



NGAUS



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

U.S. House Appropriations Committee
Fiscal Year 2020 Defense Appropriations Act
(H.R. 2968)

As of May 24, 2019

OVERVIEW

On May 21, 2019, the U.S. House Appropriations Committee approved **H.R. 2968**, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020.*

The Committee recommends **\$690.2 billion** for DoD in FY20, which includes **\$622.1 billion** in base and discretionary funding and **\$68.1 billion** in Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funding. The Committee also recommends providing funds to increase Army and Air National Guard Operation and Maintenance (O&M) funding, as well as Air National Guard end strength, above FY19 levels.

LEGISLATIVE CYCLE TIMELINE

Defense Authorizations

President's Budget Release	House Committee NDAA	House-passed NDAA	Senate Committee NDAA	Senate-passed NDAA	Conference Committee	Signed Into Law
✓						
<i>Current Point</i>						

Defense Appropriations

President's Budget Release	House Committee Approps.	House-passed Approps. Bill	Senate Committee Approps.	Senate-passed Approps. Bill	Conference Committee	Signed Into Law
✓	✓					
<i>Current Point</i>						

BILL HIGHLIGHTS

All page references below are within the legislation text document unless otherwise noted.

General Provisions

- **3.1 percent** military personnel pay raise (pg. 6, Report Language)
- **\$1.3 billion** for the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account (NGREA) (pg. 139), includes:
 - \$375.0 million for the Army National Guard (pg. 364, Report Language)
 - \$375.0 million for the Air National Guard (pg. 364, Report Language)

Army National Guard

- Recommends funding for Army National Guard end strength at 336,000 soldiers (pg. 20, Report Language)
- **\$1.4 billion** for 73 UH-60 Black Hawk M model helicopters for the Army (pg. 126, Report Language)
 - Consistent with FY20 DoD request (included 64 Black Hawks for the Army National Guard)

* Funding levels cited in this document are appropriations recommended by the House Appropriations Committee only and are subject to change before final passage.

- **\$169.2 million** for modernization of 25 UH-60 Black Hawk A and L model helicopters (pg. 126, Report Language)
- **\$976.5 million** for 2,530 Joint Light Tactical Vehicles (JLTVs) for the Army (pg. 145, Report Language)
 - Consistent with FY20 DoD request (included 512 JLTVs for the Army National Guard)
- **\$798.7 million** for modernization of 48 AH-64 Apache Block IIIA helicopters for the Army (pg. 126, Report Language)
- **\$100.0 million** for the ARNG High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) modernization program (pg. 145, Report Language)
- Adds **\$25.0 million** for the HMMWV Recapitalization Program for the Army (pg. 145, Report Language)

Air National Guard

- Recommends funding for Air National Guard end strength at 107,700 airmen (pg. 20, Report Language)
- **\$134.0 million** for C-130H modernization (pg. 200, Report Language), includes:
 - \$79.0 million for T-56 3.5 engine upgrades
 - \$55.0 million for NP2000 propellers
- **\$75.0 million** for F-16 Viper Active Electronically Steered Array (AESA) radar upgrades for the Air Force (pg. 200, Report Language)
- **\$5.1 billion** for 60 F-35A Lightning II aircraft for the Air Force (pg. 196, Report Language)
- **\$985.5 million** for 8 F-15EX aircraft for the Air Force (pg. 196, Report Language)
- **\$2.1 billion** for 12 KC-46A Pegasus aircraft for the Air Force (pg. 196, Report Language)
- **\$876.0 million** for 12 HH-60W Combat Rescue Helicopters for the Air Force (pg. 196, Report Language)

Joint-Personnel

- **\$172.2 million** for the National Guard Counter-drug Program (pg. 36)
- **\$5.3 million** for National Guard Counter-drug Schools (pg. 36)
- Adds **\$3.6 million** for the National Guard State Partnership Program (pgs. 52, 55, 116, 119, Report Language)

- Adds **\$50.0 million** for the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program (pg. 97, Report Language)
- Adds **\$35.0 million** for STARBASE (pg. 97, Report Language)

To view the full text of the legislation, please visit:

<https://www.congress.gov/116/bills/hr2968/BILLS-116hr2968rh.pdf>

To view DoD Report Language authored by the House Appropriations Committee, please visit:

