



BILL SUMMARY: Defense Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriations Bill

Bill invests in servicemembers and military families, America's national security

Washington, D.C. – The fiscal year 2026 Defense Appropriations Act provides \$838.7 billion in total funding, \$8.4 billion above the budget request.

Key Points & Highlights

Supporting Servicemembers, Military Families, and Defense Communities:

Servicemember Pay: The bill fully funds the 3.8% across-the-board pay raise for servicemembers requested in the president's budget request, as well as the junior enlisted pay raise. It also fully funds a 1% pay raise for civilians that was not included in the president's budget request.

Medical Research: The bill provides an additional \$1.7 billion above the request and more than \$770 million above fiscal year 2025 for defense medical research—for a total of \$2.7 billion. This includes \$1.27 billion for the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP). The full year continuing resolution, drafted by House Republicans and signed by President Trump, cut funding for defense medical research spending by over 40% in fiscal year 2025.

Child Care & Early Education: The bill fully funds the operation, renovation, and repair of child development centers, as well as the Child Care Fee Assistance Program. It also supports full-day, universal pre-K for our military families.

Suicide Prevention and Response: The bill fully funds suicide prevention and response, which supports continued implementation of the recommendations of the Suicide Prevention and Response Independent Review Committee. It also designates suicide prevention as a research area within the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs' Peer-Reviewed Medical Research Program.

Sexual Assault Prevention: The bill provides \$47 million for the Special Victims' Counsel (SVC) program to help survivors of sexual assault and requires a report on implementation of recommendations from the Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault in the Military, the SVC program, the prevention workforce, and other sexual assault prevention initiatives.

Defense Communities and Environmental Mitigation: The bill makes substantial investments in defense communities, including: \$70 million for Impact Aid programs; \$30 million for the Defense Community Infrastructure Program; \$159 million above the request for PFAS cleanup and related activities; and \$20 million above the request for the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration program.

Investing in America's Alliances & Partnerships:

The bill provides \$819 billion above President Trump's request for security cooperation with allies and partners, including:

- Europe: The agreement underscores Congress' "ironclad" support for NATO's territorial integrity and its thirty-two member states in the face of threats by President Trump to forcibly seize Greenland. The bill rejects President Trump's proposal to eliminate support for Ukraine and instead provides \$400 million, the same sum authorized last month in the fiscal year 2026 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The bill also rejects President Trump's proposal to eliminate funding for the Baltic Security Initiative, which invests in security cooperation with Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, and instead provides \$200 million to support the initiative. The bill adds \$48.47 million for European Command unfunded priorities to enhance collective defense, and it rejects President Trump's request to cut funding for the George C. Marshall Center for Security Studies.
- Asia: The bill provides \$1 billion for the Taiwan Security Cooperation Initiative, rejecting a cut proposed by House Republicans. The bill also provides \$40 million to bolster the Philippines national security forces, \$10 million for IndoPacific Command unfunded priorities, and increases funding for AUKUS Pillar II research by \$40 million above the budget request, including by expanding opportunities for the trilateral partnership to work through the Defense Innovation Unit.
- Middle East: The bill provides an additional \$15 million above the request for Jordan, and an additional \$10 million above the request for Bahrain. The bill also provides \$35 million above the budget request, for a total of \$50 million, to support the Lebanese Armed Forces in stabilizing southern Lebanon. The bill adds \$19.67 million above the request for Central Command unfunded priorities and fully funds the Counter-ISIS Train and Equip Fund for Iraq and Syria.
- Africa: The bill also provides \$25 million above the budget request for the Commander of USAFRICOM to expand cooperation and advance interoperability in the face of increased aggression by the Chinese government.

Investing in Military Modernization:

Munitions: The bill provides \$2.947 billion in additional munitions and industrial capacity across the military services. It grants authority for eight multi-year procurement contracts to increase magazine depth and expand production capacity, including \$894 million above the budget request to fully fund the LRASM, JASSM, and SM-3 Block 1B requirements. The bill also makes significant downpayments to accelerate the remaining multi-year procurement requests, including a total of \$981.9 million for PAC-3, SM-6, THADD, Tomahawk, and AMRAAM. The bill also provides a total of \$650 million for investment and expansion of solid rocket motors, including \$150 million for the qualification and testing of second and third source providers. It adds \$140 million above the request for additional PrSM quantities and \$115 million to accelerate MACE, a low-cost cruise missile. The bill also provides an additional \$1.345 billion above the budget request for drone and counter-drone modernization across the joint force.

