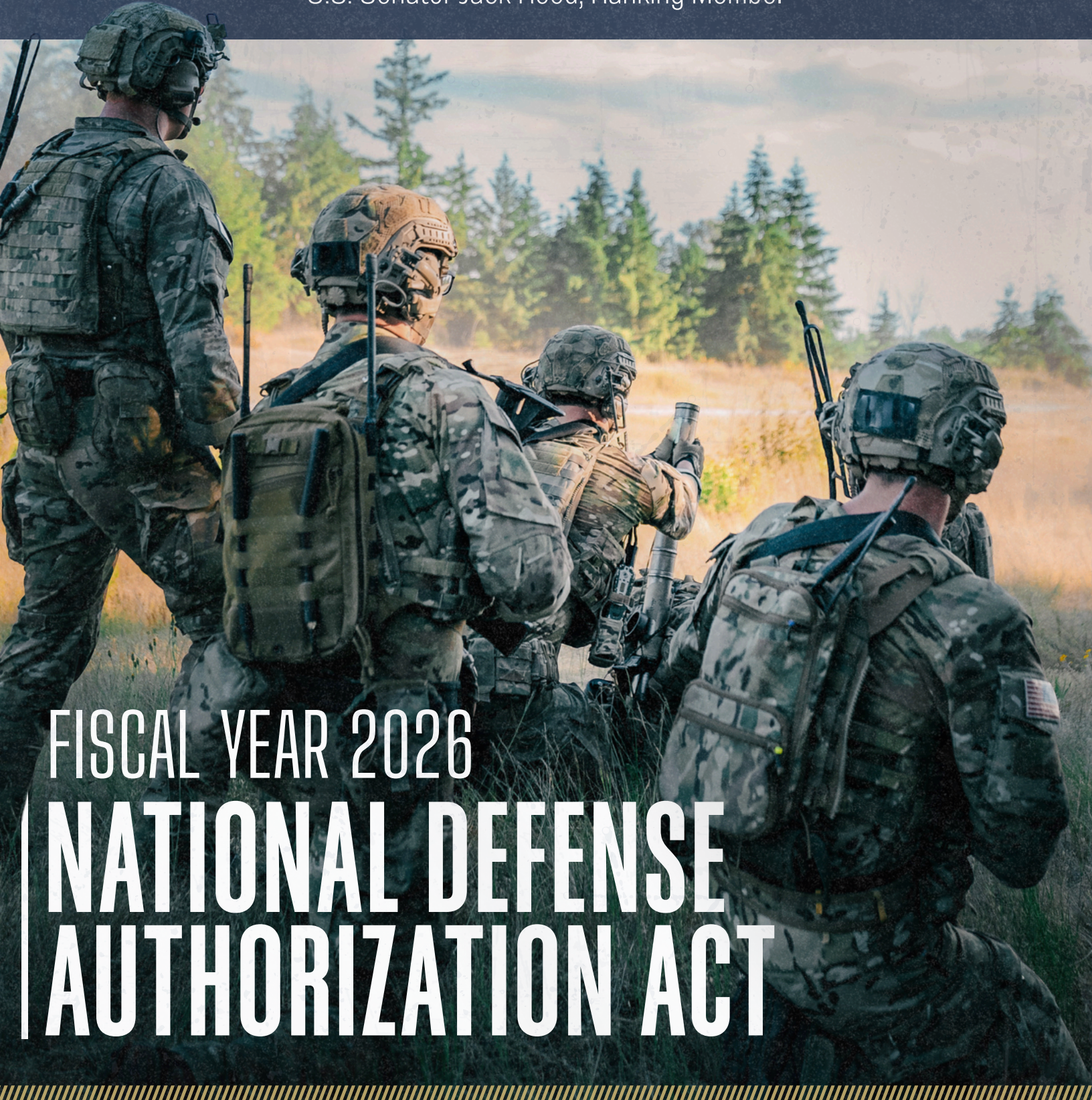




UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES

U.S. Senator Roger Wicker, Chairman
U.S. Senator Jack Reed, Ranking Member



FISCAL YEAR 2026
**NATIONAL DEFENSE
AUTHORIZATION ACT**



PREFACE

Each year, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) authorizes funding levels and provides authorities for the U.S. military and other critical defense priorities, ensuring America's forces have the training, equipment, and resources they need to carry out their missions.

