



February 25, 2021

## 117<sup>TH</sup> Congressional Legislation Priorities for Defense

The U.S. Army, Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve together are a global force that serves in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Central and South America and the Caribbean, the Middle East, and North America. In Fiscal Year 2021, a force of 485,900 Regular Army, 336,500 National Guard and 189,800 Army Reserve is authorized by Congress. They could be called upon to be far more than a ground force, supporting missions involving cyber and electronic warfare, anti-ship and sea control fires, cruise and ballistic missile defense, and long-range precision fires. To serve the nation, the Army needs the support of Congress.

AUSA, EANGUS, NGAUS, and ROA have come together to identify the following priorities that are offered for consideration.

***Overarching: Support the Army's effort to meet the National Defense Strategy to increase lethality, strengthen Active, National Guard and Reserve partnerships and readiness, reform the department for current and future challenges, and take care of our people and stakeholders.***

1. On-time passage and enactment of the defense appropriations, authorization and policy legislation is needed for budget and readiness stability.
2. Adequate appropriations and appropriate authorization must be provided to enable the National Defense Strategy.
3. Interoperability, deployability and sustainability is required throughout the Total Army.
4. To enable the Army warfighter, we support multi-domain doctrine; organizing, equipping, and training Soldiers and units to compete and win; delivering the six modernization priorities; and implementing the 21st century talent management system throughout the Total Army.
5. Unfunded military construction requirements for current and new systems across the Total Army must be addressed.

***People First: Support the Army People Strategy for Regular Army, Guard, Reserve Soldiers, Army Civilians, and Army Families.***

1. Army goals for improving diversity, equity and inclusion while also building cohesive teams require supportive authorization and funding. The Army must identify and eliminate institutional practices that inadvertently disadvantage any of its people on immutable characteristics that do not relate to the core mission.
2. Following through with the recommendations included in the report by the Independent Review of Fort Hood Committee is essential to demonstrate Army resolve to rid the force of sexual

assault, harassment and prejudicial behavior and also to demonstrate commitment to restoring trust with Soldiers, families, the Congress and the American people. Improvements in Army structure, staffing and manning, training and education must be embraced as a whole-of-Army solution. The removal of commanders as the convening authority would be counterproductive.

3. Comparable special and incentive pays should be provided to Regular, Guard and Reserve Soldiers.
4. Childcare that is properly staffed, certified, and affordable should be provided for all Soldiers and families. For active duty and inactive (Title 10 and Title 32) duty training, childcare should be available based on the mission requirements for each unit and location, including for reserve component families when their Soldiers are mobilized.
5. Behavioral health care should be improved for retiree and veteran health care programs.
6. Employer incentives to hire National Guard and Reserve Soldiers should be expanded.
7. Employment opportunities for spouses of Army and Department of the Army Civilians should expand to include state licensure to all states and improve the timelines for relicensing due to change-of-station moves.
8. To enable a world-class civilian workforce, training, development, education, and leadership opportunities must be available.
9. Reductions to military medical positions should be suspended until a more thorough analysis of the current and future mission needs is completed.
10. Additional closing and consolidating medical treatment facilities must be halted until qualified and capable substitute options are in place in support of families and retirees.

***Modernization: Maintain the momentum of the ongoing Total Army modernization priorities in this once in a generation opportunity to modernize the Army.***

1. Full funding is essential for Army modernization priorities across all three components based on requirements for long-range precision fires, next generation combat vehicles, future vertical lift, the Army network, air and missile defense, and Soldier lethality.
2. Authorization and adequate funding are needed for the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account (NGREA) to enable the Army National Guard and Army Reserve to accomplish each component's unique mission requirements.
3. Concurrent fielding of equipment to the Regular Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve based on readiness requirements and the National Defense Strategy must be continued.

***Readiness: Support on-time and adequate funding to continue improving Army readiness throughout the Total Army, so all attain their required readiness levels.***

1. No cost TRICARE program for Guard and Reserve soldiers is essential to ensure readiness. An affordable healthcare insurance option for them should be extended to their families.

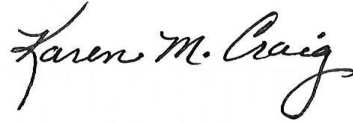
2. A fully funded comprehensive review is needed to determine full-time manning requirements for the Reserve Components to better enable individual and unit readiness.
3. Disciplined oversight of Joint Multi-Domain Operations' capabilities and force structure as outlined by the National Defense Strategy is needed and should be validated by rigorous review and testing essential to the joint force.
4. Adequately fund the equipment and resources is necessary for any new physical fitness requirements.



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