



COMMITTEE *on* APPROPRIATIONS

VICE CHAIRMAN PATRICK LEAHY

For Immediate Release:
December 21, 2020

Contact:
Jay Tilton: (202) 224-2667

SUMMARY

DEFENSE SUBCOMMITTEE

FISCAL YEAR 2021 APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Washington, D.C. – The fiscal year 2021 Department of Defense Appropriations Bill provides \$695.9 billion to the Department of Defense, including \$68.7 billion in Overseas Contingency Operations. The amounts are \$2.1 billion less than the President’s budget request, and \$9.7 billion less than fiscal year 2020 enacted appropriations.

Key Points & Highlights

Supporting Military Families

The agreement provides \$157 billion for military personnel funding, an increase of \$7 billion over the fiscal year 2020 enacted amount. This funding provides the resources for a military pay raise of 3 percent. The funding also allows for an increase of 10,300 military personnel.

The bill increases efforts to end sexual assault and harassment in the Armed Forces by providing \$46 million for Special Victims’ Counsels, an increase of 32 percent compared to last year.

The bill continues the modernization of public schools located on military bases, which have been identified as having poor or overcrowded conditions, by adding \$284 million for replacement of these facilities. The agreement also includes \$60 million for the Defense Community Infrastructure Program, a 20 percent increase from last year’s level. This program builds new recreation centers, child care centers, and educational programs to enrich the lives of military families.

Innovation at the Department of Defense

For the third year in a row, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act provides record amounts of funding for research and development programs. The agreement provides \$107.1 billion in military R&D, an increase of 2.5 percent from last year, and \$2.7 billion in defense medical research, a 6 percent increase from last year.

This innovation funding provides increases to next-generation technologies including hypersonics research, unmanned systems, military applications of 5G, and more. The amounts also continue development of major weapons systems including the Army’s Future Vertical Lift program, the Navy’s MQ-25 Stingray unmanned drone, and the Air Force’s B-21 Raider bomber.

The increased defense medical research funding includes funding for research on diseases of significant impact to service members and their families, including \$150 million for breast cancer research, \$175 million for traumatic brain injury and psychological health, \$110 million for prostate cancer research, and more.

Modernization

Along with longer term investment in future military capabilities, the agreement increases investment in the immediate modernization of military equipment by providing \$136.5 billion in procurement, which is a 5 percent increase over the amounts requested by the Administration in fiscal year 2021.

For example, the Trump Administration's military budget request under-funded F-35 production by \$2 billion, the Navy P-8 Poseidon patrol aircraft by \$1.6 billion, and shipbuilding by \$3.4 billion. The agreement corrects these critical shortfalls by adding 17 additional F-35 Lightning II aircraft, nine P-8 airplanes, and one Virginia-class submarine, as well as additional increases to key defense programs.

The agreement includes a new \$100 million program for the Department of Defense to invest in the American defense industrial base and supply chain resiliency. This funding will provide the building blocks to increase U.S. manufacturing jobs, reduce dependence on foreign raw materials and technologies, and increase American innovation for future defense needs.

Overseas Contingency Operations

The agreement provides \$68.7 billion for Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO). The amounts are sufficient to support foreseeable overseas military operations consistent with the provisions of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2021 that require certain studies to be completed before additional troop withdrawals are authorized.

The agreement also eliminates \$2 billion in unneeded spending for the Afghan Security Forces Fund, which has been subject of numerous critical reports by the Special Inspector for Afghanistan Reconstruction. Nearly half of the reduction comes from funds provided last year, but have not been spent.

The agreement also includes more than \$16 billion in operation and maintenance funding for non-OCO needs, such as routine maintenance and training. These funds were requested by the Trump Administration in fiscal year 2021 to circumvent defense budget caps. Use of such funding maneuvers calls into question the use of the OCO budget category in future budget requests.

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