

Resolutions



Army Chief of Staff General Mark A. Milley has laid out three priorities: Readiness, adapting the Army for the future and taking care of troops. The Association of the United States Army shares his goals. However, there is a growing divide between the emerging geopolitical realities confronting the United States and the declining resources provided to the Army by Congress. One of our highest priorities is for Congress and the President to strike a deal to remove the threat of budgetary caps and sequestration cuts before they cause irreversible damage to our national security.

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

- **Fund the Army FY17 base budget at \$135 billion (by October 1, 2016) in order to support the National Military Strategy with reduced risk.**
 - Enact legislation that will repeal sequestration and the Budget Control Act of 2011
 - Increase the Department of Defense base budget topline in order to adequately fund the Joint Force to support the National Security Strategy and National Military Strategy with reduced risk
- **Provide Overseas Contingency Operations funding as requested to support operational needs.**

PERSONNEL

- **Endstrength floor: 1,035,000 Total Army (480,000 active; 350,000 Army National Guard; 205,000 Army Reserve)**
 - Maintain active, National Guard and Reserve endstrength to support national defense strategy, Joint Force and Army mission requirements
- **Ensure the continued success of the All-Volunteer Force by adequately funding talent management initiatives with respect to recruiting, retention, quality of life (policies, pay and benefits), and retirement.**

For Soldiers

- Maintain military pay comparability with the private sector
- 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
- 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
- Enact legislation to provide reimbursement rates for TRICARE and MEDICARE providers sufficient to maintain nationwide provider participation
- Continue the current Army National Guard and Army Reserve drill pay structure
- 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 to remove impediments limiting or prohibiting not-for-profit organizations' support for Soldiers and their families, and permit public recognition of such support
- Repeal in its entirety the Department of Veterans Affairs offset on retirees' military entitlement (concurrent receipt)
- Expand concurrent receipt entitlement legislation to include all disabled veterans and those who are medically retired
- Protect the full value of retiree and annuitant pay and benefits
- Fully fund the Department of Veterans Affairs to reduce the backlog of appointments, claims and appeals
- Provide funding for Soldier transition assistance to civilian life, particularly as the Army faces budget-driven downsizing
- Support providing veteran's status to all members of the Army National Guard and Army Reserve who have served 20 years
- Support remediating the burial privileges disparity for members of the Guard and Reserve
- 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
- 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
- Maintain and fund the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) schools for military children
- 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 eliminate the Government Pension Offset and Social Security Windfall Elimination Provision for Civil Service Retirement System retirees
- Enact legislation to provide the same percentage of annual pay increase for DAC as for military personnel
- Enact legislation to transform the military technician program to allow greater management flexibilities for assignment, management, and retention of military technicians
- Fully fund recruiting and retention initiatives to sustain a high quality DAC workforce
- Ensure equilibrium between workforce reduction and workload reduction
- Fund appropriate incentives for DAC deployment to imminent danger areas

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

- **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.**
 - Provide sufficient Overseas Contingency Operations funding for equipment reset
 - Fund maintenance and upgrade of the Organic Industrial Base to ensure maximum surge capacity
- **Fully fund readiness accounts in order to meet Combatant Commander demand for trained and available units.**
 - Fully fund Operations and Maintenance accounts to sustain individual and unit readiness
 - Fully fund a robust Army Special Operations force structure to include research and development of unique equipment, advanced weapons and munitions
 - Grant the Secretary of Defense authority to mobilize up to 50,000 National Guard and Reserve personnel for up to 270 days to meet operational requirements
 - Fund pre-deployment health care and dental care for National Guard and Reserve Soldiers to ensure deployability
 - Enact legislation that will provide employers with tax incentives to hire National Guard and Reserve personnel
 - Fully fund equipment, training, personnel manning and critical infrastructure to enable the Army to support its Homeland Defense missions

INVESTMENT

- **Robustly fund RDT&E and procurement to develop, maintain and increase capability overmatch against all potential enemies.**
 - Authorize and appropriate funding in a timely and predictable manner to prevent disruption of modernization strategies
 - Provide funding for the Army to develop and field equipment to enhance Soldier survivability and combat effectiveness to include all elements of The Network (Mission Command); fixed wing, rotary wing, and unmanned aircraft; missiles; dismounted Soldier power; and the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle and the Armored Multi-purpose Vehicle
 - Fund Army weapons system modernization efforts to deter and defeat threats in complex environments to include intelligence, cyber defense, electronic warfare and directed energy weaponry
 - Fund the Army Space and Missile Defense force as a tailorable, modular force with improved deployability and increased lethality to oppose threats from an array of enemy missile and related technologies
 - Fully fund Science and Technology to include Advanced Technology Development, Applied Research, and Army laboratories
 - Fund modernization of Army information technology resources
- **Fully man, train and fund Army acquisition and contracting workforce.**

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, Reserve Armories and active duty installation facilities

**These resolutions are neither all-inclusive nor listed in priority of action.
For more information contact AUSA Government Affairs 703-907-2637**

