

Defense Appropriations Fiscal Year 2021 Highlights

(Note: Numbers are nationwide program funding levels.)

National Initiatives

- **Military Pay Raise:** The bill takes care of our troops by providing funding for a 3% pay raise our servicemembers as authorized by the NDAA.
- **Health Research and Development Programs:** Provides \$40 million to accelerate research into ALS (“Lou Gehrig’s Disease”) causes, cures and therapies due to the VA determining that the presence of ALS in veterans is presumed to be service connected, as they are disproportionately affected by ALS.
- **Suicide Prevention:** Provides \$2 million to the Defense Suicide Prevention Office and \$3 million specifically for suicide prevention in remote, rural, isolated and OCONUS locations.
- **Missile Defense:** Supports an additional \$987.2 million for the Missile Defense Agency for a total of \$10.4 billion including additional funding for hypersonic and ballistic tracking space sensors, funding for a Long Range Discriminating Radar and funding for a Next Generation Interceptor. The bill also supports Israeli cooperative missile defense programs by providing \$500 million.
- **Science and Technology:** Provides \$40 million for cyber security enhancements and directed energy test infrastructure, \$430 million for a new 5G program, and an increase \$70 million for the micro nuclear reactor program.
- **KC46A Tanker Aircraft:** Includes \$2.7 billion for 15 KC-46A tanker aircraft, three more than enacted in FY2020
- **Combat Rescue Helicopters:** Includes \$909.9 million for 16 new Combat Rescue Helicopters across the Air Force
- **Combat Training Ranges:** Provides an additional \$2 million for upgrades to training ranges in the INDOPACIFIC.
- **Indian Incentive Program:** Includes \$25 million for the IIP to help Indian Owned Economic Enterprises and Indian Organizations.

Alaska Interest Initiatives

- **Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies:** Provides \$10 million to the Defense Security Cooperation Agency to establish the sixth and newest DoD Regional Center with a focus on Arctic Security.

- **Arctic Communications:** Includes \$50 million to improve satellite communication infrastructure in the Arctic region
- **Space Ports:** Provides an additional \$10 million for State Operated Space Ports, which includes Pacific Space Port Alaska, for launch services and capabilities upping the total funding to \$21 million.
- **F-35A Aircraft Procurement:** Provides an increase of \$2 billion to fund an additional 17 F-35A Joint Strike Fighters and associated spare parts, including 12 F-35A conventional takeoff and landing variant and 5 F-35C takeoff and landing variant for a total of 96 F-35s in FY2021.
- **Unmanned Aircraft Technology in Arctic Environments:** Includes \$10 million for Defense Research Sciences to research the use and application of flying UAS technology in Arctic environments.
- **Arctic Mobility:** Provides \$8.25 million to begin procurement of the new Arctic Overland Mobility Vehicle within the family of Cold Weather All-Terrain Vehicles.
- **Innovative Readiness Training (IRT):** In an effort to increase real world training opportunities and deployment readiness, \$30 million is provided for the Innovative Readiness Training program. The program can bring military reservists from across the country to Alaska for advanced training by providing public and civil-society programs that are rarely practices outside of typical training iterations. These programs typically include building critical infrastructure or providing mobile health and/or dental clinics to support the local communities that they are embedded with.
- **Civil Air Patrol:** In Alaska the Alaska Wing of the Civil Air Patrol performs over 95 percent of all aircraft search and rescue mission for the U.S. Air Force. The bill funds the Civil Air Patrol's Air Force Operation and Maintenance at \$14.4 million, and Air Craft Procurement at \$8.3 million.
- **Advanced Electric Vertical Take Off and Landing Unmanned Aerial System:** Provides \$25 million for the Agility Prime Program to develop an advanced Electric Vertical Take Off and Landing Unmanned Aerial System to help meet Arctic defense strategies.

Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Fiscal Year 2021 Highlights

(Note: Numbers are nationwide program funding levels.)

Military Construction

- **Fort Greely Communications Center:** Includes \$48 million for the construction of a Communications Center at Fort Greely.

Veterans Affairs

- **Federally Qualified Health Centers in the State of Alaska:** The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may enter into agreements with Federally Qualified Health Centers in the State of Alaska and Indian tribes and tribal organizations which are party to the Alaska Native Health Compact with the Indian Health Service, to provide healthcare, including behavioral health and dental care, to veterans in rural Alaska.
- **Telehealth and Connected Care:** Provides \$1.32 billion to sustain and increase telehealth capacity, including in rural and highly rural areas. In 2020, out of necessity, VA expanded telehealth access for veterans significantly, but the resulting benefits to veterans warrant these efforts becoming more permanent. Within 180 days of enactment of this Act, the Department is directed to provide a report to the Committees on Appropriations on the expansion of telehealth undertaken in 2020, any lessons learned, and the feasibility of making these changes permanent.
- **Office of Rural Health:** Notes that veterans residing in rural and remote areas face unique barriers to receiving high-quality mental health, primary healthcare, and specialty care services. While enhanced community care programs offer veterans increased flexibility to obtain care close to home, often this same gap in services exists in the private market in rural and remote communities. The Office of Rural Health (ORH) and its Rural Health Initiative have played a critical role in assisting VA in its efforts to increase access to care. Therefore, the agreement provides \$300 million for ORH and the Rural Health Initiative.

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