



SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

18 September 2024

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative DeLauro:

As Congress works to advance Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 appropriations legislation, I would like to highlight the significant challenges a Continuing Resolution (CR) poses to the Department of the Air Force (DAF). The FY 2025 DAF budget aligns with the National Defense Strategy (NDS) and Department of Defense priorities. A CR of any length impacts DAF readiness, hinders acceleration of the Space Force, delays military construction (MILCON) projects, reduces aircraft availability, and curbs modernization in our race for technological superiority. A CR also sets us back in meeting the pacing challenge presented by the People's Republic of China, which continues to invest heavily in capabilities designed to prevent the United States and its allies from projecting power in the Western Pacific. Below are amplifying examples detailing impacts a six-month CR would have on the DAF.

Impacts to Personnel & Readiness

- Degrades the Air Force's and Space Force's ability to care for our most critical asset – our service members – by hampering efforts to meet Basic Pay, Housing, and Subsistence Allowances; Recruiting and Retention Bonuses; and interrupts implementation of the Independent Review Commission (IRC) recommendations on sexual assault and suicide prevention and response
- Reduces Air Force aircraft Mission Capable (MC) and aircrew currency rates due to reduction in Weapon System Sustainment (WSS) and Flying Hour Program (FHP)

Impacts to Modernization

- Prevents production increases for munition stockpiles, including Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile (JASSM)-Extended Range, Long Range Anti-Ship Missile (LRASM), and Stand-In Attack Weapon (SiAW)
- Impedes DAF nuclear enterprise modernization by delaying B-21 initial operation capability, Minuteman III recapitalization efforts, and Little Mountain Test Facility updates
- Halts Space Force development on launch and range test system software and delays the start of production for Space COMSEC products

Impacts to MILCON

- Compromises 11 MILCON projects across 5 states, totaling \$680 million supporting 11 weapon system beddowns, Child Development Centers, dormitories, and 5 European/Indo-Pacific projects fundamental to strategic military operations

In the event of a year-long CR, four Air Force Operational Imperative initiatives would also experience delays, hindering the DAF's ability to close key capability gaps, accelerate development, and assure U.S. advantage against pacing challenges with Space Order of Battle, Kill Chain Automation, Collaborative Combat Aircraft development, and Moving Target Engagement. Additionally, a year-long CR would degrade SATCOM capabilities, stall the advancement of Space Force programs including GPS III Follow On and Missile Warning/Missile Tracking, and prevent 33 new major construction projects totaling over \$2 billion.

The DAF greatly values our partnership with Congress and appreciates your commitment to our Airmen and Guardians. The longer the DAF operates under a CR, the greater the impact on our people and programs. These impacts get dramatically more perilous as Sequestration is imposed under the *Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA) of 2023 (PL 118-5)*, reducing DAF buying power by \$15B. I appeal to you and your colleagues to advance full-year FY25 appropriations legislation as soon as possible. Thank you for your continued support of the finest Air and Space Forces in the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank Kendall', with a stylized, flowing script.

Frank Kendall

Attachment:
FY25 DAF CR Impacts Paper



Continuing Resolution (CR) Impacts

Fiscal Year (FY) 2025

The FY 2025 Department of the Air Force (DAF) budget aligns with the National Defense Strategy and Department of Defense priorities. Any length of CR impacts readiness, hinders acceleration of the Space Force, delays military construction (MILCON) projects, reduces aircraft availability, and curbs modernization in the race for technological superiority. These impacts get dramatically more perilous as **Sequestration** is imposed under the *Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA) of 2023 (PL 118-5)*.

Three-Month CR

Halts Space Systems Development: Stops work on launch and range test system software & IT modernization needed to address current and predicted threats and challenges which impairs national capabilities and Spacelift Range launch resources. Delays the start of production for critical Space COMSEC products severely impacting National Security Space systems.

Diminishes Readiness: Prevents fully funding readiness needs such as Weapon System Sustainment (WSS), Flying Hour Program (FHP), and Facilities Sustainment, Restoration and Modernization (FSRM) until later in the year, impacts Mission-Capable and currency rates, and delays contract awards.

Six-Month CR

Restricts High-End Weapons Production Quantities: Prevents production increases for munition stockpiles including Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile (JASSM)-Extended Range (+30), Long Range Anti-Ship Missile (LRASM) (+88), and Stand-In Attack Weapon (SiAW) (+114).

Failure to fulfill JASSM/LRASM contract quantities may cause \$400M cancel clause liability and munitions Multi-Year Procurement to not be executed, inhibiting stabilization of the industrial base and optimization of weapon production. Reduction to SiAW negatively impacts both DoN and DAF lot buy.

Underfunds Pay Entitlements: Limits DAF capability to cover increases in military pay accounts or initiate new bonuses/incentive pay-designed to address critically manned career fields. Delays essential ANG and AFR training leading to a decrease in overall readiness. Affects must-pay compensation bills such as Basic Allowance for Housing, Basic Allowance for Subsistence, etc.

