LOG ID	REV	MEMBER	MARKUP LOC	DESCRIPTION	MARKUP ACT
4750	1	Finstad, Brad	TAL	Improved Secondary Rotorcraft Turbine Lubrication	EB 1
4761	0	Wittman, Robert	TAL	Directs the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a report by December 1, 2025, on F-16 electronic warfare modernization plans.	EB 1
4763	1	Wittman, Robert	TAL	Army Modernization Plan for Airborne Reconnaissance, Surveillance, Targeting, and Acquisition (RSTA). Directs the Secretary of the Army to submit a report to HASC by February 15, 2026, on a plan for the modernization of Army RSTA capabilities.	EB 1
4766	0	Bergman, Jack	TAL	Directs the Army to brief HASC by Jan 31, 2026, on plans to fulfill a validated Operational Needs Statement for battlespace simulation software, including alternatives considered and efforts to expand use across the force.	EB 1
4780	0	Rogers, Mike	TAL	Directive report language on the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Program.	EB 1
4781	0	Wittman, Robert	TAL	Joint Energetics Transition Office. Directs OUSD A&S to stand up the Joint Energetics Transition Office within FY26, as required by section 241 of the FY24 NDAA, and provides incentives for doing so.	EB 1
4792	1	Scott, Austin	TAL	This directs SECAF to provide a brief to HASC that will compare test and training range capabilities with Chinese Air and Missile Defense and highlight low-cost, mobile emitter technology that is needed to improve warfighter training at these ranges.	EB 1
4838	0	Bacon, Don	TAL	This amendment would require the Secretary of the Air Force to submit a report to the Defense committees on the F-47 fighter program that includes a description of the program, costs, requirements, schedule, acquisition strategy, and proposed fielding strategy.	EB 1
4866	0	Courtney, Joe	TAL	This section would provide the Secretary of the Army with multiyear procurement authority for UH-60 Blackhawk aircraft, beginning with the fiscal year 2027 program year.	EB 1
4871	1	Harrigan, Pat	TAL	Establishes the SkyFoundry working group to develop recommendations for improving the domestic manufacturing capacity for small unmanned aircraft systems through the development of an organic sUAS innovation center and production facility.	EB 1
4874	1	Harrigan, Pat	TAL	Directs the Secretary of the Army to submit a report to the Committee on the United States supply chain for smokeless gunpowder.	EB 1
4903	1	Kelly, Trent	TAL	Encourages DoD to utilize and procure domestically sourced imaging modules for small UAS platforms.	EB 1
4906	1	Scott, Austin	TAL	This DRL directs the Secretary of the Army to provide a briefing on the needs and development status of laser eye protection for fielded forces.	EB 1

LOG ID	REV	MEMBER	MARKUP LOC	DESCRIPTION	MARKUP ACT
4936	1	Wilson, Joe	TAL	Report on TOW Anti-Tank Weapon System	EB 1
4980	1	Ryan, Patrick	TAL	Requires SECDEF brief on the current state of U.S. industrial capacity for producing turbojet engines suitable for tactical VTO missiles and UAS applications.	EB 1
5002	2	Schmidt, Derek	TAL	Safeguarding the National Simulation Center	EB 1
5008	2	Turner, Michael	TAL	Direct report language that expresses support for the Air Force's Collaborative Combat Aircraft Program.	EB 1
5036	1	Bergman, Jack	TAL	High-Power Microwave for Ground Vehicle Protection	EB 1
5046	0	Gooden, Lance	TAL	MQ-1C Gray Eagle and ATI	EB 1
5047	0	Harrigan, Pat	TAL	Directs the Secretary of the Army to submit a report on the results of the operational evaluation of the Rifle Accessory Control Unit (RACU) as the Common Remote for the Next Generation Squad Weapon, including its suitability, evaluation findings, and plans for transition.	EB 1
5052	1	Sherrill, Mikie	TAL	Directive to Brief on the Department of the Army's Medium Caliber Counter UAS (c-UAS) and Ground Munition Capabilities	EB 1
5062	2	Gooden, Lance	TAL	Army Electronic Warfare Defeat Roadmap	EB 1
5076	0	Scott, Austin	TAL	This DRL directs the Secretary of the Army to analyze the Family of Weapon Sights Crew Served contract that was recently voided and determine if any commercial off-the-shelf weapon optics used by other branches across the DoD can meet the requirement.	EB 1
5077	2	Schmidt, Derek	TAL	The committee directs the Army and Marine Corps to provide a briefing on the integration potential and value of Group 4 or larger hybrid-electric VTOL UAS	EB 1
5105	1	Strickland, Marilyn	TAL	Directs the Secretary of the Army to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services that provides an overview of current Typhon Strategic Mid-Range Fires System program status as well as funding and acquisition plans for the Future Year Defense Program (FYDP).	EB 1
5109	0	Hamadeh, Abraham J.	TAL	Soldier Lethality and Survivability on the Modern Battlefield	EB 1

LOG ID	REV	MEMBER	MARKUP LOC	DESCRIPTION	MARKUP ACT
5111	1	Messmer, Mark B.	TAL	This amendment requires a briefing from the Army on the organic industrial base and ways to modernize the supply of critical munitions.	EB 1
5127	0	Stefanik, Elise	TAL	Report on the feasibility and advisability of establishing a close combat innovation center	EB 1
5140	0	Jackson, Ronny	TAL	Directive report language on the transition of the T-7 aircraft engine system from commercial furnished equipment to government furnished equipment.	EB 1
5153	0	Hamadeh, Abraham J.	TAL	High-Altitude Platform Systems	EB 1
5157	1	Messmer, Mark B.	TAL	This amendment seeks a briefing on the Production Capacity and Deployment Plans for the Precision Strike Missile.	EB 1
5158	0	Jackson, Ronny	TAL	Update on the current status of the SIEPU program	EB 1
5215	0	Norcross, Donald	TAL	Prohibits Department of Defense from using funds to terminate the E-7 Wedgetail rapid prototype contract or to terminate the operations of the E-7A production line.	EB 1
5217	1	Vindman, Eugene Simon	TAL	Directs DoD to assess how to integrate small, expendable FPV drones into military ops, including doctrine, training, personnel, and facilities. Aims to scale this transformative tech across the force and keep pace with adversaries using it on modern battlefields.	EB 1
5232	1	Fallon, Pat	TAL	Competitive Demonstration of Low-Cost, Highly Scalable Air Interceptors	EB 1
5239	1	Wilson, Joe	TAL	Report on Commercially Available Small Arms Marksmanship Training Technologies.	EB 1
5257	1	Norcross, Donald	TAL	Directive Report Language requiring a briefing from Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment on the Department's plan to obligate and expend the munitions funding provided in the Reconciliation Act (PL 119-21).	EB 1
5313	2	McGuire, John J.	TAL	Would direct the MILDEP secretaries to provide a briefing comparing non-lethal pneumatically operated surrogate training weapons to legacy training systems.	EB 1
5314	1	Gooden, Lance	TAL	Airborne Reconnaissance and Electronic Warfare Systems	EB 1

LOG ID	REV	MEMBER	MARKUP LOC	DESCRIPTION	MARKUP ACT
5326	0	Jackson, Ronny	TAL	Supports cooperative directed energy research and testing activities	EB 1
5349	1	Wilson, Joe	TAL	Briefing on Precision Artillery Munitions Modernization.	EB 1
5367	2	Davis, Donald G.	TAL	The DRL would require a briefing to assess how we can strengthen the fire control radar industrial base, to improve detection and safety for fighter aircraft.	EB 1
5372	2	Turner, Michael	TAL	United States Drone Warfare Capabilities and Lessons from Ukraine	EB 1
5378	5	Davis, Donald G.	TAL	The DRL would require the Army to report on the positive outcomes associated with the Silent Tactical Energy Enhanced Dismount (STEED) capability and Army load-carrying technological advancements writ large.	EB 1
5391	0	Davis, Donald G.	TAL	The DRL would require an assessment of the benefits of modernizing F-15 engines and propulsion for the engine components.	EB 1
5417	1	Bergman, Jack	TAL	Directs DoD to assess efforts to integrate secure, scalable 5G tactical radios into battlefield communications and report by December 1, 2025. Focus includes pilot results, cost, and barriers to deploying commercial 5G tech for resilient warfighter networks.	EB 1
5419	0	Wittman, Robert	TAL	Directs a briefing from the Secretary of the Air Force by December 1, 2025, on how Human Machine Interfaces and Pilot Vehicle Interfaces are supporting the development of the Collaborative Combat Aircraft.	EB 1
5429	3	Elfreth, Sarah	TAL	The amendment would require the Deputy Secretary of Defense to provide a report on the Navy's F/A-XX 6th Generation Tactical Fighter Aircraft program.	EB 1
5476	2	Wittman, Robert	TAL	sUAS in the Indo-Pacific. Directs USD(A&S) to brief HASC on small unmanned aerial system industrial base collaboration opportunities between the United States and the Philippines.	EB 1
5528	0	Fallon, Pat	TAL	COUNTER-UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM READINESS	EB 1
5541	0	Bergman, Jack	TAL	Decreasing unit cost for platforms on the DIU Blue List and Framework	EB 1
5569	1	Scott, Austin	TAL	This DRL directs the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology to submit a report on a plan to conduct an additional qualification test to ensure the Army can field the Next-Generation Squad Weapon with the highest performing magazine.	EB 1

LOG ID	REV	MEMBER	MARKUP LOC	DESCRIPTION	MARKUP ACT
5621	0	Moulton, Seth	TAL	Requires a briefing on the status of F-35 Technical Refresh 3 and Block 4 capabilities	EB 1

Amendment to H.R. 3838

Offered by: Mr. Finstad

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

Improved Secondary Rotorcraft Turbine Lubrication

The committee recognizes that safe and effective operation of modern helicopters entails satisfactory treatment of the loss-of-lubrication (LoL) condition. The committee notes that the helicopter is required to operate effectively for a minimum prescribed time of 30 minutes while experiencing failure of the primary lubrication system. However, the prescribed time leaves limited margin for error and safe operating procedures in the event of a primary lubrication failure, putting warfighters at increased risk, especially in austere environments.

