

## MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES, 2020

*\$103.5 Billion in Total Discretionary Funding, \$6.4 Billion above FY2019 enacted levels*

- Funds the VA Mission Act to provide our veterans the care they deserve.
- Provides support for critical housing, infrastructure, and facilities for U.S. military forces and their families, as well as increased funding for veterans' health care and benefits.
- Funds critical infrastructure at military bases and installations around the world to support warfighter readiness and provide ready and resilient installations.
- Includes funding for veterans' health care, veterans' benefits, medical and prosthetic research, the National Cemetery Administration, information technology, and the VA Inspector General.
- Carries forward from FY2019 critical transfer authorities for the President.

### HIGHLIGHTS

**Military Construction** – \$11.3 billion for military construction projects, an increase of \$983 million above the FY2019 enacted level. This funds 150 projects to construct and renovate facilities within the United States and around the globe in direct support of the warfighter and military families. The bill funds an additional \$645 million in projects requested for Overseas Contingency Operations and the European Deterrence Initiative, and \$6.2 billion for natural disaster relief.

- **Military Family Housing** – \$1.4 billion for construction, operation and maintenance of military family housing. The bill includes an additional \$141 million above the request for additional oversight and management of privatized housing contractors to address the recent reports of mismanagement and neglect.
- **Military Medical Facilities** – \$266 million for construction, alteration, and planning and design of military medical facilities. This funding will support the delivery of integrated, affordable, high quality health services and care for 9.8 million eligible beneficiaries, including wounded U.S. troops abroad.
- **Department of Defense Education Facilities** – \$125 million for essential safety improvements, infrastructure work and planning and design for overseas military schools, providing support for the education of over 70,000 children of military members throughout the world.
- **European Deterrence Initiative** – \$545 million to improve infrastructure and facilities throughout the European theater and to increase the capability and readiness of military activities and operations in the fight against continued Russian aggression.
- **Guard and Reserve** – \$551 million to support the construction needs of National Guard and Reserve forces.
- **NATO Security Investment Program** – \$172 million for the U.S. share of projects that provide for facilities and capabilities to support the collective defense of the NATO Alliance.
- **Disaster Recovery** – \$6.2 billion to address damage resulting from Hurricanes in Florida and North Carolina, flooding in Nebraska, tornadoes in Louisiana and earthquakes in California.

**Veterans Affairs (VA)** – The legislation includes \$91.9 billion in discretionary funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs, an increase of \$5.4 billion above the FY2019 level. These resources will provide the healthcare, benefits, and memorial services earned by U.S. servicemembers and veterans.

- **VA Medical Care** – \$81.0 billion to support medical treatment and healthcare for approximately 9.3 million eligible enrolled patients in FY2020. The bill includes: \$9.4 billion for mental health; \$1.1 billion for telehealth services; \$710 million for the Caregivers Program; \$402 million for opioid misuse prevention and treatment; \$800 million for medical and prosthetic research; \$585 million for health care specifically for women veterans; and \$300 million for rural health initiatives.
  - **VA MISSION Act** – \$8.9 billion in FY2020 and \$11.3 billion in FY2021 to implement the John S. McCain III, Daniel K. Akaka, and Samuel R. Johnson VA Maintaining Internals Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks (MISSION) Act of 2018.
- **Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act** – \$153.6 million for implementation of the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act, enacted in June 2019.
- **Veterans Homelessness** – \$1.9 billion for VA Homelessness programs. The bill includes \$380 million for the Supportive Services for Veterans Families program and \$250 million for the Grants and Per Diem program.
- **Claims Processing** – \$3.1 billion to ensure that proper staffing and resources are utilized to reduce the wait time and backlog of disability decisions on appeal, and to meet the demand for other benefit programs, including the new Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans eligibility.
- **VA Mandatory Funding** – The bill fulfills mandatory funding requirements, including veteran disability compensation programs for 5.1 million veterans and more than 446,000 survivors; education benefits for nearly 900,000 veterans; and vocational rehabilitation and employment training for approximately 124,000 veterans.
- **Advance Appropriations** – \$87.6 billion in FY2021 advance discretionary funding for veterans health care, and \$131.0 billion in FY2021 advance mandatory funding for veterans benefits.

**Related Agencies** – The legislation also includes \$275.6 million in funding for:

- **American Battle Monuments Commission** – \$84.1 million
- **U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims** – \$35.4 million
- **Arlington National Cemetery** – \$80.8 million
- **Armed Forces Retirement Home** – \$75.3 million