On July 9, the Senate Armed Services Committee voted 26-1 to advance the NDAA for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 to the Senate floor.

Today, the United States is operating in the most dangerous threat environment since World War II. We face an axis of aggressors comprised of China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea, and this axis operates across multiple theaters. These nations share weapons, resources, and a unifying objective: to dismantle American influence around the world. While many of the national security challenges we face resemble those of the past, warfare looks much different today. Technological advances in artificial intelligence, unmanned technology, hypersonic strike weapons, sixth-generation aircraft, and space-based weapons are transforming the nature of modern conflict.

Thankfully, there is broad consensus among Congress, the White House, the Department of Defense, and key allies about these current threats and the need to address them. Recognizing the complexity of today's geopolitical environment, our nation must take action toward reindustrialization and work to rebuild the arsenal of democracy.

To achieve this, we must advance significant reforms to modernize the Pentagon's budgeting and acquisition operations. This bill implements key Pentagon reforms to improve efficiency, unleash innovation, and modernize the budget process. Ultimately, our servicemembers must have the resources they need to carry out their duties successfully, and the American people deserve operational efficiency from their government. Both are achievable.





FY 2026 DEFENSE FUNDING LEVELS

The 65th annual NDAA supports a total of \$925 billion in FY 2026 funding for national defense.

FY26 Defense Funding Levels (in billions of dollars)	
Department of Defense	\$ 878.7
Department of Energy	\$ 35.2
NDAA Topline Subtotal	\$ 913.9
Defense-related Activities Outside NDAA Jurisdiction	\$ 10.8
National Defense Topline	\$ 924.7

*Numbers may not sum due to rounding.

The bill allows up to \$6 billion in general transfer authority for unforeseen higher-priority needs in accordance with normal reprogramming procedures.

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

Reforming the Pentagon for Efficiency and Reindustrialization

- Repeals or amends more than 100 provisions of statute to streamline the defense acquisition process, reduce administrative complexity, and remove outdated requirements, limitations, and other matters.
- Requires the Department of Defense (DOD) to identify a list of statutory reporting requirements with no sunset date and determined to provide little or no value.
- Amends the Joint Requirements Oversight Council to refocus its mission on evaluating global trends, prioritizing joint operational problems, assessing military capabilities, and integrating innovative solutions, while removing “validate” and “approve” authorities for service-level requirements.
- Directs a study on the feasibility and advisability of establishing a Joint Capabilities and Programming Board within the Department of Defense to enhance joint military capability prioritization and program budgeting.
- Redefines program executive officers as portfolio acquisition executives and provides such portfolio acquisition executives with greater authorities and responsibilities for requirements, resourcing, and acquisition.
- Directs the creation of capstone requirements for each portfolio acquisition executive to enable greater speed, agility, and innovation in fielding capabilities.





- Amends acquisition strategy requirements to focus on portfolio management of capability sets to promote continuous iteration and competition.
- Establishes an alternative pathway for the test and evaluation (T&E) of software acquisition programs using the software acquisition pathway, and other programs designated by the Secretary of Defense.
- Amends modular open systems requirements by requiring non-proprietary, machine-readable interfaces to facilitate third-party integration and system upgrades without specifying consensus-based standards.
- Amends the definition of a nontraditional defense contractor to include business entities that do not have significant independent research and development or bid and proposal costs reimbursed by the government.
- Exempts nontraditional defense contractors from numerous defense business requirements and requires that they be treated commercially unless a waiver is approved.
- Establishes a process that would require contracting officers to start with commercial products, commercial services, and non-developmental items and only use non-commercial procedures after a determination is approved explaining the decision based on market research and requirements analysis.
- Requires DOD to identify contract clauses that can be applied to commercial item contracts and limits the flow-down of non-commercial clauses on commercial subcontractors and other supply agreements.
- Amends Commercial Solutions Openings solicitation procedure to remove approval thresholds and establish sole-source follow-on authority.
- Establishes a permanent authority for consumption-based solutions that can be metered and billed based on actual usage and have predetermined pricing.
- Amends procurements for experimental purposes to expand the purposes for which the authority is allowed and clarifies that the authority does not require procedures followed established under sections 4021 or 4022 of title 10.
- Establishes a direct award to follow-on production authority for other transactions if the capability has been demonstrated in a relevant environment and a determination by the acquisition executive is made.
- Expands the scope of capabilities that may use rapid qualification and test procedures to enhance defense supply chain resilience and secondary source qualification.
- Supports weapon system sustainment by integrating responsibility under the product support manager and providing authority to coordinate activities across product support providers by establishing a major program manager for in-service systems and a formal career path for product support managers.