<https://www.congress.gov/116/crpt/hrpt84/CRPT-116hrpt84.pdf>

FY20 NATIONAL GUARD ACCOUNTS OVERVIEW

Army National Guard*

Account	FY19 Levels	FY20 Request	FY20 HASC NDAA	FY20 House NDAA	FY20 HAC Mark	FY20 House Approps.	FY20 SASC NDAA	FY20 Senate NDAA	FY20 SAC Mark	FY20 Senate Approps.	Final NDAA Levels	Change From FY19	Final Levels
End Strength	343,500	336,000			336,000								
AGR	30,595	30,595											
Dual Status Techs.	22,294	22,294											
ADOS	17,000												
Summary Personnel	\$8,796,228	\$9,010,969			\$8,867,199								
Personnel Base	\$8,600,945	\$8,808,305			\$8,664,535								
Personnel OCO	\$195,283	\$202,664			\$202,664								
Summary O&M	\$7,229,560	\$7,712,694			\$7,531,827								
O&M Base	\$7,118,831	\$3,335,755			\$7,448,536								
O&M OCO	\$110,729	\$4,376,939			\$83,291								
MILCON	\$190,122	\$210,819			\$210,819								
NGREA	\$421,000				\$375,000								

Air National Guard*

Account	FY19 Levels	FY20 Request	FY20 HASC NDAA	FY20 House NDAA	FY20 HAC Mark	FY20 House Approps.	FY20 SASC NDAA	FY20 Senate NDAA	FY20 SAC Mark	FY20 Senate Approps.	Final NDAA Levels	Change from FY19	Final Levels
End Strength	107,100	107,700			107,700								
AGR	19,861	22,637											
Dual Status Techs.	15,861	13,569											
ADOS	16,000												
Summary Personnel	\$3,704,540	\$4,069,469			\$4,038,145								
Personnel Base	\$3,699,080	\$4,063,845			\$4,032,521								
Personnel OCO	\$5,460	\$5,624			\$5,624								
Summary O&M	\$6,436,567	\$6,904,138			\$6,769,498								
O&M Base	\$6,420,697	\$3,612,156			\$6,592,589								
O&M OCO	\$15,870	\$3,291,982			\$176,909								
MILCON	\$129,126	\$165,971			\$115,971								
NGREA	\$421,000				\$375,000								

*All Dollars in Thousands

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

National Guard Personnel, Army.

For pay, allowances, clothing, subsistence, gratuities, travel, and related expenses for personnel of the Army National Guard while on duty under sections 10211, 10302, or 12402 of title 10 or section 708 of title 32, United States Code, or while serving on duty under section 12301(d) of title 10 or section 502(f) of title 32, United States Code, in connection with performing duty specified in section 12310(a) of title 10, United States Code, or while undergoing training, or while performing drills or equivalent duty or other duty, and expenses authorized by section 16131 of title 10, United States Code; and for payments to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, \$8,664,535,000.

National Guard Personnel, Air Force.

For pay, allowances, clothing, subsistence, gratuities, travel, and related expenses for personnel of the Air National Guard on duty under sections 10211, 10305, or 12402 of title 10 or section 708 of title 32, United States Code, or while serving on duty under section 12301(d) of title 10 or section 502(f) of title 32, United States Code, in connection with performing duty specified in section 12310(a) of title 10, United States Code, or while undergoing training, or while performing drills or equivalent duty or other duty, and expenses authorized by section 16131 of title 10, United States Code; and for payments to the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, \$4,032,521,000.

Operation and Maintenance, Army National Guard.

For expenses of training, organizing, and administering the Army National Guard, including medical and hospital treatment and related expenses in non-Federal hospitals; maintenance, operation, and repairs to structures and facilities; hire of passenger motor vehicles; personnel services in the National Guard Bureau; travel expenses (other than mileage), as authorized by law for Army personnel on active duty, for Army National Guard division, regimental, and battalion commanders while inspecting units in compliance with National Guard Bureau regulations when specifically authorized by the Chief, National Guard Bureau; supplying and equipping the Army National Guard as authorized by law; and expenses of repair, modification, maintenance, and issue of supplies and equipment (including aircraft), \$7,448,536,000.

Operation and Maintenance, Air National Guard.

For expenses of training, organizing, and administering the Air National Guard, including medical and hospital treatment and related expenses in non-Federal hospitals; maintenance, operation, and repairs to structures and facilities; transportation of things, hire of passenger motor vehicles; supplying and equipping the Air National Guard, as authorized by law; expenses for repair, modification, maintenance, and issue of supplies and equipment, including those furnished from stocks under the control of agencies of the Department of Defense; travel expenses (other than mileage) on the same basis as authorized by law for Air National Guard personnel on active Federal duty, for Air National Guard commanders while inspecting units in compliance with National Guard Bureau regulations when specifically authorized by the Chief, National Guard Bureau, \$6,592,589,000.

