

NDAA Amendments

1. Expansion of Physician Certification Boards

"Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Defense Health Agency shall revise the policy of the Defense Health Agency relating to credentialing and privileging under the military health system, to expand the recognition of board certifications for physicians under such policy to a wide range of additional board certifications."

2. Warfighter Brain Health

"The Committee understands the importance of brain health beyond treating Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) in our warfighters. The Department of Defense is looking for initiatives that address many areas of mental health, beyond TBI. One area that requires unique and innovative solutions is the area of holistic mental health covering both cognitive and non-cognitive assessments that address the military member from a "whole person" solution. There are challenge to these issues in providing the warfighter with the most capable resources to address their needs. To this end, it is imperative that these solutions are sensitive enough to address the root cause of mental health issues that may not be related to mental illness, but rather simply are of a nature and concern as to render the member maladaptive for their given career choice. This is especially true in the areas of special operations and aviation. To this end, DOD needs to integrate training programs for innovative solutions necessary to enhance warfighter performance through targeted specific mental health assessment, training, and implementation.

"Therefore, the Committee directs the Secretary of Defense and the Director of Defense Health Agency to report to the House Armed Services Committee on how the department plans to further advance cognitive and non-cognitive assessments which can provide rapid evaluation of warfighter capabilities to complete their mission, which can be achieved by training field psychologists to administer and evaluate such advanced cognitive and non-cognitive assessments. This report must be completed and submitted to the committee by December 30, 2022."

3. US Allies- Israel Military Exercises

"The committee believes that it is in the national security interest of the United States for the Department of Defense to promote and support multilateral exercises in the CENTCOM and AFRICOM area of operations that include Israel and United States regional partners and allies.

"Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by December 30, 2022 on efforts to host, promote, and participate in such exercises."

4. US-Macedonia Engagement

"The Committee strongly supports North Macedonia's integral role as a NATO ally and highlights the value of the May 2022 NATO Swift Response exercise in North Macedonia for NATO interoperability, regional integration, and deterrence against Russian aggression. It is essential that the United States and the rest of NATO continue to conduct similar exercises with North Macedonia and pursue further integration. To that end, the Committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Commander, United States European Command, to provide to the House Armed Services Committee, no later than December 1, 2022, a briefing regarding plans for additional NATO or joint U.S.-North Macedonia exercises during Fiscal Year 2023."

5. Report on A-10 Divestment

"The committee notes that the authority to transition the A-10 unit at Fort Wayne Air National Guard Base, Indiana, to an F-16 unit was provided over five years ago in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (P.L. 114-328). The request to transition the same unit in the fiscal year 2023 budget request does not constitute a full divestment strategy, nor does it give the committee confidence that operational missions unfilled by the divestment of future A-10 aircraft will be effectively recovered. Placing the future A-10 fleet at risk in the name of cost savings without regard to operational requirements or identification of meeting specific metrics for current and future weapon systems is hasty and shortsighted and could prove costlier in future budgets as the Air Force attempts to quickly reconstitute those lost mission sets.

"The committee notes the Secretary of the Air Force has failed to fully comply with the requirement in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (P.L. 117-103) to submit a report on any proposed divestments of the A-10 aircraft during the fiscal year 2023 future years defense plan (FYDP). The interim report attempts to explain a divestment strategy for a single fiscal year, but does not discuss a full FYDP plan, which the committee expected to be fully developed given the numerous years the Air Force has attempted to divest the A-10 platform.

"Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to provide to the congressional defense committees no later than August 19, 2022, the complete report required in the fiscal year 2022, Consolidated Appropriations Act. In addition, the Secretary of the Air Force should include in that report a detailed plan of how remaining A-10 aircraft in service over the next 5 years will be sufficiently modernized to meet mission requirements. If a complete report is not submitted by August 19, 2022, the committee will take this lack of information into account when considering future requests from the Department for divestment of A-10 aircraft"

6. Report on Air Force's PFAS Progress

"The Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act prohibits the use of fluorinated AFFF on any military installation after October 1, 2024. Additionally, the Fiscal Year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act directed the Secretary of Defense to survey relevant technologies to phase out the use of fluorinated Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF).

"The Department of the Air Force indicated that Tier 1 facilities, where loss of aircraft/assets serviced inside would result in mission failure, shall program replacement of existing fluorinated AFFF systems with one of the following specialized systems: Ignitable Liquid Drainage Floor Assembly, a Low Expansion Fluorine Free Foam System, or a High Expansion Fluorine Free Foam System.

"Tier 2 facilities would use an automatic water sprinkler system designed to provide life safety protection for occupants to evacuate the facility in the event of a fire.

"The Committee commends the Department of the Air Force for taking the lead on the risk assessment and publishing subsequent replacement guidance; however, the Committee notes the burdensome methodology by which facilities are to be designated as Tier 1 and Tier 2.

"Therefore, the Committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by January 31, 2023 on current efforts to replace fluorinated AFFF systems. The briefing should also include a list of expected Tier 1 and Tier 2 facilities."

7. STEM Education at HBCU's

"The Department of Defense faces challenges recruiting and retaining a workforce skilled in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). While this is a nationwide concern, the Committee supports the efforts of the Department of Defense to grow the STEM workforce pipeline, particularly for women and under-represented minorities in the areas of additive metals manufacturing, modeling and simulation, renewable energies, and skilled trades.

"The Committee directs the Secretary of the Army to provide a briefing to the House Armed Services Committee by December 30, 2022 on how it plans to partner with HBCUs and non-profit organizations to leverage their expertise in the aforementioned areas of research to inform future requirements while building the next generation of STEM leaders."