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July 31, 2025

MANAGERS PACKAGE TO THE FY26 DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL

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1. For Senator Gillibrand:

Report language:

In the appropriate place in the report, insert the following:

Army Senior Reserve Officer Training Corps Programs.—The Committee is concerned about the U.S. Army Cadet Command Rebalance and Optimization Plan and the process by which the Army announced changing the Senior Reserve Officer Training Corps [SROTC] presence on college campuses. Accordingly, the Committee directs the Secretary of the Army to brief the congressional defense committees on this plan not later than October 1, 2025. The briefing shall include: (1) performance metrics and evaluation for each host program and extension unit proposed for closure, reclassification and merger; (2) the total number of scholarship and non-scholarship participants at each program and unit; (3) specific justifications used to include each program and unit on the lists for restructure; (4) the plan for support to current students that would allow them to graduate at their current school; (5) a summary of pre-announcement outreach to affected institutions, cadets, and alumni; and (6) the costs associated with execution of this plan in fiscal years 2025 and 2026.

2. For Senator Rounds:

Report language:

In the appropriate place in the report, insert the following:

“Strategic Mobile Virtual Network Operators in the Indo-Pacific.—The Committee recognizes the growing threat posed by vulnerabilities in global cellular network infrastructure and underscores the operational importance of securing personal device communications. To enhance cybersecurity, resilience, and the rapid availability of secure communications, the Committee encourages the establishment of strategic, full-spectrum mobile virtual network operators in the Indo-Pacific area of operations, leveraging existing commercial infrastructure where possible. The Committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the congressional defense committees not later than 90 days after the enactment of this act, detailing the countries under consideration for establishing such networks in the Indo-Pacific region.”

3. For Senator Fischer:

Report language:

In the appropriate place in the report, insert the following:

“Defense POW/MIA Office.—The Committee supports the mission of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency [DPAA], which is responsible for identifying and returning personnel missing from past conflicts, including those lost in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

This effort entails global searches to locate remains, conduct overseas visits to recover remains, engage in laboratory operations to identify missing servicemembers, and liaise with family members of missing servicemembers to provide accurate information on missing personnel and even bring their loved-ones' remains home. A required component of executing DPAA's mission is personnel traveling to field sites to engage in recovery missions that typically last from 35 to 60 days. Since site surveys, testing, and excavation operations require DPAA staff to be physically present, DPAA's ability to travel to foreign conflict sites is indispensable to their ability to recover remains of missing servicemembers and provide a measure of closure to grieving families.

The Committee notes that to conduct recovery operations, DPAA must deploy to remote overseas locations to locate, recover, and repatriate remains. Given that nearly 72,000 Americans remain missing from World War II, approximately 7,400 from the Korean War, and over 1,600 from the Vietnam War, it remains as important as ever to ensure that DPAA is not forced to limit its efforts due to budgetary shortfalls. Therefore, the Committee encourages the Secretary of Defense to ensure that all fiscal year 2026 requirements for the DPAA are fully funded to sustain and expand global recovery operations and laboratory capacity."

4. For Senator Boozman:

Report language:

In the appropriate place in the report, insert the following:

"Weapons Industrial Base.—The Committee recognizes the importance of improving the production and delivery of MK72 and MK104 solid rocket motors [SRMs] in the Standard Missile program. The Committee is concerned that third-tier supply chain limitations continue to constrain efforts to expand production capacity for these critical components. While Congress has provided funding to establish a second SRM provider for MK72 and MK104, the Committee notes that addressing third-tier supplier constraints is essential to achieving meaningful improvements in production rates. Therefore, the Committee encourages the Secretary of Defense to prioritize projects that will develop additional sources of critical components among third tier suppliers. Further, the Committee notes the Department of Defense is pursuing quicker and more cost-effective ways to procure SRMs. Therefore, the Committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the congressional defense committees, not later than 180 days after the enactment of this act, on the status of its efforts to address third-tier supply chain constraints."

