



BACKGROUND

National Defense Authorization Act

Overview

- The [National Defense Authorization Act](#) (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2016 is the comprehensive legislation to authorize the budget authority of the Department of Defense (DoD) and the national security programs of the Department of Energy
- The bill authorizes nearly \$612 billion in spending for national defense
- The bill is consistent with the House Budget Resolution that balances the federal budget and reduces government spending by \$5.5 trillion over the next 10 years

Local Highlights

- Increases funding for the National Nuclear Security Administration's weapons activities including Pantex
- Includes about \$2.8 billion total for Bell V-22 and helicopter programs, much of which is done in Amarillo, including procurement of 19 new Ospreys and 28 new helicopters for the Marine Corps
- Prohibits another round of base closings
- Includes funding for activities at Sheppard Air Force Base in the personnel account and operations and maintenance account
- Creates external advisory panel to monitor progress that the Department of Energy and NNSA are supposed to be making to improve the longstanding problems at these agencies
- The NDAA empowers military commanders to permit a member of the Armed Forces to carry appropriate firearms, including personal firearms, at DOD installations, reserve centers, and recruiting centers by the end of the year

Troop Pay and Benefits

- Provides troops a 1.3% pay raise
- Helps prepare service members who are transitioning from military service
- Establishes a partnership between DoD and the Veterans Administration for certain medications to treat psychiatric conditions, sleep disorders, and pain management
- Requires DoD to improve access to mental health care

- Creates a Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) with matching contributions from DoD that will be available to the 83 percent of service members not currently eligible for military retirement
- Adds benefit of allowing a service member, including reservists, to take part of their retirement pay as an upfront lump sum payment
- Those currently serving, and having less than 12 years of service, have the option of remaining grandfathered into the old system or choosing the new TSP option

Other Important Provisions

- Initiates urgently-needed reforms to DoD's broken acquisition system
- Prohibits the transfer of detainees to the U.S. from Guantanamo Bay
- Prohibits the transfer of detainees to Libya, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen
- Reinforces the U.S. mission to defeat ISIS by authorizing resources for security assistance for Iraqi forces
- Addresses Russian Aggression and reassures European Allies
- Strengthens the nation's cyber defenses
- Authorizes resources for the planning and design of an East Coast missile defense site

Please let us know if you require further information or have any questions we can assist you with on this issue or others.

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SOURCES:

¹ National Defense Authorization Act FY16