The committee encourages the Department of the Army to accelerate development of secondary lubrication systems to increase safety margins following loss of primary lubrication to rotorcraft propulsion, main, intermediate, and tail gearbox components. In addition, the committee directs the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment to provide a report to the House Armed Services Committee not later than April 1, 2026, on improved secondary rotorcraft turbine lubrication for all Department of Defense rotorcraft. At a minimum the report shall include:

- A statement of current rotorcraft fleet loss-of-lubrication safety requirements;
- An assessment of the capability of current safety systems to meet current requirements;
- An outline of plans to develop secondary lubrication systems that meet or increase safety margins following a loss of primary lubrication event; and,
- A strategy to implement any promising secondary lubrication solutions that improve safety margins for rotorcraft fleets.

Amendment to H.R. 3838
National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026

Offered by: Mr. Wittman

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

Air Force F-16 Electronic Warfare

The committee understands the Department of the Air Force has chosen not to prioritize funding for F-16 electronic warfare (EW) modernization in recent years. Despite this decision, the Air National Guard has expressed interest in updating their F-16s that are not part of the Air Force's F-16 modernization plans with more advanced EW capabilities. The committee also understands that there are budget constraints and encourages the Air Force to look at how their fleets, including Air National Guard fleets, could leverage systems already in production to get a more cost-effective solution to the Air Force more quickly.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a report to the congressional defense committees no later than December 1, 2025, on the following:

(1) current F-16 EW modernization programs, including costs, aircraft ("A-kit") modification impacts, and fielding timelines;

(2) a comparative assessment of feasible alternatives covering the aforementioned areas for the active-duty and Air National Guard's F-16s; and

(3) these alternatives shall include, but are not limited to, U.S.-made F-16 EW solutions developed through foreign military sales, and advanced podded EW systems.

Amendment to H.R. 3838
National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026

Offered by: Mr. Wittman

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

Army Modernization Plan for Airborne Reconnaissance, Surveillance, Targeting, and Acquisition (RSTA)

The committee is concerned with the Army's ability to meet current and future operational demands for airborne reconnaissance, surveillance, targeting, and acquisition (RSTA) capabilities in alignment with the National Defense Strategy. The committee recognizes that evolving threats and rapid technological advancements necessitate a coherent, forward-looking modernization strategy that links capability development with long-term resource planning.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army to submit a report to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than February 15, 2026, detailing a comprehensive plan for the modernization of airborne RSTA capabilities. This report should include:

(1) a detailed assessment of all current and future airborne RSTA mission requirements necessary to support the National Defense Strategy;

(2) an analysis of the platforms, capabilities, and capacities required to fulfill the assessed mission requirements, including gaps, redundancies, and opportunities for innovation or divestment;

(3) the estimated life-cycle costs for each identified platform, capability, and capacity, including sustainment, modernization, and potential replacement;

(4) an analysis of operational, budgetary, and schedule trade-offs between sustaining currently fielded capabilities, modernizing existing platforms and systems, and developing and producing new capabilities; and

(5) a strategy for implementing the modernization plan through fiscal year 2030, including key milestones, decision points, and alignment with Army and Department of Defense budget planning cycles.

The report shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex, as appropriate.

Amendment to H.R. 3838

Offered by: Mr. Bergman

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

Modern Air Combat Emulation

The committee believes that twenty-first century mission planning requires the ability to realistically emulate contested and complex battlespaces to ensure U.S. forces maintain readiness against near-peer threats. The committee notes that Army combat aviation brigades have a validated need for collaborative mission planning capabilities that support disaggregated operations and utilize next-generation technologies, such as three-dimensional rendering and virtual reality.

The committee is aware that Army aviation units recently submitted an Operational Needs Statement for commercially available battlespace simulation software that is in use across other military components, including the Navy, Air Force, special operations forces, and the Department's broader training enterprise. The committee notes that these tools are immediately available, meet Army requirements, and have been operationally validated. The committee believes fulfilling this requirement with proven commercial solutions aligns with the Department's broader goals to increase efficiency and reduce cost, as outlined in Executive Order 14271, "Ensuring Commercial, Cost-Effective Solutions in Federal Contracts."

The committee directs the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than January 31, 2026, on the status of the Army's battlespace simulation capabilities. The briefing should include the following:

(1) the Army's plan to fulfill the validated Operational Needs Statement with commercially available software tools;

(2) a list of any government-owned battlespace simulation capabilities that could reasonably substitute for commercial solutions; and

(3) plans to expand the use of such tools across the broader force.

Amendment to H.R. 3838

Offered by: Mr. Rogers

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Program

The committee continues to support the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter program as an important component of the Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps tactical aviation fleets, and as a critical enabler of U.S. and allied air dominance in contested environments. The F-35 provides stealth, situational awareness, and operational flexibility, and its presence assists deterring aggression and enabling U.S. air superiority across multiple theaters.

While the committee notes that the President's fiscal year 2026 budget request includes procurement of 47 F-35 aircraft—below the previously planned total of 69—the committee recognizes that the Department of Defense has made a strategic decision to finally prioritize funding towards sustainment and modernization, which has been under-resourced for many years, to ensure the current fleet remains combat-ready and able to meet mission capability demands.

The committee supports the Department's actions to invest in F-35 sustainment, reliability improvements, and software modernization, which are necessary to achieve a "fight tonight" posture and ensure the long-term viability and lethality of the platform. The committee encourages continued focus on improving spare parts availability, reducing maintenance turnaround times, and accelerating the implementation of Block 4 capabilities to maximize the fleet's operational effectiveness. At the same time, the committee believes that sustained procurement of F-35 aircraft in future fiscal years is necessary to help recapitalize the aging fighter inventories of the Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of the Air Force and the Secretary of the Navy, to provide a briefing not later than February 15, 2026 to the House Committee on Armed Services regarding the Department's future procurement ramp plans that meets warfighter demand across the services and maintains production efficiency and cost-effectiveness for the broader F-35 industrial base and its customers.

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 3838

OFFERED BY MR. WITTMAN OF VIRGINIA

At the appropriate place in title II, insert the following new section:

SEC. 2___. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS PENDING COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO THE JOINT ENERGETICS TRANSITION OFFICE.

(a) LIMITATION.—Of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of Defense and available for the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment for travel expenses, not more than 75 percent may be obligated or expended until the date on which the Secretary of Defense—

(1) establishes a Joint Energetics Transition Office as required under section 148 of title 10, United States Code; and

(2) submits to the congressional defense committees the reports required under subsections (b) and (c) of section 241 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118–31; 136 Stat. 208).

(b) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Defense may waive the prohibition under subsection (a) if the Secretary—

(1) determines that extenuating circumstances justify such a waiver; and

(2) provides to the congressional defense committees a briefing on the reasons for such determination.

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Amendment to H.R. 3838

Offered by: Mr. Austin Scott

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

Improving training against advanced Integrated Air Defense Systems using low-cost, mobile, and expendable emitters

Currently, the Test and Training Ranges that train United States warfighters against Integrated Air Defense Systems pose a significant mission risk due to inadequate or inaccurate threat replication. While it is cost prohibitive to fully replicate an advanced adversary's air and missile defense capabilities, the Department of the Air Force and National Guard Bureau should leverage current technology to better prepare warfighters to face moder threat systems. The committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force in coordination with the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 01, 2026, on current United States test and training range capacity and capabilities to replicate Integrated Air Defense Systems of the People's Republic of China. The briefing should include the following information:

(1) a comparison of current United States test and training range capabilities to replicate advanced Chinese air defense systems and command and control architecture focusing on the Nellis Test and Training Range, Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex, Tolicha Peak Electronic Combat Range, Air Dominance Center, and Combat Readiness Training Centers and including Radio-Frequency Waveform replication, mobility, and visual signatures;

(2) describe current limitations to kinetically target and conduct bomb hit indications against current range emitters and the impacts to training;

(3) assess the military utility and cost-effectiveness of integrating low-cost, mobile, man-portable, and expendable emitter systems into training ranges to improve destruction of enemy air defenses training and threat replication scaling; and

(4) an overview of currently available or in-development systems that could improve range capabilities, recommendations for investments, experimentation, or acquisition strategies to rapidly field or scale these capabilities, and the number of systems needed for air defense replication for each relevant range.

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 3838

OFFERED BY MR. BACON OF NEBRASKA

At the appropriate place in title I, insert the following new section:

SEC. 1___. REPORT ON THE F–47 ADVANCED FIGHTER AIRCRAFT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 1, 2027, the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the F–47 advanced fighter aircraft program.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include following:

(1) A description of the F–47 aircraft program, including system requirements, employment concepts, and projected costs, schedule, and funding requirements over the period covered by the program objective memorandum process for fiscal years 2028 through 2034.

(2) The acquisition strategy for the F–47 program of record, including consideration of implementing a middle tier acquisition pathway or major capability acquisition pathway (as such terms are defined in Department of Defense Instruction

5000.85, titled ''Major Capability Acquisition'' and issued on August 6, 2020 (or a successor instruction)).

(3) A proposed fielding strategy for the F–47 aircraft, including—

(A) estimated force structure requirements;

(B) strategic basing considerations;

(C) an estimate of military construction requirements;

(D) an estimate of personnel training requirements; and

(E) an integrated total force fielding concept, including an analysis of Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve operational integration and associations.

(c) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 3838

OFFERED BY MR. COURTNEY OF CONNECTICUT

At the appropriate place in title I, insert the following new section:

SEC. 1___. MULTIYEAR PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY FOR UH–60 BLACKHAWK AIRCRAFT.