Indo-Pacific

- Authorizes the full budget request for the Pacific Deterrence Initiative (PDI) and directs the Department of Defense (DOD) to increase the transparency of its budget methodology to allow Congress to assess the utility of PDI.
- Prohibits a reduction in U.S. military posture on the Korean Peninsula or a change in wartime operational control over the Combined Forces Command until the Secretary of Defense certifies to Congress that such action is in the national interest. Further directs the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs and the Commanders of Indo-Pacific Command and U.S. Forces Korea to conduct an independent risk assessment of any such changes.
- Directs a report detailing U.S. support to Japan in the development and fielding of an operational counterstrike capability.
- Requires a report on efforts to modernize the U.S.-Philippines alliance and a resource plan for the U.S.-Philippine Security Sector Assistance Roadmap.
- Directs an initiative to strengthen security cooperation across the respective defense industrial bases of U.S. allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific.
- Directs the Department of Defense to engage with Taiwan to develop a joint program to co-develop and co-produce uncrewed and counter-uncrewed capabilities.
- Requires the Department of Defense to consult with the Department of State and the American Institute of Taiwan (AIT) to develop contracting processes to support entities that are not part of AIT.
- Directs DOD to assess Taiwan's critical digital infrastructure and identify potential actions to help strengthen it.
- Authorizes \$1 billion for the Taiwan Security Cooperation Initiative and expands the authority to expand its use for combat casualty care and medical equipment.
- Strongly encourages the Secretary of Defense to invite the naval forces of Taiwan to the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise, as appropriate, and requires a notification and justification if the Secretary chooses not to do so.



Europe

- Prohibits the reduction in U.S. military force posture in Europe or relinquishment of U.S. command of the Supreme Allied Commander Europe position until the Secretary of Defense assesses the impact on U.S. and NATO interests and certifies to Congress that such action is in the national interest. Further directs the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs and the Commander of U.S. European Command to conduct an independent risk assessment of any such changes.
- Directs the Secretary of Defense to consider whether NATO partners have submitted plans to reach the agreed-upon 5% GDP target in developing future plans for U.S. military basing and training.
- Extends the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative (USAI) through 2028 and increases authorized funding to \$500 million.
- Directs DOD to work with Ukraine to develop a depot-level maintenance plan to ensure that western-transferred military equipment can be sustained.
- Renews the requirement to submit the Russian Military Power Report.
- Requires the Secretary of Defense to deliver a report on acceleration options for the JUMPSTART initiative, which allows European partners to fund weapons purchases for Ukraine through the U.S. Foreign Military Sales system.
- Reaffirms that it is the policy of the United States to assist Ukraine in maintaining a credible defense and deterrence capability and to bolster defense and security cooperation with Ukraine to build a Ukrainian military that is capable of defending Ukraine and deterring future aggression.
- Requires the Secretary of Defense to continue to provide intelligence support, including information, intelligence, and imagery collection to the Government of Ukraine.

Middle East

- Directs continued cooperation with allies and partners in the Middle East with respect to implementing an integrated air and missile defense architecture.
- Extends the Counter-ISIS Train and Equip (CTEF) authorities to assist the Iraqi Security Forces and Syrian partner forces to counter the threat from ISIS.
- Directs a report on the Department of Defense's plan to provide assistance to the military forces of Jordan and the military forces of Lebanon.
- Extends the United States-Israel anti-tunnel cooperation initiative.
- Authorizes increased funding for United States-Israel cooperation to counter unmanned aerial systems.



Africa

- Directs a report on U.S. efforts to develop an integrated intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) strategy to increase domain awareness in the Sahel.

Western Hemisphere

- Establishes a pilot program to deepen cybersecurity cooperation with the Government of Panama and the Panama Canal Authority and further protect the Panama Canal against adversarial actors.
- Requires an evaluation of the intelligence capabilities of the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation in the Republic of Cuba.
- Requires a report to assess the current security cooperation between Guyana and the United States.
- Requires a briefing on the transportation challenges for servicemembers, dependent family members, and other patrons with a need for travel to and from Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Southwest Border Security

- Requires a report to assess the advisability, feasibility, and cost of using qualified DOD personnel in support of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to provide translation and interpretation services in connection with border security operations.
- Directs DOD to evaluate and, if necessary, improve communication between the U.S. military and the Mexican military during border-related DOD support to the Department of Homeland Security.

