



BILL SUMMARY: Defense Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriations Bill

Bill invests in supporting servicemembers and military families, strengthening America's national security and partnerships across the globe

Washington, D.C. – The fiscal year 2026 Defense Appropriations Act provides \$852.45 billion in total funding—\$21.72 billion above the president's budget request—and is focused on improving the quality of life for servicemembers and their families, as well as in our military communities; strengthening alliances and security partnerships; and modernizing our military to deter adversaries and prevent conflicts.

Key Points & Highlights

Supporting Servicemembers, Military Families, and Defense Communities:

Compensation: 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 fully funds the basic allowance for subsistence and increases basic allowance for housing to 100%, eliminating the 5% out-of-pocket assumption for servicemembers that has been in place since 2019.

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, and other sexual assault prevention initiatives.

Medical Research: The bill provides over \$2 billion for defense medical research, including \$897 million for the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP), \$197 million more than House Republicans' bill. The fiscal year 2025 continuing resolution drafted by House Republicans, which President Trump signed into law, cut funding for defense medical by over 40% in fiscal year 2025.

Defense Communities and Environmental Mitigation: The bill makes substantial investments in defense communities, including: \$130 million for the Defense Community Infrastructure Program and \$183 million for defense environmental mitigation activities—\$160 million above the budget request—including: \$135 million more for PFAS cleanup and related activities; and \$25 million more for the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration program.

Strengthening Allies & Partners:

Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative (USAI): The bill rejects President Trump's proposal to eliminate support to Ukraine through the initiative and instead funds USAI at \$800 million.

Supporting Taiwan and Indo-Pacific Partners: The bill fully supports replenishment of Presidential Drawdown Authority for Taiwan (\$150 million in discretionary funding), and includes \$1.5 billion (an increase of \$500 million) for the Indo-Pacific Security Assistance Initiative to support key allies like Taiwan and the Philippines. The bill also increases fund AUKUS Pillar II research by \$20 million above the budget request, and realigns part of the request to the military services to strengthen execution, in furtherance of continued collaboration with Australia and the United Kingdom.

Europe: The bill rejects President Trump's proposal to eliminate funding for the Baltic Security Initiative's security cooperation with Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, and instead provides \$225 million to support the initiative. The bill adds \$119.3 million for European Command unfunded priorities to enhance collective defense, and rejects President Trump's request to cut funding for the George C. Marshall Center for Security Studies.

Security Cooperation: The bill provides \$1.299 billion for security cooperation with allies and partners, including an additional \$50 million above the request level for Jordan, and an additional \$50 million 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, and fully funds the Counter-ISIS Train and Equip Fund for Iraq and Syria. The bill also provides \$400 million above the budget request for the Commanders of USSOUTHCOM and USAFRICOM to expand cooperation and advance interoperability in the face of increased aggression by the Chinese government.

National Guard and Reserves: The bill includes \$25 million above the budget request, for a total of \$72.5 million, for the State Partnership Program, which funds training and exercises with allies. It also includes \$1.5 billion above the budget request in order to procure C-130Js for an additional Air National Guard squadron, continuing the modernization of the Air National Guard's tactical lift capabilities.

Munitions: The bill provides \$5.2 billion for munitions above the budget request, including LRASM, JASSM, AMRAAM, AIM-9X, PrSM, SDB II, JATM, SM-3, and SM-6. The bill also provides \$2.1 billion for increased facilitization, including for the PAC-3 MSE Patriot seeker, cruise missile motors, and THAAD capacity.

Army Modernization: The bill provides \$217 million above the budget request for UAS and counter-UAS systems, for a total of more than \$800 million and \$693 million, respectively. It provides \$220 million above the request for Abrams tank upgrades; \$50 million for advance procurement for 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 and UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters.

Navy Modernization: The bill provides \$29.31 billion—\$8.67 billion above the budget request—in support of shipbuilding, including in order to support submarine production and restore shortfalls resulting from the split budget request and Republicans' budget reconciliation bill. This includes an increase of \$1.47 billion (\$5.4 billion total) for Columbia-class submarines and an increase of \$1.925 billion (\$6.992 billion total) for advance procurement; an increase of \$1.92 billion (\$2.735 billion total) for Virginia-class submarines and \$615.9 million (\$3.742 billion total) for advance procurement; \$460.8 million for DDG-51 destroyers and \$1.3 billion in advance procurement; \$100 million for the Frigate industrial base; and an increase of \$462 million (\$1.676 billion total) to correct budget reconciliation shortfalls in completion of prior year shipbuilding programs. The bill also rejects President Trump's proposed cuts and provides \$1.4 billion for the Navy's sixth-generation fighter (F/A-XX) and \$199 million for an additional C-130J aircraft for the Navy Reserve.

Air Force Modernization: The bill fully supports the Air Force's robust modernization drive and ensures that key programs targeted for cancellation by the Trump administration are preserved. Notably, the bill provides \$647 million to restore development of the E-7 Wedgetail early warning aircraft program, a critical battle management capability that will enable an enduring U.S. advantage in the Indo-Pacific. Additionally, it includes \$2.69 billion for the F-47 and Collaborative Combat Aircraft programs and supports continued development of the Air Force's components of the nuclear triad: B-21 Raider and Sentinel. The bill also ensures adequate procurement funding for key Air Force programs, including: \$1.5 billion for eight additional C-130J aircraft for the Air National Guard, \$618.9 million for two additional EA-37B Compass Call aircraft, and \$200 million for additional Combat Rescue Helicopters.

Space Modernization: The bill provides \$500 million above the budget request to restore the Space Development Agency's Tranche 3 Transport Layer program, which will protect competition in proliferated LEO satellite communications networks and delivery capability more quickly. The bill provides \$199 million—\$105 million above the budget request—for commercial imagery providers, rejecting cuts sought in President Trump's budget request and helping meet the high demand by combatant commanders for timely tactical information. The bill also adds \$45 million above the request level for infrastructure improvements at state launch facilities to provide greater diversity and keep up with increasing demand for launches.

Defense Industrial Base: The bill provides more than \$650 million in direct industrial base investments, including microelectronics, critical chemicals, and hypersonics.

Global Readiness: The bill provides an additional \$1.9 billion above the budget request to restore readiness activities in the military services' operation and maintenance accounts, which were significantly reduced in the fiscal year 2025 continuing resolution, including depot and ship maintenance, flying hours, steaming hours, prepositioning of stocks, and other operational needs.

Infrastructure: The bill provides \$2.2 billion above President Trump's budget request for facilities sustainment, restoration, and modernization, including at critical shipyards, airfields, depots, as well as the \$1 billion shortfall in the Marine Corps' Barracks 2030 created by Republicans' budget reconciliation bill.

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