



2017 AUSA

Resolutions



ASSOCIATION OF THE
UNITED STATES ARMY

AUSA's Resolutions outline key and essential actions required to properly fund, maintain, sustain and modernize a combat-ready, all-volunteer American Army that is ready to defend the nation in an unpredictable world.

DEFENSE BUDGET

- Enact legislation that will repeal sequestration and the Budget Control Act of 2011.
- Authorize and appropriate defense funding by the beginning of each new fiscal year (Oct. 1st).
- Fund the Army FY18 base budget at \$150.3 billion (by October 1, 2017) in order to support the National Military Strategy with reduced risk.
- Provide Overseas Contingency Operations funding as requested to support operational needs.

PERSONNEL

- Endstrength floor: Maintain at least 1,032,000 Total Army (490,000 Regular Army; 343,000 Army National Guard; 199,000 Army Reserve) to support the national defense strategy, Joint Force and Army mission requirements.

For Soldiers

- Maintain military pay comparability with the private sector by matching annual increases to the Employment Cost Index (ECI) as required by law (37 USC §1009).
- Limit increases in TRICARE fees/deductibles/pharmacy copays to no more than the annual pay or COLA increase.
- Maintain TRICARE for Life without enrollment fees.
- Continue the current Army National Guard and Army Reserve drill pay structure.
- Amend legislation to credit all post-9/11 active duty service toward National Guard and Reserve early retirement.
- Enact legislation to give National Guard and Reserve Soldiers compensation and benefits, while on active duty status, equal to Active Component Soldiers.
- Enact legislation so that National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers who are in transit to and from or participating in inactive duty Training Periods are considered to be in the "line of duty" status.
- Expand 12304(b) authority to include operational requirements that emerge within the programmed budget timeline including the year of execution. Authorize and fund no fewer than 3000 man years annually for 12304(b) utilization of the Reserve Component.
- Fully fund in the Army base budget the Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness, Health Promotion, Suicide Prevention, Risk Reduction, and Sexual Harassment/Assault Response Programs.
- Fully fund the Army Wounded Warrior and TBI/PTS care and research initiatives.
- Repeal in its entirety the Department of Veterans Affairs offset on Retired Soldiers' military entitlement (concurrent receipt), and expand to include all disabled veterans and those who are medically retired.
- Protect the full value of Retired Soldier and annuitant pay and benefits.

- Fully fund the Department of Veterans Affairs to reduce the backlog of appointments, claims and appeals.
- Provide funding for the Soldier for Life program and Soldier transition assistance to civilian life.
- Enact legislation to remove impediments limiting or prohibiting not-for-profit organizations' support for Soldiers and their families, and permit public recognition of such support.
- Maintain enabling legislative support for the construction of the National Museum of the United States Army.

For Families

- Fund family support, mental health counseling, and benefit programs to enhance the strength, resilience, and readiness of Soldiers' families.
- Fully fund Federal Impact Aid program to address educational needs of military children.
- Fund skill building and employment programs that help military spouses obtain and keep jobs and increase career portability options.
- Encourage states to grant greater reciprocity to professional licensed and credentialed military spouses who have temporarily relocated to another state.
- Support initiatives to protect commissary and exchange benefits.
- Repeal the law that reduces military Survivor Benefit Plan annuities by the amount of any survivor benefits from the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation.
- Sustain quality affordable childcare for military children.

For Army Civilians

- Close the pay comparability gap between Army Civilians (DAC) and the private sector.
- Enact legislation to transform the military technician program to allow greater management flexibilities for assignment, management, and retention of military technicians.
- Enact flexible Civil Service reforms that enable the Army to recruit, professionally develop and retain the quality and quantity of Army civilians needed to ensure readiness of the force.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

- Fully fund readiness accounts in order to meet Combatant Commander demand for trained and available units and sustain individual and unit readiness.
- Provide sufficient Overseas Contingency Operations funding for equipment reset.
- Fund Operations and Maintenance in order to restore operational readiness to $\geq 90\%$ across all vehicle and watercraft fleets, and $\geq 75\%$ across all aircraft fleets.
- Fund maintenance and upgrade of the Organic Industrial Base to ensure efficient operations.
- Fully fund equipment, training, personnel manning and critical infrastructure to enable the Army to support its Homeland Defense missions.

INVESTMENT

- Fully fund RDT&E and procurement to develop, maintain and increase capability overmatch against all potential enemies.
- Update and modernize the Army acquisition processes.
- Fully man, train and fund the Army acquisition and contracting workforce.
- Fund Army modernization efforts to include Air and Missile Defense, Long Range Fires, Mobile Protected Fire Power, Active Protection Systems (Air and Ground), Assured PNT (Positioning, Navigation, and Timing), Electronic Warfare, and Cyber (offensive and defensive) capabilities.
- Increase funding for the Army to accelerate “shovel ready” Armored Brigade Combat Team and Stryker Brigade Combat Team modernization programs including: Abrams M1A2 SEP v.3, Bradley A4, Armored Multi-Purpose Vehicle, Joint Light Tactical Vehicle, Paladin PIM, Stryker Lethality upgrade and Stryker Double V Hull.
- Increase funding for the Army to accelerate aviation modernization and procurement programs to include: the AH-64 Echo-model Apache attack helicopter, the UH-60 Mike- and Victor-model Black Hawk utility helicopters, the CH-47F Chinook cargo helicopter, the Joint Multi-Role Technology Demonstration, the Improved Turbine Engine Program (ITEP), Unmanned Aerial Systems and Aircraft Survivability Equipment.
- Fully fund a robust Army Special Operations force structure to include research and development of unique equipment, advanced weapons and munitions.

OTHER

- Fully fund the Army Corps of Engineers to support maintaining and improving America’s ports, infrastructure and waterways.
- Fully fund maintenance and rehabilitation of depots, National Guard Readiness Centers, Army Reserve Centers and active duty installation facilities.
- Modernize Army and defense industrial base plants to eliminate single points of failure and increase surge capability (e.g. ammunition plants).

**These resolutions are neither all-inclusive nor listed in priority of action.
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