



Fact Sheet: National Defense Authorization Act for FY15

The bipartisan National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) would provide the resources and tools that our military needs to provide a strong national defense, and would ensure that the highly skilled professionals of our Armed Forces receive the compensation and benefits they've earned through service to their country. The NDAA also includes measures to promote aggressive oversight so that taxpayer dollars are spent wisely.

Securing the United States Against Existing and Emerging Threats

The NDAA would authorize the appropriations of funds the military needs to secure our nation. The NDAA would authorize \$577.1 billion for national defense programs. This total includes \$495.9 billion for the DoD base budget, \$63.7 billion for Overseas Contingency Operations (including \$5.1 billion for counter-ISIL operations); and \$17.5 billion for national security programs in the Department of Energy. [House – Senate Joint Explanatory Statement to FY15 NDAA, [12/2/14](#)]

The NDAA reduces our nation's strategic risk caused by sequestration by restoring \$818 million in cuts to the readiness accounts of the military services. This legislation achieves the goal of helping DOD restore military readiness by preserving the full amount of funding for operation and maintenance (O&M) requested by DOD - \$212 billion - , while shifting funds within O&M accounts to meet high priority readiness needs. The NDAA adds funding for each of the services top identified unfunded priorities which the chiefs of each individual service identified as critical to assigned missions. [House – Senate Joint Explanatory Statement to FY15 NDAA, [12/2/14](#)]

The NDAA would support end strength levels that will safeguard American personnel and interests while saving taxpayers money. This legislation would decrease personnel levels (“end strength”) from FY14 for all active forces in the military, except for the Navy, which would remain unchanged. The NDAA would also decrease personnel levels for all branches of the Guard and Reserves. The NDAA authorizes fiscal year 2015 active-duty end strengths for the Army of 490,000; the Navy, 323,600; the Marine Corps, 184,100; and the Air Force, 312, 980. [House – Senate Joint Explanatory Statement to FY15 NDAA, [12/2/14](#)]

Enhancing Capabilities Against Terrorist Organizations like ISIL and al Qaeda

Supplemental OCO request for the fight against ISIL: The NDAA authorizes \$5.0 billion requested by President Obama to continue operations against ISIL, \$3.4 billion for sustaining U.S. operations associated with Operation Inherent Resolve and \$1.6 billion to train and equip Iraqi and Peshmerga security forces. This funding will provide for sustaining U.S. personnel forward-deployed to the Middle East, providing enablers such as intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance platforms, replenishing munitions expended while conducting airstrikes against ISIL, and financing operations and maintenance costs for air, ground and naval operations to date. [House – Senate Joint Explanatory Statement to FY15 NDAA, [12/2/14](#)]

Iraq train and equip: The NDAA authorizes the President’s \$1.6 billion request to train and equip Iraqi security forces. This funding is critical to rebuild the capability and capacity of the Iraqi military to counter ISIL’s advance and provide security and stability to the Iraqi people. This provision includes significant support to the Peshmerga, Sunni tribes, and other forces beyond the traditional Iraqi Security forces. This provision also requires the Iraqi government to share 40% of the train and equip costs. [House – Senate Joint Explanatory Statement to FY15 NDAA, [12/2/14](#)]

Syria train and equip: The NDAA includes provisions to allow the Department of Defense to reprogram funds to carry out the Syria train and equip program for moderate Syrian forces to combat ISIL. The language in the NDAA extends the provisions previously included in the Continuing Resolution earlier this year. [House – Senate Joint Explanatory Statement to FY15 NDAA, [12/2/14](#)]

Building partner counterterrorism capacity: The NDAA authorizes \$1.3 billion for a two year program that supports partner nation anti – terrorism capacity in the Middle East and Africa (not including Iraq, which is funded elsewhere), and to allow U.S. forces to provide support to foreign partners undertaking those counterterrorism activities. The NDAA also strengthens oversight of these activities by requiring a detailed spending plan and reprogramming requirements. [House – Senate Joint Explanatory Statement to FY15 NDAA, [12/2/14](#)]

