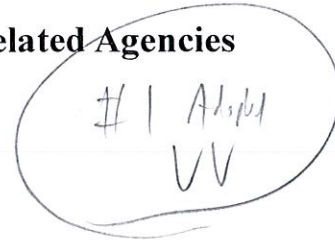


AMENDMENTS TO THE MILITARY CONSTRUCTION,
VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS BILL FY 2025

Full Committee Markup
House Appropriations Committee
May 23, 2024

**Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
Appropriations bill, FY25
Manager's Amendment
Rep. John Carter
May 23, 2024**



Report Language

1. Virtual Tours

In the report: On page 69, under the header “Cemeterial Expenses, Army, Salaries and Expenses” at the end of the paragraph insert the following paragraph:

Virtual Tours.—The Committee appreciates the efforts to improve the interactive tools available to Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) visitors and understands that the ANC is currently working to supplement the visitor experience through the creation of a three-dimensional virtual tour utilizing ground level, interactive, 360-degree perspective, with key interactive information about every internment. The Committee encourages the ANC to continue engaging with stakeholders to explore virtual tour technologies for potential use in the future.

2. VA Home Loan Program

In the report: On page 25, strike the paragraph “VA Home Loan Program” and insert the following paragraph:

VA Home Loan Program.—The Committee has been made aware of a pending settlement that would prohibit listing brokers from making offers of compensation to buyer brokers on a Multiple Listing Service, and could potentially disadvantage veterans utilizing the home loan under current rules. The Committee directs VA to study its current policy of prohibiting borrowers from paying fees or commissions to a real estate agent and determine whether this policy negatively impacts veterans when buying a home. The Department is directed to report these findings to the committee within 120 days of enactment.

3. P-8 Parking Aprons at Naval Air Station Jacksonville

In the report: On page 11, before “Naval Station Pensacola B3260 Hanger” insert the following paragraph:

P-8 Parking Aprons at Naval Air Station Jacksonville.—The Committee is concerned about the degradation of the P-8 Poseidon parking aprons at Naval Air Station Jacksonville and its impact on the operational readiness of the aircraft. Therefore, the Committee directs the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations, and Environment to provide a report within 60 days of enactment detailing the plan to recapitalize the P-8 parking apron infrastructure at Naval Air Station Jacksonville.

4. Grants for Construction of Veteran Cemeteries

In the report: On page 62, before the header “COST OF WAR TOXIC EXPOSURE FUND”, insert the following paragraph:

Grants For Construction of Veterans Cemeteries.—The Committee applauds the Department’s efforts to improve Veterans Cemeteries through the Grants for Construction of Veterans Cemeteries. Within 60 days of the enactment of this Act, the Committee requires a report on the impact of the grants from January 1, 2021, to include information on all outstanding projects and statistics on state usage of the grants program.

5. Wearable Monitoring Devices

In the report: On page 55, before “Wound Dressings...” insert the following paragraph:

Wearable Monitoring Devices.—The Committee urges the Department to initiate a research program focused on the application of platform agnostic wearable medical devices wearables in transitioning veterans from inpatient to outpatient care. This program will study the efficacy of wearable hardware in continuous health monitoring, aiming to enhance patient outcomes and optimize care as veterans reintegrate into daily life outside the hospital. The research will explore the adaptability of these devices in varied living environments, ensuring veterans receive the same level of care they would within the hospital setting. The Committee urges the Department to deliver a comprehensive research report detailing the feasibility of utilizing such devices, findings, potential improvements in healthcare delivery, and recommendations for wide scale implementation, within 180 days of enactment of this Act.

6. Nutrition and Food Services

In the report: On page 47:

Strike “Prescription Produce.—” and replace with “Food Service Guidelines.—”

7. In the report: On page 47, before “Medically Tailored Meals”, insert the following paragraph:

Produce Prescription.—Studies have shown veterans experience obesity and chronic diet-related comorbidities at higher levels compared to the U.S. population. VHA has the potential to play an important role in alleviating diet-related disease through produce prescriptions. The Committee provides up to \$2,000,000 for VA facilities to partner directly with organizations to develop and implement local VA produce prescription programs and pursue strategies for patient education and outreach. The Committee looks forward to the report requested in House Report 118-122 on this issue.