Drug Interdiction and Counter-drug Activities, Defense.

For drug interdiction and counter-drug activities of the Department of Defense, for transfer to appropriations available to the Department of Defense for military personnel of the reserve components serving under the provisions of title 10 and title 32, United States Code; for operation and maintenance;

for procurement; and for research, development, test and evaluation, \$816,755,000, of which \$517,171,000 shall be for counter-narcotics support; \$121,922,000 shall be for the drug demand reduction program; \$172,291,000 shall be for the National Guard counter-drug program; and \$5,371,000 shall be for the National Guard counter-drug schools program: Provided, That the funds appropriated under this heading shall be available for obligation for the same time period and for the same purpose as the appropriation to which transferred: Provided further, That upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation: Provided further, That the transfer authority provided under this heading is in addition to any other transfer authority contained elsewhere in this Act: Provided further, That section 284 of title 10, United States Code, may only be carried out using amounts appropriated under this heading for counter-narcotics support: Provided further, That amounts appropriated under this heading for counter-narcotics support may not be used for the construction of fences pursuant to subsection (b)(7) of such section: Provided further, That the transfer authority contained in section 8005 in title VIII of this Act shall not apply to amounts made available under this heading: Provided further, That funds appropriated under this heading for counter-narcotics support may only be transferred 14 days following written notification to the congressional defense committees.

SEC. 8042.

None of the funds available in this Act may be used to reduce the authorized positions for military technicians (dual status) of the Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Army Reserve and Air Force Reserve for the purpose of applying any administratively imposed civilian personnel ceiling, freeze, or reduction on military technicians (dual status), unless such reductions are a direct result of a reduction in military force structure.

SEC. 8044.

Funds appropriated in this Act for operation and maintenance of the Military Departments, Combatant Commands and Defense Agencies shall be available for reimbursement of pay, allowances and other expenses which would otherwise be incurred against appropriations for the National Guard and Reserve when members of the National Guard and Reserve provide intelligence or counterintelligence support to Combatant Commands, Defense Agencies and Joint Intelligence Activities, including the activities and programs included within the National Intelligence Program and the Military Intelligence Program: Provided, That nothing in this section authorizes deviation from established Reserve and National Guard personnel and training procedures.

SEC. 8053.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau may permit the use of equipment of the National Guard Distance Learning Project by any person or entity on a space-available, reimbursable basis. The Chief of the National Guard Bureau shall establish the amount of reimbursement for such use on a case-by-case basis.

(b) Amounts collected under subsection (a) shall be credited to funds available for the National Guard Distance Learning Project and be available to defray the costs associated with the use of equipment of the project under that subsection. Such funds shall be available for such purposes without fiscal year limitation.

SEC. 8060.

Notwithstanding section 12310(b) of title 10, United States Code, a Reserve who is a member of the National Guard serving on full-time National Guard duty under section 502(f) of title 32, United States Code, may perform duties in support of the ground-based elements of the National Ballistic Missile Defense System.

SEC. 8062.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, or his designee, may waive payment of all or part of the consideration that otherwise would be required under section 2667 of title 10, United States Code, in the case of a lease of personal property for a period not in excess of 1 year to any organization specified in section 508(d) of title 32, United States Code, or any other youth, social, or fraternal nonprofit organization as may be approved by the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, or his designee, on a case-by-case basis.

National Guard Personnel, Army (OCO).

For an additional amount for “National Guard Personnel, Army,” \$202,644,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

National Guard Personnel, Air Force (OCO).

For an additional amount for “National Guard Personnel, Air Force,” \$5,624,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

Operation and Maintenance, Army National Guard (OCO).

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Army National Guard,” \$83,291,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

Operation and Maintenance, Air National Guard (OCO).

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Air National Guard,” \$176,909,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account (NGREA).

For procurement of rotary-wing aircraft; combat, tactical and support vehicles; other weapons; and other procurement items for the reserve components of the Armed Forces, \$1,300,000,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2022: Provided, That the Chiefs of National Guard and Reserve components shall, not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act, individually submit to the congressional defense committees the modernization priority assessment for their respective National Guard or Reserve component: Provided further, That none of the funds made available by this paragraph

may be used to procure manned fixed wing aircraft, or procure or modify missiles, munitions, or ammunition: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

REPORT LANGUAGE

Positioning the F-35 Program for Continued Success

The Committee continues to recommend strong support for the F-35 program. The Committee recognizes that the F-35 is critical to the ability of the Department of Defense to meet the demands of the National Defense Strategy and its emphasis on great power competition, a component of which is the rapid advances made by adversaries in anti-air and basing access denial capabilities designed to negate United States advantages in technology and operational expertise.