Provide USSOCOM with authority it needs to engage in counterterrorism operations: The NDAA authorizes and extends the critical section 1208 counterterrorism authority, which permits special operations forces to work with indigenous or surrogate forces in support of ongoing U.S. operations. The authority, utilized through the Middle East and Africa, would be extended through 2017 and the NDAA would raise the cap on the amount authorized from \$50 to \$75 million. The NDAA also provides the Commander of USSOCOM rapid acquisition authority for equipment and technologies critical to missions. [House – Senate Joint Explanatory Statement to FY15 NDAA, [12/2/14](#)]

Improves ISR support to AFRICOM to counter threat posed by Boko Haram and Al-Qaeda: Provides an additional \$60 million for Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) support to U.S. Africa Command’s (AFRICOM) advise and assist and counterterrorism operations. Groups like Boko Haram and other Al-Qaeda affiliated groups have greatly expanded terrorist presence in places like Nigeria, Mali, Niger, and other parts of West Africa. [House – Senate Joint Explanatory Statement to FY15 NDAA, [12/2/14](#)]

Enhances partners’ ability to respond to emerging crises: Extends through 2017 the authority for the Global Security Contingency Fund (GSCF), which pays for joint DOD-State programs to build the capacity of foreign security forces to respond to emerging or urgent crises. The NDAA also encourages the administration to consider making full use of the GSCF as part of a security assistance program for Ukraine and Eastern European countries. [House – Senate Joint Explanatory Statement to FY15 NDAA, [12/2/14](#)]

Countering Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Threats

Nuclear: Authorizes an increase of \$219 million to the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) nuclear nonproliferation programs for a total of \$1.77 billion. This increase will support deployment of additional mobile and border radiation detector systems in the Middle East and former Soviet states; provide additional resources to collect overseas highly enriched uranium to return to the U.S.; and collect additional radiation sources in the U.S. and around the world, which can pose a “dirty bomb” threat. The NDAA also authorizes \$383.4 million for the global threat reduction initiative, an increase of \$50 million to support the U.S. Department of Energy’s nuclear security goal by preventing terrorists from acquiring nuclear and radiological materials that could

be used in weapons of mass destruction or other acts of terrorism. [House – Senate Joint Explanatory Statement to FY15 NDAA, [12/2/14](#)]

Chemical and Biological: The NDAA authorizes \$1.6 billion for DOD chemical and biological defense programs, including \$112 million for enhanced responses to Ebola . It would also include authorization of \$867 million for the chemical demilitarization program, which were created to eliminate existing chemical weapons stockpiles in compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention signed in 1997. [House – Senate Joint Explanatory Statement to FY15 NDAA, [12/2/14](#)]

Cooperative Threat Reduction: The NDAA would authorize \$365 million for the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program (CTR), as requested in the President’s budget. CTR programs work to account for, secure, and eliminate weapons of mass destruction and their materials. [House – Senate Joint Explanatory Statement to FY15 NDAA, [12/2/14](#)]

Russia and Ukraine

Showing Strength and Solidarity in Ukraine: The NDAA supports ongoing efforts to address the situation in Ukraine by showing solidarity with Ukrainian defense efforts and a commitment to holding Russia accountable.

- The NDAA authorizes \$1 billion for the European Reassurance Initiative included in the Overseas Contingency Operations request submitted by the President, including \$75 million for assistance and activities to support Ukraine. [House – Senate Joint Explanatory Statement to FY15 NDAA, [12/2/14](#)]
- The NDAA prohibits U.S. military cooperation with the Russian military until the Secretary of Defense certifies the Russian military is no longer illegally occupying Crimea, and is abiding by the Minsk protocol regarding the ceasefire in Eastern Ukraine. [House – Senate Joint Explanatory Statement to FY15 NDAA, [12/2/14](#)]
- The NDAA expresses the Sense of Congress that lethal and nonlethal assistance that is defense and non-provocative should be provided to Ukraine. [House – Senate Joint Explanatory Statement to FY15 NDAA, [12/2/14](#)]
- The NDAA prohibits using any funds to enter into a contract with Rosboronexport (a Russian public-private corporation that controls military exports) unless a variety of conditions are met. [House – Senate Joint Explanatory Statement to FY15 NDAA, [12/2/14](#)]