8. Support for FAS Veterans

In the report: On pages 30, strike the paragraph “Support for FAS Veterans” and insert the following:

Support for FAS Veterans.—Since the passage of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (Public Law 118–42), VA is no longer restricted from providing services to veterans residing in the Freely Associated States (FAS), including direct care from VA providers, telehealth, and care through contracts with community providers; shipping medications to the FAS; and reimbursing veterans for travel from their home countries to the United States. To determine how VA implements these new authorities, the Committee directs VA within 60 days of enactment of this Act to provide the Committee with the estimated cost and the plan for implementing this law in fiscal year 2025.

9. Air Force Reserve Minor Military Construction: In the report, on page 15 under the heading “MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE RESEVE”:

Strike “\$5” and replaced with “\$701,000”.

10. Fleet Maintenance: In the report, on page 10, at the end of the paragraph entitled “Drydocks.—”, insert the following language:

The Committee recognizes the importance of fleet maintenance on the west coast to ensuring mission readiness in the Indo-Pacific region and is aware the Navy is already facing maintenance delays. The Committee encourages the Navy to avoid disruptions to aircraft carrier maintenance, including during west coast M2D2 construction.

11. Naval Air Station Pensacola B3260 Hanger.—: In the report, on page 11: Strike “*Naval Station Pensacola B3260 Hanger.*—” and replace with “*Naval Air Station Pensacola B3260 Hanger.* —”

ROLL CALL NO. 3

MILCONVA AMEND. # 2

NOT ADOPTED

23-33

Ranking Member Wasserman Schultz
FY25 – MilConVA
Amendment #1

Amendment to the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs

Appropriations Bill

Offered by Ms. Wasserman Schultz of Florida

Strike section 133.

Strike section 255.

Strike section 256.

Strike section 257.

Strike section 259.

Strike section 260.

Strike section 261.

Strike section 412.

Strike section 413.

Strike section 416.

Strike section 418.

Strike section 419.

Strike section 420.

In the Committee Report, make conforming changes related to the sections struck by this amendment.

In the Committee Report, on page 20, strike the paragraph titled “Congressional Oversight of VA’s Actions on Abortion”.

MILCON/VA AMENDMENT NO. 3

ROLL CALL NO. 4

ADOPTED

33-24

Chairman John Carter
MILCON/VA Subcommittee on Appropriations
FY25 MILCON/VA Appropriations Bill
Republican En Bloc

Report

1. Community Care Expansion

In the report: On page 29, before “Dispute Resolution...”, insert the following new paragraph:

Community Care Expansion. —The Committee continues to strongly support the Department's efforts to expand veterans' access to timely, high-quality health care in their communities through the Veterans Community Care Program (VCCP) authorized under the MISSION Act. The Committee is pleased that the budget request includes robust funding for community care and urges the Department to continue increasing veterans' usage of community providers to supplement VA direct care as needed. The Committee remains concerned by reports of excessive wait times for care at many VA facilities, as exemplified by the recent issues at the Atlanta VA Medical Center that led to a leadership change. It is unacceptable that veterans continue to face delays and barriers to receiving the care they have earned. The Committee believes that leveraging community partnerships is essential to addressing these access challenges and that care delivery decisions should be based on clinical need and veteran preference, not simply defaulting to VA facilities. The Committee directs the Department to submit a report no later than 90 days after enactment of this Act detailing efforts to reduce wait times by expanding community care utilization in areas with access challenges, in accordance with the MISSION Act, and towards ensuring the MISSION Act is fully implemented as intended.

2. Equitable Care for Veterans

In the report: On page 29, before “Essential Medical Devices...”, insert the following new paragraph:

Equitable Care for Veterans.—As the VHA considers policies that would remove anesthesiologists from the surgical care team, the Committee requests a report detailing how the VHA intends to ensure that Veterans, particularly PACT Act Veterans, will not receive a lower standard of care than non-Veterans in the same state or jurisdiction.

3. Community-Based Outpatient Clinic in Bakersfield, California

In the report: On Page 52, before “Medical Center Services...”, insert the following new paragraph:

Community-Based Outpatient Clinic in Bakersfield, California.—The Committee remains disappointed that the new Bakersfield CBOC remains unbuilt more than a decade after Congress authorized this facility in fiscal year 2010 through Public Law 111–82. The Committee directs the Secretary to expeditiously execute Lease No. 36C10F20L0008 and, unless prevented by an order issued by a federal or state court, commence construction of the CBOC by no later than September 30, 2025, as provided in the lease. Furthermore, the Committee directs the Secretary to provide monthly reports to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress on the CBOC’s progress until completion and activation.

4. Federal Bureau of Investigation’s National Instant Criminal Background Check System

In the report: On page 57, before “Office of Resolution Management...”, insert the following new paragraph:

Federal Bureau of Investigation’s National Instant Criminal Background Check System.—The Committee directs the Department to provide a report on the impact and implementation status of section 413 of division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (Public Law 118-42), which prohibits the Department from submitting a veteran or beneficiary’s name to the FBI’s National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) list without a judge’s consent.

5. Disciplinary Actions at VA

In the report: On page 57, before “Delays with Board...”, insert the following new paragraph:

Transparency and Accountability in Disciplinary Actions.—The Committee is aware that the House Veterans Affairs Committee has been alerted to allegations of sexual harassment and other misconduct by credible whistleblowers who have not trusted the VA’s internal investigations process. From 2014 to 2016, the House Veterans Affairs Committee reviewed more than 200 settlements. In 96% of these

settlements, the disciplinary action proposed or taken against the employee did not appear on their permanent record form. The Committee is concerned that this practice has weakened accountability within the VA. The Committee encourages the VA to complete its investigations against employees credibly accused of misconduct. Further, it encourages the VA to notate any investigation and its findings in resigning or retiring employees.

NOT ADOPTED

25-33

Amendment to the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs

Appropriations Bill

Offered by Ms. Barbara Lee of California

On page 50, line 10, strike “\$133,363,000” and insert “\$143,363,000”.

Strike section 414 (related to diversity, equity, and inclusion).

Strike section 415 (related to critical race theory).

Strike section 417 (related to diversity, equity, and inclusion training and implementation).

In the Committee Report, make conforming changes related to the sections struck by this amendment.

In the Committee Report, on page 57, strike the paragraph titled, “Office of Resolution Management, Diversity, and Inclusion”.

AA/VA AMENDMENT NO. 5
NOT ADDED YV

RELOCATION OF RECONCILIATION MEMORIAL

Page [X], after line [X], insert the following:

SEC. ____ . RELOCATION OF RECONCILIATION MEMORIAL.

- (a) In General.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to relocate the Reconciliation Memorial, also known as the Reconciliation Monument, back to its original location in Arlington National Cemetery.
- (b) Designation.—The Reconciliation Memorial shall not be given any designation or name other than "Reconciliation Memorial" or "Reconciliation Monument" upon its relocation to Arlington National Cemetery.
- (c) Availability of Funds.—The amounts appropriated pursuant to this section shall remain available until expended.

MCVA AMENDMENT NO. 6
WITHDRAWN

Rep. Michael Cloud
FY25-MilCon VA
Amendment #1

**Amendment to the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs
Appropriations Bill Offered by Mr. Cloud of Texas**

On page 25, line 15, insert at the end of the sentence "Provided further, that of the funds made available in this section, \$4,000,000 be made available for Naval Air Station Corpus Christi."

MCVA AMENDMENT NO. 7
WITHDRAWN

Rep. Michael Cloud
FY25-MilCon VA
Amendment #2

**Amendment to the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs
Appropriations Bill Offered by Mr. Cloud of Texas**

On page 25, line 2, insert at the end of the sentence "Provided further, that of the funds made available in this section, \$4,000,000 be made available for Naval Air Station Corpus Christi."