The Committee observes that the Department of Defense, and the Air Force in particular, have sent conflicting and confusing signals with respect to the F-35 program. The fiscal year 2020 request repeats a pattern of shifting aircraft quantities to future years, reducing the planned procurement from 84 to 78. Further, the Air Force submitted a fiscal year 2020 budget request that flattens F-35A procurement at 48 aircraft per year through the future years defense program despite the F-35A program of record remaining stable at 1,763 aircraft. The Committee also observes that departmental and Service leaders consistently have expressed concern about F-35 operation and sustainment costs. At the same time, the Chief of Naval Operations, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, and the Chief of Staff of the Air Force submitted unfunded requirements lists that included twelve additional F-35As, two additional F-35Bs, and four additional F-35Cs. The Committee recommendation includes \$1,042,800,000 for 12 additional F-35A aircraft, fully funds the Block 4 development program, and fully funds the requested increases for spares and depot activation.

The Committee acknowledges the Department's justified concerns regarding F-35 sustainment. The global F-35 fleet is projected to more than triple in size by 2023. As detailed in a recent report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the F-35 is failing to meet warfighter targets for availability and mission capable rates, even for later production aircraft. GAO identified spare parts as a major driver of this problem. Currently the F-35 enterprise is unable to comprehensively and accurately inventory parts, efficiently move parts between locations, accurately match deployable spares packages to deploying units, or capture cost information for all the parts that are procured. The Committee strongly supports the Department's plans to strengthen organic F-35 sustainment capability. The Committee understands the Department has requested, but as of May 2019 has not received, a proposal from the prime contractor for the data necessary to provision an organic supply chain and catalogue all F-35 parts in the Department's supply inventory. While the Committee fully funds the \$728,671,000 requested for additional spares in the Navy and Air Force's procurement budgets, the Committee lacks full confidence that such funding or the spare parts to be acquired will be used efficiently and believes that acquiring the cost and technical data for spare parts is a necessary step toward solving this problem. The Committee therefore directs that no more than 50 percent of these funds may be obligated or expended until 15 days after the Director of the F-35 Joint Program Office submits a certification to the congressional defense committees that the Department of Defense has received an adequate cost proposal for such data. The Committee further directs the Secretary of Defense to include the costs

of acquiring these data, and the accounts in which such costs are to be funded, in future budget exhibits (beginning with fiscal year 2021) and briefing materials for the congressional defense committees.

Trauma Training Program

The Committee recognizes the valuable support that universities, hospitals, and other military partners provide by offering civilian based emergency response trauma and critical care training including public health, bio-environmental, and biomedical instruction to sustain capabilities of the National Guard Enhanced Response Forces Packages, National Guard Homeland Response Forces, and Army Reserve Consequence Management Response Forces. The Committee encourages the Director of the National Guard Bureau and the Chiefs of the reserve components to continue pursuing advanced trauma and public health training with these civilian partners in order to maintain unit readiness. The Committee also encourages the development of enhanced medical and critical care preparedness programs.

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response

The Committee is troubled by the ongoing epidemic of sexual assault in the military and at the Service academies and believes that this will persist until a change in culture occurs across all Services at every level. The Department of Defense provides an annual report to Congress which provides details on sexual assaults involving servicemembers. However, the most recent report's findings make it clear that more action by the Department is necessary to combat this widespread problem. In addition to the annual report, the Committee directs the Director of the Department of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office to brief the House and Senate Appropriations Committees not later than 30 days after the enactment of this Act on the initiatives the Department is implementing to reform how the military prevents, responds to, and adjudicates sexual assault cases, as well as the efforts underway to develop robust research, evaluation, and analytics to assess the effectiveness of its prevention efforts. The Committee fully funds the budget request of \$259,222,000 for Sexual Assault Prevention and Response programs at the Service level and provides an additional \$35,000,000 for the Department of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program Office for transfer to the Services, including the National Guard and reserve components.

Suicide Prevention and Outreach

The Committee is concerned by the number of suicides among servicemembers. The Committee recognizes that programs like the National Guard Bureau's national counseling and suicide prevention peer-to-peer outreach programs are vital to reducing the number of suicides among guardsmen. The Committee encourages the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to continue supporting such programs.

