



National Guard Association of the United States

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November 13, 2024

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
2207 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Susan Collins
Vice Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Murray, Chairman Cole, Vice Chair Collins, and Ranking Member DeLauro,

On behalf of the 40,000 members of the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS), and the 450,000 soldiers and airmen of the National Guard, we write to outline specific provisions that will significantly impact the National Guard as you formulate the final Fiscal Year 2025 Defense Appropriations Bill. We appreciate your consideration of our views as we continue our work to benefit the men and women of our National Guard while simultaneously improving their training, retention, and readiness.

1. House Committee Report 118-557 – Other Procurement, Army: Army National Guard HMMWV Modernization

We request that the conference committee supports the House funding level of \$140M for the National Guard HMMWV modernization program. Modernizing National Guard HMMWVs will ensure the National Guard can meet its mission both at home and abroad. This funding positively affects units across the 54 states and territories, and without it the aging fleet is at risk of not being operationally ready.

2. House Committee Report 118-557 – Aircraft Procurement, Army: MQ-1C Gray Eagle 25M aircraft for the Army National Guard

We request you retain the House appropriation level of \$240M for the procurement of MQ-1C Gray Eagle 25M aircraft for the Army National Guard. The Active Army currently operates the Gray Eagle in each of its 11 Combat Aviation Brigades (CABs), while the National Guard is at a disadvantage without this capability when training and deploying alongside their Active Component counterparts. The Army needs to continue to concurrently and proportionally field new equipment to the Army National Guard to increase interoperability with the Active Component, as recommended by the National Commission on the Future of the Army. This ensures the Army National Guard Divisions are structured like the Active Component and provide depth and modular structure to the Total Force in order to meet global demands.

3. Senate Bill S.4921- Procurement, Defense Wide: National Guard Reserve and Equipment Account

We request you retain the Senate appropriation level of \$1B for the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account (NGREA). NGREA ensures the readiness and lethality of National Guard equipment and weapons systems through innovation and servicemember-driven requirements. The account directly supports growth and evolution in operational warfighting capability. This funding level will allow the National Guard to address equipment shortfalls and ensure compatibility across the active and reserve components.

4. House Committee Report 118-557 – NGREA Items of Special Interest

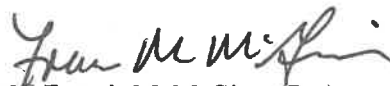
We request you retain the robust NGREA priority item list described in H. Rept. 118-557 outlining priority consideration of numerous critical procurements and technologies including but not limited to aircraft survivability equipment, weapon training aids, aviation status dashboards, and cloud defense solutions. All of the priorities outlined in this section of the law are critical to ensuring the continued success of the National Guard.

5. Senate Committee Report 118-204 — Program Increase: Additional aircraft for the Air National Guard

We request the committee's continued support for the Senate funding level of \$1.25B for the acquisition of 8 additional C-130J aircraft and parts for the Air National Guard. This funding is a continuation of historical congressional support for the ANG C-130J recapitalization effort which will benefit both national security objectives and domestic operations.

Once again, we appreciate your consideration of our perspectives as we work together in ensuring National Guard soldiers and airmen have the necessary tools and equipment to continue to carry out their role in the Total Force mission. Thank you for your continued support of the National Guard.

Sincerely,



MG Francis M. McGinn, (Ret)
President, NGAUS