Counternarcotics

- Supports increased cooperation between the U.S. and Mexican militaries through a joint counter-transnational criminal organization training program that will share best practices in tactics, techniques, and procedures for countering narcotics trafficking.

International Security Cooperation

- Establishes an Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Armaments Cooperation to improve the Pentagon's ability to understand allied and partner industrial bases and conduct win-win industrial base integration efforts.
- Establishes a Joint Program Office to enable the fielding and acquisition of non-programs of record by authorized foreign partners, injecting innovative weapons systems into U.S. security cooperation efforts.
- Directs DOD to streamline the roles of officials responsible for international security cooperation, including establishing a data czar responsible for collecting, tracking, and disseminating information about Foreign Military Sales, and directs the promulgation of guidance to align security cooperation activities to the Conventional Arms Transfer Policy and DOD planning documents.
- Establishes a statutory program to conduct industrial base integration with allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific region.



Modernizing for the Future Battlefield

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)

- Requires DOD to develop a roadmap for the small, unmanned aircraft system (sUAS) industrial base to support existing sUAS programs.

Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems (CUAS)

- Transfers the responsibility for Countering small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (C-sUAS) from the Department of the Army to the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment.
- Requires a briefing on the plan for installation commanders to engage UAS on U.S. military installations by both kinetic and non-kinetic means.

Munitions

- Adds Foreign Military Sales demand as a requirement in the Total Munitions Requirement process.
- Requires DOD to annually determine the minimum production level for each variant of munitions required to meet the Out-Year Unconstrained Total Munitions Requirement and to incorporate the determined levels into the budget.
- Withholds 10% of travel funding for the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment until the Joint Energetics Transition Office is established.
- Requires the Joint Energetics Transition Office to identify options to re-use raw materials waste created during the energetics production process.
- Directs DOD to assess the current shortfalls in domestic Hydroxyl-terminated Polybutadiene (HTPB) production capacity and supply chain risks associated with HTPB production. HTPB is the primary binder that holds fuel together in solid rocket motors.
- Requires a report detailing the stockpiles of critical munitions required to fight simultaneous conflicts in different theaters.
- Requires a plan to implement critical munitions requirements to fight simultaneous conflicts in the next budget cycle.
- Encourages DOD to develop a software-based solution for managing munitions production and requirements.



- Authorizes the accelerated modernization of existing organic industrial base facilities and increases funding for such activities.
- Emphasizes the importance for pursuing composite materials for large caliber ammunition.
- Requires a report on low-cost munitions programs and advanced manufacturing for munitions and increases funding for these efforts.
- Requires the Navy to develop options for two sources of domestic solid rocket motors in the Navy Modular Missile program.

Emerging Threats and Capabilities

- Requires the establishment of a Biotechnology Management Office.
- Requires the development of a DOD-wide strategy to enhance the use of biotechnology-developed and biotechnology-manufactured products.
- Requires the development of guidelines on the ethical and responsible development and deployment of biotechnology within the Department of Defense.
- Directs a briefing on opportunities for the Irregular Warfare Technical Support Directorate to complement innovation efforts by Naval Special Warfare Command for research, experimentation, and prototyping of unmanned maritime vessels.
- Requires the Secretary of Defense to keep the congressional defense committees fully and currently informed of Department of Defense sensitive activities.
- Authorizes the establishment of an Irregular Warfare Exercise Laboratory.
- Makes permanent the authority for DOD research, development, test and evaluation centers to waive certain policies or regulations if the waiver is demonstrated to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of such organizations.

Cybersecurity

- Requires a strategy to reestablish a credible deterrence against cyberattacks targeting American critical infrastructure using the full spectrum of military operations.
- Assigns the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Cyber Policy as a Principal Staff Advisor on cyber, further aligning this role as the principal advisor to the Secretary of Defense.
- Revises and expands the Cyber Excepted Service civilian personnel management system to include the entire Department of Defense cyber workforce and improve hiring, compensation, and management.



