



September 12, 2023

Congresswoman Lauren Boebert
1713 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC

Dear Congresswoman Boebert,

This letter includes important information for you as we prepare to vote on H.R. 4365, the Defense appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2024. Attached you will find two documents with information about the bill.

The first document is a detailed bill summary. As you can see, the bill prioritizes funding to counter China, optimizes the Department of Defense workforce, promotes innovation, supports servicemembers and their families, and expands the Department of Defense role in combatting the flow of fentanyl, synthetic opioids, and other illegal drugs into the United States. The bill also prioritizes Congressional oversight of Department of Defense spending. Importantly, the Committee-reported bill includes provisions that defund the Biden Administration's controversial social policies and re-focus the Pentagon on enhancing lethality and countering our adversaries. Republican Members of the Appropriations Committee unanimously supported this bill during committee markups.

The second document lists your requests that are included in H.R. 4365. As a reminder, it is rare that everything included in the House bill makes it into the final bill, but Chairwoman Granger and I will continue to fight for your priorities as this bill moves through the process.

I urge Republicans to stick together and vote "YES" on this appropriations bill. Speaking in one clear voice as a Republican Conference puts us in the best position for House and Senate negotiations on a final bill. Please feel free to contact me directly or reach out to the subcommittee clerk, Johnnie Kaberle, at (202) 225-3162 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Ken Calvert
Chairman
Defense Subcommittee



FISCAL YEAR 2024 DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL

The Defense Appropriations bill funds agencies and programs under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense (DOD) and Intelligence Community, including the Military Services, Central Intelligence Agency, and the National Security Agency. For Fiscal Year 2024, the bill provides \$826.45 billion in new discretionary spending, which is \$285.87 million over the President's Budget Request and \$28.71 billion – or 3.6% – over the FY23 enacted level.

The Defense Appropriations bill uses the power of the purse to refocus the Pentagon on the true mission of the military – providing for our national defense – and defunds this Administration's divisive social agenda. After thorough, line-by-line review of the Budget Request, funding that lacked adequate justification or that did not advance DOD's core mission was cut, resulting in savings of nearly \$20 billion. The bill instead invests those resources in programs and activities that will counter China and other near peer adversaries and increase DOD's role in combatting the flow of fentanyl, synthetic opioids, and other illegal drugs into the United States. The bill also mandates enhanced oversight, promotes innovation of the DOD's procurement process, and reforms the Pentagon's civilian workforce by leveraging tools used in the private sector – all in an effort to ensure the wise investment of taxpayer dollars. Importantly, the bill expands support for servicemembers and their families – our nation's most valued assets. The result is a bill that rejects culture wars and instead prepares us for combat wars in a fiscally responsible manner.

TOP LINE MESSAGING

- Prioritizes the fight against China by:
 - Making a historic investment in security cooperation funding for Taiwan;
 - Supporting training programs for Taiwan, including through the National Guard State Partnership Program.
 - Prioritizing the delivery of defense articles and services to Taiwan.
 - Rejecting the Biden Administration's inadequate shipbuilding plan by preventing 4 ships from early retirement;
 - Increasing investments in 5th and 6th generation aircraft like the F-35 and Next Generation Air Dominance;
 - Providing over \$9 billion for the Pacific Deterrence Initiative, which bolsters U.S. military capabilities in the Indo-Pacific region;
 - Providing significant funding for the Defense Innovation Unit and the military services to accelerate acquisition processes to ensure we have the most innovative technology in time for the fight;