Impedes Nuclear Enterprise Modernization: Delays B-21 progress towards initial operation and fundamental cornerstone capability for Strategic and Nuclear Deterrence. Limits production and technology quantity increases, procurement, and modernization funding that enhance survivability and lethality. A 6-month CR impacts the life-of-type buy needed to procure critical components for the new Mk21A reentry vehicle and delay key recapitalization efforts in the Minuteman III program. Essential updates to the Little Mountain Test Facility would not commence, further impacting the LGM-35A Sentinel program.

Limits Weapon System Production: Delays T-7A first Lot production (7 aircraft) by a year and prevents production increase for MH-139 (+1). Restricts ability to award F-35A production and Advanced Procurement for long lead parts and materials. Delays F-15EX production contract, potentially leading to production line break, and support for fielded Active and ANG aircraft.

Year-Long CR

If a sequester is ordered per the FRA, spending limits are capped to FY23 levels minus 1%. These actions not only stifle modernization, but inalterably give ground to our adversaries by reducing DAF buying power by \$15B.

Curtails Operational Imperative Execution: Delays four Air Force Operational Imperative initiatives that would close key capability gaps, accelerate development, and assure U.S. advantage against pacing challenges with Space Order of Battle, Kill Chain Automation, Collaborative Combat Aircraft development, and Moving Target Engagement.

Stalls Space Force Advancement: Limits critical Defensive Cyber Operations by postponing 20 FAB terminals second production lot buy, restricting worldwide nuclear survivable data and communications on the B-52. Limits GPS III Follow On program growth and delays procurement of Space Vehicles 21 and 22. Cancels 20% growth within Missile Warning/Missile Tracking program inhibiting increased resilience and detection of advanced missile signatures in contested environments.

Degrades SATCOM Capabilities: Cancels \$540M modernization effort for Evolved Strategic SATCOM inhibiting worldwide and Arctic secure operations; jam-resistant, and survivable SATCOM for Presidential and National Command Authorities and C2 over strategic ground, air, and sea forces. Delays delivery of \$360M PTS-Global and Resilient program advancements for reduced latency, increased capacity, and robust anti-jam capability.

Stops Military Construction Projects: Prevents 33 new major construction projects totaling ~\$2.1B including 11 weapon systems beddowns, Child Development Center, dormitory, and 5 European/Indo-Pacific projects fundamental to strategic military operations.

3-Month:

- Space Modernization
- Partial WSS, FHP, & FSRM Funding
- 17 New Starts

6-Month:

- Pay & Entitlements Must-Pays
- Readiness & Resilience
- 48 New Starts, \$1B

Year-Long:

- \$15B Lost Buying Power
- 222 Munitions, 13 Aircraft, 2 GPSIII
- 11 Weapon System Beddowns
- 33 MILCON Projects, \$2.1B
- 88 New Starts, \$1.3B

Department of the Air Force - FY2025 Budget			
	FY24 Enacted	FY25 PB	Delta
USAF Total (\$B)	184.4	188.1	3.7
O&M	72.0	75.6	3.6
MILPERS	40.2	41.7	1.5
RDT&E	37.3	37.7	0.4
Procurement	30.4	29.0	-1.4
MILCON	4.6	4.1	-0.5
USSF Total (\$B)	28.7	29.4	0.7
O&M	4.8	5.2	0.4
MILPERS	1.2	1.2	0.0
RDT&E	18.7	18.7	0.0
Procurement	4.1	4.3	0.2
DAF Total (\$B)	213.1	217.5	4.4

DAF - Production Increases		
Proj'd Start	Program	Qty Increase
Oct-24	GPSIII Follow On	2
Mar-25	MH-139A	1
	Joint Strike Missile	2
	Sidewinder (AIM-9X)	13
Jun-25	Advanced Pilot Training T-7A	7
	C-40 Fleet Expansion	1
	Stand-In Attack Weapon (SiAW)	114
	LRASM	88
Jul-25	AMRAAM	5
TBD	ULTRA	4
Grand Total		237