Reprogramming Guidance for Operation and Maintenance Accounts

The Committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit the Base for Reprogramming (DD Form 1414) for each of the fiscal year 2020 appropriation accounts not later than 60 days after the enactment of this Act. The Secretary of Defense is prohibited from executing any reprogramming or transfer of funds for any purpose other than originally appropriated until the aforementioned report is submitted to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.

The Committee directs the Secretary of Defense to use the normal prior approval reprogramming procedures to transfer funds in the Services' operation and maintenance accounts between O-1 budget activities or between sub-activity groups in the case of Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide, in excess of \$10,000,000.

In addition, the Secretary shall follow prior approval reprogramming procedures in excess of \$10,000,000 out of the following readiness sub-activity groups:

Army: Maneuver units
Modular support brigades
Aviation assets
Land forces operations support
Force readiness operations support
Land forces depot maintenance
Base operations support
Facilities sustainment, restoration, and modernization
Specialized skill training

Navy: Mission and other flight operations
Fleet air training
Aircraft depot maintenance
Mission and other ship operations
Ship depot maintenance
Facilities sustainment, restoration, and modernization
Base operating support

Marine Corps: Operational forces
Field logistics
Depot maintenance
Facilities sustainment, restoration, and modernization
Base operating support

Air Force: Primary combat forces
Combat enhancement forces
Depot maintenance
Operating forces depot maintenance
Facilities sustainment, restoration, and modernization
Contractor logistics support and system support
Flying hour program
Base support
Mobilization depot maintenance
Training and recruiting depot maintenance
Administration and service-wide depot maintenance

Air Force Reserve: Depot maintenance

Air National Guard: Depot maintenance

Additionally, the Secretary of Defense is directed to use normal prior approval reprogramming procedures when implementing transfers in excess of \$10,000,000 into the following budget sub-activities:

O&M, Army: Other personnel support/recruiting and advertising

O&M, Army National Guard: Other personnel support/recruiting and advertising

90/10 Rule

For-profit colleges often target servicemembers and veterans with aggressive marketing and recruiting because of a loophole that allows for-profit colleges to exclude any federal aid and educational benefits received from sources other than the Department of Education from the cap on federally derived institutional revenue. The Committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the congressional defense committees not later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act that provides an analysis of all for-profit institutions that would exceed the 90/10 federal funding limits if revenue from the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense were included in the 90/10 calculation the same way that Title IV of the Higher Education Act funds are included for the most recent academic year. The report shall also include a list of schools that receive between 85 percent or more of their revenue from Title IV of the Higher Education Act, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Defense sources for the most recent academic year.

Pilot Shortages

The Committee supports efforts throughout the Department of Defense to address the shortage of pilots across the Services. The Committee encourages the Secretary of Defense to work with higher education institutions, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and other Minority Serving Institutions, to develop programs that will prepare more students to meet the eligibility requirements for pilot training. In addition, the Committee encourages the Secretary of the Air Force to examine university-based training for Air Force ROTC cadets and civilian aviation students as pilots and sensor operators for remotely piloted aircraft.

CH-47F Chinook Block II

The Committee continues to support Army efforts to deliver capability to the warfighter through the development and delivery of advanced aviation platforms and technology. The Committee previously appropriated CH-47 Block II funding based on the Chief of Staff of the Army's written certification of the program of record. The Committee is concerned that the Army is now reducing its support for the CH-47 Block II program which was determined to be necessary less than two years ago. This lack of acquisition discipline is of great concern to the Committee, and in this case, will have significant negative repercussions across multiple domains. The Committee directs the Secretary of the Army to restore funding for the CH-47F Block II program across the next future years defense program when the fiscal year 2021 budget request is submitted.

High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicle Modernization and Recapitalization

The Committee recommendation includes \$25,000,000 for High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) Modernization or HMMWV Recapitalization to obtain new HMMWVs or "like new" HMMWVs fully restored to zero-hours, zero-miles condition by the installation of a new powered chassis. This approach leverages a low-risk, highly effective, and cost-efficient model created for the Army National Guard HMMWV Modernization Program. Modernizing or recapitalizing HMMWVs with a new, up-to-date chassis of a more consistent configuration will enable future technology insertions and capability upgrades to the HMMWV fleet and will reduce sustainment costs and logistics challenges otherwise created by obsolete, inefficient, and less-capable parts.

