

Manager's Package
FY25 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies

Report Technical Correction

1. Technical correction concerning dates

Report Language

1. Report language for Senator Van Hollen on the Joint Spectrum Center
2. Report language for Senator Hoeven on Sentinel Infrastructure Costs
3. Report language for Senator Murray on Natural Language Speech
4. Report language for Senator Hagerty on Voting-Related Activities
5. Report language for Senator Hagerty on Securing Veterans Health Data

Bill Language

1. Administrative Provision for Air National Guard

Technical Correction

On page 21 of the report, strike “2025” and replace with “2026”.

Joint Spectrum Center

At the appropriate place in the **report**, insert the following:

Joint Spectrum Center.—The Committee is encouraged by the plans proposed by the DoD to relocate the Joint Spectrum Center from its existing location in Annapolis, Maryland to a modern and secure facility on Fort Meade. The Committee urges the Department to provide a plan to allocate the necessary resources to complete the relocation as soon as possible.

Natural Language Speech

At the appropriate place in the **report**, insert the following:

Natural Language Speech.—The Committee encourages the Secretary to implement "Natural Language Speech" selection capability for contact center solutions across VA Health Contact Centers including the Veteran's Crisis Line and the Community Care Enterprise Contact Center, as practicable.

Sentinel Infrastructure Costs

At the appropriate place in the **report**, insert the following:

Sentinel Infrastructure Costs.—The Committee is concerned that, despite significant increases in the estimated costs to replace launch facility (LF) infrastructure to support the Sentinel program, the Air Force has not fully assessed the condition of each Minuteman III LF, and therefore directs the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a briefing on the service’s efforts to assess the condition of existing Minuteman III LF infrastructure, including the number of LFs it has assessed to date, plans to conduct additional LF assessments as part of the restructuring of the Sentinel program, and the estimated cost of completing assessments of all 450 LFs.

Voting-Related Activities

At the appropriate place in the **report**, insert the following:

Voting-related Activities.—The Committee notes that the Department has not yet provided the briefing required under this heading in the explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 118-42. As such, the Committee directs the Secretary to provide to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a briefing, within 30 days after enactment of this act, regarding any strategic plans developed by the Department since January 20, 2021 outlining ways for the Department to promote voter registration and voter participation.

Securing Veterans Health Data

At the appropriate place in the **report**, insert the following:

Securing Veterans Health Data. —The Committee is concerned that adversaries can gain unfettered access to sensitive health data of veterans without their knowledge or consent. Therefore, the Committee directs the Secretary to provide a report, no later than 90 days after enactment of this act, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress regarding biotechnology equipment or services that the Department has purchased, or biotechnology agreements or contracts the Department has agreed to, over the last five fiscal years, and efforts made to safeguard health data as part of those contracts.

Air National Guard

On page 25 of the **bill**, insert the following:

SEC. 131. For an additional amount for “Military Construction, Air National Guard”, \$32,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028: *Provided*, That such funds may only be obligated to carry out construction projects specified in a National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2025 in the funding table in section 4601 of that Act: *Provided further*, That not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section.

On page 21, line 16, strike \$215,000,000 and insert \$183,000,000



Senator Jeff Merkley

Veterans' Equal Access Amendment

July 11, 2024

Purpose: To prohibit the use of funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act to interfere with the ability of veterans to participate in medicinal marijuana programs approved by States or deny services to such veterans.

Making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. MERKLEY

Viz: At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___ None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs in this Act may be used in a manner that would—

- (1) interfere with the ability of a veteran to participate in a medicinal marijuana program approved by a State;
- (2) deny any services from the Department to a veteran who is participating in such a program; or
- (3) limit or interfere with the ability of a health care provider of the Department to make appropriate recommendations, fill out forms, or take steps to comply with such a program.