



Senator Blackburn’s work in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) falls under three vectors.

VECTOR ONE: Promoting local innovation and high-skilled work in Tennessee.

- Support the Pathfinder Program by encouraging additional funding for defense capabilities and partnering with private sector developers at *Vanderbilt University; the University of Memphis; Tennessee Technological University; and the University of Tennessee at Knoxville;*
- Champion additional funding for the MQ-9 program, supporting entities in *Knoxville, Oak Ridge, and the 118th Wing at Berry Field Air National Guard Base in Nashville;*
- Authorize over \$16 million for open system, software-based solutions for degraded visual environments (DVE) for military air and ground vehicles, including those in the *101st Airborne and 160th SOAR at Fort Campbell;*
- Continue funding for the hot cell processing of U-233 and the extraction of Thorium-229 at *Oak Ridge National Laboratory*, which helps create potential lifesaving cancer treatments;
- Provide an additional \$5 million in funding for the advanced manufacturing of energetic materials to develop a means for the on-demand manufacturing of optimized explosive materials, which may include the *Holston and Milan Army Ammunition Plants in Tennessee;*
- Provide an additional \$5 million for titanium supply chain production, which occurs in *West Tennessee*, that is vital to defense applications in the *Volunteer State* and worldwide;
- Increase funding by \$9 million for the classified additive manufacturing partnership between the Air Force Research Laboratory and *Oak Ridge National Laboratory* for future Air Force assets, including at *Arnold Air Force Base.*

VECTOR TWO: Empowering the future of Tennessee’s military personnel and installations.

- Allocate \$10 million toward mobile mammography services for women veterans.
- Secure funding to support a multipurpose training range at *Fort Campbell* that trains and tests the skills necessary to detect, identify, and defeat stationary infantry and stationary or moving armor targets in a tactical array.
- Authorize funding for CH-47 Block II Chinook Helicopters flown at *Fort Campbell*;
- Provide \$2.5 million for the planning and design of a new air traffic control tower at *Fort Campbell*;
- Authorize funding for construction of the Uranium Processing Facility at the *Y-12 National Security Complex*;

VECTOR THREE: Streamlining the work of the DoD across services and domains to increase America’s comparative advantage in Great Power Competition.

- Increase funding by \$5.5 million to support defensive and offensive cyber protections, firewall protections, Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based intrusion detection, and data encryption for the Department of Defense (DoD) autonomous vehicles for *Fort Campbell*;
- Authorize funding for maritime research and development initiatives, which benefits the partnership between the *University of Memphis and the Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock Division*, to help the Navy better understand and address the erosion of naval propulsions, control devices, and surfaces;
- Increase funding by \$10 million for accelerated material development for high mach capabilities to reduce operational risk for hypersonic systems, strengthening operations at *Arnold Air Force Base, University of Tennessee Space Institute at Tullahoma, University of Tennessee at Knoxville, and Oak Ridge National Laboratory*;
- Continue funding for weapons activities at the *Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge* to ensure safe and effective U.S. nuclear weapons deterrence, as well as an additional \$3 million for Defense Nuclear Systems operations at *Y-12*;
- Provide \$5 million additional for the Space Force to build a new prototype of an advanced isotope power system as part of the partnership between the Air Force Research Laboratory and *Oak Ridge National Laboratory*;

- Provide funding for the Army M917A3 Heavy Dump truck, which is a commercially based tactical vehicle used to load, transport and dump artificial materials and raw earth at engineering and construction sites in military environments, *benefitting operations at Fort Campbell, the Tennessee Army National Guard, and Walker Die Casting in Lewisburg, TN*;
- Provide an increase of \$10 million for the AH-64 Apache Helicopter Modernization Plan that affects *Fort Campbell*;
- Allocate \$10 million toward mobile mammography services for women veterans, including over *47,000 female veterans in Tennessee*; and
- Include report language addressing the establishment of a pilot program to provide DoD with qualified civilian personnel to ensure the U.S. has the talent to address cyber vulnerabilities.
 - This builds upon Blackburn’s bipartisan measure in the FY2021 NDAA that [created](#) a pilot program allowing the National Guard to provide “rapid, remote response for cyber assistance” to state and local governments, along with critical infrastructure entities when they are hit with cyberattacks.