Recapitalizing the F-15C/D Fleet

The Committee recommendation includes \$985,500,000 to procure the first eight new-build F-15EX aircraft. The Committee finds that the F-15EX request, while unanticipated, must be considered within the context of the aging F-15C/D fleet. The Committee views the F-15EX as the fastest and most cost-effective path to preserving the F-15C/D fleet, including Air National Guard units stationed in California, Florida, Louisiana, Massachusetts, and Oregon. According to the Air Force, the F-15C/D fleet has consumed 83 percent of its service life on average, with twelve aircraft currently over 100 percent.

Additionally, the Committee is concerned by the growing number of aircraft that are failing longeron inspections. The Committee notes that prior to the fiscal year 2020 request, the Air Force had planned on longeron and wing service life extension programs designed to keep the F-15C/Ds flying past 2040. The Committee has not seen any analysis, including the “Air Force We Need” analysis, that denies the need to continue operating the F-15C/D fleet and other “fourth generation” fighter aircraft such as the F-15E, A-10, and F-16 well past 2030, or disputes that such aircraft will continue to make critical contributions to the implementation of the National Defense Strategy. The F-15EX program will begin recapitalizing this fleet with a new aircraft with an estimated service life of 20,000 hours and possessing upgrades that the Air Force has been pursuing as modifications to the F-15C/D fleet. The Committee further finds that considerations of parts commonality, low conversion cost, and operator familiarity make the F-15EX procurement a sensible if regrettably necessary investment.

At the same time, the Committee notes that the F-15EX request has been submitted with key questions unanswered, such as the specific acquisition strategy and timeline. The Committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to submit a report to the congressional defense committees, not later than 30 days prior to issuing a final request for proposal or executing a contract action for the procurement of F-15EX aircraft, which details an approved acquisition strategy along with updates to the fielding timeline and cost estimates (if applicable), an explanation of the scope and schedule for the testing plan, and options for accelerating fielding in comparison to the budget exhibits submitted with the fiscal year 2020 request.

Traumatic Brain Injury

The Committee recognizes recent efforts by the Department of Defense to leverage partnerships with academia and the private sector to understand and improve prevention and treatment of traumatic brain injuries to servicemembers. The Committee encourages the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs to continue to leverage partnerships with academia and the private sector to support further studies of traumatic brain injuries to gain a deeper understanding of concussive injuries including how they impact the brain, how and to what extent the brain recovers, and how prevention and treatment methods may be improved.

Mental Health Providers

The Committee supports the Department’s continuing efforts to ensure that servicemembers have access to high quality mental health services and providers. In order to ensure that the Department continues to have full access to qualified clinical psychologists, the Committee encourages the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs to review regulations regarding employment of clinical psychologists who graduate from schools accredited by the Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System.

Drug Interdiction and Counter-drug Activities

The Committee recommendation includes \$517,171,000 for Counter-Narcotics Support, the same as the fiscal year 2019 enacted level.

The Committee recommendation includes \$121,922,000 for the Drug Demand Reduction Program, including requested funding to add fentanyl to the list of drugs tested under this program.

The Committee recognizes the important role of the National Guard Counter-Drug program in assisting local and state agencies in addressing national drug-related challenges. The Committee encourages the administrators of the National Guard Counter-Drug program to continue their close coordination with communities, regions, and other organizations to help alleviate the national drug crisis.

National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account (NGREA)

The Committee recommends \$1,300,000,000 for the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account. Of that amount, \$375,000,000 is for the Army National Guard; \$375,000,000 is for the Air National Guard; \$215,000,000 is for the Army Reserve; \$80,000,000 is for the Navy Reserve; \$40,000,000 is for the Marine Corps Reserve; and \$215,000,000 is for the Air Force Reserve to meet urgent equipment needs in the coming fiscal year.

This funding will allow the National Guard and reserve components to procure high priority equipment used by these components for both their military missions and missions in support of State governors. The funding within this account is not to be used to procure equipment designated as high-density critical equipment, major weapon systems, aircraft, and other equipment central to a unit's ability to perform its doctrinal mission. The funding within this account is not to be used to procure equipment purchased by the senior Service, to expand or accelerate current Service procurement plans, to purchase expendable items, or to purchase facilities or equipment for any requirement able to be satisfied elsewhere.

The Committee directs the Secretary of Defense to ensure that the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account is executed by the Chiefs of the National Guard and reserve components with priority consideration given to the following items: acoustic hailing devices; crash-worthy, ballistically-tolerant auxiliary fuel systems; counter-UAS systems; detect and avoid systems; modular small arms range simulators; MQ-9 deployable launch and recovery element mission support kits; radiological screening portals; and training systems and simulators.