(a) AUTHORITY FOR MULTIYEAR PROCUREMENT.—Subject to section 3501 of title 10, United States Code, the Secretary of the Army may enter into one or more multiyear contracts, beginning with the fiscal year 2027 program year, for the procurement of UH–60 Blackhawk aircraft.

(b) CONDITION FOR OUT-YEAR CONTRACT PAYMENTS.—A contract entered into under subsection (a) shall provide that any obligation of the United States to make a payment under the contract for a fiscal year after fiscal year 2027 is subject to the availability of appropriations or funds for that purpose for such later fiscal year.

(c) AUTHORITY FOR ADVANCE PROCUREMENT.—The Secretary of the Army may enter into one or more contracts, beginning in fiscal year 2026, for advance procurement associated with the aircraft for which authorization to enter into a multiyear procurement contract is provided

under subsection (a), which may include procurement of economic order quantities of material and equipment for such aircraft when cost savings are achievable.

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 3838

OFFERED BY MR. HARRIGAN OF NORTH CAROLINA

At the appropriate place in title VIII, insert the following:

SEC. 8___. ORGANIC SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM MANUFACTURING CAPACITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall establish in the Defense Industrial Resilience Consortium established under section 1842 [Log 82244] a working group, to be called the ''SkyFoundry Working Group'', to develop recommendations—

(1) for improving the domestic manufacturing capacity for small unmanned aircraft systems; and

(2) to enable rapid development, testing, and scalable manufacturing of small drones.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—The membership of the working group shall include representatives from the Government, including representatives from the Army Materiel Command and the United States Special Operations Command, industry, and academia with expertise in the manufacturing, engineering, or testing and evaluation of small

UAS manufacturing, including expertise in modular manufacturing processes for small UAS, or commercial best practices and business models for manufacturing small UAS.

(c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The working group established under subsection (a) shall—

(1) identify existing infrastructure of the Department of Defense, including depots and military installations, that may be modified to operate as an innovation center and production facility for small UAS manufacturing that is capable of mass producing small UAS;

(2) assess how the infrastructure identified under paragraph (1) could be operated using a hybrid business model, including—

(A) a Government Owned, Contractor Operated model; and

(B) a Government Owned, Government Operated model;

(3) identify additional authorities that could be used to streamline and expedite the establishment of an organic small UAS innovation and production facility, including rapid acquisition authorities that could be used to accelerate contacting, production,

testing, and delivery of small UAS to the Department of Defense;

(4) identify any changes to policy and procedures of the Department that are required for the Department to establish the innovation center and production facility for sUAS manufacturing at an existing depot or military installation;

(5) identify any funding required for the sustainment, restoration, and modernization of facilities to establish an innovation center and production facility for small UAS manufacturing; and

(6) develop and submit to the Secretary of Defense recommendations for—

(A) establishing an innovation center and production facility for small UAS manufacturing;

(B) workforce training to enhance the knowledge and experience of the workforce of the Department of Defense in small UAS design, manufacturing, and testing best practices and procedures; and

(C) expanding the concept of a innovation center and production facility to expand the access of the Department of Defense to required

products, including energetics and autonomous systems.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress—

(1) a summary of the recommendations submitted to the Secretary under subsection (c)(6);

(2) an explanation of the actions taken by the Secretary to better enable the Department of Defense to rapidly develop, test, and manufacture small UAS; and

(3) the recommendations of the Secretary to enable the Department to expand domestic manufacturing capacity for small unmanned aircraft systems and to enable rapid development, testing, and scalable manufacturing of small drones, including any recommendations for any additional relevant statutory authorities.

(e) SUNSET.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The requirements under this section shall expire on the date that is one year after the date of this Act.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not be construed as terminating the authority of the Secretary to continue the operating the work-

ing group established under subsection (a) after the expiration date established under such paragraph.

(f) PRESERVATION OF AUTHORITY.—The establishment or findings of the working group established under subsection (a) shall not be construed as restricting, delaying, or otherwise limiting the Secretary of the Army from exercising any of the authorities of the Secretary referred to in this section, including the performance of any action under any authority of the Secretary that may be the subject of a review by or recommendation of such working group.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term ''small unmanned aircraft system'' mean a small unmanned aircraft and associated elements (including communication links and the components that control the unmanned aircraft) that are required for the operator to operate safely and efficiently in the national airspace system.

(2) The term ''small unmanned aircraft'' means an unmanned aircraft weighing less than 55 pounds, including the weight of anything attached to or carried by the aircraft.

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Amendment to H.R. 3838

Offered by: Mr. Harrigan

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

Ammunition Supply Chain

The committee directs the Secretary of the Army to submit a report to the House Committee on Armed Services, not later than February 1, 2026, on the United States supply chain for smokeless gunpowder, including nitrocellulose, nitroglycerin, and acid production, essential to ammunition manufacturing, and on assessment plans for locations previously identified by the Army to improve the sourcing of smokeless gunpowder.

Amendment to H.R. 3838

Offered by: Mr. Trent Kelly

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

Domestic Sourcing of Imaging Sensors for Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems

The committee acknowledges the pivotal role of advanced imaging systems as a critical enabler of the Army's Small Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (Long Range Reconnaissance and Medium Range Reconnaissance) programs, providing real-time reconnaissance, surveillance, and target acquisition in support of military operations and ensuring the safety of our service members.

Recognizing the strategic importance of maintaining a secure and resilient supply chain, the committee emphasizes the necessity of sourcing these imaging systems from domestic manufacturers to safeguard against potential disruptions and bolster the national defense industrial base.

The committee encourages the Secretary of the Army to prioritize the integration of domestically manufactured imaging systems within the acquisition strategy for both the LRR and MRR programs. The committee further directs the Secretary of the Army to provide a report to the House Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Armed Services, no later than December 1, 2025, that includes:

(1) status of domestic sourcing for the Army's Battalion- and Company-Level SUAS activities and any existing challenges to domestic sourcing for imaging systems, including risks associated with non-domestic sourcing; and

(2) identified supply chain and industrial base risks to Group 2 (Battalion- and Company-Level SUAS) and Group 3 UAS acquisition programs associated with utilizing non-domestic sources for imaging systems.

Amendment to H.R. 3838

Offered by: Mr. Austin Scott

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

Developing Improvements to Army Laser Eye Protection

There is an observed increase in the development and use of lasers on the battlefield to include designating targets, disrupting sensors, and even destroying adversary weapon systems. Lasers are now being used on the battlefield targeting individual soldiers with blinding laser devices initially disrupting the soldier's engagements but ultimately resulting in long term eye damage affecting overall readiness. The committee directs the Secretary of the Army to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 01, 2026, on the plans to establish a requirement for laser-protective eyewear and materials and to develop, acquire, and equip soldiers with laser eye protection.

Amendment to H.R. 3838

Offered by: Mr. Wilson

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

Tube-Launched, Optically Tracked, Wireless-Guided Anti-Tank Weapon System

The Army has proposed cancelling procurement of the Tube-launched, Optically-Tracked, Wirelessly-Guided (TOW) anti-tank weapon system. The committee is reminded of the Army's decision in 2003 to cancel the Stinger Block II missile program, without a replacement, and the industrial base challenges when the decision was made to restart U.S. production. The Army currently has a significant inventory of TOW missiles, but world events have demonstrated that transfers to allies can quickly change the stockpile outlook.

The committee directs the Secretary of the Army, to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 30, 2026, on the Army's plan to address its anti-tank guided missile and organic direct fire requirements without TOW. The briefing should include:

(1) the acquisition plan to replace the capability provided by TOW, including schedule, development and production costs, and any planned commonality with current TOW launchers;

(2) an assessment of the costs, capabilities and fielding timelines associated with an enhanced TOW, compared with the planned alternative;

(3) the current inventories including current stockpile life remaining, variants, and launchers; and

(4) the industrial base implications of an extended production gap to include cost estimates of cold-line production restart, and any risks to allied procurement of the system.

Amendment to H.R. 3838

Offered by: Mr. Ryan

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

Domestic Engine Production for Tactical Ground Vertical Take-Off (VTO) Missile Systems

The committee notes the growing operational value of turbojet-engine-powered vertical take-off (VTO) missile systems and unmanned aerial systems (UAS) for ground forces. These systems offer a minimal launch footprint, variable flight altitudes, and flexible employment options, thereby enhancing ground-force fires.

The committee remains concerned that the development and fielding of these capabilities are constrained by limited domestic production capacity for small turbojet engines capable of supporting VTO flight. Given the increasing demand, the committee believes it is critical to expand U.S. industrial capacity for such engines.

The committee directs the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, in coordination with the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Industrial Base Policy and the Commanding General, Army Futures Command, to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than February 1, 2026, on—

(1) the current state of United States industrial capacity to produce turbojet engines suitable for tactical VTO missile and UAS applications;
(2) ongoing and planned Department initiatives to expand that industrial base; and
(3) recommended actions to achieve a sustained domestic production rate of at least 10,000 VTO-capable engines per year.

Amendment to H.R. 3838

Offered by: Mr. Schmidt

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

Sustaining the Army's National Simulation Center

The committee supports the Army Transformation Initiative (ATI) but is concerned with the Army not sustaining and protecting the National Simulation Center (NSC). Since the 1980s, the NSC has collectively trained Army divisions and corps command posts before every major conflict including operations in Europe, the Middle East, and the Pacific region. For over 40 years, the NSC has developed, integrated, and delivered simulation capabilities in support of battle focused collective training, mission rehearsal and combat leader development.

While maintaining its legacy platform, the NSC has developed the next generation tools to support Warfighter and Command Post Exercises across the combat training centers for the active, guard and reserve components, and these training environments have replicated multi-domain operations that have directly contributed to force readiness and operational effectiveness. To cite one example, The NSC delivered a small unmanned aerial system (sUAS) virtual collective trainer to operational units in under 90 days, fulfilling an emerging requirement.