- Requires United States Cyber Command to develop a roadmap for industry and academic collaboration to build artificial intelligence-enabled cyber tools and technologies.
- Prohibits DOD from divesting, consolidating, or curtailing any current cyber assessment capabilities supporting operational test and evaluation until the Secretary provides data supporting any such decision.
- Requires a comprehensive cybersecurity and physical security framework for artificial intelligence and machine learning technologies procured by the Department of Defense.
- Requires an assessment of the feasibility and advisability of a real-time monitoring program for weapon system platforms.
- Directs a report on support to small businesses as it pertains to meeting cybersecurity compliance requirements under the Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification program.
- Requires the establishment of a Mission Infrastructure Resilience Task Force and a transition plan for converting into a permanent DOD organization.
- Requires a report to certify that DOD has fully identified, tracked, and integrated the unique capabilities of the reserve component into its Cyber Mission Force structure and operational planning.
- Requires the Inspector General of the Department of Defense to conduct an independent review of the acquisition activities of United States Cyber Command, including sufficiency of the workforce; metrics used to determine the timeliness and effectiveness of in-house and assisted acquisition activities; and other lessons learned from recent acquisition actions.
- Requires the Secretary of Defense to conduct a review on future force employment concepts for cyber operations, including assessment of personnel policies that might be needed to support any such evolving cyber force.
- Direct the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Cyber Policy and the Commander, United States Cyber Command, in collaboration with the Chief of the National Guard Bureau and military service component leadership, to report on reserve component integration into Cyber Mission Forces.
- Requires the establishment of a task force on building and maintaining artificial intelligence sandbox environments to accelerate workforce development and technical innovation in artificial intelligence applications across the Department.
- Requires the establishment of a DOD Ontology Governance Working Group, to expand the work conducted by the DOD and Intelligence Community Ontology Working Group and build domain-specific data ontologies.
- Requires the establishment of a cross-functional team (CFT) for artificial intelligence (AI) model management, oversight, and assessment. This CFT is tasked with various milestones to include building a standardized assessment



framework for DOD AI models to ensure oversight through model lineage and accelerate development of unique defense models.

- Limits the funds authorized to be appropriated for the Joint Staff and the Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Officer for the Combined Joint All-Domain Command and Control initiative until the Secretary of Defense provides a framework for such initiative that helps guide investments and measures progress for the initiative.

Force Resiliency

- Acknowledges the vital role U.S. Special Operations Command plays in sustaining special operations readiness by building resilience and optimizing performance and directs a briefing on efforts to strengthen holistic support through improved use of human performance data systems.
- Requires a briefing on DOD's implementation of the self-initiated referral process for mental health care.
- Requires a report analyzing opportunities to improve collaboration across the military departments in the development, integration, and coordination of human performance technologies that support warfighter readiness.

End Strength and Force Structure

- Authorizes personnel end strength for the active component at 454,000 for the Army; 344,600 for the Navy; 172,300 for the Marine Corps; 321,500 for the Air Force; and 10,400 for the Space Force.
- Authorizes personnel end strength for the reserve component and National Guard at 328,000 for the Army National Guard; 172,000 for the Army Reserve; 57,500 for the Navy Reserve; 33,600 for the Marine Corps Reserve; 106,300 for the Air National Guard; 67,500 for the Air Force Reserve; and 7,000 for the Coast Guard Reserve.
- Enables the transfer of responsibilities from the Air Force to the Space Force by increasing the authorized number of Space Force brigadier generals by three and decreasing the authorized number of Air Force brigadier generals by three.

Military Personnel Policy

- Authorizes funding to support a 3.8 percent pay raise for military members.
- Requires DOD to publish how housing allowances are calculated, what housing types are covered, and to pilot a new calculation method based on rental costs by bedroom size.
- Improves transparency and understanding of military compensation by requiring clear explanations on pay statements, creation of a regular military compensation pay table, and an education campaign for servicemembers and families on military compensation.
- Improves military recruiter access to secondary schools and timely directory information sharing and establishes a National Week of Military Recruitment.

Military and Dependent Education

- Authorizes \$50 million for DOD assistance to educational agencies affected by the enrollment of military and DOD civilian dependents, \$10 million for impact aid payments for children with disabilities, and \$20 million for local educational agencies determined by the Secretary of Defense to have high concentrations of military children with severe disabilities.
- Requires the Secretary of Defense, acting through the Director of the Department of Defense Education Activity (DODEA), to improve staffing of special education teachers and staff, and improve special education offerings at DODEA schools.
- Authorizes children of employees of the American Red Cross who are performing, on a full-time basis, services for the Armed Forces, enrollment in a DODEA school. Requires an update to existing DODEA regulations on the student use of portable electronic mobile devices in DODEA schools to prohibit disruption in the learning environment.

Family Readiness and Community Support

- Directs an update to the Joint Travel Regulations to authorize educational travel for a dependent of a covered employee without regard to whether the Federal agency responsible for the employment of the covered employee anticipates that the covered employee will be transferred or travel to a location in the United States for home leave. This authority is limited to DODEA employees assigned to Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.
- Requires DOD to provide members of the Armed Forces serving on Active Duty access to legal services provided by an attorney specializing in guardianship transfers in each state in which a military installation is located.



- Requires the Secretary of Defense to ensure that all counselors assigned to a Family Advocacy Program or Military and Family Life program at a military installation be trained in the requirements and resources relating to foster care in the State in which the installation is located

Military Health Care

- Requires the establishment of policies for the priority assignment of medical personnel of the DOD, and requires the Secretaries of the military departments to assign medical personnel consistent with the Secretary of Defense's priorities.
- Requires the establishment of a demonstration program to expand partnerships between DOD and Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities for the purpose of increasing case volume for DOD graduate medical education programs.
- Directs a study on the impact of behavioral and mental health staffing shortfalls at military medical treatment facilities.

Defense Civilians

- Extends for one year the discretionary authority of the head of a Federal agency to provide allowances, benefits, and gratuities, comparable to those provided to members of the Foreign Service, to the agency's civilian employees on official duty in a combat zone.
- Provides direct hiring authority for up to 60 graduates of the Defense Civilian Training Corps every year.

Accountability and Oversight

- Requires a report from the Secretary of Defense on audit progress and options for acceleration of audit activities to meet the statutory 2028 deadline.
- Requires an annual report on any cancelled contracts for the preceding fiscal year, with fiscal year 2025 cancellations included in the first report.
- Requires a briefing to the congressional defense committees on any anticipated issues in establishing beginning balances for audits of the financial statements of the DOD.
- Directs a review of DOD policies and procedures for data gathering, risk assessment, and risk mitigation of U.S. military flights, especially as it relates to differentiating between flights in the U.S. domestic airspace.



- Requires the development of standard operating procedures on use of aviation safety equipment and a program for sharing aviation safety data for aircraft of the Department of Defense.

Building American Combat Power

Sea Power

- Authorizes procurement for not more than five *Columbia*-class submarines.
- Authorizes a block buy of up to 15 Medium Landing Ships (LSM) to support testing and experimentation of the Marine Littoral Regiment formation.
- Limits funding for TAGOS Ship unless the Secretary of the Navy provides information on the Navy's management of the program and an assessment of alternative solutions for the mission.
- Requires the Navy, in implementing the Medium Landing Ship and Light Replenishment Oiler programs, to utilize a Vessel Construction Manager (VCM) acquisition strategy, employing commercial design standards, construction practices, and an external entity to contract for construction.
- Exempts unmanned surface vessels and unmanned underwater vehicles from the Senior Technical Authority requirement and limits certain technical requirements from the Chief Engineer of the Naval Sea Systems Command without prior approval of the program manager.
- Modifies certification requirements of operational demonstrations for propulsion and electrical systems of large and medium unmanned surface vessels to increase industrial base participation.
- Limits funding to certain Navy-developed software for autonomy and command and control of unmanned surface vessels.
- Directs a briefing to the congressional defense committees to prioritize innovative, commercially driven solutions to deliver a scalable medium unmanned surface vessel (MUSV) capability that meets the urgent needs of the fleet while fostering a competitive industrial base.
- Requires the Navy to move leadership for conventional surface ship maintenance to the Type Commanders, delegates decision-making authority to project managers, port engineers, and ship commanding officers, and directs a new contracting strategy that emphasizes workload stability and collaborative planning.
- Requires the Navy to investigate, and where feasible qualify and fully integrate, 23 advanced technologies and processes into Navy surface ship readiness.
- Supports amphibious warship production and readiness by limiting funding of the Secretary of the Navy and the Secretary of Defense if the 30-year shipbuilding plan does not comply with the statutory requirement for 31 amphibious ships,

defines “temporarily unavailable” within the 31 amphibious ship requirements, and requires a plan to maintain and extend the service lives of amphibious ships.

Airland

Army Programs

- Directs an updated tactical wheeled vehicle strategy with the submission of the fiscal year 2027 budget request.
- Authorizes the Army to establish a program to create a soldier-inspired innovation program.
- Requires a briefing on the Army's concept for delivering modernized ground combat vehicles to its Stryker and Armored Brigade Combat Teams.
- Requires a briefing on Army efforts to optimize its prepositioned stocks program to ensure that the Army has the right equipment in the right location with the right readiness level.
- Requires a report on the Army's proposed plan to integrate Army Futures Command and Training and Doctrine Command.

Air Force Programs

- Prohibits the Air Force from retiring A-10 aircraft such that the inventory would drop below 103 aircraft in FY26.
- Extends the prohibition against retiring RQ-4 aircraft to 2030.
- Authorizes procurement of 34 F-35A aircraft.
- Replaces section 238 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-238) with a new provision to account for advances in the B-21 program as it advances from engineering to manufacturing and production.
- Directs the Air Force to submit a comprehensive bomber roadmap.
- Directs the Air Force to submit a comprehensive intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance roadmap.
- Directs an annual report on the DOD unified datalink strategy.
- Amends Sec. 1527 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31).
- Requires DOD to develop a comprehensive plan to establish a government-controlled open mission systems computing environment for all variants and blocks of the F-35 aircraft operated by the DOD.
- Directs the Navy and Air Force to conduct a comparative study, independent of the air vehicle manufacturer, on the two propeller systems on the C-130J platform.
- Directs DOD to preserve World War II-era aircraft.



- Directs a report on the recommendations for establishing one or more pilot programs for implementing and testing standard operating procedures and assessing capability shortfalls in countering unmanned aerial systems.
- Supports procurement of the MH-139 Grey Wolf helicopter to modernize the aging fleet of UH-1 helicopters.
- Requires all DOD aircraft that operate near commercial airports to be equipped with position broadcast technology.
- Requires a briefing on the Air Force's plan to develop and institutionalize organic air base defense capabilities for expeditionary operations.

Military Construction

- Authorizes Facilities Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization funds for 3 years to improve execution of taxpayer funds and improve economies of scale.
- Requires the military departments to develop 20-year infrastructure plans to provide better fidelity for cost estimates for future planning.
- Prohibits both the service secretary and service chief of a military department from using any funds to travel outside of the continental United States should their respective military department not comply with section 2680 of title 10, United States Code.
- Requires the Secretary of Defense to establish a pilot program for the purposes of the military departments to procure utility services from an areawide contract with a public utility provider.
- Establishes an Advanced Nuclear Energy Working Group of senior defense officials to expedite and oversee the development and deployment of nuclear energy technologies to enhance force readiness and resiliency.



Improving Defense Acquisition and Industrial Base Policy

Defense Industrial Base (DIB) Policy

- Expands the authorities of the Industrial Base Fund and Industrial Base Analysis and Sustainment program to ensure DOD's flagship supplier base investment program has additional tools to rebuild the DIB.
- Creates new authority allowing for financing costs to be allowable and allocable for Department of Defense contracts to allow for better matching of government and private investment in key areas.
- Creates an Economic Defense Unit under the Deputy Secretary of Defense to synchronize economic competition efforts across the Department of Defense.
- Allows the Office of Strategic Capital to collect fees from loan and guarantee recipients to bring OSC's authorities in line with other federal loan programs and save taxpayer money.
- Creates and expedites acceptance program if companies find supply chain problems to accelerate supply chain remediation efforts.
- Requires the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Industrial Base Policy to conduct an assessment on the feasibility and advisability of establishing a price index for certain strategic and critical materials.

Acquisition Policy

- Requires an evaluation of the suitability of a corridor for testing hypersonic and long-range weapons in the continental United States.
- Designates the Director of Defense Pricing, Contracting, and Acquisition Policy as the Department of Defense member of the Cost Accounting Standards Board.
- Provides the combatant commands the authority to conduct experimentation, prototyping, and technology demonstrations to support the development and testing of innovative technologies and capability solutions to address operational needs identified by the combatant command.
- Supports the servicemember right to repair initiative by requiring contractors for covered equipment to submit instructions for continued operational readiness necessary for operations, maintenance, installation, and training.



