

*What's In It for Georgia:*

**U.S. Senator Reverend Warnock's Push to Pass the *National Defense Authorization Act***

Since being sworn into the United States Senate in January 2021, Senator Reverend Warnock (D-GA) has been a strong and committed advocate in Washington for strengthening federal investments and policies that benefit Georgia's military installations, servicemembers and military families. To that end, Senator Warnock worked diligently to secure support for many Georgia military priorities in the FY 22 *National Defense Authorization Act* (NDAA), which is the annual legislation needed to authorize Department of Defense and a component of Department of Energy operations. This bill passed the Senate on December 15, 2021, to go to President Biden for signature.

**See below more details on the bill's benefits for Georgia, and what Georgia priorities Senator Reverend Warnock has secured in the legislation and is pushing to get over the finish line:**

**KEY HIGHLIGHTS FOR GEORGIA**

- **Military Pay Raise:** 2.7 percent pay raise for both military servicemembers and the DOD civilian workforce.
  - Senator Warnock also joined efforts urging leaders of the House and Senate Armed Services committees to maintain a provision in the House bill authorizing a basic needs allowance for low-income servicemembers, which is identical to S. 1488, the *Military Hunger Prevention Act*, which Senator Warnock cosponsored.
- **Military Construction:** In total, the bill authorizes over \$317M in funding for construction, repairs and building revitalization on Georgia's installations, including:
  - *Fort Benning:* authorizes \$17.5M for the development of a microgrid, \$62M for a Special Operations Forces (SOF) battalion headquarters, and \$13.2M for new barracks at Fort Benning.
  - *Fort Stewart:* authorizes \$22M for an energy plant with microgrid.
  - *Robins AFB:* authorizes \$6M for building development at Robins AFB.
  - *King's Bay:* authorizes \$19.3M for electric transmission and distribution at Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base. (*details on additional funding for Georgia provided below*)
- **A-10 fighter plane:** The bill prevents funds in the bill from being used to retire any of the A-10 fighter plane fleet. This is critical to Moody AFB in Valdosta, home of the Flying Tigers.
  - Senator Warnock [visited](#) Moody AFB in August 2021 and raised concerns about the future missions at Moody AFB during an October meeting with Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall III.
- **C-130 transport fleet:** The bill ensures that the U.S. Air Force cannot lower the total number of tactical airlift aircraft below a number that guarantees continued production and use of the C-130 transport plane, which is critical to national security and Georgia.
  - The plane is built at the historic Lockheed Martin facility in Marietta, and flown by the Georgia Air National Guard in Savannah.

- Senator Warnock [visited](#) the Marietta facility in June 2021 to underscore the importance of this aircraft.

## **PRIORITIES SENATOR REVEREND WARNOCK CHAMPIONED FOR GEORGIA**

### **Key Military Construction Projects** *(continued from above):*

- *Fort Stewart (Liberty County):* The bill authorizes for \$105M for new barracks.
  - In the [draft Senate military construction funding bill](#), Senator Warnock fought to secure \$5M to complete planning and design of these barracks through his Congressionally-directed spending request.
- *Fort Gordon (Augusta):* The bill authorizes \$69M for a Cyber Instructional Facility at Fort Gordon— Senator Warnock led efforts to include this sum in the draft Senate Appropriations bill. It also includes authorization for \$3.67M for the Cyber Center of Excellence School Headquarters and Classrooms planning and design which

Senator Warnock also led efforts to secure through his Congressionally-directed spending request in the [draft Senate military construction funding bill](#).

- *Note: While the final bill no longer contains authorization for the Moody AFB HH-60W parking apron, this project was authorized in FY20 so Senator Warnock's Congressionally-directed spending request that secured the funding for the project is still able to be actively considered by the Appropriations committees in ongoing negotiations.*

### **Technology & Innovation**

- Due to Senator Warnock's urging, the Senate bill report includes language directing the Defense Department to continue supporting technological innovations in small unit robotics integration and artificial intelligence projects and efforts at Fort Benning and Robins AFB.

### **Supporting Military Spouses & Families**

- Senator Warnock successfully included two *bipartisan* amendments in the final legislation. The first helps the Defense Department address the needs of military spouse employment by directing the Department to collect data on rates of prevalence of military spouse un and underemployment, as well as possible and known inhibitors to spouse employment.
- Senator Warnock also championed to include language in the bill that directs the Defense Department to examine their methodology for determining the basic allowance for housing (BAH) for servicemembers. This language is important to ensuring servicemembers and their families can find a safe, suitable and accessible place to live near their assigned post.
  - During his in-state travels Senator Warnock has heard concerns about misaligned BAH at several Georgia bases, including Fort Benning and Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base, and has urged the Senate Armed Services Committee to address these concerns.

### **Honoring Our Nation's Military Chaplains**

- The second amendment included is Senator Warnock's Chaplains Memorial Preservation Act, S.1850, introduced with Senator John Boozman (R-AR). This bill permits the Secretary of the Army to allow the National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces to update certain memorials at Arlington National Cemetery with the names of chaplains who have died while serving on Active Duty.

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