DAF New Start MILCON Projects		
Location	Project	Req. (\$K)
Alaska	Joint Integrated Test and Training Ctr, Inc	126,000
	Combat Rescue Helicopter Simulator	19,300
California	Combat Rescue Helicopter Simulator	12,600
	Sentinel Re-Entry Vehicle Facility	110,000
	Sentinel AETC Formal Training Unit	167,000
Florida	F-35 Consolidated Weapons Training	26,200
Hawaii	Space Control Center	36,600
Idaho	*Child Development Center	40,000
Indiana	Indoor Small Arms Range	21,000
Massachusetts	MIT-LL/Engineering and Prototype Fac, Inc	76,000
Montana	Sentinel Entrance Control Facility	20,000
New Jersey	*F-16 Mission Training Center	18,000
New York	Combat Rescue Helicopter Simulator	14,000
Ohio	Base Fire Station	25,000
South Dakota	**B-21 ADAL Squadron Operations	44,000
	**B-21 N. Env. Protection Shelters (60 Row)	54,000
	**B-21 E. Alert Apron Env. Protection Shelte	79,000
Texas	**C-130J ADAL Fuel Cell B1674	13,100
	**B-21 LRS Fuels Administrative Laboratory	12,800
	**B-21 Refueler Truck Yard	18,500
	T-7A GROUND BASED TRAINING	38,000
	T-7A MAINTENANCE TRAINING	18,000
	*METC - Barracks/Ships/Dorms #1, Inc	77,000
Utah	T-7A Depot Maintenance Complex, Inc	50,000
Virginia	Dormitory	81,000
Wyoming	Sentinel Consolidated Maintenance Facility	194,000
	*Sentinel Land Acquisition Phase 2	139,000
	Sentinel Utility Corridor, Inc	70,000
USA Total		1,600,100
Denmark	EDI: DABS-FEV Storage	110,000
England	**SURETY: Barrier Systems	185,000
	SOW Campus Infrastructure	51,000
Spain	NATO Strategic Airlift Hangar	15,200
Europe Total		361,200
FSM	PDI: Runway Extension, Inc	96,000
Indo-Pacific Total		96,000
TOTAL (33 Projects)		2,057,300
*Delayed start with 3-month CR (4 projects)		274,000
**Delayed start with 6-month CR (11 projects)		693,200

DAF New Start Procurement/RDT&E Requirements		
Proj'd Start	Program Title	Req. (\$K)
Qtr. 1	CV-22 Post Production Support	12,025
	KC-46A Mod	21,000
	Radio Equipment	2,500
	Base Comm Infrastructure	22,936
	Minuteman Squadrons	6,500
	Tactical Terminal	1,002
	Hard and Deeply Buried Target Defeat System (HDBTDS)	125,606
	Combat Survivor Evader Locator	2,269
	Space Access, Mobility & Logistics (SAML)	4,000
	C-5A Crown Skins*	29,000
	KC-135 Other Production Charges	15,031
	C-130J Comm Mod	19,007
	LGM-35A Sentinel Mod	5,216
	Little Mountain Test Facility*	5,800
	Hard and Deeply Buried Targets (HDBT)*	10,045
	C-5 Aircraft Replacement Support Equipment	3,173
Qtr. 1 Total		285,110
Qtr. 2	C-17 Aircraft (IF)	5,200
	C-5 Airlift Squadrons (IF)	203
	HC/MC-130 Modifications	19,733
	Space Mods	1,900
	MH-139A Mod	5,010
	HH60W Modifications	28,911
	USSF Replacement Vehicles	4,919
	Minuteman Squadrons	43,171
	E-7 C2ISR	6,000
	Combat Air Intelligence System Activities	18,733
	Theater Nuclear Weapon Storage & Security System*	9,018
	KC-46A Tanker Squadrons	1,000
	Other Flight Training	2,319
	Protected Tactical Service (PTS)*	247,997
	Space Technology	9,193
Qtr. 3	Rapid Defense Experimentation Reserve (RDER)	75,051
	Requirements Analysis & Concept Maturation	12,622
	C2ISR Tactical Data Link	42,371
	Non-Kinetic Countermeasure Support	15,180
	F-15E Other Production Charges	12,876
	B-1B External Pylon Mods	10,064
	B-52 Radar Mod	117,305
	B-52 Mods	2,104
	USSF Integrated Operations Network	24,985
Qtr. 2 Total		715,865
Qtr. 4	E-11A BACN	1,750
	Airborne Reconnaissance Systems	100
	HH-60W MUOS Capability	4,550
	Countering Advanced Conventional Weapons (CACW)	1,668
	Hard and Deeply Buried Target Defeat System (HDBTDS)	39,079
	C-40D Initial Spares/Repair Parts	10,021
	F-15EX Depot Activation	40,084
	C-17A Connectivity	1,000
	T-7A Initial Spares/Repair Parts	10,021
Qtr. 3 Total		108,273
Qtr. 4	Deployment & Distribution Enterprise R&D	4,600
	Human Effectiveness Applied Research	38,046
	RQ-20B Puma	11,283
	Cartridges	1,520
	Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD)	1,269
	Missile Replacement Eq-Ballistic	4,338
	Mk21A Reentry Vehicle	26,156
	GeoBase	1,002
	HC/MC-130 Recap RDT&E	1
	T-6 Avionic Mod	85,588
	NAS Spares And Repair Parts	380
Qtr. 4 Total		174,183
Grand Total		1,283,431
*CR Anomaly submitted to OSD-C		
**Appendix does not include classified new start information		
USSF		