized curriculum. Given the success of the Department of the Army's Future Soldier Preparatory Course, the committee believes that the Future Soldier Preparatory Course curriculum could benefit the NGYCP. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Chief of the National Guard Bureau and the Secretary of the Army, to submit a report to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services, not later than March 1, 2025, on the feasibility of implementing the Department of the Army's Future Soldier Preparatory Course academic and physical curriculums in NGYCP. The report should include detailed cost estimates, staffing demands, facility accommodation requirements, and advertising and marketing needs to implement such curriculum.

**National Guard and Reserve Component Transition Assistance Program  
(HASC Committee Report)**

The committee notes the National Guard and Reserve Component servicemembers may have unique needs as they transition back to civilian life after a period of activation and that the Department of Defense's Transition Assistance Program may not be meeting their specific needs.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Defense to submit a report to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 1, 2025, that includes an evaluation of the following:

- (1) how and when are transition assistance programs (TAP) communicated to National Guard and Reserve Component members;
- (2) what topics are covered during TAP for National Guard and Reserve Component members;
- (3) if and how the TAP for National Guard and Reserve Component members differ and why;
- (4) the total number of members who attended TAP for the National Guard and Reserve Component;
- (5) of those who attended, how many members had served less than 8 years of creditable federal service, between 8 to 19 years, or 20 years or more;
- (6) does the Department measure the effectiveness of TAP for National Guard and Reserve Component members;
- (7) does the Department measure the satisfaction of TAP National Guard and Reserve Component members; and
- (8) any additional information the Secretary deems necessary.

**Tuition Assistance for the Air National Guard  
(HASC Committee Report)**

The committee recognizes that the Air National Guard provides an invaluable service to communities across the nation and performs critical missions alongside their Active Duty counterparts. Given the recruiting challenges facing our military, the committee believes that a strong tuition assistance program must be in place for the Air National Guard to continue to recruit and retain the best of America. Therefore, to better assess the effectiveness of current educational assistance programs available to the Air National Guard, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to submit a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services no later than March 1, 2025, on the following:

- (1) tuition assistance programs currently available to Air National Guard members, including eligibility requirements; and
- (2) the feasibility and advisability of establishing a permanent program to provide tuition assistance to members of the Air National Guard, regardless of duty status.

#### **United States-Mexico State Partnership Program (HASC Committee Report)**

The committee notes the over 30 years of success of the Department of Defense State Partnership Program (SPP) in fostering international security cooperation and building enduring relationships between the United States and partner nations. The SPP allows the National Guard to facilitate military-to-military cooperation to build relationships and capabilities to address shared geopolitical challenges around the world. This program is also a cost-effective approach to meet security cooperation objectives and foster alliances and partnerships across the globe. The SPP builds partner capacity and increases the readiness of both United States and partner forces.

The committee believes improving the partnership between the United States and Mexico would strengthen our ability to meet shared challenges, improve interoperability, and enhance this critical relationship. Therefore, the committee encourages the Secretary of Defense and the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to explore the feasibility of creating a partnership between the National Guard and Mexico under the State Partnership Program.

#### **National Guard Cyber Capability Modernization (HASC Committee Report)**

The committee is aware of concerns that cyber capability modernization is not adequately resourced throughout the Army and Air National Guard, and not at a level commensurate with investments by the active components. The committee is likewise aware that certain constraints exist within the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account (NGREA) that prevent the Army and Air National Guard from modernizing cyber capabilities in isolation from the active components.

