



BILL SUMMARY: Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriations Bill

Legislation fully funds veterans medical care and benefits, invests in national security infrastructure

Washington, D.C. – The Fiscal Year 2026 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act provides the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and related agencies \$133.3 billion in non-defense discretionary funding, as well as \$300.4 billion in mandatory funding, to fulfill our nation’s obligations to our veterans. The bill also provides advance appropriations for our veterans in fiscal year 2027, including \$122.3 billion for veterans’ medical care and \$262 billion for veterans benefits. In addition, the bill includes \$19.84 billion in defense spending for military construction and family housing for fiscal year 2026.

Key Points & Highlights – Department of Veterans Affairs

VA Medical Care: The bill funds discretionary VA medical care at \$114.9 billion, more than \$2.2 billion above fiscal year 2025—delivering the funding necessary to provide essential health services for more than 9.2 million veterans. Additionally, the bill provides \$49.8 billion in mandatory funding into the Cost of War Toxic Exposures Fund to cover the costs of health care related to toxic exposures and expanded eligibility in the PACT Act. This bill funds critical priorities including:

- **Rural Health** – \$342 million to support improved access to care, including expanded access to transportation and telehealth.
- **Caregivers** – \$3.5 billion, \$235 million more than the president’s budget request, to help VA fully implement this critical program and ensure legacy participants can keep their eligibility and benefits.
- **Women’s Health** – \$1.4 billion, \$96 million more than the president’s request for gender-specific health care services, programmatic initiatives, and improvements to health care facilities to support women veterans.
- **Veteran Homelessness Prevention** – \$3.5 billion, \$138 million more than fiscal year 2025, to support critical services and housing assistance for veterans and their families experiencing housing insecurity.
- **Mental Health** – \$18.9 billion, \$2.2 billion more than fiscal year 2025, to get veterans the mental health services they need and deserve. This includes \$698 million for suicide prevention outreach.

- Child Care – \$21.7 million to expand the Child Care Pilot Program and eliminate barriers for veterans in need of child care while attending medical appointments, as well as an additional \$3 million specifically for infrastructure modifications to support the Department's efforts to create drop-in child care centers.

Benefits Administration: The bill provides \$4.1 billion to administer benefits—including disability compensation benefits—to nearly 7 million veterans and their survivors. This is in addition to \$1.4 billion in mandatory funding through the Toxic Exposures Fund, which will allow the Veterans Benefits Administration to process claims filed as a result of the PACT Act. These funds will support VA's efforts to increase the number and scope of claims while decreasing the claims backlog.

Medical and Prosthetics Research: The bill provides \$943 million for medical and prosthetics research. This funding supports ongoing and new research in areas such as traumatic brain injury and precision oncology and is augmented by \$57 million in additional funding for research into toxic exposures through the Toxic Exposures Fund.

Infrastructure: The bill strengthens VA's infrastructure by providing \$2.103 billion for major and minor construction, \$449.7 million over fiscal year 2025, and by making \$900 million available for construction from the Recurring Expenses Transformation Fund. The bill further provides \$171 million for construction of state extended care facilities and \$60 million for construction of state, territory, and Tribal veterans cemeteries.

Information Technology: The bill provides \$5.9 billion for information technology systems, in addition to funding previously provided through the Cost of War Toxic Exposures Fund to support PACT Act implementation. In addition, the bill provides \$3.48 billion in funding for the Electronic Health Record (EHR) Modernization effort for the continued improvement at current sites and expanded deployment to 13 new sites that the Secretary announced in the spring. To ensure oversight, the bill withholds 25% of the EHR funds until VA certifies that safety and clinical performance standards are met and provides an updated lifetime cost assessment and staffing assessment.

Honoring Our PACT Act: The Fiscal Responsibility Act provided \$52.7 billion for the Toxic Exposures Fund for fiscal year 2026, which funds the full request and is more than \$22 billion above what was made available in fiscal year 2025.

Key Points & Highlights – Military Construction

Strengthening National Security: The bill provides a historic level of funding for nearly 300 military construction and family housing projects, as well as for minor construction and design accounts. These projects support operational requirements by providing new training, maintenance, and research and development facilities, modernizing infrastructure enabling the Nuclear Triad, and supporting new aircraft beddowns. The bill includes \$1.48 billion in support of the Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Program for the design and construction of projects at each of the four public shipyards.

Supporting Our Servicemembers and Military Families: The bill provides nearly \$1.9 billion for new family housing construction and to maintain and upgrade existing units, as well as an additional \$30 million to strengthen oversight of privatized housing. Additionally, it includes over \$3.5 billion for community facilities such as child development and youth centers, schools, medical facilities, fitness centers, dining halls, water treatment plants, and troop housing. This includes over \$1 billion for the design and construction of barracks to increase the availability of quality housing for unaccompanied troops and nearly \$380 million for the design and construction of child development centers.

Critical Overseas Infrastructure: The bill strengthens our global defense posture by providing more than \$2.5 billion for Pacific Deterrence Initiative projects across the Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM) theater, and it builds on prior year efforts to enable early investment in planning for future military infrastructure needs in the region. Additionally, recognizing the importance of infrastructure to a sustained and capable U.S. and allied military presence in Europe, the bill funds over \$1.6 billion for projects and accounts that support our European posture—including \$482 million for the NATO Security Investment Program, fully funding the U.S. cost share for NATO military construction projects.

Installation and Energy Resilience: The bill continues efforts to ensure our bases and military infrastructure across the globe are resilient by providing over \$1 billion for construction and design. This includes \$730 million for the Energy Resilience and Conservation Investment Program, which funds over a dozen microgrid and power resilience facilities to improve installation energy reliability and security.

Key Points & Highlights – Related Agencies

Arlington National Cemetery: This bill continues unwavering support for Arlington National Cemetery and its future as an active cemetery by providing \$118.8 million for operational costs.

American Battle Monuments Commission: Recognizing the important mission of the American Battle Monuments Commission, the bill provides \$108.3 million, which is \$2 million over the president's budget request. This funding supports the operation and maintenance of 26 American military burial grounds, including facility, utility infrastructure, and visitor center improvements.

Armed Forces Retirement Home: The bill provides a total of \$79 million, \$2 million over the president's budget request, to fund operations and maintenance activities at the Armed Forces Retirement Home campuses in Washington, D.C., and Gulfport, Mississippi.

Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims: This bill provides \$49 million for the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims and supports the court's capacity to adjudicate appeals in a timely manner.