

## TITLE IV—MILITARY PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATIONS

### Subtitle A—Active Forces

#### End strengths for active forces (sec. 401)

The committee recommends a provision that would authorize Active-Duty end strengths for fiscal year 2021, as shown below:

Service	FY 2020 Authorized	FY 2021		Change from	
		Request	Recommendation	FY 2021 Request	FY 2020 Authorized
Army .....	480,000	485,900	485,000	– 900	+5,000
Navy .....	340,500	347,800	346,730	– 1,070	+6,230
Marine Corps .....	186,200	184,100	180,000	– 4,100	– 6,200
Air Force .....	332,800	333,700	333,475	– 225	+675
<b>DOD Total .....</b>	<b>1,339,500</b>	<b>1,351,500</b>	<b>1,345,205</b>	<b>– 6,295</b>	<b>+5,705</b>

As COVID–19 continues to wreak havoc on the nation, the committee has monitored closely the military’s ability meet its recruiting and retention mission. Due to social distancing, school closures, and other virus mitigation measures, military recruiting has shifted to an online activity. It is too early to know whether this virtual approach will prove successful. Meanwhile, the military departments were forced to reduce basic training capacity to approximately 50 percent of normal operations. While each service believes it will be able to return to normal basic training throughput by early summer, this is not guaranteed. Based on these factors, the military’s ability to achieve authorized end strength in fiscal year 2020 is uncertain.

Many of the assumptions utilized in determining the military’s fiscal year 2021 end strength request are no longer accurate. Each military department may begin the fiscal year with fewer personnel than anticipated due to COVID–19. Recruiters may still be unable to access potential recruits in schools and in their homes, which could exacerbate recruiting challenges. Reduced basic training capacity could continue, limiting the military’s ability to process new recruits.

Therefore, the committee has taken a cautious approach to the end strength authorization for active forces. This provision would authorize end strength levels within existing variance authority for the Army, Navy, and Air Force. Based on detailed modelling conducted by the Marine Corps, the committee would further reduce Marine Corps end strength by 4,100 compared to the budget request.

The committee emphasizes that this provision does not signal a lack of support for the military’s end strength goals. If conditions

improve throughout the summer and fall of 2020, the committee would support restoring end strength to the requested level.

#### **End strength level matters (sec. 402)**

The committee recommends a provision that would repeal section 691 of title 10, United States Code, which would consolidate Active-Duty end strength management legal requirements into one statute. The provision would also amend section 115 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary concerned to vary Active-Duty end strength levels as previously authorized by section 691.

The committee notes that the military departments are required to adhere to statutory end strength levels as specified in section 115 of title 10, United States Code. The amendments made by this provision would remove a mostly redundant requirement, which complicates the ability of the Secretary of Defense to manage the military.

### **Subtitle B—Reserve Forces**

#### **End strengths for Selected Reserve (sec. 411)**

The committee recommends a provision that would authorize Selected Reserve end strengths for fiscal year 2021, as shown below:

Service	FY 2020	FY 2021 Authorized		Change from	
		Request	Recommendation	FY 2021 Request	FY 2020 Authorized
Army National Guard .....	336,000	336,500	336,500	0	+500
Army Reserve .....	189,500	189,800	189,800	0	+300
Navy Reserve .....	59,000	58,800	58,800	0	-200
Marine Corps Reserve .....	38,500	38,500	38,500	0	0
Air National Guard .....	107,700	108,100	108,100	0	400
Air Force Reserve .....	70,100	70,300	70,300	0	200
DOD Total .....	800,800	802,000	802,000	0	+1,200
Coast Guard Reserve .....	7,000	7,000	7,000	0	0

#### **End strengths for Reserves on active duty in support of the reserves (sec. 412)**

The committee recommends a provision that would authorize full-time support end strengths for fiscal year 2021, as shown below:

Service	FY 2020	FY 2021 Authorized		Change from	
		Request	Recommendation	FY 2021 Request	FY 2020 Authorized
Army National Guard .....	30,595	30,595	30,595	0	0
Army Reserve .....	16,511	16,511	16,511	0	0
Navy Reserve .....	10,155	10,215	10,215	0	60
Marine Corps Reserve .....	2,386	2,386	2,386	0	0
Air National Guard .....	22,637	25,333	25,333	0	2,696
Air Force Reserve .....	4,431	5,256	5,256	0	825
DOD Total .....	86,715	90,296	90,296	0	3,581

**End strengths for military technicians (dual status) (sec. 413)**

The committee recommends a provision that would authorize military technicians (dual status) for the reserve components of the Army and Air Force for fiscal year 2021, as shown below:

Service	FY 2020	FY 2021 Authorized		Change from	
		Request	Recommendation	FY 2021 Request	FY 2020 Authorized
Army National Guard .....	22,294	22,294	22,294	0	0
Army Reserve .....	6,492	6,492	6,492	0	0
Air National Guard .....	13,569	10,994	10,994	0	-2,575
Air Force Reserve .....	8,938	7,947	7,947	0	-991
DOD Total .....	51,293	47,727	47,727	0	-3,566

The provision would also prohibit under any circumstances the coercion of a military technician (dual status) by a State into accepting an offer of realignment or conversion to any other military status, including as a member of the Active, Guard, and Reserve program of a reserve component. The provision would further specify that if a technician declines to participate in such a realignment or conversion, no further action may be taken against the individual or the individual's position.