The committee is concerned by any imbalance or disparity in modernization, given the importance of the total force in potential near-peer conflict. Therefore, the committee directs the Chief Information Officer of the Department of the Air Force, in coordination with the Chief Information Officer of the Department of the Army, to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than April 30, 2025, on the modernization efforts underway for cloud capabilities and cybersecurity solutions in the Army and Air National Guard. The briefing will include, at a minimum, the following:

- (1) an assessment of current cloud capabilities of the Army and Air National Guard and how those capabilities compare to those of the Active Components of the Army and Air Force;
- (2) an assessment of coverage of the Army and Air Force Cyber Security Service Providers (CSSPs) for those portions of the Department of Defense in use by the Army and Air National Guard;
- (3) an identification of any additional funding required to modernize the cyber capabilities of the Army and Air National Guard;
- (4) an assessment of the sustainment costs for the cyber capabilities of the Army and Air National Guard; and

- (5) recommendations for any changes necessary to how cyber modernization and cyber capabilities are funded, acquired, and sustained for the Army and Air National Guard.

**Selective Shielding for Gamma Radiation Exposure  
(HASC Committee Report)**

The committee notes the 2023 Counter-Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Strategy recognized that the risks to the Department and the nation are “real and urgent,” and “addressing them requires the Department to account for WMD across the spectrum of conflict.” It also concluded that “commercial capabilities may help protect military and civilian personnel.” The committee is aware of new, innovative commercially available selective shielding technology that may safeguard individuals in gamma radiation-contaminated environments, on the battlefield and in recovery efforts. This equipment could enable warfighters or first responders to operate in a gamma radiation-contaminated environment for an extended period, protecting personnel and enhancing resilience and deterrence.

The committee understands that certain domestic emergency response units in the National Guard, and the active-duty Chemical Biological Incidence Response Force (CBIRF) have been equipped with or are in the process of integrating such selective shielding technology into their operational doctrine, but other units that might operate in a contaminated environment are currently not being equipped with protection from gamma radiation. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Service Secretaries, and the Commander of U.S. Northern Command, to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than December 1, 2024, on the Department’s plans and requirements for wider acquisition and distribution of selective shielding technology for Department’s CBRN-response units and warfighters who may have to operate in a radiation contaminated environment during a conflict. The briefing should include, but not be limited to:

- (1) The requirements responsive to the 2023 Counter-WMD Strategy to enhance resilience and enable the Joint Force to prevail in a CBRN environment;
- (2) The Department’s near- and long-term strategy to procure equipment for service members who may be required to operate in a gamma radiation contaminated environment;
- (3) The overall acquisition strategy for technologies that may protect against gamma radiation, including timelines, milestones, and estimated costs.
- (4) A description of how the Department is using commercial capabilities to increase the readiness of military personnel and response units to operate in a radiation-contaminated area.

**Guam National Guard Role in Joint Task Force Micronesia  
(HASC Committee Report)**

The committee recognizes that Joint Task Force Micronesia (JTF-M) will assist in the coordination and synchronization of the Guam Cluster Master Plan and will provide homeland defense and defense support to civil authorities in the U.S. territories, including Guam. The committee anticipates that the Guam National Guard will likely play a role in executing JTF-M’s responsibilities.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than February 15, 2025, on the role of the Guam National Guard related to JTF-M. The briefing shall address the expected role of the Guam National Guard in JTF-M’s organization, its planning, training, and operational activities, and any other matters the Secretary determines relevant.

**Infrastructure at Fort McClellan Training Center and Clarke Range Complex  
(HASC Committee Report)**

The Army National Guard (ARNG) plays a pivotal role in our national defense as a Reserve force by augmenting Active Forces, supporting operational readiness, and providing crucial capabilities to State governments. The committee recognizes that Fort McClellan Training Center (FMTC),

located in Alabama, serves as a significant training and operational base for the ARNG, but currently faces significant infrastructure challenges. The committee is concerned that across the state of Alabama, ARNG facilities have an average Installation Status Report of "poor", indicating several unmet functional needs. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than January 31, 2025, on the prioritization and execution of facility upgrades at FMTC and the nearby Clarke Range Complex, ensuring it can support both current and future ARNG missions. The briefing shall include, at a minimum:

- (1) an assessment of current conditions and future needs of aerial system training facilities, educational facilities, and gunnery ranges at FMTC and Clark Range Complex; and
- (2) planned infrastructure projects at FMTC and Clark Range Complex, including timelines for execution and strategies for ensuring they meet future requirements.