

Hagan Helps Pass National Defense Authorization Act

Written by Submitted
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U.S. Senator Kay Hagan, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, last week helped passed the bipartisan 2014 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that authorizes funding for the Department of Defense (DoD). Hagan, who supported the bill, successfully included provisions that support North Carolina installations, servicemembers, veterans and their families. Last week, the House of Representatives passed the bill with overwhelmingly bipartisan support.

“The National Defense Authorization Act is critical for North Carolina’s servicemembers, veterans and their families, as well as our many military installations,” said Senator Hagan. “As a Senator from the most military-friendly state in the country, I am committed to ensuring that our brave servicemen and women have the resources they need to effectively execute their mission and remain as safe as possible. I am pleased that my colleagues in the Senate were able to come together and pass this bipartisan bill.”

The NDAA authorizes \$370 million in military construction projects at Fort Bragg, Camp Lejeune and New River, including a new Army Reserve Center, a command and control facility for the XVIII Airborne Corps, an operations training complex, a Performance Resiliency Center and a Corrosion Control Hangar. The bill also requires a DoD report examining how the Department complies with a law requiring preference be given to domestically-produced textiles and clothing, a critical industry in North Carolina.

Also included in the bill is a package of measures aimed at combatting the military sexual assault crisis, including an independent review when a commander decides not to prosecute a sexual assault case, limits on a commander’s ability to overturn a guilty finding of sexual assault and Special Victim’s Counsel to assist servicemembers who are victims of sexual assault.

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“As a Senator from the state with the third largest military population in the country, I have heard firsthand from too many servicemembers who have been the victims of sexual assault or live in fear of becoming one,” added Hagan. “This bill takes meaningful steps to curb the sexual assault crisis in our military and ensure that the brave men and women who serve our country can do so without fearing for their personal safety among their fellow servicemembers.”

Hagan, who chairs the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, comes from a strong military family. Her father-in-law was a two-star Marine General; her brother and father served in the Navy; her husband, Chip, is a Vietnam veteran who used the GI Bill to help pay for law school; and she has two nephews who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan.