



Final FY26 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) Wins

Topline Overview:

- **Overall Authorized Spending:** \$890 billion in authorized defense spending for DOD, NNSA, and other national security agencies.
- **Troop Pay:** 3.8% pay raise for all service members.
- **Military Construction:** \$19.7 billion for military construction projects across the Department.
- **Research and Development:** \$145.7 billion for research, development, test, and evaluation to meet the technological needs of tomorrow's battlefield.
- **Science and Technology:** \$18.9 billion for science and technology programs, including \$114.6 million exclusively to be used for partnerships with Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Serving Institutions.
- **Energy Resilience:** \$684 million for the Energy Resilience and Conservation Investment Program (ERCIP).

Rep. Gabe Vasquez's Wins for New Mexico

Rep. Vasquez's Bills:

- **H.R. 4289, the bipartisan TRICARE Travel Improvement Act:** The *TRICARE Travel Improvement Act* helps military families serving in remote areas access health care by reducing the travel reimbursement threshold under TRICARE Prime from 100 miles to 75 miles for active-duty service members and their families. Currently, families stationed at White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) and Holloman Air Force Base may travel nearly 100 miles to El Paso for medical care and are denied reimbursement due to being just under the threshold. This bill is a step toward fairness and affordability for New Mexico's military families.
- **H.R. 4290, the Downwinder Commemoration Act:** The *Downwinder Commemoration Act* recognizes the harm endured by New Mexico's Downwinders following the 1945 Trinity Test — the first nuclear detonation in U.S. history. It directs the Department of Defense to place commemorative monuments in publicly accessible areas at White Sands Missile Range and Holloman Air Force Base in their honor. Despite their exposure to radioactive fallout, Downwinder families were excluded from the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA)



until Rep. Vasquez's successful push to reauthorize and expand RECA to include New Mexico's Downwinders. This bill helps deliver long-overdue recognition by permanently commemorating their suffering while preserving their legacy for future generations.

- **H.R. 3463, the bipartisan COUNTER Act:** The *COUNTER Act* helps military base commanders protect their installations from drone threats by modernizing the Department of Defense's (DOD) 130i legal authorities to allow them to engage any drone threat entering the air space over a base's secured perimeter. Installations like WSMR handle some of DOD's most sensitive tests, yet they have not had the ability to protect their base from drones entering their airspace. This bill is a key step in ensuring base commanders have the ability to protect their installations and personnel from unknown drone threats.

Infrastructure:

- **White Sands Missile Range:** \$38.5 million for power generation and a microgrid under the Energy Resiliency and Conservation Investment Program (ERCIP).
- **Holloman Air Force Base:** Report language on the importance of Holloman's High Speed Test Track to national security and what the Air Force's plan is to build a new modernized track parallel to the existing aging infrastructure.
- **Kirtland Air Force Base:**
 - \$83 million for the construction of Space Rapid Capabilities Office Headquarters.
 - \$26 million for an explosives operations building.
 - \$10 million for dormitories.
- **Cannon Air Force Base:**
 - \$79 million for a deployment processing center.
 - \$10 million for dormitories.
- **Santa Fe Army National Guard Training Center:** \$4.25 million for the design of a soldier performance readiness center.

Rural Base Quality of Life:

- **Childcare:** Report language encouraging DOD to expand the in-home childcare pilot program to four rural installations, including Holloman Air Force Base.



- **Housing:** Report language requiring DOD to partner with local housing authorities in rural areas to address shortages of housing around remote and isolated installations like WSMR and Holloman.
- **Healthcare:** Report language highlighting the challenges service members and families face at rural installations when accessing specialty healthcare and requiring a report on ways DOD can improve specialty provider accessibility.

Environmental Safety:

- **Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program (NALEMP):** Report language holding DOD accountable for cleaning up unexploded ordnance (UXO) on Tribal lands like the Pueblo of Isleta.
- **Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS):** Report language requiring DOD to partner with universities like New Mexico State University (NMSU) to develop cutting edge technology to detect and cleanup PFAS contaminants.

National Laboratories:

- **Sandia National Laboratories (SNL):**
 - \$40 million for the MESA Photolithography Capability (MPC).
 - \$52.25 million for the Combined Radiation Environments for Survivability Testing.
- **Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL):**
 - \$1.505 billion for Plutonium Pit Production and Modernization.
 - \$20 million for the LANSCE Modernization Program (LAMP).
 - Language ensuring Los Alamos has the capacity to produce at least 30 plutonium pits per year.
 - Language authorizing the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) to create a workforce development and training program to further develop employees at Los Alamos.
- **Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP):** Language requiring the Secretary of Energy to submit an annual report to Congress on the Department's plan for environmental cleanup projects at several sites, including WIPP.

Other Notable Wins

Service Member Quality of Life:



- **Housing:** \$1.5 billion for new construction of quality of life infrastructure such as barracks, family housing, and dormitories, along with language requiring an independent evaluation of military housing conditions, resident support gaps, and private company performance.
- **Healthcare:** \$335 million to renovate military hospitals and build new medical facilities, along with language prohibiting DOD from reducing the number of military medical personnel to ensure service members have access to their doctors.
- **Financial Literacy:** Language requiring a pay and benefits education campaign to promote financial literacy for service members and their families.

Foreign Affairs:

- **Ukraine:** \$400 million for the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative in both FY26 and FY27, along with language extending a limitation on recognizing Russian sovereignty over any part of Ukraine.
- **Authorized Use of Military Force (AUMF):** Language repealing the 1991 and 2002 AUMF's - giving significant war-related powers back to Congress.