HOUSE

APPROPRIATIONS

REPUBLICANS

- Fully funding the Office of Strategic Capital to maximize the use of private capital for defense emerging technologies and manufacturing; and
- Including increased funding for the successful program Accelerate the Procurement and Fielding of Innovative Technologies (APFIT), which stops critical innovation from being caught in the “Valley of Death.”
- Optimizes the Pentagon’s civilian workforce by:
 - Cutting \$1 billion of the President’s Budget Request for the civilian workforce;
 - Forcing the Pentagon and the Military Services to take a serious look at what functions can be done better by technology than by civilians by directing the Department to reassess the number and roles of its personnel needed for its core mission, tasks, and functions;
 - Ensuring the Department has an appropriate workforce for areas that directly serve the warfighter, like depots and shipyards; and
 - Providing funding to accelerate the Department’s digital transformation of business practices through the Chief Data Artificial Intelligence Office.
- Innovates and modernizes the Military by:
 - Investing in next-generation fighter aircraft, helicopters, tactical combat vehicles, and submarines;
 - Empowering combatant commanders to quickly obtain the cutting-edge technology and weapons they need and to rapidly get them to the warfighter; and
 - Funding the modernization of the nuclear triad: the B-21 Raider, the Columbia Class Submarine, and Sentinel.
- Enhances DOD’s role in countering the flow of illicit fentanyl and synthetic opioids by:
 - Providing \$1.16 billion for the drug interdiction and counterdrug activities account, which is \$275 million above the request;
 - Increasing funding for the National Guard Counterdrug Program;
 - Increasing funding for train and equip programs to counter illicit fentanyl and synthetic opioids and the transnational criminal organizations that contribute to the fentanyl crisis, particularly the Sinaloa and Jalisco drug cartels; and
 - Transferring Mexico from U.S. Northern Command to U.S. Southern Command, which enables better coordination and prioritization.



BILL HIGHLIGHTS

Cuts to Wasteful Spending

- Cuts \$20 billion from the President’s Budget Request and redirects that funding to address warfighting needs, counter China, and support our servicemembers and their families.
- Prevents funding for climate change programs and prohibits the use of funds to finalize, implement, or promulgate the rule proposed by the DOD on November 14, 2022, titled “Federal Acquisition Regulation: Disclosure of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate-Related Financial Risk.”

Conservative Priorities

- Prohibits the implementation, administration, or enforcement of the Biden Administration’s executive orders on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI).
- Defunds the position of Deputy Inspector General for Diversity and Inclusion and Extremism in the Military.
- Prohibits the use of funds to perform medical procedures that attempt to change an individual’s biological gender.
- Prohibits the use of funds for events on military installations or as part of recruiting programs that bring discredit upon the military, such as a drag queen story hour for children or the use of drag queens as military recruiters.
- Prohibits the use of funds to promote or advance Critical Race Theory (CRT).
- Prohibits censoring constitutionally protected speech of Americans.
- Protects Americans against religious discrimination.
- Prohibits the recruitment, hiring, or promotion of any person who has been convicted of charges related to child pornography or other sexual misconduct.
- Prohibits the use of funds for paid leave and travel or related expenses of a federal employee or their dependents for the purposes of obtaining an abortion or abortion-related services.
- Prohibits granting, renewing, or maintaining of a security clearance for any individual listed as a signatory in the statement titled “Public Statement on the Hunter Biden Emails” dated October 19, 2020.
- Directs clear Departmental guidance on professional license portability and improvements for measuring military spouse employment.
- Requires the deliberate, cost-effective, and transparent clean-up of environmental contaminations at current and former defense sites.



DETAILED FUNDING SUMMARY

Military Personnel

Provides \$177.9 billion for active, reserve, and National Guard military personnel, which is \$951.9 million below the President's Budget Request and \$5.2 billion above the FY23 enacted level.

- Includes an increase of 5.2% in basic pay for all military personnel effective January 1, 2024, and additional targeted pay increases for certain enlisted grades.
- Includes a historic pay increase for junior enlisted servicemembers of an average of 30%;
- Funds total end strength of 2,074,000 personnel, which is equal to the President's Budget Request and a decrease of 13,344 below the FY23 authorized level.
- Includes report language that directs DOD to conduct an independent survey to better understand the failure of recruitment efforts by the Services.
- Includes a general provision and report language to strengthen the privacy of servicemembers and veterans.

Operation and Maintenance

Provides \$293.1 billion for operation and maintenance support to the military Services and other DOD entities, which is \$2.9 billion above the President's Budget Request and \$15 billion above the FY23 enacted level.

- \$4.5 billion above the President's Budget Request to improve military readiness.
- \$17.1 billion to the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force for depot maintenance.
- \$10.2 billion to fund SOCOM's operation and maintenance requirements.
- \$351 billion for the Cooperative Threat Reduction Account.
- \$85 million for National Guard Youth Challenge, \$53 million for STARBASE, and \$4 million for Sea Cadets.
- \$50 million for Impact Aid and \$20 million for Impact Aid for those with disabilities.
- Reduces DOD's civilian workforce by \$1.1 billion.
- Cuts \$714.8 million in climate change initiatives.
- Cuts \$114.7 million in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives.
- Includes report language that directs the Air Force to address the current pilot production shortfall and meet its annual pilot training goal.
- Includes report language to prioritize the use Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) remediation and mitigation technologies and provides an additional \$20 million over the request for an Aqueous Film Forming Foam destruction (AFFF) pilot.



