



COMMITTEE *on* APPROPRIATIONS

VICE CHAIRMAN PATRICK LEAHY

For Immediate Release:

December 16, 2019

Contact:

Jay Tilton :

(202) 224-2667

SUMMARY

DEFENSE FISCAL YEAR 2020 APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Washington, D.C. – The Fiscal Year 2020 Department of Defense Appropriations Act provides \$695.6 billion for the Department of Defense. This is an increase of \$20.7 billion over the enacted level in 2019.

Of the amount provided for fiscal year 2020, \$622.6 billion is for the base budget, \$70.7 billion is for overseas contingency operations, and \$1.77 billion is for response to natural disasters which damaged military bases in 2018 and 2019.

Key Points & Highlights

Innovation – The bill provides \$104.4 billion for research and development, an increase of \$9.5 billion over last year’s historic high in military R&D spending, even when adjusted for inflation. The agreement accelerates development of hypersonics, directed energy, and other breakthrough technologies. It also adds \$200 million to continue experimentation with 5G technologies for defense applications, ranging from virtual training environments to improved logistics.

The bill also increases defense medical research by 5 percent over inflation, for a total of \$2.56 billion in investments. Defense medical research has pioneered new treatments and technologies that save lives on and off the battlefield. For example, a new antimalarial medication is expected to better protect service members from this widespread disease, and also holds promise for worldwide efforts to eradicate the scourge causing half a million deaths annually.

Space Force – The bill provides \$40 million for establishment of the Space Force, as authorized by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020. The reduction in funding from the \$72 million requested reflects both the scaling back of the large bureaucracy associated with the Administration’s original Space Force proposal, and the delays in enacting the authorization and appropriations bills necessary to establish the Space Force. The agreement also requires more detailed spending plans from the Pentagon, in order to allow Congress better oversight of the overhead costs associated with the Space Force.

PFAS Remediation – The bill provides \$251 million to address PFAS contamination at military bases. This amount is equal to the prior year spending on cleanup and associated activities, and is the maximum amount that the military services have reported to be able to execute in the

current year. In addition, the bill continues funding for a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention health study of impacted military communities, and makes targeted investments to eliminate the military's use of chemicals that contain these contaminants.

Military Families – The bill provides funding for the 3.1 percent pay raise for military personnel. This is the highest military pay raise in a decade. It also provides an additional \$110 million to the Services for childcare programs and directs DoD to work on a comprehensive plan to address the troublesome childcare shortfall. The agreement provides \$50 million for Impact Aid and \$20 million for Impact Aid for military children with severe disabilities. In addition, a total of \$315 million is provided for replacement of failing public schools serving military bases.

DoD Civilian Workforce – The bill recognizes the value of the Department's civilian workforce and recognizes the 3.1 percent federal pay raise for all federal civilian employees.

Disaster Response – the bill includes \$1.77 billion to continue response to several natural disasters that have severely impacted operations at several military bases, including Tyndall Air Force Base (Florida), Camp Lejeune (North Carolina), Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake (California), Offutt Air Force Base (Nebraska), and others.

Virginia-class Submarine – The bill provides for two Virginia-class submarines, one fewer than the budget request. Due to substantial changes in the estimated cost of the multi-year contract for this critical program, the agreement deletes the third submarine that was requested in the 2020 budget. The agreement then re-directs \$1.4 billion of these savings to fully funding the first submarines in the multi-year contract. By ensuring there are no funding shortfalls in the first two years of the multi-year contract, the agreement stabilizes the submarine industrial base as it approaches construction of the first new ballistic missile submarines in 2021, known as the Columbia-class. In addition, the agreement provides \$200 million in advance procurement for a future Virginia-class submarine, adds \$123 million to expand the submarine industrial base to accelerate support for both Virginia- and Columbia-class submarines, and provides additional research and development funding for new capabilities.

###