



SECRETARY OF THE ARMY WASHINGTON

December 12, 2023

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Murray,

I appreciate the opportunity to identify the impacts of a year-long continuing resolution (CR) in Fiscal Year 2024 on the United States Army. The significant consequences for our recruiting efforts, acquisition portfolio, and military construction program would diminish the Army's ability to achieve its mission in support of the National Defense Strategy, including by taking care of our people. I urge Congress to pass a full-year appropriation for FY 2024.

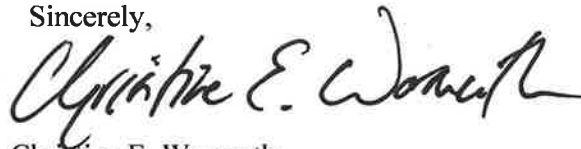
A year-long CR would have significant negative effects on the Department of the Army (DA), which has never gone a full year without an appropriation. The limited dollar impact on the DA topline budget would be magnified by an inability to prioritize spending across portfolios, the continued loss of purchasing power, and the inability to start new programs. While the Army and its Soldiers will always show up to protect our nation, a full-year CR would severely constrain our ability to achieve our mission while making crucial investments in future capabilities. With our country facing the most dangerous security environment in decades, we need to avoid the harm a year-long CR would inflict on our force.

- **Recruiting:** A year-long CR would constrain the Army's recruiting efforts by limiting funds available to participate in large prospecting events, increase marketing efforts, and complete projects needed to maintain the Army's competitiveness in the talent marketplace. Once we begin paying for our soldiers' well-earned 5.2% pay raise on January 1, not accounted for in CR funding levels, there will be less money available for recruiting bonuses and incentives.
- **Housing:** Military construction projects cannot begin under a CR, so the Army would have to delay initiation of 35 projects, including five barracks and four family housing projects precisely at a time when we are working hard to improve our aging barracks.
- **Audit-Related Business Systems:** A year-long CR would prevent the Army from initiating research and development efforts on business systems that would enhance audit readiness.
- **Long-Range Fires:** A year-long CR would also set back acquisition efforts in the long-range fires portfolio, a critical Army contribution in the Pacific Theater. The Army would have to delay fielding of the Mid-Range Capability to the first unit equipped, as well as postpone a funding increase needed to purchase five Lower Tier Air and Missile Defense Sensor, a critical new sensor for our integrated air and missile defense systems.
- **AMPV:** The Army will be unable to award a \$555M follow-on contract to maximize production rates for the Armored Multi-Purpose Vehicle (AMPV) production line under a CR.

- **Abrams:** Under a CR, the Army could not initiate \$102M of advance procurement necessary for future production of the Abrams tank.
- **Munitions:** The Army cannot exercise its Multi-Year Procurement authority to purchase additional Patriot missiles or begin construction on a Guided Missile Maintenance Building under a CR. This will impede our ability to send a consistent demand signal to industry and will limit production and maintenance capacity on critical munitions needed to sustain Ukraine in its fight against Russia.
- **Organic Industrial Base:** A year-long CR would delay eight projects vital to the operation of the Organic Industrial Base (OIB). These include MILCON projects at the Detroit Arsenal, Letterkenny Army Depot, and Red River Army Depot, as well as three upgrade efforts in Lima, OH and one each in Watervliet, NY and Rock Island, IL.

A full-year appropriation would allow the Army to invest in these needed capabilities—including our most valuable asset, our people—as we seek to match the pacing threat, support Ukraine against Russian aggression, and care for our soldiers, civilians, and their families. I appreciate your continued support for the Army.

Sincerely,



Christine E. Wormuth
Secretary of the Army

cc:
The Honorable Susan Collins
Vice Chair