Procurement

Provides \$165.1 billion for procurement, which is \$4 billion below the President's Budget Request and \$2.8 billion above the FY23 enacted level.

- Aircraft
 - \$9.6 billion for 86 F-35 aircraft, which includes 51 F-35As for the Air Force, which is three aircraft above the President's Budget Request, and 16 F-35Bs and 19 F-35Cs for the Navy and Marine Corps.
 - \$1.6 billion for the B-21 Raider.
 - \$2.8 billion for 15 KC-46A tanker aircraft.
 - \$2.4 billion for 24 F-15EX aircraft.
 - \$213.8 million for 7 MH-139 aircraft.
 - \$487.2 million for 4 C-130Js for the Air National Guard.
 - \$120 million for 2 Combat Rescue Helicopters.
 - \$200 million to accelerate the delivery of E-7 aircraft.
 - \$1.8 billion for 16 CH-53K helicopters, an increase of \$102 million for one additional aircraft.
 - \$684.1 million for 5 CMV-22 aircraft.
- Shipbuilding
 - \$32.9 billion to procure 9 Navy battle force ships, including 2 DDG-51 guided missile destroyers, 1 Columbia-class ballistic submarine, 2 Virginia-class fast attack submarines, 2 Frigates, 1 TAO Fleet Oiler, and 1 submarine tender replacement.
 - \$400 million for 4 ship-to-shore connectors.
- Vehicles/Force Protection
 - \$674.2 million for 48 sets of M109A6 Paladin Self-Propelled Howitzers and M992A2 Field Artillery Ammunition Support Vehicles.
 - \$120 million above the President's Budget Request for Army National Guard HMMWV modernization.
 - \$80 million above the President's Budget Request for Stryker vehicles.
 - \$697.9 million to upgrade 34 Abrams tanks to the M1A2 (SEP)v3 tank variant, which is equal to the President's Budget Request.
- Other
 - \$200 million for the Accelerate the Procurement and Fielding of Innovative Technologies (APFIT) program to help bridge the "Valley of Death" and transition cutting-edge capabilities to the warfighter in an accelerated timeline.
 - \$2.7 billion for 15 National Security Space Launches.
 - \$200 million for the Israeli Cooperative Programs (Iron Dome, David's Sling, and Arrow) under the Missile Defense Agency.

HOUSE
APPROPRIATIONS
REPUBLICANS

- \$1 billion for the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account.
- Includes a general provision to grant multiyear procurement authority for Naval Strike Missile, Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System, PATRIOT Advanced Capability-3 Missile Segment Enhancement, Lang Range Anti-Ship Missile, and Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile.

Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation

Provides \$146.8 billion for research, development, test, and evaluation, which is \$2 billion above the President's Budget Request and \$7.1 billion above the FY23 enacted level.

- **Aircraft**
 - \$2.4 billion for continued development and modernization of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.
 - \$2.3 billion for the continued development of the Air Force's Next Generation Air Dominance program, which is equal to the President's Budget Request.
 - \$2.9 billion for the continued development of the B-21 Bomber.
 - \$1.5 billion to support Army Future Vertical Lift, including design, prototyping, and risk reduction for the Future Attack Reconnaissance Aircraft and the Future Long Range Assault Aircraft.
- **Hypersonics**
 - \$901 million for the continued development of the Navy's Conventional Prompt Strike program.
 - \$1.1 billion for the Army's Long Range Hypersonic Weapon program.
 - \$381.5 million for the Air Force's Hypersonic Attack Cruise Missile.
 - \$239.9 million for the Missile Defense Agency to develop hypersonic defense systems.
 - \$163.8 million for advanced hypersonics research at DARPA and the Joint Hypersonic Transition Office.
 - \$140 million above the President's Budget Request for hypersonic test facilities and ranges.
- **Innovation**
 - Over \$1 billion for the Defense Innovation Unit and the Military Services to deliver innovative capabilities from non-traditional sources.
 - \$220 million to address the most pressing combatant commander priorities.
 - \$752.3 million to accelerate the Department's digital transformation of business practices through the Chief Data Artificial Intelligence Office.
 - Fully funds the Office of Strategic Capital to maximize the use of private capital for defense emerging technologies and manufacturing.

