



**NANCY PELOSI**  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

## FACT SHEET

FROM SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE NANCY PELOSI  
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### **H.R. 7900, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023** *This Bill Prioritizes Investments in People, Technology, and Our Allies and Partners to Support Our Service Men and Women*

#### **Key Points:**

- Today, the House will begin consideration of the bipartisan H.R. 7900, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023. This bill supports key improvements in pay for service members and their families, who form the foundation for America's defense, while also investing in future capabilities that will allow the United States to confront the unprecedented challenges facing our nation at home and abroad. The bill authorizes \$839 billion in discretionary spending for national defense for FY 2023, while making significant quality of life improvements for service members and their families and also making key investments in innovation and emerging technologies. On June 23, the Armed Services Committee reported the bill by a vote of 57 to 1.
- This bill is designed to continue to build a strong, diverse military. It includes bold initiatives to expand the talent pipeline and support a diverse and talented military and civilian workforce.
- As the rules-based order now faces new challenges from Russia and China, that threaten security, freedom, and prosperity for people around the world, particularly Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, this year's NDAA also authorizes crucial investments in America's global network of alliances and partnerships, including more than \$7 billion in funding for the Pacific Deterrence Initiative and over \$4 billion for the European Deterrence Initiative

#### **Some of the key priorities in the bill include:**

- **Key pay increases for service members and their families**, including a 4.6% pay raise for service members and civilian personnel, 2.4% inflation bonuses for service members earning less than \$45,000/year and a \$15/hour minimum wage for workers on federal service and construction contracts.
- **Support for HBCUs and other minority serving institutions**, allocating over \$111 million for research activities at HBCUs and establishing a pilot program to increase research capacity at minority-serving institutions.
- **Civilian harm mitigation measures**, reflecting the democratic values of the United States as a strategic and moral imperative by creating a DOD Center for Excellence in Civilian Harm Mitigation.
- **New investments in science and technology competitiveness**, including \$275 million in additional funding for next-generation capabilities in hypersonics, electronic warfare, artificial intelligence, and software.
- **Supply chain security**, including an assessment of dual-use technology that the Chinese Communist Party might exploit and improving risk management in DoD supply chains involving pharmaceutical products.
- **Resources for U.S. allies and partners**, including \$1 billion for the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative (USAI) and funding for the European Deterrence Initiative and Pacific Deterrence Initiative.

The following is an overview of some of the major provisions in the bill.

## **Supporting Military Service Members and Families**

- **Works on closing the pay gap by funding a 4.6% pay raise for service members and civilians, in addition to supporting 2.4% inflation bonuses for service members and civilians earning less than \$45,000/year; and codifies a \$15 minimum wage for workers on federal service and construction contracts.**
- Adds \$750 million for the commissary to help reduce servicemembers' costs.
- Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH): Adds funds to decrease the BAH reduction by 2% and requires a report on a more transparent, fair, and flexible way to calculate the basic allowance for housing.
- Creates a victims compensation fund to ensure survivors of interpersonal crimes have the financial resources they need for financial assistance, safe housing, and any property damage that may have occurred as a result of the crime.
- Child care: Requires the Secretary of Defense to complete a pay study and adjust the pay of child development center employees as compared to similarly trained and qualified public elementary school employees.
- Spouse change of station reimbursement: Authorizes financial reimbursement for moving expenses for spouses with home businesses.
- Access to behavioral health: To address the growing behavioral health demands across the Military Health System, the bill includes several provisions that would:
  - Increase opportunities to grow the number of providers needed to support care delivered in military treatment facilities and embedded in operational units.
  - Establish a program to better train civilian behavioral health providers to meet the unique challenges of service members and their families.
  - Expand license portability for providers delivering non-medical counseling.
  - Require GAO to review whether TRICARE conforms with the requirements of certain mental health parity laws.

## **Supporting the Department of Defense Civilian Workforce**

- Supports an increase in basic pay by 4.6% for DoD civilians, plus adds 2.4% inflation bonuses for those earning less than \$45,000/year.
- Requires a Comptroller General review of the Administration's implementation of the paid parental leave benefit for federal civilians.
- Requires the Secretary of Defense to use available authorities to increase the use of incentive payments for civilian behavioral health providers.

## **Supporting and Empowering HBCUs and Other Minority Serving Institutions**

- Provides over \$111 million for research activities at HBCUs – triple the President's budget request.
- Establishes the Dellums Fellowship Program to provide scholarships and internships to eligible students, particularly women of color, with high potential talent in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics.
- Requires the DoD to submit a report on actions that may be carried out to increase the participation of minority-serving institutions in the research, development, test, and evaluation activities of the DoD following the release of the National Academies study on defense research capacity at HBCUs and other minority serving institutions.
- Establishes a pilot program to increase research capacity at HBCUs and other minority serving institutions and implements a minority institution subcontracting requirement for University-Affiliated Research Centers (UARCs).

## **Accelerating Innovation Across Science and Technology**

- Authorizes a 20 percent increase in basic research funding, strengthening the pipeline of future innovation.
- Authorizes \$500 million to create a new class of biomanufacturing capabilities and facilities, providing a crucial capability to transition products successfully proven in the lab to commercial scale.

- Triples investment into the National Security Innovation Network and increases the authorization for the Defense Innovation Unit by over 150 percent.
- Strengthens the bioindustrial manufacturing base in the United States.
- Requires DOD to analyze the biotechnology industrial base and recommend actions to ensure robust domestic manufacturing capabilities to ease the supply chain.