5. For Senator Ossoff:

Report language:

In the appropriate place in the report, insert the following:

"Air Force Reserve Tactical Airlift Capacity.—The Committee notes that the Air Force Reserve fleet continues to operate aging C-130H aircraft, and that recapitalization of these platforms with

an updated C-130J capability is critical for Air Force Reserve units to rapidly respond to crises at home and abroad. Therefore, the Committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a report to be delivered to congressional defense committees not later than 100 days after the enactment of this act detailing a plan to upgrade the remaining Air Force Reserve Squadrons operating C-130H aircraft.”

6. For Senator Van Hollen:

Report language:

In the appropriate place in the report, insert the following:

“Dynamic Space Operations.—The Committee is aware that the United States Space Force and United States Space Command have high priority requirements in geostationary orbit that could be satisfied by using the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's [NASA] On-orbit Servicing, Assembly, and Manufacturing 1 [OSAM-1] spacecraft. OSAM-1 is nearly launch ready except for final integration and testing, and modest adjustments to make it fully suitable for deployment in a geostationary location. Given the existing investment by NASA in OSAM-1, the Committee believes this could be a cost-effective alternative to test critical technology and deploy an initial capability more quickly. Therefore, the Committee directs the Chief of Space Operations, in consultation with the Administrator of NASA, to provide a plan not later than 90 days after enactment of this act, to launch this mission not later than 2028. This plan should include a schedule, funding requirements across the Future Years Defense Program, and an analysis of the relevant testing and operational utility.”

7. For Senator Hagerty:

Report language:

In the appropriate place in the report, insert the following:

“Critical Minerals Resilience.—The Committee directs the Secretary of Defense to focus on production of critical minerals and rare earth elements which are essential to defense supply chains and are subject to strict export controls by China. Not later than 90 days after the enactment of this act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a proposed strategy and spend plan identifying each of the critical minerals that are essential to defense supply chains and further highlighting those subject to export control restrictions.”

8. For Senator Fischer:

Report language:

In the appropriate place in the report, insert the following:

“Nuclear-armed Sea Launch Cruise Missile.—Pursuant to section 1640 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31), as modified by section 1627 of the Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 (Public Law 118-159), the Department of the Navy established a separate, dedicated program element for the development of a nuclear-armed, sea-launched cruise missile. The Committee notes that the fiscal year 2026 President’s budget request did not include any discretionary funding for a nuclear-armed, sea-launched cruise missile, but the Department of Defense requested, and received, \$2,000,000,000 of mandatory spending for this program. Therefore, the Committee directs the Secretary of the Navy to provide a briefing not later than 90 days after enactment of this act to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate on the status of the program.”

9. For Senator Fischer:

Report language:

In the appropriate place in the report, insert the following:

“Sentinel.—The Committee notes that the Executive Branch divided the fiscal year 2026 President’s budget request into discretionary and mandatory requests, resulting in multiple programs being significantly underfunded in their discretionary request, including the LGM-35A Sentinel program. Sentinel replaces the aging Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missile system, which has been in service for over 50 years. The complexity and importance of modernizing the land-based leg of the nuclear triad cannot be overstated, and the Committee notes that reliable and stable base resources are required to ensure that the Sentinel program is properly resourced. Utilizing mandatory spending to supplant base requirements diminishes the ability of the Committee to adequately resource necessary work in each fiscal year. Additionally, decreasing the discretionary budget in fiscal year 2026 results in risk to the Future Years Defense Program through an irregular funding profile. Therefore, the Committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a briefing, not later than 90 days after the enactment of this act, on the total requirements of the Sentinel program in fiscal year 2026, a breakout of which efforts will be funded with discretionary and mandatory spending, and an updated spend plan that includes the entire requirement for Sentinel in fiscal year 2026.”