Supporting Our Men and Women in Uniform

The NDAA ensures the long term viability of the all-volunteer force by sustaining the quality of life of the men and women of the total force (active duty, National Guard and Reserves) and their families through fair pay, policies and benefits, and by addressing the needs of the wounded, ill, and injured service members and their families. The NDAA authorizes \$135 billion for military personnel, including costs of pay, allowances, bonuses, death benefits, and permanent change of station moves. The NDAA also authorizes \$30.7 billion for the Defense Health Program. [House – Senate Joint Explanatory Statement to FY15 NDAA, [12/2/14](#)]

The NDAA would raise military pay: The NDAA would include a cost of living adjustment that would provide a 1% across the board pay raise for members of the uniformed services in pay grades O-6 and below, while freezing pay for officers O-7 and above (general and flag officers), as requested in the President’s budget. [House – Senate Joint Explanatory Statement to FY15 NDAA, [12/2/14](#)]

The NDAA would keep Tricare affordable for beneficiaries: The legislation would not authorize the Department of Defense's proposal to establish or increase health care fees or the reorganization of the TRICARE program. The NDAA instead authorizes a limited, one-time modest \$3 increase in select pharmacy co-pays for retail prescriptions and mail-order non-generic prescriptions. [House – Senate Joint Explanatory Statement to FY15 NDAA, [12/2/14](#)]

The NDAA would extend critical special and incentive pay authorities: The legislation would reauthorize over 30 types of bonuses and special pay aimed at encouraging enlistment, reenlistment, and continued service by active duty and reserve component military personnel. [House – Senate Joint Explanatory Statement to FY15 NDAA, [12/2/14](#)]

The NDAA enhances resources for mental health assessments and suicide prevention for service members. The NDAA requires the DOD to provide a person to person mental health assessment for active duty and selected reserve members each year and, through 2018, a person to person mental health screening once during each 180 day period in which a member is deployed. The NDAA also authorizes an additional \$14.8 million for the U.S. Special Operations Command Behavioral Health and Warrior Care Management Program. [House – Senate Joint Explanatory Statement to FY15 NDAA, [12/2/14](#)]

Enhancing Israel's Security

The NDAA would authorize and increase critical assistance to Israel. The NDAA authorizes \$622 million for Israel Cooperative Missile Defense Programs, \$349 million more than the President's request. This total includes \$350 million for Israel's "Iron Dome" short-range rocket defense system, which is \$175 million more than the President's request. Other cooperative missile defense programs authorized include (Arrow System Improvement Program; Arrow-3 upper tier interceptor development; and David's Sling short-range ballistic missile defense system. [House – Senate Joint Explanatory Statement to FY15 NDAA, [12/2/14](#)]

Fighting Waste and Protecting Taxpayer Dollars

The NDAA terminates troubled or unnecessary programs and activities, identifies efficiencies, and reduces defense expenditures in light of the Nation's budget deficit problems. [House – Senate Joint Explanatory Statement to FY15 NDAA, [12/2/14](#)]

- Cuts \$324.7 million to improve efficiency and prevent waste through more efficient cash flow, or incrementing, of large military construction projects.
- Requires the Department to continue its effort to reduce management headquarters staffing by extending the review to lower echelon headquarters.
- Directs the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics to develop a plan to eliminate (as appropriate) any non-enduring functions, associated capabilities, and funding, and to consolidate into an appropriate existing organization or organizations any enduring functions, associated capabilities, and funding.
- Cuts \$125 million in Army procurement for Warfighter Information Network-Tactical (WIN-T), Increment 2, due to delays in development of Point of Presence and Soldier Network Extension components.

