



## **SUMMARY: Senator Mark Kelly's Priorities in Annual Defense Bill**

Senator Kelly serves on the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC), where he chairs the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities. In this role, Kelly fought for a number of Arizona priorities that were included in this year's National Defense Authorization Act ([NDAA](#)), such as protecting the A-10, infrastructure upgrades at Luke Air Force Base, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Fort Huachuca and Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, and investments in made-in-Arizona technologies to maintain our competitive edge over China.

Overall, the FY22 NDAA authorizes \$768.2 billion in discretionary spending for national defense, including historic investments in innovation and emerging technologies to ensure our national security institutions and armed services have the resources to defend our nation and reinvigorate our partnerships and alliances around the world. Kelly [advocated for and secured a](#) \$25 billion increase in defense spending above President Biden's original budget request to invest in a robust national defense. This year's defense bill will ensure the United States remains the decisive leader in the technological revolution by developing and deploying emerging technologies to amplify our power and our ability to disrupt threats before they can reach U.S. soil.

*See below for a breakdown of specific provisions Kelly secured for Arizona:*

### **Kelly-Backed Legislation Included in Final NDAA:**

- The [Brandon Act](#); introduced by Kelly
- The [Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Modernization Act](#), introduced by Kelly
- The [Afghanistan War Commission Act of 2021](#), cosponsored by Kelly
- The [Global War on Terrorism Memorial Location Act](#), cosponsored by Kelly
- The [Military Hunger Prevention Act](#), cosponsored by Kelly
- The [Alexander Lofgren Veterans in Parks \(VIP\) Act](#), cosponsored by Kelly

### **Protects the A-10 & Long-Term Viability of Davis-Monthan**

As a Navy combat veteran who has flown close air support missions, Kelly knows firsthand the national security value of the A-10 and has been [working](#) on efforts to keep the aircraft flying until there is a suitable replacement. Davis-Monthan Air Force Base is home to the largest A-10 contingent in the country.

At Kelly's urging, the NDAA:

- Prohibits the reduction of A-10 aircraft in fiscal year 2022 and updates required reporting on close air support mission effectiveness.
- Authorizes an increase of **nearly \$400 million** to maintain the A-10 program.

- Provides additional funding for EC-37B Compass Call aircraft engines. The upgraded EC-37B is expected to replace older EC-130H aircraft at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, providing future electronic attack capabilities

### **Arizona Military Installation Improvements**

Senator Kelly secured authorization for four military construction projects in Arizona -- the South Wilmot Gate at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, two F-35 facility projects at Luke Air Force Base in Maricopa County, and a training infrastructure project at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Yuma.

- **\$13.4 million** to build the **South Wilmot** gate construction near Davis-Monthan AFB will help alleviate high congestion in the area, improving base security and traffic flow on major city roads.
- **\$49 million for F-35 facilities at Luke Air Force Base**, home to the largest fighter wing in the Air Force, and the only active-duty F-16/F-35 training base in the world. The authorized facilities will keep Luke on track to house additional F-35 squadrons in the coming years.
- **\$29.3 million for Marine Corps Air Station Yuma** to construct a combat training tank complex.
- A **\$4 million** increase for continued resilience work at Fort Huachuca in Cochise County, which is one of six Sentinel Landscape sites in the country and the Buffalo Soldier Electronic Test Range (BSETR), which leverages natural topographical and geologic features to safely test critical electronic warfare capabilities our nation needs to meet near-peer threats.

### **Investing in Microchip Research & Development**

Senator Kelly advanced major research and development provisions totaling **\$250 million** that would require the Department of Defense to establish a network to support microchip research, testing, and workforce development in coordination with industry and universities. This program, which was developed and supported by researchers at Arizona State University, will leverage existing resources at universities located near major microelectronic manufacturing plants to research and test next generation microelectronics technologies here in the United States.

Kelly also secured dedicated funding for this program in the \$52 billion plan that [Kelly-led and passed](#) through the Senate. Kelly's plan would create high-paying jobs and strengthen national security by increasing the manufacturing and development of microchips in Arizona and America.

### **F-35 Procurement**

Senator Kelly backed the Air Force's procurement of 48 F-35's to provide our military with the advanced weapons systems it needs. F-35s are flown at Luke Air Force Base, the premier fighter pilot training center for the Air Force, and at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma. Luke AFB is expected to eventually house six F-35 squadrons.

### **Outcompeting China and Accelerating Innovation**

- Authorizes an increase of more than **\$3 billion in funds available for science and technology** programs that fund cutting-edge research and prototyping activities at universities, small businesses, defense labs, and industry, including in critical areas such as artificial intelligence, microelectronics, advanced materials, 5G, and biotechnology.
- Includes a nearly 25% authorized increase in defense-wide basic research, applied research, and advanced technology development.
- Kelly advocated for the inclusion of **National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence (NSCAI)** recommendations, including accelerating processes to responsibly apply artificial intelligence capabilities to military systems, processes, and operations.
- Kelly backed a provision to strengthen the Department of Defense's **abilities to hire and retain world-class talent**.

### Supporting Servicemembers and Military Families

- Kelly backed the adoption of amendments to increase parental leave to **12 weeks** for all servicemembers for the birth, adoption, or foster care placement of a child.
- Kelly successfully included a requirement for the Department of Defense to report on areas where Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) rates don't correctly **reflect the actual cost of living** for military families.
- Additionally, Kelly requested the Department of Defense report results of **Child Development Center program** inspections with plans to maintain and eventually increase capacity for servicemember childcare on military installations.
- Kelly advocated for the inclusion of his [Brandon Act](#) bill, named for Arizonan and Navy Petty Officer Third Class Brandon Caserta of Peoria, Arizona, who was lost to suicide while serving. The bill is designed to protect service members who experience mental health emergencies by allowing them to immediately and confidentially obtain mental health care.

### PFAS Clean-Up

- Requires the Department of Defense (DOD) to publish the results of all testing results for per-and polyfluoralkly substances (PFAS) at DOD and National Guard Installations within two years. DOD is currently leading remedial investigations into PFAS contamination at installations in Tucson, Yuma, and the West Valley.
- Provides \$517 million above the President's Budget Request fund PFAS cleanup projects at military installations and in communities affected by DOD PFAS contamination. Both Tucson and the West Valley have seen significant PFAS contamination in groundwater nearby DOD installations.
- Requires the Department of Defense to publish and make publicly available results of drinking and ground water testing for PFAS conducted on or near military installations, formerly used defense sites, and National Guard sites.
- Creates a Department of Defense PFAS task force to unify the response to PFAS contamination across military departments.
- Requires the Department of Defense to widely promote aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) spill prevention and mitigation for implementation across the military departments.
- Adds \$100 million for environmental remediation.

## Investing in Arizona's Future

- **Invests millions in** the research and development of aviation systems made in Arizona that support thousands of jobs.
- **Kelly fought to include the Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Modernization Act**, based off the bipartisan bill he introduced aimed at deepening the bench of talent in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) by modernizing the highly competitive undergraduate scholarship named after former Senator Barry Goldwater, an Air Force veteran and five-term Senator from Arizona.
- Continued support for **Intergovernmental Agreements** that enable municipalities like Sierra Vista and Glendale to work hand-in-hand with military installations like Fort Huachuca and Luke Air Force Base and the Department of Defense in providing critical safety and installation management services to Arizona bases.

A full summary of the Senate-passed NDAA can be found [here](#).

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