## **Europe and Russia**

- Expresses the Sense of Congress in strong support of U.S. commitments to the NATO alliance and our European partners. Supports enhanced forward U.S. and allied posture to adapt to the new security environment created by Russia's unprovoked further invasion of Ukraine.
- Fully funds the European Deterrence Initiative (EDI) budget request and invests in additional capabilities that support deterrence in the European Command area of operations, totaling \$4.6 billion for EDI purposes.
- Includes \$1 billion for the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative (USAI), which provides support and assistance to the Ukrainian Armed Forces – an increase of \$700 million above the budget request. Harmonizes USAI statutory authorities with changes made in the Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022, and the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022, and allows for the replenishment of stocks of comparable ally and partner equipment provided to Ukraine.
- Combating reliance on Russian energy: Requires all main operating bases in the U.S. European Command area of responsibility to adopt installation energy plans to increase energy resiliency and sustainability in order to reduce reliance on Russian energy and sets a DoD goal of eliminating their use of Russian energy entirely.
- Requires Inspector General (IG) oversight of the response to the further invasion of Ukraine, including assistance to Ukraine, and requires semiannual reporting to Congress on that oversight, including contracting, compliance, and end-use monitoring issues.
- Requires quarterly briefings on efforts to replenish and revitalize stocks of tactical missiles provided to Ukraine by the United States, allies, and partners.
- Requires reporting on Russian atrocities in Ukraine, operations pertaining to Russian “filtration camps,” and threats caused by the global food security crisis.
- Requires reporting on efforts by the Russian Federation to expand its presence and malign influence in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Requires reporting on Wagner Group deployments in Africa and associated destabilization of fragile states, targeting of civilians and other crimes, and links to the Russian state.

## **Asia-Pacific**

- Provides \$7 billion for the Pacific Deterrence Initiative, while making prudent adjustments to the budget request.
- Directs an assessment of dual-use technology that the Chinese Communist Party might exploit and requires policy solutions that align with the National Defense Strategy.
- Requires reporting on existing or planned construction of naval bases in Africa by the People's Republic of China or the Russian Federation.
- Modifies DoD reporting requirements to enhance defense cooperation with allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific region.
- Expresses congressional support of South Korea as a critical ally of the United States and requires a briefing on how the DoD will seek to implement the U.S. extended deterrence commitment to South Korea.
- Expresses sense of Congress that the United States should strengthen security cooperation with India and requires a report on U.S. support for India's efforts to produce indigenous defense systems.
- Requires a briefing on the opportunities for enhancing the role of the National Guard in Oceania.

## **Civilian Harm Mitigation**

- Establishes a Commission on Civilian Harm.

- Establishes the DoD Center for Excellence in Civilian Harm Mitigation.
- Directs the Comptroller General to review DoD processes related to preventing, mitigating, investigating, and responding to civilian harm in military operations.
- Makes enhancements to the requirements to the DoD Annual Report on Civilian Casualties in Connection with United States Military Operations.
- Permanently extends a global ex-gratia authority that requires the United States to make payments for damage, personal injury, or death to a civilian that is inadvertently caused by the use of force by the U.S. Armed Forces, a coalition that includes the United States, or a military organization supporting the United States.

## **Security Cooperation**

- Requires a briefing on mechanisms to comply with end-use monitoring of military equipment provided to other countries, including Ukraine.
- Expands DoD train-and-equip authority to build partner capacity to include counter-illicit trafficking operations and operations or activities to enhance climate resiliency.
- Requires the DOD to conduct a review of risks related to the DoD provision of security assistance to countries identified as being at high or medium risk for atrocities.
- Requires a briefing on delays related to arms deliveries to Taiwan, Israel, and Ukraine.

## **Acquisition, Industrial Base, and Supply Chain Security**

### *Acquisition Policy*

- Codifies a \$15 minimum wage for workers on federal service and construction contracts.

### *Supply Chain Security and Industrial Base Policy*

- Focuses oversight on the DoD's role in foreign investment risk mitigation and requires analysis of methods to prevent strategic competitors' capital markets from taking advantage of U.S. businesses in the bankruptcy process.
- Improves risk management in DoD supply chains involving pharmaceutical products.
- Authorizes a study and pilot program focused on semiconductors in the National Defense Stockpile.

### *Software and Technology*

- Requires the Defense Acquisition University to create a software and cyber security acquisition-focused curriculum designed to increase the digital literacy of the acquisition workforce.

## **Continues Efforts to Address Contamination Associated Around Military Installations and Formerly Used Defense Sites**

- Requires the DoD to send a list of essential uses for PFAS. Also requires the DOD to report on its progress in minimizing the use of certain non-essential PFOS and PFOA containing items.
- Expands the list of non-essential items containing PFAS that DoD is prohibited from procuring for use within the DoD.
- Requires the DoD to adhere to the strictest relevant standard (state or federal) when conducting environmental remediation of PFAS contamination. Requires the DoD to implement the Comptroller General's recommendations to set goals for the timely clean-up of formerly used defense sites that fall under the military munitions response program.

## **Counter-ISIS & Counter-Terrorism**

- Continues U.S. military support to our partners in Iraq and Syria to fight ISIS.
- Extends the authority and funding for the Office of Security Cooperation-Iraq.
- Extends DoD authority to collaborate with Israel on the development of counter-drone technology and increases its authorized funding.

- Prohibits the DoD using funds authorized by the NDAA to transfer cash, currency, or items of value to Iran or its subsidiaries.

## **Afghanistan**

- Afghan Special Immigrant Visas (SIV): Extends the authorization of this program, the deadline for those who qualify to apply for SIVs, and allows those Afghans wounded during their service to the U.S. government to apply for the SIV program even if they have not met the one-year minimum employment threshold. This provision reaffirms the commitment to Afghan citizens who, at great personal risk, supported U.S. operations in Afghanistan.
- Requires a report on how strike and combatant engagement data archived by U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan can be shared, when requested, to support safe and efficient explosive remnants of war (ERW) clearance operations.