



UNITED STATES SENATE
SENATOR MARSHA BLACKBURN PRESS OFFICE

Senator Blackburn's work in the FY 2022 NDAA falls under three vectors.

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

- Establishes a requirement to identify critical facilities in the hypersonic technology program through a **Hypersonic Facility Base Designation**, ensuring effective use of talent and resources.
- Expands funding for the **Submarine Industrial Base and Naval Reactors Development**.
- Upgrades **Stryker combat vehicles** for our troops, as well as a new family of **Joint Light Tactical Vehicle**.
- Allocates additional resources to a pilot program for Tennessee's active-duty military spouses to **transfer professional licenses across state lines**.
- Strengthens our maritime presence through the purchase of **additional destroyers** and providing full funding for **submarine acquisition**.
- Increases funding to the **Pathfinder Air Assault Program**, a critical opportunity for university-based, applied research outcomes that benefit our National Defense. The Pathfinder Program works for the U.S. Army and the state via applied research conducted by the Universities of Tennessee and Vanderbilt to incorporate soldier feedback at Fort Campbell into bottom-up, innovative technologies.
- Innovates a better **crosswalk for military-taught skill sets** and private sector occupational field requirements to harmonize asymmetries of supply (those leaving the military) with demand (where their talents provide an appropriate skill match) in the private sector.
- Clarifies the authorities installations can use to establish Intergovernmental Support Agreements to ensure that **AbilityOne programs** are not circumvented.
- Encourages further research for long-term readiness and modernization of propulsion systems through a **Depot Maintenance Program**.
- Further provides for **Synthetic Training Environment Refinement and Prototyping**.
- Designates funding for the **Future Long-Range Assault Aircraft (FLRAA)** to develop the next generation of affordable vertical lift tactical assault and utility aircraft for the Army.

- Develops prototypes for **Mobile Compact High Energy Laser** technology.
- Continues the important social science work of Department of Defense's **Minerva Research Initiative**.
- Capitalizes on the ingenuity and speed of innovation resident within our private sector while leveraging the resources and strategic vision of our public sector **through Public-Private Talent Exchanges**, which will direct the Department of Defense to seek out private sector entities on the forefront of Artificial Intelligence development.

VECTOR TWO: Empowering the future of Tennessee's military installations.

- Procures **additional UH-60 helicopters**, which is the staple platform of the 101st Airborne, 160th SOAR, and Tennessee Army National Guard.
- **Combats food insecurity** among lower-income military families by creating an allowance for service members whose household income falls below poverty guidelines established by the Department of Health and Human Services.
- Expands **testing capabilities** for Hypersonic Standoff Weapons, Turbine Engine Testing capabilities, Hypersonic Munitions, Data Masked Programs, Next Generation Bomber, and Future Strike Aircraft.
- Provides additional financial support for **Test Cell Delivery Bay and PV Battery Storage** for Memphis' Air National Guard Wing.
- Recognizes the vital role Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams (WMD-CST) play in national defense, including additional funding for **Vehicle-Mounted Radiological Nuclear Detection System (RDS)** and **Man-Portable RDS** to mitigate radiological effects on our troops – as well as providing additional training for WMD-CST teams.
- Expands mentorship, counseling, and support for the special operations community through the **Preservation of the Force and Family** program, including our Green Berets and Night Stalkers, to improve quality of life and retention.
- Prohibits reduction of **KC-135 Air National Guard primary aircraft inventory** in the fiscal year 2022. This aircraft has excelled in its role for more than 50 years, and it also provides aerial refueling support to Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps, and allied nation aircraft.
- Assisted in passing the **"Preventing the Loss of Aircrews and Necessary Equipment (PLANE)" Act** to prevent unnecessary loss of life and equipment due as a result of inadequate aviation platforms and readiness reporting.
- Fully funds the infrastructure and operations priorities for our **national nuclear security enterprise**. Depleted Uranium Modernization, Nonproliferation Stewardship, and Nuclear Facility Decontamination & Decommissioning efforts at Oak Ridge National Laboratory along with Uranium Processing, Lithium Processing, and the West End Protected Area Reduction Projects at Y-12 National Security Complex are critical to National Defense and Tennessee!
- Imposes limits on the number of **temporary military technicians** authorized to be employed in order to address concerns that the Department of Defense has gone too

far in reducing military technician authorizations in favor of Active Guard Reserve authorizations.

