



UNITED STATES SENATE
SENATOR MARSHA BLACKBURN PRESS OFFICE

Senator Blackburn's work in the FY 2021 NDAA falls under three vectors.

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

- Encourages the continuation of JROTC educational opportunities in STEM fields, the first of which is at Dobyns-Bennett High School in Kingsport.
- Creates high-skilled job opportunities for Tennesseans by **increasing demand for American-made products** by expanding the Department of Defense's procurement authority, which gives preference to domestically produced and manufactured products and promotes increased development of the **domestic unmanned aircraft systems** industry, including small UAS providers in Tennessee.
- Invests in collaborations with academia by supporting military-funded, **in-state research programs**, including Pathfinder Air Assault and Minerva, to help strengthen our Armed Forces against adversaries such as China, Russia and Iran. These programs will be conducted at the University of Tennessee, University of Memphis, and Vanderbilt University.
- Boosts **machine and advanced manufacturing research** conducted at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the University of Tennessee to strengthen American companies' capabilities to manufacture cutting-edge machine tools.
- Lowers the small purchase threshold exemption to \$150,000, causing more Pentagon contracts to be awarded to **American small businesses**.
- Increases funding for an additional Virginia-class submarine, of which many components are made in Tennessee.

VECTOR TWO: Empowering the future of Tennessee's military installations, including Fort Campbell, Arnold Engineering and Development Complex, McGhee Tyson Airfield, Berry Field, and the Memphis Air National Guard Base.

- Increases funding to assist in the revitalization of **Army deployment infrastructure**, including runway and ramp repair at Fort Campbell.
- Supports infrastructure and operations priorities for our **national nuclear security enterprise**, which includes the vital Uranium Processing Facility and future Lithium Processing Facility at Y-12 National Security Complex.
- Allows women in the reserve components to take six weeks of **maternity leave** while receiving compensation and retirement credit.
- Bolsters **advanced thermal protection systems** for hypersonic vehicles, the technical work for which is done at the University of Tennessee.
- Authorizes the conveyance of land to the city of Milan, and to the University of Tennessee to allow for the continued success of the University's agricultural research activities.



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- Increases and prioritizes funding to equip National Guard Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams, including at Berry Field, to **enhance capabilities in detecting nuclear and radiological hazards.**
- **Supports quality of life and enhances retention of the special operations community,** including our Green Berets and Night Stalkers. The provisions will provide new opportunities for **special and incentive pay parity.** Language supporting the Protection of the Force and Family (POTFF) initiative will also ensure that the POTFF continues to improve human, psychological, spiritual, and social performance programs.

VECTOR THREE: Streamlining the work of the Department of Defense across services and domains to increase interoperability, reduce stove piping, and increase efficiency.

- Authorizes the **Open Technology Fund** as an independent grantee of the U.S. Agency for Global Media, a unique and successful service which funds open-source tools to advance Internet freedom in repressive environments overseas.
- **Requires** SECDEF to conduct a study on toxic exposure by members of the Armed Forces deployed to Karshi Khanabad Air Base, Uzbekistan, at any time during the period 10/1/2001–12/31/2005. **Servicemembers who were stationed at K2 were exposed to a number of chemical and radiological hazards, including depleted uranium, chemical weapons, jet fuels and solvents, and contaminated water. Due to a lack of recognition, there are no dedicated resources available to K2 veterans.**
- Creates and robustly funds a pilot program to allow the Tennessee National Guard to provide cybersecurity assistance and expertise to other state National Guards through state fusion centers. Cyber incidents require a whole-of-government response, and this pilot will improve homeland security by leveraging DoD resources against foreign adversaries.
- Supports the **strong and unwavering partnership** between the U.S. and Taiwan by requiring DoD to assess the feasibility of senior U.S. military officers providing educational training at the National Defense University of Taiwan.
- Enhances U.S. global leadership through the newly-created Pacific Deterrence Initiative to **counter China** by devoting appropriate attention and resources to multinational fusion centers in the **Indo-Pacific.**