



FY26 NDAA Highlights

Funding Level: The FY26 NDAA authorizes \$890 billion for the Department of Defense (DoD), National Nuclear Security Agency, and related agencies. This is \$8 billion more than the FY26 budget request but \$24 billion lower than that passed by the Senate.

Oversight: In response to actions taken by the Trump Administration, the FY26 NDAA strengthens congressional oversight by:

- Repealing the 1991 and 2002 Authorizations for Use of Military Force against Iraq.
- Fencing funding until the Secretary of Defense provides unredacted videos of all strikes that have occurred in Latin America as well as copies of all classified Execute Orders (EXORDS) issued by DoD.
- Requiring notifications with detailed justifications when a member of the joint chiefs of staff, commander of a combatant command, or the Military Judge Advocate General of a service is relieved prior to the end of their term.
- Requiring military personnel to display the name of the military service they are affiliated with when supporting civilian law enforcement activities in U.S. cities.
- Including reporting requirements to help with congressional oversight on the use of military aircraft for immigration operations, DoD support to request for assistance from DHS, and on immigrants detained on military installations.

Acquisition Reform: The FY26 NDAA makes the most substantive reforms to the defense acquisition process and system in decades. It seeks to reduce the complexity, cost, and risk of doing business with DoD by establishing a new acquisition architecture based on five key pillars of reform:

- Aligning acquisition to service members' priorities and operational outcomes
- Accelerating the requirements process
- Finding a balance between the need for regulation and efficiency
- Strengthening the American industrial base and leveraging commercial innovation;
- Developing a mission-oriented acquisition workforce.

Military and Civilian Personnel: The FY26 NDAA includes a wide range of provisions on pay, health care, housing, and childcare to provide support for service members, DoD civilian workers, and their families. It also seeks to provide better protections from the arbitrary firings and reductions in force that pursued by the Trump administration.

- Authorizes a 3.8% pay raise for all military personnel.



- Extends the *Child Care In Your Home* pilot program and improves the fee assistance program rate cap for eligible community-based childcare providers.
- Seeks to study alternative methods of calculating the Basic Allowance for Housing to better reflect market trends and the true cost of housing.
- Reaffirms the prohibition on efforts to privatize the military commissary system.
- Protects the DoD civilian workforce by strengthening protections against arbitrary reductions in force.

Standing With Partners and Allies: At a time when the Trump Administration is alienating or undermining key international relationships and alliances, the FY26 NDAA seeks to reassure partners and allies that the United States still stands with them by:

- Authorizing the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative at \$400 million in FY2026 and \$400 million in FY2027 and ensures that U.S. Europe Command security cooperation activities are funded.
- Authorizing funding for the Baltic Security Initiative and Taiwan Security Initiative.
- Placing restrictions on the ability to reduce the number of U.S. military personnel in Europe or the Republic of Korea.
- Restricting the ability to recognize Russian sovereignty over the internationally recognized territory of Ukraine.
- Adding further congressional oversight to any potential combatant command changes by requiring the Secretary of Defense to provide at least 60-days notice prior to making significant changes to the missions, responsibilities, force structures, commanders' ranks, or property of a regional combatant command.

Addressing Objections from the House-passed Bill: The final version of the FY26 NDAA reflects a vast improvement from the partisan bill that passed the House earlier this fall. Many partisan riders and poison pills have been removed or amended.

- **Southern Border and Domestic Deployments:** The bill includes a provision that would allow DoD to contract for support services for CBP at the border. The bill provides a clean 5-year extension of authority for DoD to support civilian law enforcement on counterterrorism and counterdrug activities. This is an improvement from the significant expansion of the authority proposed in the original House-passed bill. However, the bill excludes several problematic provisions from the original House-passed bill, including the proposed requirement for DoD to provide an annual “military power” report on drug cartels. Also excluded was a proposal that would have amended the charge of unlawful entry onto DoD property, to include “national defense areas” along the southern border, as a general intent felony.



United States *House of Representatives*

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE **DEMOCRATS**

Adam Smith, Ranking Member

- **LGBTQ+:** While the final bill will prohibit transgender athletes enrolled at the military service academies from competing in women's sports, all other anti-LGBTQ+ provisions have been excluded from the final bill.
- **DEI and Antisemitism:** The final bill repeals several DEI provisions enacted when Democrats were in the majority and requires that command selections can only be based on individual merit and demonstrated performance. However, the provisions that would have repealed affirmative action and overhauled the admissions process at the military service academies, prohibited funds for any DEI activities, and prohibited funding for colleges and universities that experienced antisemitic protests on campus were all excluded from the final bill.
- **Guns:** The final bill includes a provision allowing specific types of surplus military shotguns to be sold to the public with proceeds supporting the Civilian Marksmanship Program. This is scaled back significantly from the House-passed bill, which would have allowed a wide range of surplus military and federal firearms to be sold to the public. The final bill also excludes a provision that would have relaxed the procedures for transferring machineguns by defense companies.
- **Research Security:** The final bill preserves and strengthens the current research security system by excluding harmful provisions – such as the so-called SAFE Research Act – and other language restricting university research, contracting, and employment that would have jeopardized U.S. leadership in innovation and fundamental research.