- Provides guidelines for the current **Navy Community College** pilot to multiply the educational opportunities for enlisted personnel, focusing on high-skilled competencies.
- Elevates the importance of quantitative assessment of testing facilities for United States Air Force through the **Ground Test Asset Board**.
- Requires the Defense Health Agency to take a hard look at excessive burdens placed on **Exceptional Family Member Program** families.
- Calls upon the Secretary of the Army to submit a comprehensive report and plan on **ammunition modernization**, for which Holston Army Ammunition Plant is a key facility, and increases funding for **ammunition infrastructure repair**.
- Fully funds the **Department of Defense Quantum Computing Initiative** to ensure that the United States leads in the innovation of this emerging technology.
- Funds a host of critical infrastructure projects at Arnold Air Force Base: **The Primary Pump Station, Nitrogen Conversion Facility, Add/Alter Test Cell Delivery Bays, and Rowling Creek Cooling Water Expansion** will provide critical construction and strategic updates to address previous Congressional reporting on Unfunded Requirements for Laboratory Military Construction Projects and enhance the Air Force and the Department of Defense's capabilities and posture.
- Establishes a **Reimbursable Testing** pilot program through 2026 to ensure cost sharing between defense contractors developing weapons systems and the Air Force Flight Test Center. This will mitigate expenses incurred by the tax payer for the routine wear and tear of testing equipment as a result of weapons engineers using Air Force facilities.
- Increases acquisition of the unmanned aerial vehicle the **MQ-9 Reaper**.

VECTOR THREE: Streamlining the work of the Department of Defense across services and domains to increase interoperability and America's comparative advantage, in Great Power Competition.

- Creates a **Civilian Cybersecurity Reserve Pilot** at United States Cyber Command, providing qualified civilian personnel to ensure that we have the talent needed to address cyber vulnerabilities and keep our nation safe at times of greatest need. Cyber incidents require a whole-of-government response, and this pilot will improve homeland security by leveraging Department of Defense resources against foreign adversaries.
- Provides the Department of Defense with much needed transparency over important qualifications presently not evident in normal personnel by establishing an **Emerging Technology Qualification Program** to better match qualified officers to certain billets.

- Increases funding for the development of **Network C3I Technology**, in an effort to enhance the Joint Force's battlefield awareness with emergent technology in drone sensor suites.
- Emphasizes the importance of necessary resourcing of the **civilian leadership** of Special Operations Command.
- Requires a comprehensive report on **Military Mobility in Europe** for U.S. and allied troops.
- Reviews the use of **optical fiber transmission equipment** for the Department of Defense, in light of concerns China may use trade protection, discriminatory procurement, and forced technology transfer policies to dispose of surplus optical fiber transmission equipment.
- Increases funding for **intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) requirements in AFRICOM**.
- Permanently authorizes the Department of Defense to use **Commercial Solutions Openings** to solicit and acquire innovative commercial items, technologies, or services, which empowers Tennessee's business to achieve their digital transformation initiatives.
- Provides funding for the continued development of the **Ground Based Strategic Deterrent**.
- Expresses the importance of the capabilities provided by the **CH-47F Chinook** and the expectation that the CH-47F Block II program will be appropriately funded in FY23.
- Continues the Senate's **strong support of Israel** by increasing funding for the Iron Dome, David's Sling, and Arrow 3.
- Adds funding for the developmental efforts of **Multi-Domain Task Forces** (MDTF) as more MTFs are stood up, including the Army's second MDTF in Europe this year and as the global demand signal for this capability increases.
- Requires a report detailing investment in **MQ-9 Command and Control (C2) upgrades** with the intent being to ensure the MQ-9 is better postured for a highly contested environment with great power competitors.
- Increases the authorized number of **special promotable Lieutenant Commander (O-4) billets** in the Navy for officers with critical skills (from 325 to 350).
- Requires a **revised nuclear posture review**.
- Addresses concerns about the Department of Defense joining contracts with companies that have sold surveillance and **Facial Recognition Technologies** to non-democratic governments to surveil, track, and repress citizens.
- Requires the Department of Defense to assess the weaponization of **Hostile Respiratory Diseases**.
- Requires any company or entity that contracts with the Department of Defense to disclose publicly all materials related to **diversity, equity, or inclusion training** with the intent of ensuring that corporations who allow or promote critical race theory training have to do so publicly.