



IAM
UNION

International Association of Machinists
& Aerospace Workers

DEFENSE SPENDING: NATIONAL SECURITY AND JOB CREATION

Robust U.S. defense spending is not only necessary to ensure national and economic security but also creates hundreds of thousands of high-quality jobs and is the very backbone of our domestic manufacturing sector.

Record levels of defense spending in recent years have helped improve our military readiness and capability, but additional defense spending is needed to protect against emerging threats, ensure our national security, and bolster our defense industrial base. **The IAM strongly supports the administration's stated goal of dramatically increasing defense spending in Fiscal Year 2027.** We also urge the administration to stay true to their commitments to strengthen and protect Buy American requirements in federal defense spending to ensure safe and secure domestic supply chains in the manufacture of these vitally important programs.

We continue to urge lawmakers to invest heavily in defense equipment and readiness, the defense industrial base, and the defense workforce to ensure our warfighters have the tools needed to complete their missions safely and effectively.

As the largest defense and aerospace union in North America, we strongly support the following defense programs:

F-35 Joint Strike Fighter

The F-35 Joint Strike Fighter is our nation's only 5th Generation stealth aircraft currently in production and is key to the future of continued U.S. air superiority. In order to restore planned production rates, maintain cost savings, and ensure future air dominance the F-35 program requires robust and consistent funding. As global threats continue to rise, it is critical that the United States continue to invest in F-35 modernization, sustainment and ramp up to full production rate. **The IAM urges lawmakers to support robust funding for the F-35 Lightning II and F-135 engine programs and oppose any proposals to cut aircraft quantities or other program funding.**

F-47 Sixth Generation Fighter

The F-47 will be the first 6th generation fighter aircraft built for the U.S. Air Force developed under the Next Generation Air Dominance program. **The IAM and our members at Boeing Defense applaud the decision to award the F-47 to Boeing Defense. We urge Congress to adequately fund the program for swift ramp-up to full production.** Our members in Missouri and across the defense aerospace supply chain are highly capable and ready to proudly build the F-47 for the sake of future U.S. air superiority.

C-130 Strategic Airlift

The U.S. must maintain its strategic airlift capability through continued production of the C-130J Hercules. The C-130J is the most modern military tactical transport in service today. **The IAM strongly supports funding to recapitalize and grow the C-130 fleets at Air National Guard (ANG), Air Force Reserve (AFR), Navy, (USN), Navy Reserve**

(USNR), United States Air Force (USAF), United States Marine Corps (USMC), United States Coast Guard (USCG), and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

F-15EX Eagle

The F-15EX program provides an immediate opportunity for the Air Force to address capacity and readiness issues in its current fighter fleet. In recent years, some in government have advocated for reducing procurement of these highly capable jets. For the sake of military efficiency and effectiveness, we strongly believe this tact would be highly imprudent. **The IAM strongly supports robust funding for the procurement of F-15EX in FY 2027.**

Aerial Refueling

The Administration's FY 2027 Budget request rightly included \$3.8 Billion for 15 KC-46 Pegasus refueling tankers that will be critical to finally replacing the aging Eisenhower era KC-135 tankers currently in use. For continued cost reduction and sustainment of this vital Air Force program **the IAM urges continued support of the KC-46 tanker program in FY 2027.**

Navy Shipbuilding and Repair

The current U.S. Navy Shipbuilding Plan aims to grow the Navy's fleet to 381 manned ships over the next 30 years. This ambitious goal will not be achievable without significant funding increases and consistent support for future ship procurement. Although progress has been made, more needs to be done to ramp up Navy shipbuilding and repair efforts. In Fiscal Year 2027 and beyond, the IAM supports funding for procurement for 3 Virginia-class submarine per year and continued ramp up of the Columbia-class submarine program. The IAM also strongly supports full funding for the DDG-51 destroyer program, CVN Ford-class aircraft carrier program, and the John Lewis class Fleet Oiler. The IAM supports workforce and supply chain stability through new multi-year procurement authority for Arleigh Burke Destroyers and John Lewis class Oilers. **Additionally, the IAM strongly supports strengthening the shipbuilding industrial base through robust investment in public and private shipyards, parts supply chains, domestic repair capacity, and workforce development and retention.**

Fully Fund NASA and U.S. Space Program

NASA has long been one of our nation's largest generators of new technologies, products, and manufacturing jobs. We strongly support the Launch Services Program, the Artemis program, the Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle, further investment in space operations and scientific discovery, and our members at NASA launch sites, United Launch Alliance, and across the space industry supply chain. Additionally, we strongly support the Air Force's investment in National Security Space Launch Program. The IAM also recognizes the vital importance of Federal Contract Workers to NASA's mission and strongly support the continuation of the McNamara-O'Hara Service Contract Act (SCA) model of workforce stability and effectiveness.

Missile Defense and Ammunition

As global conflicts continue to arise, our national stockpiles of missile defense systems and a wide range of ammunition categories risk becoming dangerously depleted. **We must mitigate this risk by increasing domestic production.** We urge lawmakers to prioritize investment in domestic production of missile defense systems and ammunition for the sake of national security and mission readiness.