



IMPROVING SERVICEMEMBER QUALITY OF LIFE

The FY26 NDAA continues to improve the quality of life for servicemembers and their families.

Boosts Compensation

- Supports the Trump Administration's 3.8% pay raise for all servicemembers.
- Reauthorizes and expands military bonuses and special pays.
- Increases Family Separation Allowance for deployed servicemembers.
- Expands convalescent leave.
- Requires a study to improve the calculation of Basic Allowance for Housing to ensure it keeps up with rising rental costs.

Reforms Military Food Programs

- Authorizes over \$131 million for the construction of new dining facilities.
- Makes it easier for servicemembers to access food on base with their Common Access Cards.
- Improves administration, transparency, and Congressional oversight of military food program budgets to ensure Basic Allowance for Subsistence is being used to provide food to our servicemembers.

Upgrades Servicemember Housing

- Authorizes over \$1.5 billion for new construction of barracks and family housing.
- Mandates that DoW deliver a plan to meet their unfulfilled legal obligations on health, safety, and environmental hazards in military housing.
- Requires an independent evaluation of military housing conditions, resident support gaps, and private company performance.
- Improves contract terms for military families living in privatized housing.

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Expands Access To Healthcare

- Authorizes over \$335 million to renovate military hospitals and build new medical facilities.
- Increases access to specialty care by lowering the threshold for travel reimbursement for medical appointments from 100 miles to 75.
- Prevents DoW from reducing the number of uniformed healthcare billets to prevent staffing shortages at Military Treatment Facilities.
- Ensures National Guard and reserve servicemembers with medical licenses can continue to treat servicemembers when called to active duty.
- Expands military medical cooperation, licensure, and interoperability between the U.S. and its closest allies.
- Enhances partnerships between military and civilian healthcare providers to support the National Disaster Medical System.
- Improves availability of care for veterans at DoW medical facilities.
- Expands access to sexual assault forensic kits at military installations abroad.
- Improves servicemember access to mental health services by:
 - Requiring an assessment of mental health staffing levels, average wait times for appointments, availability of telehealth services, and DoW's plan to improve mental health services.
 - Directing DoW to prioritize the development and incorporation of artificial intelligence to keep pace with the constantly evolving nature of mental health needs across the force.
 - Expanding mental health services to meet the unique needs of the Cyber Mission Force.
- Requires the following studies to address healthcare issues unique to military service:
 - A study of long-term health effects within the Special Forces community.
 - A study of cancer rates among military rotary craft crews.
 - A report on Traumatic Brain Injuries among active-duty pilots exposed to high-speed maneuvers, catapult launches, and/or other repetitive actions potentially harmful to the brain.
 - A study on the psychological effects and mental health impacts of combat remotely piloted aircraft operations.
- Requires a study on accreditation of military dental treatment facilities.



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Increases Access To Childcare

- Authorizes over \$491 million to design and build new childcare centers.
- Extends the Child Care in Your Home pilot program, which helps offset the cost of in-home full-time childcare.
- Authorizes a pilot program to increase childcare financial assistance in high-cost areas.
- Requires an annual review of childcare financial assistance to ensure it maintains pace with growing childcare costs.
- Requires child development centers to immediately notify parents of any suspected neglect or abuse of a child in their care.

Improves DoW Schools

- Authorizes over \$206 million to build new schools for children of servicemembers.
- Allows National Guard and reserve members called to active duty to enroll their children in DoW schools.
- Authorizes \$50 million in Impact Aid assistance to public schools with military dependent students and an additional \$20 million in assistance to local schools teaching children with severe disabilities.
- Prevents the closure of DoW schools without a detailed analysis and at least one school-year notification to parents.
- Authorizes students in DoW high schools to take college-level classes at local colleges or universities.
- Allows DoW schools to limit or ban students' cell phone use.

Enhances The Career Transition Assistance Program (TAP)

- Allows retiring servicemembers to immediately move into careers in the defense industrial base and medical profession.
- Establishes a pilot program for spouses to ensure a comprehensive transition for military families.
- Permits DoW to develop metrics to track TAP participation to ensure retiring servicemembers have timely access to information and resources that support their transition to civilian life.



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Strengthens Military Recruitment

- Extends military recruitment bonuses.
- Requires uniform guidance on DoW's medical accession standards.
- Increases meaningful access to secondary schools and institutions of higher learning for all military recruiters.
- Permits military recruiters to provide information on service in the Defense Industrial Base for those who do not qualify for military service.
- Increases the number of Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps units and broadens instructor qualifications to allow for a wider pool of qualified applicants.
- Grants the Secretary of War temporary authority to administer bonuses to Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps instructors in hard-to-fill positions.

Returns Our Fallen And Preserves Military History

- Expands authorities and increases funding for DoW to conduct more investigations and return the remains of American POW/MIA servicemembers.
- Creates a centralized registry of U.S. government personnel missing in action.
- Permits updates and the continued preservation of Chaplain memorials in Arlington National Cemetery.