10. For Senator Schatz:

Report language:

In the appropriate place in the report, insert the following:

“DARPA AI Reliability Research.—The Committee recognizes that advanced artificial intelligence [AI] could revolutionize warfare and operations through intelligence analysis, cyber operations, and autonomous systems. The Committee notes that AI reliability is a foundational necessity for trustworthy and effective deployment. Therefore, the Committee encourages the Director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency [DARPA] to expand DARPA’s work on developing advanced techniques for AI model reliability, mechanistic interpretability, and hardware security, in order to enable more robust evaluations of AI models before deployment. The Committee notes DARPA’s ongoing efforts, including the Securing Artificial Intelligence for Battlefield Effective Robustness program, that would be further complemented by this research focus. The Committee further encourages that, to the extent practicable, research results should be shared with the broader scientific community when such distribution does not compromise classified information or national security interests.”

11. For Senator Hagerty:

Report language:

In the appropriate place in the report, insert the following:

“Alternative Refractory Powders.—The Committee is aware of the need to reduce reliance on Chinese supply chains for refractory powders that are critical for hypersonic missile components. Therefore, the Committee directs the Secretary of Defense to prioritize development of a domestically-produced, lower-cost, reduced-hafnium replacement for the C-103 alloy. No later than 90 days after the enactment of this act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a proposed strategy and spend plan for alternative refractory powders.”

12. For Senator Moran

Report language:

In the appropriate place in the report, insert the following:

“Military Medical Treatment Facilities.—The Committee directs the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs to notify the congressional defense committees no fewer than 180 days prior to any decision to reduce, realign, or otherwise modify the scope of services at a military medical treatment facility. Each congressional notification shall include a detailed justification for the proposed change, including impacts on readiness, access, and quality of care; a summary of

engagement with affected service members, families, and installation leadership; a transition plan outlining continuity of care measures, referral processes, and local healthcare coordination; an explanation of how the change aligns with broader readiness and medical training goals; and the associated cost and timeline for implementation.

13. For Senator Hoeven:

Report language:

In the appropriate place in the report, insert the following:

“Remote Split Operations.”—The Committee notes that the expanded use of remote split operations could significantly enable intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance efforts, particularly in the United States Africa Command [USAFRICOM] theater. Therefore, the Committee directs the Commander, USAFRICOM to provide a report to the congressional defense committees, not later than 180 days after the enactment of this act, identifying platforms and efforts that would benefit from additional remote split operations, as well as any cost savings associated with each effort.”

14. For Senator Merkley:

Report language:

In the appropriate place in the report, insert the following:

“Lifesaving Safety Station.”—The Committee is aware of the General Services Administration's Bulletin FMR C-2024-01, "Safety Station Program Guidelines in Federal Facilities." The Committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide the congressional defense committees with a briefing, not later than 60 days after enactment of this act, on the Department of Defense's progress in implementing these guidelines to establish automated external defibrillators, opioid reversal agents, and hemorrhagic control programs.”

15. For Senator Merkley

Report language:

In the appropriate place in the report, insert the following:

Audit to Identify Prohibited Seafood Imports.—The Committee directs the Inspector General of the Department of Defense to submit a report to the congressional defense committees not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this act, assessing the extent to which the Department has policies and procedures in place to ensure that the food the Department procures does not include seafood originating in the People's Republic of China prohibited under the Uyghur

Forced Labor Prevention Act (Public Law 117-78) and section 302A of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (Public Law 115- 44).

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Jeffrey A. Merkley

Defense Amendment - Senator Merkley – Amendment #9

July 31, 2025

Making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. MERKLEY:

Viz: At the appropriate place, insert the following:

Use of 6PPD in Tires. --The Committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit a report, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this act, on the use of the chemical N-(1,3-dimethylbutyl)-N'-phenyl-p-phenylenediamine [6PPD] in the design and production of tires procured by the Department of Defense. The report shall include a listing of Department of Defense initiatives, if any, researching potential alternatives to 6PPD in tire production.