

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES, 2023

\$154.168 billion in total base discretionary funding

The Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies bill for Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) includes defense spending of \$19 billion, an increase of \$4.1 billion compared to FY22. The bill includes non-defense spending of \$135.2 billion, an increase of \$22.5 billion above the FY22 enacted level. The bill funds critical infrastructure projects and veterans' healthcare.

- Rejects efforts by Congressional Democrats and the Biden Administration to shift discretionary requirements and funds to mandatory accounts. All FY23 funds requested as discretionary are funded as discretionary.
- Secures an additional \$6.8 billion above the President's request for defense funding.
- Includes \$337 million for VA rural health initiatives.
- Provides \$663 million for VA opioid misuse prevention and treatment.
- Preserves two Guantanamo provisions: one that prevents funds being made available to construct a new facility to house detainees currently held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and another to prevent closure of Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.

BILL HIGHLIGHTS

Military Construction – The legislation includes \$19 billion for military construction projects. This amount funds more than 300 infrastructure projects at military bases and installations around the world to enhance resiliency and support warfighter readiness. Within this amount, the bill provides \$2 billion to improve and maintain housing for servicemembers and their families. The bill also includes \$1.2 billion for the Pacific Deterrence Initiative and \$400 million for the European Deterrence Initiative.

- **Veterans Affairs (VA)** – The legislation includes \$134.7 billion in discretionary funds for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), an increase of \$22.5 billion over the FY22 enacted level, to address rapidly increasing costs of health care support. The bill **does not allow for the transfer of any base discretionary funds to mandatory accounts**. All FY23 funds requested as discretionary are funded as discretionary.
- **VA Medical Care** – The bill provides \$118.7 billion for VA medical care, an increase of \$21.7 billion over the FY22 enacted level, including:
 - \$13.9 billion for mental health;
 - \$5.2 billion for telehealth services;
 - \$2.7 billion for veterans homelessness programs;
 - \$1.9 billion for the Caregivers Program;
 - \$663 million for opioid misuse prevention and treatment;
 - \$916 million for medical and prosthetic research;
 - \$840 million for health care specifically for women veterans; and
 - \$337 million for rural health initiatives.

- **Information Technology Systems:** \$5.8 billion, an increase of \$270 million over the FY22 enacted level, to support the development, operations, and maintenance of systems.
- **Veterans Electronic Health Record** – \$1.8 billion. This allows VA to continue deployment of their new electronic health record that is interoperable with the Department of Defense’s system.
- **VA Mandatory Funding** – \$169 billion for mandatory veterans benefits, including veteran disability compensation programs, education benefits, and vocational rehabilitation and employment training.
- **Advance Appropriations** – \$128 billion in FY24 advance discretionary funding for veterans health care and \$155 billion in FY24 advance mandatory funding for veterans benefits.
- **PACT Act** – Supports accelerated implementation of the PACT Act, which expands access to VA health care and benefits for veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances.
- **Major Construction** – \$1.4 billion, a \$163 million decrease below the FY22 enacted level.
- **Related Agencies** – The legislation also includes \$442.7 million, an increase of \$8.5 million over the FY22 enacted level, for related agencies, including the American Battle Monuments Commission, the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, Arlington National Cemetery, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home.