Army Modernization: The bill supports the Army's force structure and acquisition program modernization efforts as it adapts to the new way in which conflicts are fought and military force is exercised. It provides \$59 million above the request for Abrams tank upgrades; \$232 million to procure additional UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters; \$360 million for AH-64 Apache Block IIIA remans; \$175 million to maintain development of the next generation helicopter engine; and fully funds CH-47 Chinook.

Navy Modernization: The bill provides \$27.15 billion, \$6.5 billion above the budget request, in support of shipbuilding. The bill makes extensive investments to fix budgetary shortfalls resulting from Republicans' budget reconciliation bill with increases of: \$1.92 billion (\$2.74 billion total) for Virginia-class submarines; \$462 million (\$1.676 billion total) for completion of prior year shipbuilding programs; \$282.6 million for submarine optics, DDG modifications, and missile decoys; \$242 million to accelerate FF(X) and \$100 million for frigate workforce support; \$100 million for auxiliary vessels; and \$23 million for outfitting. The bill also includes an additional \$1.75 billion for DDG-51 destroyers advance procurement and industrial base support.

The bill rejects the Department's continued delays to the Navy's sixth-generation fighter (F/A-XX), providing an additional \$971.5 million, and it provides \$500 million for four additional C-130Js for the Navy Reserve.

Marine Corps Modernization: The bill provides \$800 million for additional Medium Landing Ships and \$313 million for additional CH-53Ks.

Air Force Modernization: The bill rejects the proposed cancellation of the E-7 Wedgetail early warning aircraft program, a critical battle management capability, and provides an additional \$900 million for this capability. It also includes \$3.2 billion for the F-47 and Collaborative Combat Aircraft programs and supports continued development of the Air Force's components of the nuclear triad: the B-21 Raider and

Sentinel. The bill ensures adequate procurement funding for key Air Force programs, including: \$976 million for six additional C-130J aircraft for the Air National Guard, \$474.4 million for two additional EA-37B Compass Call aircraft, and \$100 million for additional Combat Rescue Helicopters.

Space Modernization: The bill provides \$50 million above the budget request to help protect the Space Development Agency's Proliferated Warfighter Space Architecture program, which prioritizes competition in proliferated LEO satellite communications networks and will deliver capability more quickly. The bill provides \$132 million above the budget request for commercial services, and supports combatant commanders' need for timely tactical information by rejecting cuts sought by the administration. The bill also adds \$45.5 million above the request level for infrastructure improvements at state launch facilities to provide greater diversity of launch providers and to keep up with increasing demand for launches.

The bill protects competition by prohibiting the Space Force from awarding sole-source or non-competitive contracts for space-based airborne moving target indication systems and by requiring fairness and competition in awarding space launch sites.

National Guard and Reserves: The bill includes \$26.3 million above the budget request, for a total of \$73.8 million, for the State Partnership Program, which funds training and exercises with U.S. allies. It also includes \$976 million above the budget request to procure C-130Js for an additional Air National Guard squadron, continuing the modernization of the Air National Guard's tactical lift capabilities. Finally, the bill provides \$800 million for the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account to support the reserve components' modernization needs.

Reconciliation Funding Shortfalls: The bill addresses more than \$4.6 billion in dangerous budget shortfalls created the president's decision to request a portion of critical fiscal year 2026 defense capabilities through a partisan and highly uncertain legislative process, coupled with poor decisions made by congressional Republicans in drafting their reconciliation bill last summer. This includes \$1.9 billion to fully fund the Navy's ship operations, previously noted shipbuilding impacts totaling several billion dollars, and \$130 million for the Marine Corps' Barracks 2030.

Rejecting Unsound Policy and Reasserting Congress' Role:

Extreme Republican Riders: The bill rejects all House Republican poison pill riders—19 in total.

Rejecting Unnecessary Requests: The bill does not fulfill the president's requests for more than \$737 million to support domestic military deployments or for \$806 million in additional funding for SOUTHCOM.

Oversight and Accountability: The bill restores the legally binding funding tables, reporting mechanisms, and other guardrails carried annually in the defense appropriations bill, which were stripped out under Republicans' fiscal year 2025 continuing resolution. The bill closes a loophole that would have allowed the president to shift hundreds of billions of dollars into military construction projects of his choosing. Finally, the bill returns General Transfer Authority to \$6 billion, down from \$8 billion provided in Republicans' fiscal year 2025 continuing resolution—reasserting Congress' control over key spending decisions.

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