Accordingly, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than December 15, 2025, on their plan to protect and sustain the National Simulation Center.

Amendment to H.R. 3838

Offered by: MR. TURNER

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

Support the Collaborative Combat Aircraft Program

"The committee remains concerned with the rapid military growth of adversaries and the speed by which mass-produced, modern capabilities are proliferated and threaten the air superiority that has underpinned U.S. military dominance for decades. To counter these threats, the committee encourages the Air Force to continue to embrace initiatives that accelerate affordable and rapid fielding of capable airpower mass.

The committee remains strongly supportive of the Increment 1 Collaborative Combat Aircraft (CCA) program. In just over five years, the CCA program has progressed from conceptual development to production and fielding of an operationally relevant capability, while leveraging technologically advanced contributions of an expanding industrial base. In April 2024, the Air Force selected two sources to provide CCA Increment 1 prototypes and the program is on pace to conduct flight testing in late 2025. The committee expects the Air Force to move forward with full-scale production of Increment 1 as soon as possible following the completion of successful flight demonstrations.

While CCAs are envisioned to operate alongside fighter aircraft, the committee is fully supportive of the potential of autonomous aircraft and expansion of these capabilities with other piloted-type aircraft.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services, not later than January 16, 2026, on the service's plans to transition CCA Increment 1 prototypes to full-scale production and the associated resource requirements."

Amendment to H.R. 3838

Offered by: Mr. Bergman

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

High-Power Microwave for Ground Vehicle Protection

The Committee is concerned with improving the survivability of the Army's armored vehicles against proliferated threats such as unmanned aircraft systems (UAS). Further, the Committee believes the Army should prioritize investment in nonkinetic, high-power microwave countermeasures for ground vehicle platforms to counter the growing UAS threat. Therefore, the Committee directs the Secretary of the Army to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services, not later than February 1, 2026, that includes: (1) a summary of existing counter-UAS capabilities currently deployed or deployable on Army ground vehicles; (2) a brief description of available non-kinetic systems, including highpower microwave, to mitigate UAS threats; and, (3) a high level assessment of the cost and schedule required for integration of high-power microwave systems onto Army ground vehicles.

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 3838

OFFERED BY MR. GOODEN OF TEXAS

At the appropriate place in title X, insert the following:

SEC. 10___. LIMITATION ON RETIREMENT OF GRAY EAGLE UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS.

(a) PROHIBITION.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the Secretary of the Army may not retire, divest, or otherwise take any action that would—

(1) reduce the number, configuration, or capability of any MQ-1C Gray Eagle Extended Range unmanned aircraft system that is in the Army inventory as of the date of the enactment of this Act; or

(2) prevent the Army from maintaining such systems in the current or improved configurations and capabilities of such systems.

(b) EXCEPTION.—The prohibition under subsection (a) shall not apply if the Chairman of the Joint Requirements Oversight Council submits to the appropriate congressional committees a written certification that—

(1) a capability of equal or greater effectiveness will be fielded and operational prior to, or concur-

rently with, the retirement of any MQ-1C Gray Eagle unmanned aircraft system; and

(2) such retirement will not result in a reduction in the overall capacity available to the commanders of the combatant commands.

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the congressional defense committees (as defined in section 101(a)(16) of title 10, United States Code); and

(2) the congressional intelligence committees (as defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C 3003)).

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Amendment to H.R. 3838

Offered by: Mr. Pat Harrigan

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

Rifle Accessory Control Unit

The committee has provided direction and demonstrated support for the testing and evaluation of the Rifle Accessory Control Unit (RACU), which provides the warfighter with single-point control for all weapon-mounted and body-worn electronic devices. Testing and evaluation has clearly demonstrated the RACU's significant capabilities, enhancing warfighter safety and lethality.

The committee is encouraged that the Army is currently conducting an operational evaluation of the RACU as the Common Remote for the Next Generation Squad Weapon (NGSW) and anticipates this evaluation will be carried out expeditiously throughout calendar year 2025.

The committee directs the Secretary of the Army to submit a report to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 1, 2026, on the results of the operational evaluation of the Rifle Accessory Control Unit (RACU) as the Common Remote for the Next Generation Squad Weapon (NGSW). The report should include the following:

1) an assessment of the RACU's suitability as the Common Remote for the NGSW;

2) findings from the 2025 operational evaluation; and

3) a proposed schedule and plan for transition to a Program of Record, if applicable.

Amendment to H.R. 3838

Offered by: Ms. Sherrill

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

Directive to Brief on the Department of the Army's Medium Caliber Counter UAS (c-UAS) and Ground Munition Capabilities

The committee recognizes the need for next generation 25mm and 40mm munitions to address evolving threats, including unmanned aerial systems (UAS) and dispersed ground targets. Legacy platforms like the Bradley Fighting Vehicle and MK19 remain essential but must be augmented with enhanced range, precision, and adaptability.

Medium caliber platforms, 25mm through 50mm systems, are central to the future of maneuver warfare and expeditionary force protection. Their balance of mobility, lethality, and logistics footprint makes them well-suited for a broad array of applications, from infantry fighting vehicles and unmanned ground systems to shipboard and remote-mounted defensive systems. However, their effectiveness in counter unmanned aerial systems (c-UAS) scenarios depends on accelerated innovation in munitions design. Precision engagement, programmable fuzing, selectable effects, and low-collateral area effects are all essential to defeating unmanned aerial and ground threats in dynamic, high-threat environments. As adversaries adopt increasingly advanced drone and maneuver capabilities, layered, responsive fires at the medium caliber level will become a defining operational advantage. To keep pace, the Department must accelerate the development of advanced medium caliber munitions optimized for both kinetic c-UAS missions and improved lethality against ground targets.

The committee therefore directs the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology to submit a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services, not later than March 1, 2026, on the Army's ability to accelerate medium caliber munition development for c-UAS and ground roles, including joint efforts, rapid prototyping, and the use of government assets. If the briefing is classified, it shall be accompanied by an unclassified summary. The briefing shall include:

(1) Current medium caliber development efforts;
(2) Key technical and industrial barriers;
(3) Recommendations for accelerating integration, testing, and fielding.

Amendment to H.R. 3838

Offered by: Mr. Gooden

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

Army Electronic Warfare Roadmap

The committee is aware that Army's PEO Ground Combat Systems has an existing roadmap to develop soft kill, non-kinetic solutions for a variety of threats to ground combat vehicles, including counter-UAS capabilities. While the Committee is encouraged by the Army's development of soft kill solutions, it notes that the Army's roadmap would not field needed capabilities for at least another five years. Therefore, the committee directs the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology) to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by March 1, 2026 on the cost, schedule and feasibility of accelerating the fielding of soft kill, counter- UAS solutions for Army ground combat vehicles.

Amendment to H.R. 3838

Offered by: Mr. Austin Scott

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

Analyzing Commercial Off-the-Shelf Optics to Meet Weapon Sight Requirements

The Department of Defense recently voided the Family of Weapon Sights Crew Served contract due to operational failures, program delays, and cost overruns. However, branches across the Department of Defense currently field Commercial Off-the-Shelf crew served weapons optics that meet or exceed program requirements. The committee directs the Secretary of the Army to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 01, 2026, on assessing the alternative commercial off-the-shelf solutions to satisfy the recently voided contracts for the Family of Weapon Sights Crew Served program. The briefing should include the following information:

(1) the reasons the Army terminated the previous contract including any budget, operational capability, or programmatic concerns;

(2) the plan, if any, to restart the program and its projected timeline from solicitation to First Unit Equipped;

(3) analysis to determine if any commercial off-the-shelf optics solutions can meet program requirements; and

(4) a cost/benefit analysis of fielding any such commercial off-the-shelf solution(s) in lieu of restarting the program competition, including possible time or cost savings.

Amendment to H.R. 3838

Offered by: Mr. Schmidt

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

Hybrid Electric Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) for Disaster Response and Tactical Contested Logistics Operations

The committee recognizes the increasing importance of Group 4 or larger hybrid-electric Vertical Takeoff and Landing (VTOL) Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) as a critical enabler of both contested logistics and disaster response across the Joint Force. These systems are uniquely suited for missions where traditional platforms are either too vulnerable, too costly, or unavailable due to environmental or adversarial constraints. Hybrid-electric VTOL UAS platforms offer a compelling operational value proposition, combining reduced acoustic signature with extended endurance and vertical lift capabilities. This makes them ideal for supporting distributed operations across the Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Army and Air National Guard, particularly in scenarios aligned with the concepts of Agile Combat Employment (ACE), Distributed Maritime Operations (DMO), Joint Contested Logistics, and Joint All-Domain Command and Control (CJADC2). Their use reduces risk to personnel by allowing for logistics operations in areas where the threat to human-piloted aircraft is elevated or where aircraft attrition is expected.

Additionally, hybrid-electric VTOL UAS are expected to deliver significant cost-per-flight-hour (CPFH) savings compared to traditional airlift platforms such as the C-130, C-17, or military rotary-wing aircraft, particularly in short-hop, high-tempo logistics and disaster missions. These platforms are also well suited to support operations from austere or degraded sites where fixed-wing aircraft cannot operate and where rotorcraft may be logistically overburdened or resource-constrained.

Therefore, the committee directs the Chief of Staff of the Army in coordination with the Commandant of the Marine Corps, to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services no later than December 1, 2025, on the integration potential and value of Group 4 or larger hybrid-electric VTOL UAS. This briefing shall include:

1.) An assessment of the comparative cost efficiencies, operational advantages, and personnel risk mitigation provided by hybrid-electric VTOL UAS in contested logistics and disaster response scenarios, versus legacy airlift platforms;

2.) Identification of critical capability gaps in last-mile or last-tactical-mile logistics—particularly in denied, degraded, or infrastructure-compromised environments—where these systems could serve as a force multiplier;
3.) An evaluation of specific mission sets across the Army and Air National Guard that could benefit from the deployment of these platforms, especially those related to homeland disaster response, humanitarian relief, wildfire suppression, or emergency resupply;
4.) Options and timelines to accelerate the development, testing, and integration of these aircraft into Army and Marine Corps capability portfolios, including interoperability with emerging logistics C2 systems and future joint concepts;
5.) An appraisal of the utility of dedicated air corridors and restricted airspace for developmental flight testing, operational concept development (CONOPS), Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTP) formulation, and training of military personnel in the employment and sustainment of hybrid-electric VTOL UAS.

Amendment to H.R. 3838

Offered by: Ms. Strickland

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

Typhon Mid-Range Capability Battery Industrial Base

The committee commends the Army for addressing present and future long-range precision fires modernization concerns. The Typhon Strategic Mid-Range Fires (SMRF) System is designed to meet the challenges presented by near-peer artillery threats, specifically Russia and China. The Typhon System is an integral component of the Army Multi-Domain Task Force (MDTF) designed to defeat and overmatch enemy fires on U.S. combat operations and ground combat systems. Allied militaries understand the unique capabilities provided by this system and have deployed four batteries to strategic global locations providing a rapidly deployable, highly precise, and survivable solution. The committee believes that the Typhon SMRF system is an essential strategic deterrence and readiness component and encourages the Army to include additional systems in their future year defense program. The committee encourages Army senior leadership to materially support first, second and third tier system suppliers within the defense industrial base to ensure operational capacity for future contingencies.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by December 1, 2025 that provides an overview of current program status as well as funding and acquisition plans for the Future Year Defense Program (FYDP).

Amendment to H.R. 3838

Offered by: Mr. Hamadeh

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

Soldier Lethality and Survivability on the Modern Battlefield

The committee is increasingly concerned by advancements made by Russia and China in the lethality of their small arms ammunition. These developments have resulted in weapons capable of penetrating all current U.S. body armor, posing a serious threat to American warfighters.

While there have been notable improvements in lightweight armor materials – such as ballistic fabrics, fibers, and ceramics – the processing methods used to manufacture body armor composites have not evolved over the past two decades. Current methods result in poor adhesion between layers, reducing the overall protective performance of the armor.

The committee commends the U.S. Army Research Laboratory (ARL), under the Combat Capabilities Development Command (DEVCOM), for its efforts to develop and scale advanced high-temperature and high-pressure processing techniques for armor composites. These techniques, when combined with modern ballistic fibers, fabrics, and adhesives, have the potential to significantly enhance body armor performance.

The committee believes these body armor innovations should be rapidly transitioned from research and development to procurement for all military services. ARL's advanced body armor technology directly supports the U.S. Army's modernization priorities, including the imperative to enhance Soldier Lethality.

Accordingly, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army, in coordination with the Chief of Staff of the Army, to submit a report to the congressional defense committees not later than March 1, 2026, outlining the following:

(1) A description of research and development efforts for next generation ballistic protection;
(2) The specific steps being taken to move DEVCOM's body armor research and development into formal procurement and program of record;

(3) An explanation of the requirements and considerations for scaling procurement across all military services;
(4) A detailed accounting of the resources required to scale DEVCOM's body armor technology for Army-wide deployment; and
(5) Any other relevant matters the Secretary deems relevant.

Amendment to H.R. 3838

Offered by: Mr. Messmer of Indiana

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

Organic Industrial Base Transformation Initiative

The committee understands the critical importance of the organic industrial base to ensuring the nation has the supply of critical munitions it requires to deter, and if necessary, fight and win our nation's wars. The committee commends the Army's recent efforts to modernize the organic industrial base but remains aware of multiple deficiencies within the enterprise. Many of these facilities are now sustaining obsolete platforms or being forced to find alternate commercial work, in part because there is no coherent, centralized plan to guide their workload and modernization efforts. The organic industrial base's governance is fractured across multiple commands and functions, including the Army Materiel Command (AMC) who owns and operates the facilities and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology who funds the majority of workload and acquisition priorities. Further, the use of the Army Working Capital Fund prevents the kind of sustained investment that is required to properly modernize the organic industrial base. To that end, the committee recognizes that the Army requires an effective, efficient governance and resourcing model to ensure the organic industrial base is modernized and expanded to meet our nation's military requirements.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by February 16, 2026, with the following information:

(1) an analysis of the Army Working Capital Fund's impact on the operating and production costs for each facility, with a focus on government-owned, government-operated facilities;
(2) a cost-benefit analysis of moving away from the Army Working Capital Fund model and instead utilizing direct appropriations, or a hybrid approach;
(3) a breakout by relevant budget accounts, of workload at each organic industrial base facility;
(4) an analysis and explanation of how the Army ensures the workloads for each site are in line with broader Army production and maintenance goals. Include an assessment of the feasibility of establishing an annual workload plan that integrates input from each of the program executive offices;

(5) the advisability of implementing the recommendation from the Army Science Board September 2023 report Surge Capacity in the Defense Munitions Industrial Base that "A single authority for munitions be assigned, reporting to the ASA(ALT), to assist in the Single Manager for Conventional Ammunition role and to oversee and advise on capital investments, S&T investments, and new manufacturing advances;"
(6) an explanation of how the integration of Joint Munitions Command into Army Sustainment Command will impact organic industrial base governance; and
(7) an explanation of how the Joint Energetics Transition Office will interact with the organic industrial base.

Amendment to H.R. 3838

Offered by: Ms. Stefanik

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

Feasibility of Establishing a Close Combat Innovation Center

The committee remains concerned about the increased threat posed to U.S. operational forces from small unmanned aircraft systems (sUAS), autonomous systems, and other asymmetric capabilities in multi-domain operations. The committee believes the Army must rapidly develop capabilities focused on counter-sUAS, networked lethality, human-machine teaming, and autonomous targeting in multiple domains to improve the lethality of our close combat forces. The committee is aware of ongoing work across the Army, to include the Combat Capabilities Development Command (DEVCOM) and the Northeast Multidomain Operations Alliance led by the Air Force Research Lab, to design innovative armament systems, including precision targeting, munitions, and fire control technologies, through field experimentation and operational assessments that serve as incubators for next-generation multi-domain dominance.

The committee believes incubator efforts like this show promise in connecting operators to the technology development process and could benefit the joint force if these processes were scaled across the Department. Accordingly, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army, in coordination with the Commanding General, Army DEVCOM, and the Commanding General of the 10th Mountain Division, to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than February 15, 2026 on the feasibility and advisability of establishing a close combat innovation center at an existing Army installation, in partnership with the Northeast Multidomain Operations Alliance, to develop and integrate scalable, precision close combat weapon systems, counter-sUAS solutions, human machine teaming, and more. The briefing shall include, but not be limited to:

1) An assessment of how a close combat innovation center could help to improve the lethality of close combat forces in multi-domain operations and improve technology development and integration processes;
2) The extent to which the Army is partnering with commercial entities through rapid experimentation, specifically within the Air Force Research Laboratory's Future Flag series of limited objective experimentation,;
3) Identification of possible approaches for establishing and maintaining a close combat innovation center to support Army and joint force objectives;

4) An assessment of the funding, infrastructure, and governance structure required to operate a close combat innovation center; and
5) If a close combat innovation center is deemed both feasible and advisable, identify which existing Army installations could support such a center, including an assessment of existing locations that already hosts a Multi-Domain Task Force to maximize operational efficiencies.

Amendment to H.R. 3838

Offered by: Mr. Jackson of Texas

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

T-7 Procurement and Engine Designation

The committee recognizes the U.S. Air Force's need for a next generation training aircraft, especially considering the constrained pilot training pipeline and ongoing pilot shortage across the Service. The committee is also encouraged that the U.S. Air Force is preparing to include an advanced procurement funding line for the T-7 in future budget submissions, given the long lead time to procure materials for the aircraft. The committee urges the Department of the Air Force to take all measures necessary to ensure timely execution of the T-7 program while exploring opportunities to accelerate the delivery of aircraft to pilot training installations.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by February 27, 2026, on the transition of the T-7 aircraft engine system from contractor furnished equipment (CFE) to government furnished equipment (GFE) to facilitate an efficient establishment of the engine system's pre-planned organic maintenance depot capability. The briefing should also include details about the cost of potentially transitioning the engine from CFE to GFE beginning in Lot 3 in fiscal year 2028.

Amendment to H.R. 3838

Offered by: Mr. Hamadeh

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

High-Altitude Platform Systems

High-altitude platform systems, including high-altitude balloons, offer the Department of Defense the potential for persistent aerial platforms capable of delivering intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) and other mission-critical effects. The committee is aware of ongoing testing and research into the use of these platforms and believes further exploration of their operational utility may be warranted.

The committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than February 1, 2026, on the use of high-altitude platform systems to support mission requirements. The briefing may include a classified annex. The briefing should include the following:

(1) a summary of current uses and research efforts into high-altitude balloon systems;

(2) an analysis of potential mission areas where high-altitude balloons could provide operational advantages, and any resource, policy, or legal impediments to their broader implementation; and

(3) an overview of funding requirements necessary to continue and expand testing and fielding of high-altitude balloons in support of the military services and combatant commands.

Amendment to H.R. 3838

Offered by: Mr. Messmer of Indiana

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

Production Capacity and Deployment Plans for the Precision Strike Missile

The Committee is aware that the long-range, ground-launched Precision Strike Missile (PrSM) could significantly bolster deterrence and United States combat capabilities in the Pacific and the Middle East.

The committee notes that PrSM will allow the Army to target enemy ground targets and eventually naval forces at a greater range and volume than its predecessor, the Army Tactical Missile System. Deploying the PrSM in the Pacific and the Middle East would enhance the military's capabilities.

The committee directs the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (ASA (ALT)) to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services no later than March 1, 2026, on the PrSM program and include:

(1) anticipated maximum production capacity for fiscal year 2026;

(2) plans, options, and requirements to expand production capacity in FY2027; and

(3) plans for deploying the system to the Indo-Pacific and Central Command areas of responsibility.

Amendment to H.R. 3838

Offered by: Mr. Jackson of Texas

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

H-1 Structural Improvement and Electrical Power Upgrade

The committee understands the critical capabilities that the AH-1Z and UH-1Y aircraft provide to the United States Marine Corps, enabling close air and special operations support, reconnaissance, anti-armor operations, and other critical missions. The committee strongly supports efforts by the Marine Corps to collaborate with the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) on the effective installation of these upgrades, and further believes that it is most effective for such upgrade work to occur at the OEM's facility.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Navy to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by February 15, 2026, on the current status of the Structural Improvements and Electrical Power Upgrade (SIEPU) program and how this particular program will deliver electrical power generation and utility cabin configuration integral to readiness and the execution of Expeditionary Advanced Base Operations and Distributed Maritime Operations warfighting concepts.

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 3838

OFFERED BY MR. NORCROSS OF NEW JERSEY

At the appropriate place in title I, insert the following new section:

SEC. 1___. PROHIBITION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR CONTRACT TERMINATION OR PRODUCTION LINE SHUTDOWN FOR E–7A WEDGETAIL AIRCRAFT.

None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of Defense may be obligated or expended—

(1) to terminate the mid-tier acquisition rapid prototype contract for the E–7A aircraft; or

(2) to terminate the operations of, or to prepare to terminate the operations of, a production line for the E–7A aircraft.

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Amendment to H.R. 3838

Offered by: Mr. Vindman

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

Integration of First-Person View (FPV) Drones in the Joint Force

The committee recognizes the rapid increase in the use of small, low-cost, and expendable first-person view (FPV) drones by state and non-state actors on the modern battlefield. The emergence of this capability represents a military advancement on par with the introduction of the machine gun or the deployment of aircraft carriers. These affordable platforms provide critical capabilities for reconnaissance, surveillance, targeting, and strike, often at the squadron or platoon level. Unlike traditional unmanned aerial systems, such as the MQ-9 Reaper or RQ-4 Global Hawk, which are designed for reuse, these platforms are attritable and intended to be employed similarly to ammunition or artillery shells. Moreover, these systems are routinely modified and upgraded on the battlefield through rapid software updates and hardware adjustments, including soldering, often in less than 24 hours.

The committee notes that it is unaware of any capability assessment conducted for FPV drones utilizing the Joint Capabilities Integration Development System (JCIDS) framework of doctrine, organization, training, material, leadership and education, personnel, and facilities (DOTMLPF) despite the rapid deployment of this capability by allies and adversaries alike. Further, the committee notes that the Department of Defense has neither established formal doctrine for the employment of small, expendable drones nor has it created a designated military occupational specialty (MOS), additional skill identifier, or standardized training pipeline for operators of these systems. The committee believes that the lack of structured doctrine, personnel pathways, and training requirements undermines lethality and inhibits effective integration, standardization, and operational safety across the Armed Forces.

Additionally, the committee is interested in assessing the feasibility and operational advantages of integrating fiber optic communication links into FPV drone systems to enhance signal resiliency, reduce electromagnetic signature, and maintain control in contested environments. The committee notes that while traditional FPV drones rely on radio frequency (RF) links that are susceptible to jamming and spoofing, fiber optic cables offer potential advantages such as enhanced resistance to electronic warfare, reduced latency, and more secure command-and-control pathways. However, the committee also acknowledges potential disadvantages,

including physical constraints, limited range, and deployability concerns, especially for mobile ground units operating in complex terrain.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the service secretaries and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to submit a report to the congressional defense committees no later than December 1, 2025, on the integration of FPV drones into the joint force and the current and projected role of fiber optic communication technologies in FPV drone systems.

The report should include the following:

(1) an assessment of current and future operational requirements for FPV drones across the Armed Forces, including use for reconnaissance, targeting, strike, and electronic warfare purposes;

(2) a summary of doctrine for deployment and use of these platforms;

(3) a draft for either new primary or secondary MOS, or both, or an additional skill identifier is required to support FPV drone operations and whether the Department has already done this;

(4) a training framework, including basic, advanced, and sustainment training requirements, as well as the feasibility of incorporating elements of commercial or civilian drone training programs as foundation to establish the military's own pipeline;

(5) a strategy to promote interoperability and standardization of small, expendable drone platforms, software, and communications systems across the Armed Forces;

(6) an analysis of resource requirements including cost, equipment, personnel, training, and other material needs necessary to establish, sustain, and expand FPV drone capabilities across the Armed Forces;

(7) an assessment of whether the military has sufficient facilities for training, including live-fire ranges that enable electronic warfare and other contingencies that simulate the twenty-first century battlefield;

(8) an assessment of whether the Department is currently researching, developing, or deploying FPV drones with fiber optic capabilities;

(9) a comparison of the operational and tactical advantages and disadvantages of fiber optic versus RF-based FPV control links in relevant tactical scenarios;

(10) a review of any Department-specific plans to prototype, test, or field FPV drones with fiber optics enabled;

(11) an overview of industrial base capabilities to support rapid development and production of such systems, including domestic manufacturing readiness; and

(12) recommendations on whether the integration of fiber optics into FPV drone systems should be pursued as a formal requirement across the Services.

Amendment to H.R. 3838

Offered by: Mr. Fallon

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

Competitive Demonstration of Low-Cost, Highly Scalable Air Interceptors

The committee understands that commercially available technologies for short- and medium-range kinetic air defense interceptors have matured to the point of operational evaluation. The committee notes that a competitive demonstration is scheduled to take place in June 2026 involving capabilities such as those aligned with the Department's Replicator initiative and other counter-uncrewed systems currently under consideration by the Rapid Capabilities and Critical Technologies Office and other defense components.

The committee directs the Secretary of the Army, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, to provide a report to the congressional defense committees by August 30, 2026, on the results of the June 2026 demonstration. The report should include an assessment of the effectiveness and readiness of the interceptor systems tested, identification of any commercial technologies with near-term transition potential, and a plan to expand the frequency of testing and evaluation events. It should also describe any steps taken or planned to incorporate these capabilities into ground, air, and maritime platforms. The committee urges the Department to prioritize competitive procurement strategies and accelerate acquisition timelines where appropriate to meet evolving operational air defense requirements.

Amendment to H.R. 3838

Offered by: Mr. Wilson

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

Commercially Available Small Arms Marksmanship Training Technologies

The committee commends the Department of the Army on efforts to enhance combat unit lethality by raising proficiency standards, modernizing training with new commercial off-the-shelf technologies, and a renewed focus on close combat. Despite notable gains, the committee notes that progress remains unevenly distributed and often is exclusive of National Guard and Reserve units.

In particular, the committee noted in its report to accompany the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024, concern about potential gaps and capacity limitations in small arms marksmanship training as the Department transitions from an earlier generation Engagement Skills Trainer (EST) to the Soldier Virtual Trainer (SVT) which will not be fully fielded for several years and continues to experience delays in meeting training requirements.

The committee is aware that some commercially available marksmanship training technologies have already been favorably evaluated by the U.S. Army and are currently in use by individual units and within other military Departments that could help mitigate these gaps and increase lethality through greater use of performance optimization, biometrics, robust shooter data collection and the use of "dry-fire" hardware training components. The committee believes these systems could improve outcomes, increase throughput, enhance training access for Guard and Reserve units while reducing costs, range time, and environmental impacts associated with live fire training.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 1, 2026, on developing a strategic roadmap for the enterprise adoption of new commercial off-the-shelf technologies that could augment and enhance small arms marksmanship and mitigate training gaps. The roadmap shall include an assessment of:

(1) commercial off-the-shelf technologies in use by individual army units and other military departments that could have Army-wide applications;

(2) the utility of collecting and analyzing small arms human performance optimization, biometric, and shooter data from individual soldiers and close-combat formations;

(3) the ability of commercial off-the-shelf technologies to augment the Synthetic Training Environment and mitigate any current training gaps created by delays in the Soldier Virtual Trainer; and

(4) commercial off-the-shelf technology's ability to reduce costs, compress training times, lessen environmental impacts, and increase safety.

Amendment to H.R. 3838

Offered by: Mr. Norcross of New Jersey

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

Execution plan for munitions-industrial-base supplemental funding

The committee welcomes the additional resources provided by the Reconciliation Act (Public Law 119-21) to strengthen the munitions industrial base and accelerate critical-munitions procurement. To ensure transparency and effective execution of these funds, the committee directs the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than December 1, 2025, on the Department's plan to obligate and expend the munitions funding provided in that Act. The briefing shall include—

(1) the facilities and specific programs selected for investment, with associated timelines for each;
(2) the Department's approach to balancing funding between the organic munitions industrial base and contractor-owned, contractor-operated facilities;
(3) an explanation of how reconciliation funding aligns with and influences existing munitions-industrial-base modernization plans and strategies; and
(4) how reconciliation-provided munitions funds will support or integrate with the mission of the Joint Energetics Transition Office.

Amendment to H.R. 3838

Offered by: Mr. McGuire

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

Surrogate Training Weapons

The committee is aware that, for training purposes and for maintaining operational readiness, units within every branch of the U.S. military have been acquiring and actively using non-lethal pneumatically operated surrogate training weapons platforms. These platforms closely replicate current service weapons in material construction, performance characteristics and outfitting, use marking rounds, and can withstand the rigors of tactical training, but are otherwise designated non-firearms and can be used safely outside the confines of firearms ranges and shoot houses to train soldiers, seamen, marines, and airmen. The committee understands that these surrogate weapon systems have been shown to allow for persistent training, and the safe and efficient development of requisite marksmanship and combat firearms skills. Additionally, the committee notes that they also represent dramatic cost savings on a per-round basis relative to the use of live-fire and current non-lethal training ammunition (NLTA). Exemplative of all these benefits is the wide-scale adoption of such a surrogate training weapon platform at the U.S. Military Academy. The committee commends the services for their increasing use of these surrogate training weapon platforms and encourages their increased adoption. As such, the committee directs the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology), in coordination with the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition) and the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than February 1, 2026, on non-lethal pneumatically operated surrogate training weapons platforms. This analysis should include:

(1) a cost-benefit analysis of using these training weapons platforms compared to legacy training systems, including a comparison of costs associated on a per-round basis relative to the use of live-fire and current NLTA, and a comparison of the frequency of training and impacts on readiness;
(2) current plans and efforts to continue to expand the use of these surrogate training weapons platforms; and
(3) current plans and efforts to procure these surrogate training weapon platforms at the service-level to ensure maximal cost savings and benefits.

Amendment to H.R. 3838

Offered by: Mr. Gooden

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

Airborne Reconnaissance and Electronic Warfare Systems

The committee recognizes the urgent need for long-range, high-altitude Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) to support combatant commanders in contested environments. The Multi-Domain Sensing System (MDSS), including both ARES and ATHENA-R, has demonstrated significant operational value by delivering ISR, electronic warfare, and precision targeting capabilities in support of U.S. Army and Joint Force requirements.

The committee directs the Secretary of the Army to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services no later than March 1, 2026, addressing:

(1) a full assessment of ARES and ATHENA-R's operational contributions to ISR, electronic warfare, and targeting effectiveness;
(2) a sustainment and procurement strategy to ensure continued availability of ARES and ATHENA-R capabilities in support of Joint Force ISR needs; and
(3) budgetary requirements for additional aircraft procurement to meet combatant commander ISR demands through FY2028.

The committee encourages the Department of Defense to prioritize procurement and sustainment funding for MDSS/ARES and ATHENA-R in FY2026 and beyond to prevent ISR capability gaps in contested theaters.

Amendment to H.R. 3838

Offered by: Mr. Jackson of Texas

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

Joint Counter-Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems Office Directed Energy Testing Facility

The committee commends the work of Army Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC) to develop and field leading edge capabilities in the directed energy space to address emerging unmanned aerial threats. The committee believes that increased collaboration between SMDC and the Joint Counter-small Unmanned Aircraft Systems Office (JCO) will augment counter-unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) requirements, tactics, and technology development. Furthermore, the committee encourages SMDC to establish a dedicated directed energy test facility to ensure alignment of emerging capabilities and operational requirements.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army, in coordination with the Director of the JCO, to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 27, 2026, on the status of cooperative directed energy research and testing activities, lessons learned from such activities, and future funding requirements to support the development of directed energy systems to counter-UAS mission sets.

Amendment to H.R. 3838

Offered by: Mr. Wilson

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

Precision Artillery Munitions Modernization

The committee directs the Secretary of the Army, to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than December 30, 2025, on the integration of Global Positioning Signal (GPS) resilient hardware and software into the Excalibur increment 1b precision artillery munition. The briefing shall include:

(1) an assessment of technical options to enhance the performance of the munition in a GPS-denied environment, including the technical feasibility and operational utility of a home-on-jam capability;

(2) a recommendation for a preferred solution to mitigate known operational limitations and increase performance;

(3) funding required to implement the preferred solution;

(4) an assessment of the cost and schedule implications associated with pure fleeting the existing inventory of the munition with the preferred solution; and

(5) a recommendation to implement home-on-jam capability, if distinct from the preferred solution, and including cost and schedule implications.

Amendment to H.R. 3838
National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026

Offered by: Mr. Davis of North Carolina

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

Airborne Fire Control Radar

The committee is concerned that the U.S. radar industrial base is becoming increasingly reliant on international development programs to advance technology and sustain a unique engineering and production workforce. Given the uncertain outlook for sixth generation fighter platforms, as domestic procurement of F-15, F/A-18 and F-22 aircraft phases out, the committee encourages the Department of Defense (DOD) to be cognizant of the radar industrial base implications of pending tactical air acquisition decisions. Risks include the engineering workforce as it may face further program delays and the potential for limited availability of fire control radars and expects that the DOD would seek to mitigate the implications of any such delay with appropriate industrial base investment.

Therefore, the committee directs the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Industrial Base Policy to provide a briefing to the House Armed Services Committee not later than December 1, 2025, on the risks to and resilience of the fire control radar industrial base and recommendations to mitigate any identified industrial base risks.

Amendment to H.R. 3838

Offered by: MR. TURNER

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

United States Drone Warfare Capabilities and Lessons from Ukraine

The committee remains concerned that adversaries such as the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China are accelerating the development and deployment of unmanned aerial systems (UAS), autonomous swarming capabilities, electronic warfare integration, and artificial intelligence (AI) in ways that risk surpassing the capabilities of the United States. Russia has demonstrated the ability to produce and field thousands of drones per day in its ongoing aggression against Ukraine, while China continues to expand its unmanned capabilities across multiple domains, including in the Taiwan Strait.

The committee affirms that to maintain credible deterrence and operational superiority, the Department of Defense must assess the current state of U.S. drone warfare capabilities as it pertains to drone employment, counter-drone operations, and logistics in contested environments. The committee further notes that the conflict in Ukraine offers real-time operational insights into the rapid fielding, employment, and adaptation of unmanned systems at scale under high-intensity combat conditions.

Therefore, the committee directs the Commandant of the Marine Corps to conduct a case study of major drone operations observed in the Ukraine-Russia conflict and to organize a classified wargame or tabletop exercise no later than May 1, 2026, to test U.S. concepts for large-scale drone employment, counter-drone operations, and logistics under contested conditions. The committee directs the Commandant of the Marine Corps to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than July 1, 2026, on the findings of the case study and wargame, including:

1. operational challenges, risks, and vulnerabilities identified through the exercise;
2. implications for doctrine, training, and force design related to unmanned systems at scale;
3. any observed gaps in joint capabilities, command and control, electronic warfare, or sustainment; and
4. recommendations for future development, investment, or changes in joint and service-level operational concepts.

Amendment to H.R. 3838
National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026

Offered by: Mr. Davis of North Carolina

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

Load-Carrying Technological Advancements

The committee recognizes the need to advance the warfighter's capabilities through innovative load-carrying solutions. The positive outcomes associated with the Silent Tactical Energy Enhanced Dismount (STEED) capability as part of the Maneuverable Lightweight Electric Weight Reducer (MLEWR) effort, highlight significant enhancements in troop mobility, lethality, and survivability. Further, the committee understands that the Army has initiated the validation of a requirement for the Dismount Unit Soldier Transport (DUST) requirement, based on the STEED MLEWR effort.

Therefore, the committee strongly encourages the Secretary of the Army to immediately transition the DUST requirement to PEO Soldier for immediate fielding of STEED, prioritize STEED, and establish a Program of Record (PoR). This transition is essential to secure the rapid procurement and deployment of these capabilities, ensuring they are available to support our soldiers in the near future.

Additionally, the committee directs the Secretary of the Army to provide a briefing to the House Armed Services Committees by December 1, 2025, to include the following:

(1) comprehensive feedback from the units assessing the efficacy and utility of the current load-carrying technologies under evaluation, with an emphasis on the STEED/ MLEWR effort;
(2) an assessment of operational benefits, challenges encountered, and potential for integration at scale;
(3) a clear and detailed description of the modular mission payloads currently being utilized by units that have received systems under the STEED/ MLEWR effort, detailing how each accessory enhances the platform's utility and the warfighter's mission effectiveness, and how the Army intends to incorporate those kits in the program of record;

(4) an update on the progression and validation status of the Dismounted Unit Soldier Transport (DUST) Capability Development Document, including an anticipated timeline and the steps being taken towards achieving its milestones, requirement, and basis of issue and modular mission payloads; and;

(5) a description of the initiatives being undertaken to transition the program to PEO Soldier to expedite the fielding of the aforementioned capabilities, along with an analysis of how the Army is intending to solidify this critical capability into a PoR.".

Amendment to H.R. 3838
National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026

Offered by: Mr. Davis of North Carolina

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

[F-15E Propulsion Modernization]

The Committee is concerned about the impact on the total fighter fleet from budgetary constraints and the delays in development and fielding of sixth generation platforms. The Committee has consistently expressed concern about the future of the U.S. air superiority mission in the 2030s and 2040s and the future of the defense industrial base as it relates to fighter aircraft. Recognizing this need, the Committee has again supported procurement of additional F-15EX aircraft; however, the U.S. tactical fighter force structure may still be insufficient to meet future warfighting requirements. And the Committee notes it has not yet received the Air Force report on retiring F-15E aircraft required in P.L. 118-31 and is aware that opportunities exist to extend the life of active F-15Es.

Therefore, the Committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to submit a report to the House Armed Services Committee no later than February 1, 2026, to include the following:

(1) the financial and operational costs and benefits associated with modernizing the existing F-15E fleet that the Fiscal Year 2026 Department of Defense budget request has recommended for retirement consideration; and
(2) qualitative and quantitative impacts to future mission capability by upgrading F-15E propulsion.

Amendment to H.R. 3838

Offered by: Mr. Bergman

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

Integration of 5G Tactical Radio Communications

The committee is concerned that current Department of Defense tactical radio programs are unable to meet modern operational requirements, including bandwidth capacity and the number of endpoints necessary for resilient, secure battlefield communications. The committee notes that commercial industry has developed 5G tactical communications systems capable of supporting these requirements.

The committee believes that leveraging scalable, dual-use 5G commercial wireless technology can reduce system cost, accelerate deployment timelines, and improve warfighter connectivity across dispersed and contested environments.

Therefore, the committee directs the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering to submit a report to the congressional defense committees not later than December 1, 2025, on the status of Department efforts to integrate secure 5G tactical wireless communications technologies for battlefield use. The report should include:

(1) an assessment of current Department of Defense tactical radio capabilities and known limitations;

(2) a summary of completed or ongoing pilot programs, field trials, and evaluations of 5G-based tactical systems;

(3) potential acquisition and fielding pathways for 5G tactical radio and private wireless technologies;

(4) estimated costs, schedules, and technical requirements to transition from pilot to program of record; and

(5) any policy, funding, or regulatory barriers to accelerating deployment of 5G tactical edge communications systems.

Amendment to H.R. 3838
National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026

Offered by: Mr. Wittman

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

Human Machine Interfaces for Collaborative Combat Aircraft

The committee notes that the Collaborative Combat Aircraft (CCA) has significant potential to expand the fighter fleet at a fraction of the cost, while also offering an increase in operational options. The committee supports rapid development and testing to begin fielding in the late 2020s.

Success of the CCA program relies on the software used to control the autonomous vehicles. The committee understands that the Air Force is already emphasizing the Human Machine Interface (HMI) and Pilot Vehicle Interface (PVI) for the service members controlling CCAs, which will optimize operational impact of the CCA system with the highest possible pilot-to-autonomous system ratio, lower the cognitive load of the pilot operating unmanned platforms in the air, ensure timely updates to software as they emerge, and prevent vendor lock in the CCA program to optimize taxpayer dollars.

The committee believes investment in software development in parallel with vehicle development is crucial to the CCA fielding timeline. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Air Force to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than December 1, 2025, detailing how the Air Force is rapidly validating HMI and PVI software in realistic scenarios. The briefing shall include:

(1) an explanation of how the CCA program is defining physical platform requirements based on a tactics-driven acquisition strategy;

(2) how an early integration of the CCA's HMI and PVI software into the Joint Simulation Environment would accelerate the timeline for fielding effective and reliable PVI software solutions; and

(3) how to apply lessons learned from the CCA program HMI integration across the joint service autonomous vehicle enterprise like the Replicator program.

Amendment to H.R. 3838

Offered by: Ms. Elfreth of Maryland

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

F/A-XX - Air Wing of the Future

The committee is aware of the importance of Naval Aviation to support Navy concepts of operations across the globe. Further, the committee notes the contributions of Naval aviation against current threats but also the need to be prepared against future threats, especially from China.

The committee is concerned that the Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) budget request does not support the F/A-XX program. The committee is also deeply concerned about public reports that the Department of Defense does not intend to obligate or expend $750.0 million that Congress provided in the Reconciliation Bill (P.L. 119-21) for F/A-XX. Further, the committee is concerned that the Navy had to place funding for this critical program on their Unfunded Priorities List submitted to Congress.

The committee is aware that per the Navigation Plan Implementation Framework, the F/A-XX will help expand the reach of naval aviation from 8 million square miles to 11 million in a day by 2040 – this provides our aircraft carrier strike groups tremendous advantages in survivability, agility and lethality. Given that the U.S. fights as a joint force, failure to fund this program will lead to a significant mismatch in state-of-the-art integrated battlespace capabilities from the maritime domain, allowing an adversary to concentrate their efforts in the direction of land-based and forward-deployed expeditionary forces.

The committee is also deeply concerned that F/A-XX prime- and sub-contractors have invested significant capital resources toward the design and development of this new aircraft and its mission systems. Failure to adequately fund this program in FY26 and through the Future Years Defense Plan could have detrimental consequences on the level of future resources investment from industry partners toward this key capability.

Therefore, the committee directs the Deputy Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services, no later than December 1, 2025, on the plan to obligate and expend the Fiscal Year 2025 and Reconciliation Bill (P.L. 119-21) authorized and appropriated funding for the F/A-XX program, and the planned timeline for when the Secretary of the Navy will award the Engineering and Manufacturing Development contract for the F/A-XX program.

Amendment to H.R. 3838
National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026

Offered by: Mr. Wittman

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

Small Unmanned Aerial Systems in the Indo-Pacific

The committee recognizes that the Department of Defense launched the Partnership for Indo-Pacific Industrial Resilience (PIPIR) in 2024 to deepen co-development, co-production, and co-sustainment of defense articles with regional allies and partners. The committee also recognizes the strategic importance of the Philippines to U.S. regional security objectives in the Indo-Pacific, and believes that small unmanned aerial systems (UAS) present an opportunity for bilateral defense industrial cooperation between the U.S. and the Philippines that would bolster deterrence, improve maritime domain awareness, and advance PIPIR objectives.

Therefore, the committee directs the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than March 1, 2026, on potential opportunities for the Department of Defense to support increased collaboration between U.S. domestic small Unmanned Aerial System providers and their counterparts in the Philippines.

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 3838

OFFERED BY MR. FALLON OF TEXAS

At the appropriate place in title X, insert the following:

SEC. 10___. COUNTER-UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM READINESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, acting through the Director of the Joint Counter Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems Office, shall coordinate with the Secretaries of the military departments to identify differences in the interpretation and application of section 130i of title 10, United States Code, among the military departments, including differences with respect to—

(1) interpretations of the term ''covered facility or asset'';

(2) the application of modern best practices for counter-unmanned aircraft system to each type of covered facility or asset; and

(3) divergent, unrealistic, or unnecessarily limited legal interpretations of the term ''covered facility or asset''.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director

of the Joint Counter Small Unmanned Systems Office shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report that includes a description of each of the following:

(1) Differences identified in the application of section 130i of title 10, United States Code, among the military departments.

(2) Any resources required to expedite and modernize site evaluations, including electromagnetic spectrum evaluations required for the deployment of counter-unmanned aircraft system defenses and site surveys described in ⟦LOG 82726⟧ of this Act.

(3) Suggestions to improve the role of the United States Northern Command as a synchronizing body for homeland counter-unmanned aircraft systems deployed at covered facilities or assets.

(4) The plan of the Director to remedy, without change to underlying law, the differences in legal interpretations identified pursuant to subsection (a)(3).

(5) The strategy of the Director for retrofitting and modernizing military installations and depots for testing counter-unmanned aircraft systems and an identification of any policy, legal, or regulatory challenges to carrying out such strategy.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ''covered facility or asset'' and ''unmanned aircraft system'' have the meaning given such terms in section 130i of title 10, United States Code.

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AMENDMENT TO H.R. 3838

OFFERED BY MR. BERGMAN OF MICHIGAN

Subsection (c) of section 913 (Log 82817) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

(3) A strategy for decreasing unit costs for platforms under the Initiatives, including—

(A) benchmarks to assess progress in reducing the cost of secure unmanned aircraft system end products; and

(B) a timeline for meeting such cost reduction goals.

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Amendment to H.R. 3838

Offered by: Mr. Austin Scott

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

Next Generation Squad Weapon Magazine Testing

Section 116 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117-81) required the Army to submit a report on the competitive acquisition strategy to field commercial off the shelf components for the Next Generation Squad Weapon (NGSW). Additionally, in fiscal year 2023, $10 million was appropriated for extensive reliability testing to determine the best suited magazine and to determine if other vendors' products could meet requirements. The committee is concerned that this testing did not provide adequate information and access to the weapon system to allow the qualified vendors to adjust their product to the weapon qualifications. The committee directs the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology to submit a report to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than December 1, 2025, on a plan to conduct an additional qualification test to ensure the Army can field NGSW with the highest performing magazine. The plan should include:

(1) criteria and methodology to evaluate competing magazine designs of various material types;

(2) a plan with associated timeline to provide production representative weapon systems and ammunition to qualified vendors in advance of the test, to enable each vendor to optimize their magazine designs prior to the test; and

(3) any additional matters the Army deems necessary to ensure transparency of the NGSW magazine qualification and reliability testing.

Amendment to H.R. 3838

Offered by: Mr. Moulton

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 3838, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

Briefing on Status of F-35 Technical Refresh 3 and Block 4 Capabilities

The committee remains frustrated by ongoing delays and performance issues associated with the F-35 program. The committee has expressed continued concern about the delays associated with Technology Refresh 3 (TR-3), the updated hardware and software configuration necessary to support the capabilities required for the aircraft to meet the requirements of the current and future threat environment. The committee notes that the prime contractor began producing F-35s in the TR-3 configuration while TR-3 was immature, unstable, not thoroughly tested, and not performing as needed. As a result, the Joint Program Office, on behalf of the services, refused to accept delivery of the F-35 for nearly a year, between July 2023 and July 2024, until the prime contractor was able to deliver a minimally acceptable TR–3 configured aircraft. The committee notes that despite the nearly year-long delay, TR-3 configured aircraft are not yet combat capable. Furthermore, more advanced Block 4 software capabilities that rely on the hardware backbone of TR-3 also have not been rolled out and have encountered their own delays and challenges. The planned capabilities of the initial rollout of Block 4 have also been reduced in order to ensure the delivery of urgent needs within an acceptable time frame.

The committee recognizes that there has been progress on the program over the course of the past year. The committee has taken numerous steps in prior years to correct the course of the F-35 program. Such steps include establishing an acquisition sub-program for the propulsion system to address concerns with cooling performance and schedule and establishing an acquisition sub-program for Block 4 capabilities. The committee also notes that the prime contractor plans to invest over $350 million in the F-35 program over the next five years.

Therefore, the committee directs the F-35 Joint Program Executive Officer to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than February 1, 2026, on changes to the estimated cost, schedule, and performance, including TR-3 and Block 4 capabilities, for current and future deliveries of F-35 aircraft systems by the prime contractor to the Department of Defense. The briefing shall include:

(1) an assessment of the current performance level of aircraft in the TR-3 configuration;

(2) an updated schedule and timeline for full TR-3 testing and certification;

(3) an updated delivery schedule for aircraft currently funded;

(4) a list of the capabilities scheduled for inclusion in the initial Block 4 fielding;

(5) an updated schedule for the testing and fielding of Block 4 capabilities; and

(6) a summary of the costs of the delays associated with the delay of TR-3 and Block 4, the share of those costs borne by the government, and the share borne by the prime contractor.