- Reforms contractor performance information requirements to eliminate subjective contractor evaluations from the Contractor Performance Assessment Reporting System and establish objective criteria for negative performance events.
- Allows the DOD to consider equitable adjustments for the loss of work in process on certain uninsurable contracts.
- Prohibits the Department of Defense from procuring a generic drug for resale unless the seller discloses the country the generic drug was manufactured in and the country of origin for all active pharmaceutical ingredients and key starting materials.
- Prohibits the obligation or expenditure of funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available to be used to enter into a contract for the procurement of photovoltaic modules manufactured by a foreign entity of concern.

Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution Reform

- Establishes the expiration date for authorizations in this Act for military construction projects, land acquisition, family housing projects and facilities, and contributions to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program as October 1, 2028, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2029, whichever is later.
- Directs a study on the feasibility and advisability of establishing a Joint Capabilities and Programming Board within the Department of Defense to enhance joint military capability prioritization and program budgeting.
- Requires a report detailing proposed changes to the Financial Management Regulation needed to implement the recommendation from the Commission on Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution Reform that would allow RDT&E, Procurement, and O&M funds to be used for the full lifecycle of software.



Strategic Deterrence and Homeland Defense

Nuclear Modernization

- Establishes a statutory target for initial operational capability for the LGM-35A Sentinel intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) and sets minimum inventory requirements for ICBMs and ICBM launch facilities.
- Accelerates development of the nuclear-armed sea-launched cruise missile and creates a supplementary parallel pathway for rapid fielding.
- Clarifies the timing for operational certification of the B-21 bomber with the AGM-181 Long Range Standoff Weapon.
- Further clarifies and reinforces congressional intent in the establishment of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear Deterrence, Chemical and Biological Defense Policy and Programs.
- Reinforces and codifies the importance of Air Force Global Strike Command as a major command in supporting United States nuclear deterrence requirements.
- Requires enhanced cleaning and maintenance efforts for ICBM crew capsules to improve servicemember quality of life and mission effectiveness.

Space

- Directs a study on future heavy and super heavy space launch capacity.
- Requires any weapon systems intended to produce space control effects to adversary satellite systems be acquired and operated by the U.S. Space Force, with commercial augmentation as required.
- Requires the Secretary of the Air Force to publish a Liquid Oxygen – Methane propellant blast damage assessment guide for space launch vehicles using U.S. Air Force launch range complexes.

Missile Defense

- Supports the development of the Golden Dome missile defense architecture by revising the national missile defense policy, codifying the position of Direct Reporting Program Manager for Golden Dome for America, establishing a comprehensive testing regime to support system development, adjusting various statutory authorities relating to missile defense, and directing the construction of new missile defense telemetry collection vessels to enhance testing capabilities.
- Authorizes the procurement of the Iron Dome short-range rocket defense system, David's Sling Weapon System, and Arrow 3 Upper Tier Interceptor Program.

- Directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing on the state of the U.S. hypersonic materials manufacturing and industrial base.

Electronic Warfare and Spectrum Security

- Requires the Department to integrate electronic warfare into Tier 1 and Tier 2 joint exercises.
- Directs the 350th Spectrum Warfare Wing to support the EA-37B Compass Call program.
- Prohibits modifications to DOD systems operating between 3100-3450 megahertz and 7400-8400 megahertz unless the Secretary and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff jointly certify to Congress that such modification would not result in a loss of capability. This prohibition lasts until September 30, 2034, or when dynamic spectrum sharing is certified as fully operational.

Test Ranges and Strategic Facilities

- Renames U.S. facilities on Kwajalein Atoll as the Ronald Reagan Space and Missile Test Range, designates the installation as a remote and isolated installation to enable additional support for personnel, requires enhanced DOD leadership attention and support for facility upkeep, and requires Kwajalein to be considered as a landing site for the rocket cargo demonstration program.

Department of Energy

- Establishes a Rapid Capabilities Development office within the National Nuclear Security Administration to enhance NNSA's ability to adapt to evolving international security conditions.
- Clarifies the statutory requirement for two-site plutonium pit production to be established at Los Alamos National Laboratory and the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility and adjusts production timing targets.
- Requires the Secretary of Energy to enhance efforts to identify optimal disposal pathways and schedules for radioactive waste.
- Classifies employees funded under Atomic Energy Defense Activities as national security employees.
- Clarifies the role of the National Nuclear Security Administration in supporting artificial intelligence research.



UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES