

## MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES, 2022

*\$127.6 billion in total discretionary funding*

The Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies bill includes defense spending of \$14.9 billion, an increase of \$6.8 billion compared to fiscal year 2021. The bill includes non-defense spending of \$112.7 billion, an increase of \$7.9 billion compared to fiscal year 2021. The bill funds critical infrastructure projects and veterans' healthcare.

- Includes an additional \$5 billion over the President's Request for defense funding.
- Includes \$327 million for rural health initiatives.
- Includes \$621 million for opioid misuse prevention and treatment.
- Preserves two Guantanamo provisions: one that prevents funds made available to construct a new facility to house detainees currently held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and another to prevent closure of Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.

### **BILL HIGHLIGHTS**

**Military Construction** – The legislation includes \$14.9 billion for military construction projects. This amount funds nearly 300 infrastructure projects at military bases and installations around the world to enhance resiliency and support warfighter readiness. Within this amount, the bill provides \$1.4 billion to improve and maintain housing for servicemembers and their families. The bill also includes \$415 million for the European Deterrence Initiative to improve infrastructure and facilities throughout the European theater to support the fight against continued Russian aggression.

**Veterans Affairs (VA)** – The legislation includes \$112.2 billion in discretionary funds for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), an increase of \$7.8 billion over the FY21 enacted level, to address rapidly increasing costs of health care and information technology support. These resources will provide the healthcare, benefits, and memorial services earned by U.S. servicemembers and veterans.

- **VA Medical Care** – The bill provides \$97.5 billion for VA medical care, an increase of \$7.5 billion over the FY21 enacted level, including:
  - \$13.2 billion for mental health;
  - \$2.4 billion for telehealth services;
  - \$2.2 billion for veterans homelessness programs;
  - \$1.4 billion for the Caregivers Program;
  - \$621 million for opioid misuse prevention and treatment;
  - \$882 million for medical and prosthetic research;
  - \$840 million for health care specifically for women veterans; and
  - \$327 million for rural health initiatives.
- **Information Technology Systems**: \$5.5 billion, an increase of \$600 million over the FY21 enacted level, to support the development, operations, and maintenance of systems.
- **Veterans Electronic Health Record** – \$2.5 billion. This allows VA to continue deployment of their new electronic health record that is interoperable with the Department of Defense's system.

- **VA Mandatory Funding** – \$157 billion for mandatory veterans’ benefits, including veteran disability compensation programs, education benefits, and vocational rehabilitation and employment training.
- **Advance Appropriations** – \$111.3 billion in FY23 advance discretionary funding for veterans health care and \$161 billion in FY23 advance mandatory funding for veterans benefits.
- **Major Construction** – \$1.6 billion, a \$295 million increase over the FY21 enacted level.
- **Related Agencies** – The legislation also includes \$434.2 million, an increase of \$156 million over the FY21 enacted level, for related agencies, including the American Battle Monuments Commission, the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, Arlington National Cemetery, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home. The bulk of the increase is for construction of the Southern Expansion at Arlington National Cemetery.