



ALABAMA PRIORITIES SENATOR JONES SECURED IN THE FY2020 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT:

\$249.2 million for Stryker lethality upgrades

The Stryker A1 vehicle provides the Army with a lethal, survivable, versatile, tactically agile vehicle. Stryker production begins and ends in Anniston, with more than 300 employees involved in production.

The U.S. Army's unfunded priority list identified a shortfall in funding for Stryker lethality upgrades. Senator Jones successfully secured the authorization for \$249.2 million to fund the addition of 30 mm guns to these vehicles, which will increase standoff distance, improve survivability, and retain our Army's overmatch, as directed by the National Defense Strategy.

\$75 million to accelerate Future Vertical Lift Capability Set 3

The National Defense Strategy directs that the U.S. military build a more lethal force by modernizing key capabilities. The Army's Future Vertical Lift modernization will ensure that the U.S. Army is more maneuverable on the battlefield and more lethal in the fight.

Senator Jones said, "Bell Helicopter, which operates a facility in Ozark, Alabama, is a key player in the helicopter modernization program. These additional dollars will allow the Army to accelerate the Future Long Range Assault Aircraft program to align with its goal of having the first unit equipped by 2028."



\$40 million for Department of Defense (DOD) Impact Aid to schools and \$10 million for aid to military children with disabilities

Schools are a key component in quality of life programs for military families. Good schools support readiness, recruitment, and retention in an all-volunteer service. DOD Impact Aid provides assistance to school districts educating children of military personnel to address challenges from frequent deployments, security requirements, higher accountability rules, and concentrations of children with disabilities.

Noting that the Daleville City Board of Education, Enterprise City Schools, and Madison City Schools educate 1,481 children of active duty military personnel and depend upon these resources to help address the unique challenges faced by these children, **Senator Jones said**, “I was disappointed to see that the President’s Budget zeroed out Impact Aid; however, I am glad that the Committee has restored funding for these important programs.”

\$38 million for an aircraft and flight equipment building at Redstone Arsenal

The purpose of the project is to consolidate towed artillery repair and overhaul from four separate buildings into one. The current arrangement is inefficient, creates additional costs and time delays, and adds risk of accidents due to unnecessary movement of artillery pieces. This project will greatly increase efficiency and capacity, will improve readiness, and will reduce the lifecycle cost of the artillery systems themselves. The increased efficiency will also allow the overhaul service the opportunity to grow to include other DOD services and Foreign Military Sales.



\$34 million for the Enlisted Transient Training Barracks at Fort McClellan Army National Guard Training Center

Funds will be used to construct a 112,206 square foot Transient Training Enlisted Barracks for Fort McClellan Army National Guard Training Center, additional primary facilities for the Battalion Headquarters Building, and Transient Training and Company Supply/Administrative Buildings. The new facilities will replace those currently used to house soldiers performing transient training and for annual training rotations. The existing facilities were built as temporary structures during WWII and were given to the Alabama Army National Guard in 1995. These old wooden structures do not meet occupancy loads, fire and building codes, or other necessary local, state and federal building codes and present serious concerns including electrical fires, vulnerability to storm damage, and accidents.

“These upgrades and safety improvements are long overdue,” **said Senator Jones.**

\$15 million for STARBASE Programs

The Science and Technology Academies Reinforcing Basic Aviation and Space Exploration (STARBASE) program is an effective program that improves the knowledge and skills of students in grades K-12 in STEM fields. The program works with schools that are eligible to receive Title 1 services.

“Alabama children will continue to benefit from the DOD STARBASE program,” **said Senator Jones.** “STARBASE is an investment in our youth that also helps develop the talent pool needed to support the DOD workforce.”

\$12 million for an Army National Guard Readiness Center in Foley

This project will significantly enhance training, administration, automation, communications, and logistical readiness for the Alabama Army National Guard (ALARNG). The project will also foster stronger community relationships with the City of Foley and build support for the ALARNG. The new Readiness Center will provide the Guard units with assembly space, classrooms, locker rooms for equipment, physical fitness areas, kitchen space, and storage to support their federal military mission.

\$10 million for the Defense Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (DEPSCOR)

The DEPSCOR program provides defense-related science and engineering research funding to colleges and universities in historically underrepresented states, including Alabama, and in so doing, helps to build the national defense research infrastructure.

“These funds have been instrumental in building research capacity at Alabama’s institutions of higher education, and recognizing that, the Committee has provided \$10 million for this important purpose,” **said Senator Jones.**

\$2 million for Cybersecurity Threat Simulation Research

Recognizing the importance of cybersecurity to long-term national security, Senator Jones secured \$2 million in additional funding for increased research into cybersecurity threat simulation. Threat simulation programs develop solutions to security challenges by modeling emerging and proliferating threats to weapons systems and networks. These funds would be available to research universities to assist the U.S. Army’s Threat Systems Management Office and will help develop the next generation cyber workforce.

\$2 million for an HBCU Aerospace, Education, Research and Innovation Center

Senator Jones said, “Supporting research at minority serving institutions is a priority because university research not only provides important technical support to the Department of Defense but also helps develop the next generation of technical talent. Alabama’s HBCUs should be positioned to benefit from this funding.”

\$2 million for applied research in Printed Armament Components

New technologies are being developed to print components of arms and munitions including replacement parts, customizable grenades, and embedded electronics.

“Printing armament components can reduce their size and weight and free up space for additional capabilities, which will ensure better equipment for our troops,” **said Senator Jones.**

Additional funds for hypersonic research, development, and testing

Hypersonic weapons, which travel about one mile per second, are very difficult to detect and destroy, and Russian and Chinese advances in hypersonic technology have outstripped those of the United States. For this reason, the development of hypersonic capabilities is a priority for the Undersecretary of Defense for Research and Engineering.

“There is a need to develop both offensive and defensive capabilities. Folks at Redstone Arsenal, as well as number of businesses in the Huntsville area, are engaged in this cutting-edge work, and the substantial funding in this bill will both enhance existing efforts and enable new programs,” **said Senator Jones.**

Providing sufficient quality child care for military families

An important element of readiness is the well-being of service members' families. Many military spouses often have difficulty finding employment after moving to a new base, and access to quality child care can be critical to help spouses get jobs. Although the DOD provides a variety of child care options, those vary by location. At Senator Jones' request, the bill directs the Secretary of Defense to conduct a review of DOD Child Development Centers and report the findings to Congress. The report will include information on waitlists, workforce inadequacies, and facility capabilities, as well as recommendations for increasing capacity and recruiting and retaining providers.

Ensuring access to space

The bill adheres to the Congressional deadline of 2022 for ending U.S. reliance on Russian rocket engines for national security space launches by supporting the Air Force's National Security Space Launch Program and Rocket Systems Launch Program Acquisition Strategy. The goal is to use U.S.-made rockets and rocket engines for delivering national security payloads into orbit by 2022.

"Keeping this program on schedule is essential to reaching that goal," said Senator Jones.

Supporting the Navy's Guided Missile Frigate Program

One of Senator Jones' priorities was to ensure that the Navy's Guided Missile Frigate FFG(X) program remains on track. The FFG is an agile, multi-mission platform designed for operation in blue water and littoral environments.

"It is good news for South Alabama that the bill includes nearly \$1.3 billion for the award of one FFG(X) contract in FY20," said Senator Jones. "Austal USA in Mobile is competing for this work, and keeping the program on schedule is very important to its workforce and suppliers."

Interdisciplinary Center for research into advanced manufacturing systems

Senator Jones secured \$5 million to support an interdisciplinary approach to teaching, research, and industrial solutions to complex problems in advanced manufacturing systems. Increasing interoperability between various systems in the supply chain is critical to avoiding product development errors and delays.

“The Committee recognized the contributions of the university research community in this area and supported an increase in funding for academic research that promotes innovation in the defense industrial base,” **said Senator Jones.** “I understand that the university community in Alabama is already engaged in such projects, and I hope they will compete for these additional funds.”

Facilitating interstate licensing compacts for military spouses

The bill supports cooperation between the Secretary of Defense and the Council on State Governments to facilitate funding and development of interstate compacts on licensed occupations. Occupational license requirements are often state-specific, and this lack of portability hinders military spousal employment in their chosen fields, causes delays, and increases costs. The effects on military spousal employment can also adversely impact service members’ decisions about remaining in the services.

“This is an important quality of life issue for military families and a retention issue for the services. Supporting our military families is one of my highest priorities,” **said Senator Jones.**

Fire safety for civilian and military Defense Department personnel in DOD facilities

Concerned about effective and available fire suppression equipment in DOD facilities, Senator Jones and Senator Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) included a requirement that the Secretary of Defense provide a report on current DOD facility fire suppression mechanisms, including portable fire extinguishers and applicable fire codes.

Protecting the health of the defense industrial base

Maintaining competition and sufficient vendor capabilities is important to obtain the best value for the federal government and provide stability to the industrial base, especially for critical programs like the ground-based strategic deterrent program. Senator Jones and Senator Cotton (R-Ark.) partnered to include language recognizing that ensuring the viability of an industrial base of at least two domestic producers of large solid rocket motors for the ground-based strategic deterrent program is an important national security interest.

Authorized incentive programs for Defense Industry Base Workforce Development Programs

In light of a recent DOD report on supply chain resiliency issues, and having heard from numerous defense industry businesses about their need for more skilled workers, Senator Jones and Senator Tim Kaine (D-Va.) included a provision directing the Secretary of Defense to develop a plan for a pilot program to train skilled technicians for immediate placement in the Defense Industrial Base, including critical ship-building skills such as welding, metrology, quality assurance, machining, and additive manufacturing.

Support for programs to recruit women and minorities into the pilot ranks

The bill supports an expansion of the Air Force's Junior ROTC Flight Academy and its use as a model by the other services, similar to the bipartisan *CAVU (Ceiling and Visibility Unlimited) Act* Senator Jones filed earlier this year with Senator Cotton. The Air Force's program seeks to address the shortage of pilots in military service and the lack of diversity among pilot ranks. Females and minorities make up a significant percentage of JROTC participants, and early engagement with these young people can provide them with opportunities and guidance that can lead to successful futures in aviation.

A report on the current condition of ROTC facilities at minority-serving institutions

Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) programs are very important in developing and diversifying our military's future leadership. Given the challenge that many colleges face in providing and maintaining facilities for ROTC programs, at Senator Jones' request, the Senate Armed Services Committee is directing the Secretary of Defense to submit a report on the current condition of facilities at ROTC units at minority-serving institutions. The report is to include a description of the current condition of these facilities and an assessment of whether the condition of the facilities has an impact on the recruitment and retention of participants in such units.

Assessing the treatment of minorities in the military justice system

Although every service member is entitled to equal treatment under the law, there is some evidence to suggest that minority service members are more likely than white service members to face military justice or disciplinary action. To address this serious concern, Senator Jones requested a review and assessment of the race and ethnicity of service members accused, charged, or convicted under the military justice system.

“As a first step in this process, the Committee was able to include such an assessment in the ongoing review of sexual assault offenses being conducted by the Defense Advisory Committee on Investigation, Prosecution, and Defense of Sexual Assault in the Armed Forces. As resources become available, I will continue to seek a review of all serious cases within the system,” said Senator Jones.