HOUSE

APPROPRIATIONS

REPUBLICANS

- Other
 - \$380.4 million for the Army's Mid-Range Missile capability.
 - \$816.7 million for the Army's Lower Tier Air Missile Defense capability.
 - \$3.7 billion for the continued development of the Air Force's Ground Based Strategic Deterrent program.
 - \$300 million for the Israeli Cooperative Programs under the Missile Defense Agency.
 - \$2.1 billion for the Next Generation Interceptor Development.
 - \$309 million for the Global Positioning System III F program, which is equal to the President's Budget Request.
 - \$271.9 million for the Global Positioning System III Operational Control Segment.
 - \$353.8 million for Global Positioning System user equipment.
 - \$82.2 million for National Security Space Launch research and development activities.
 - \$2.6 billion for the Next Generation Overhead Persistent Infrared program.
 - \$2.3 billion for the continued development of the Resilient Missile Warning-Missile Tracking program.

Revolving and Management Funds

- \$1.66 billion for Defense Working Capital Funds accounts.
- \$7.6 million for the National Defense Stockpile Transaction Fund.

Other Department of Defense Programs

Provides \$42.1 billion for other DOD programs, which is \$1.2 billion above the President's Budget Request and \$374.7 million above the FY23 enacted level.

- Defense Health Programs
 - \$39.4 billion for DOD medical and health care programs, which includes: \$582.5 million above the President's Budget Request for cancer research; \$10 million above the President's Budget Request for the arthritis research program; \$30 million above the President's Budget Request for the toxic exposures research program; and \$20 million above the President's Budget Request for the joint warfighter medical research program.
- Chemical Agents and Munitions Destruction
 - \$1.1 billion for the destruction of chemical agents and munitions, which is equal to the President's Budget Request.

HOUSE

APPROPRIATIONS

REPUBLICANS

- Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster, and Civic Aid
 - \$142.5 million, an additional \$27.6 million above the President's Budget Request, for foreign disaster relief, humanitarian assistance, and the humanitarian mine action program.
- Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities
 - \$694 million for counternarcotics support, including an additional \$50 million above the President's Budget Request for programs to counter illicit fentanyl and synthetic opioids.
 - \$138 million for demand reduction.
 - \$300 million for the National Guard Counter-drug program, the highest level on record.
 - \$30 million for the National Guard Counter-drug schools.
 - \$20 million above the President's Budget Request for train and equip programs with Mexico to counter illicit fentanyl and synthetic opioids and transnational criminal organizations, particularly Sinaloa and Jalisco drug cartels.
- Office of the Inspector General
 - \$506.6 million for the Office of the Inspector General.
 - \$1 million to establish an Office of the Special Inspector General for Ukraine Assistance, if authorized.
 - Includes report language to enhance oversight of funds appropriated for Ukraine and review the efficacy of the Department's end-use monitoring program for defense articles designated for Ukraine since the February 24, 2022, Russian invasion.
- Counter-ISIS Train and Equip Fund
 - \$398 million to support the Iraqi Security Forces, Kurdish Peshmerga, and the Syrian Democratic Forces to counter ISIS, which is equal to the President's Budget Request.

Congresswoman Lauren Boebert (CO-03)

Defense

1. Language included in the bill regarding a prohibition on the use of Government Travel Charge Cards for gaming or adult entertainment.
2. Fully funds the President's fiscal year 2024 budget request for cartridges and cart actuated devices for the Marine Corps.
3. Supported highest possible funding for patient studies.
4. Fully funds the President's fiscal year 2024 budget request for cartridges and cart actuated devices for the Marine Corps.
5. 86 F-35s, including an increase of three additional F-35As above the request.
6. Fully funds the budget request for F135 engine core upgrades.
7. \$80 million in Procurement, Defense-Wide, as requested, for Iron Dome.
8. \$80 million in Procurement, Defense-Wide, as requested, for Arrow Weapon System.
9. \$40 million in Procurement, Defense-Wide, as requested, for Short Range Ballistic Missile Defense (SRBMD).
10. \$300 million for U.S.-Israel missile defense Research, Development, Test and Evaluation cooperation.