**Maximum number of reserve personnel authorized to be on active duty for operational support (sec. 414)**

The committee recommends a provision that would establish limits on the number of reserve personnel authorized to be on Active Duty for operational support under section 115(b) of title 10, United States Code, as of September 30, 2021, as shown below:

Service	FY 2020	FY 2021 Authorized		Change from	
		Request	Recommendation	FY 2021 Request	FY 2020 Authorized
Army National Guard .....	17,000	17,000	17,000	0	0
Army Reserve .....	13,000	13,000	13,000	0	0
Navy Reserve .....	6,200	6,200	6,200	0	0
Marine Corps Reserve .....	3,000	3,000	3,000	0	0
Air National Guard .....	16,000	16,000	16,000	0	0
Air Force Reserve .....	14,000	14,000	14,000	0	0
DOD Total .....	69,200	69,200	69,200	0	0

**Separate authorization by Congress of minimum end strengths for non-temporary military technicians (dual status) and maximum end strengths for temporary military technicians (dual status) (sec. 415)**

The committee recommends a provision that would amend section 115 of title 10, United States Code, to require the separate authorization of minimum end strengths for non-temporary dual status military technicians and maximum end strengths for temporary dual status military technicians for each fiscal year by the Congress. The provision would also require the Department of Defense to include, as part of the President's annual budget request, a re-

quest for end strength authorizations for non-temporary and temporary dual status military technicians.

The use of temporary dual status military technicians is largely not subject to congressional oversight. While the committee authorizes annually the minimum number of permanent dual status technician positions, temporary technician positions are not subject to any similar limitation. The committee has learned that each reserve component likely utilizes thousands of temporary technician positions every year but that the actual number is difficult to determine and each reserve component struggles to explain the purpose for the temporary technician workforce. A new end strength authorization for temporary military technicians would enable the Department of Defense and the Congress to understand the size and role of this population.

**Subtitle C—Authorization of Appropriations**

**Military personnel (sec. 421)**

The committee recommends a provision that would authorize the appropriations for military personnel activities at the levels identified in section 4401 of division D of this Act.

**Budget Items**

**Military personnel funding changes**

The amount authorized to be appropriated for military personnel programs includes the following changes from the budget request:

[Changes in millions of dollars]

Military personnel underexecution .....	- 1,611.69
End strength reduction. ....	- 755.0
Total .....	- 2,366.69

The committee recommends a total reduction in the Military Personnel (MILPERS) appropriation of \$2,366.69 million. This amount includes: (1) A reduction of \$1,611.69 million to reflect the Government Accountability Office’s most recent assessment of annual MILPERS under-execution; and (2) A decrease of \$755.0 million to reflect active component end strength reductions from the President’s Budget request.

**TITLE XLIV—MILITARY PERSONNEL**

# TITLE XLIV—MILITARY PERSONNEL

## SEC. 4401. MILITARY PERSONNEL.

### SEC. 4401. MILITARY PERSONNEL (In Thousands of Dollars)

Item	FY 2021 Request	Senate Change	Senate Authorized
<b>MILITARY PERSONNEL</b>			
<b>MILITARY PERSONNEL APPROPRIATIONS</b>			
MILITARY PERSONNEL APPROPRIATIONS .....	150,524,104		147,976,014
COVID related endstrength decreases .....		-2,548,090	
Foreign currency adjustments, Air Force .....		[-755,000]	
Foreign currency adjustments, Army .....		[-81,800]	
Foreign currency adjustments, Marine Corps .....		[-44,400]	
Foreign currency adjustments, Navy .....		[-13,900]	
Military personnel historical underexecution .....		[-41,300]	
<b>SUBTOTAL MILITARY PERSONNEL APPROPRIATIONS</b> .....	<b>150,524,104</b>	<b>-2,548,090</b>	<b>147,976,014</b>
<b>MEDICARE-ELIGIBLE RETIREE HEALTH FUND CONTRIBUTIONS</b>			
MEDICARE-ELIGIBLE RETIREE HEALTH FUND CONTRIBUTIONS .....	8,372,741		8,372,741
<b>SUBTOTAL MEDICARE-ELIGIBLE RETIREE HEALTH FUND CONTRIBUTIONS</b> .....	<b>8,372,741</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8,372,741</b>
<b>TOTAL MILITARY PERSONNEL</b> .....	<b>158,896,845</b>	<b>-2,548,090</b>	<b>156,348,755</b>