- Cuts \$250 million to Army O&M based on a lower than planned average civilian personnel end strength for FY15.
- Based on GAO analysis, cuts \$220.9 million for excess projections in foreign currency fluctuation rates.
- Cuts \$8.0 million across all services' travel budgets.

Greater Energy Security and Independence

The NDAA supports efforts to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. [House – Senate Joint Explanatory Statement to FY15 NDAA, [12/2/14](#)]

- The NDAA would authorize \$150 million for the Energy Conservation Investment Program, which is tasked with reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, and increasing the use of renewable energy. [House – Senate Joint Explanatory Statement to FY15 NDAA, [12/2/14](#)]
- Prohibits DoD's fiscal year 2015 funding to be used for bulk purchases of drop-in fuel for operational purposes during fiscal year 2015, unless the cost of that drop-in fuel is cost competitive with traditional fuel, subject to a national security waiver. [House – Senate Joint Explanatory Statement to FY15 NDAA, [12/2/14](#)]

Prevent and Respond to Sexual Assault

The NDAA would take strong action to address sexual assault. The NDAA includes a number of provisions that would enhance sexual assault prevention and response in the military. Some of the new provisions in the legislation would:

- **Eliminates the “Good Soldier Defense”:** The NDAA eliminates the “good soldier defense,” a consideration of general military character toward the probability of innocence in sexual assault prosecutions. [House – Senate Joint Explanatory Statement to FY15 NDAA, [12/2/14](#)]
- **Requires Automatic Review:** Requires service secretary review of decisions by convening authorities not to refer charges of certain sex-related offenses for trial by court-martial if requested by chief prosecutor. [House – Senate Joint Explanatory Statement to FY15 NDAA, [12/2/14](#)]
- **Special Victims' Counsel:** Authorizes Special Victims' Counsel to represent the victim of a sex-related offense at any proceeding in connection with the reporting, military investigation, and military prosecution of the alleged sex-related offense, and enhances victim's right to be heard through counsel; and authorizes the assistance of Special Victims' Counsel for a member of a reserve component who is a victim of a sex-related offense who is not otherwise entitled to legal assistance. [House – Senate Joint Explanatory Statement to FY15 NDAA, [12/2/14](#)]
- **Victims choice of prosecution by court-martial or by a civilian court:** The NDAA requires service secretaries to establish a procedure to ensure that a victim of an alleged sex-related offense is consulted regarding the victim's preference regarding prosecution by military or civil authorities. [House – Senate Joint Explanatory Statement to FY15 NDAA, [12/2/14](#)]

- **Enhanced therapist/patient privileges for victims:** Requires modification of Rule 513 of the Military Rules of Evidence to enhance the psychotherapist/patient privilege. [House – Senate Joint Explanatory Statement to FY15 NDAA, [12/2/14](#)]
- **Improved accountability, reporting, and monitoring:** Requires the Secretary of Defense to establish and maintain a Defense Advisory Committee on Investigation, Prosecution, and Defense of Sexual Assault in the Armed Forces. Makes technical and clarifying corrections to various provisions of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 relating to the military justice system. Directs the Secretary of Defense to report by no later than April 1, 2015, on the status of an overdue report on Department plans and policies concerning sexual harassment. [House – Senate Joint Explanatory Statement to FY15 NDAA, [12/2/14](#)]

Guantanamo Bay

The NDAA includes provisions regarding the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, including:

- Extends for another year the ban on the Department of Defense transferring any Guantanamo detainee into the United States. [House – Senate Joint Explanatory Statement to FY15 NDAA, [12/2/14](#)]
- Extends for another year the ban on constructing facilities for Guantanamo detainees in the United States. [House – Senate Joint Explanatory Statement to FY15 NDAA, [12/2/14](#)]
- Limits construction of new facilities at Guantanamo in FY15 unless DOD certifies that the proposed military construction project has value independent of a high-value detention mission. [House – Senate Joint Explanatory Statement to FY15 NDAA, [12/2/14](#)]