



SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON

SEP 18 2024

The Honorable Susan Collins
Vice Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Collins:

I am writing today to identify the impacts of a six-month Continuing Resolution (CR) on the United States Army and to urge Congress to pass a full-year appropriation for Fiscal Year 2025. The Army appreciates the opportunity to share its view on a six-month CR which would have significant consequences on the Army's mission to maintain national security and the quality of life of our soldiers and their families.

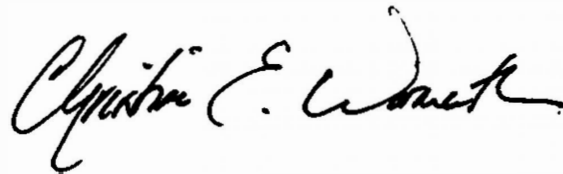
Under a six-month CR, funding would remain at FY24 levels, and the Army would have to delay as much as \$8.2B in critical investments for recruiting, training, and capability development, including 23 new start procurement programs valued at \$400M. The Army's inability to start new programs or realign funds to match emerging needs would reduce our purchasing power and create meaningful cost as well as schedule risk in Army programs.

- **Recruiting.** The Army has made real progress toward meeting its annual accessions goals and transforming the Army recruiting enterprise to sustain and expand its gains in a competitive national job market. A CR would cap funding at FY24 levels and restrict transfers across accounts, which would limit funds available to invest in initiatives essential to achieving these objectives. For example, the Army would be unable to support improvements to our recruiting stations, fund digital training, or provide processing tools for our recruiting workforce. Additionally, paying our soldiers while capped at FY24 funding levels will impact the Army's flexibility to fund recruiting bonuses and incentives.
- **Air and Missile Defense (AMD).** The Army plays a critical role in protecting the Joint Force and enabling offensive maneuver by providing air and missile defense for Joint formations and installations, especially in the Pacific. A six-month CR would harm programs and delay contracts that would bolster these capabilities. For example, a CR would postpone a \$403M planned award for a battalion-sized order of PATRIOT missile hardware and delay development of the Integrated Battle Command System and AMD software capability that links Army and Joint sensors to shooters to improve tracking and defeat of adversary threats.
- **Uncrewed Aerial Systems (UAS).** Lessons learned from the conflict in Ukraine have demonstrated how UAS are reshaping the battlefield. The Army has several investments planned for the first six months of FY25 that will enable it to keep pace with adversaries in this rapidly evolving domain. Specifically, a CR would block initiation of a short-range reconnaissance program focused on building semi-autonomous lower-cost attritable UAS, delay increased production of small UAS to inform the Army requirement for company-level reconnaissance drones, and postpone a significant increase in research funding needed to develop, integrate, and evaluate launched effects systems.

- **Next Generation Squad Weapon (NGSW).** NGSW will increase lethality by providing units with small arms designed for large-scale combat operations. A CR would postpone a planned production rate increase and delay fielding this new capability to two brigade combat teams.
- **Munitions.** The Army remains focused on procuring munitions that are critical to its readiness and to Ukraine's fight against Russian aggression. A six-month CR would delay production of the Guided MLRS Rocket (GMLRS) by preventing advanced procurement of long-lead sub-system components including solid rocket motors, guidance kits, and warhead components. Under a full-year appropriation, advanced purchases of GMLRS components in FY25 would allow the Army to reduce FY26 GMLRS production timelines by twelve months.
- **Organic Industrial Base.** A six-month CR would postpone investments needed to modernize Army organic industrial base facilities and expand their capacity. For example, a CR would delay projects at Holston and Lake City Ammunition plants that would upgrade 1940's-era fire suppression systems, increase explosives production, and build production capability for one-way luminescence ammunition.
- **Military Construction.** If operating under a six-month CR, the Army would not be permitted to initiate five construction projects valued at \$146M that would improve training, supply, and materiel development efforts at installations in Alaska, Kentucky, Washington, Texas, and Michigan. These projects include a machine gun range at Ft. Wainwright, completion of a rail yard at Ft. Bliss, and a crewed/uncrewed vehicle lab at Detroit Arsenal.

The Army stands ready to work with Congress to support full and timely funding of the Army's FY25 budget request through the swift passage of the FY25 Defense and Military Construction-Veterans Affairs Appropriations bills. Thank you for your continued and sustained support for the Army's soldiers, families, and civilians.

Sincerely,



Christine E. Wormuth
Secretary of the Army

cc:
The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair