

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6037

To amend titles 10 and 37, United States Code, to create the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Irregular Warfare, Cultural Training, and Social Science Initiatives and to authorize a new skill incentive pay and proficiency bonus to encourage members of the Armed Forces to train in critical foreign languages and foreign cultural studies.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 13, 2008

Ms. GIFFORDS (for herself, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend titles 10 and 37, United States Code, to create the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Irregular Warfare, Cultural Training, and Social Science Initiatives and to authorize a new skill incentive pay and proficiency bonus to encourage members of the Armed Forces to train in critical foreign languages and foreign cultural studies.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “National Security Cul-
3 ture and Language Training Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. OFFICE OF IRREGULAR WARFARE, CULTURAL**
5 **TRAINING, AND SOCIAL SCIENCE INITIA-**
6 **TIVES.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHING THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF
8 DEFENSE FOR IRREGULAR WARFARE, CULTURAL TRAIN-
9 ING, AND SOCIAL SCIENCE INITIATIVES.—Section 138 of
10 title 10, United States Code, is amended—

11 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “ten” and in-
12 serting “eleven”; and

13 (2) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the
14 following new paragraph:

15 “(6) One of the Assistant Secretaries shall be
16 the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Irregular
17 Warfare, Cultural Training, and Social Science Ini-
18 tiatives. He shall have as his principal duty the over-
19 all supervision of the Office of Irregular Warfare,
20 Cultural Training, and Social Science Initiatives.”.

21 (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE OF IRREGULAR
22 WARFARE, CULTURAL TRAINING, AND SOCIAL SCIENCE
23 INITIATIVES.—Chapter 101 of title 10, United States
24 Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new
25 section:

1 **“§ 2016. Office of Irregular Warfare, Cultural Train-**
2 **ing, and Social Science Initiatives**

3 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is in the Office of the
4 Secretary of Defense an Office of Irregular Warfare, Cul-
5 tural Training, and Social Science Initiatives (hereinafter
6 in this section referred to as the ‘Office’). The Office shall
7 be under the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Irregular
8 Warfare, Cultural Training, and Social Science Initiatives.

9 “(b) DUTIES.—The Office shall—

10 “(1) devise and implement a training doctrine
11 that includes the development of cultural, socio-
12 logical, and psychological knowledge and skills for
13 members of the armed forces;

14 “(2) use existing cultural training programs
15 and structures in the armed forces to expand train-
16 ing efforts for all military personnel;

17 “(3) devise measurable, empirical criteria for
18 determining the value and efficacy of each initiative
19 and program of the Office;

20 “(4) develop and maintain partnerships between
21 the Department of Defense and academic institu-
22 tions, social science professionals, and human
23 science professionals to further the mission of the
24 Office;

1 “(1) AVAILABILITY; ELIGIBLE PERSONS.—The
2 Secretary concerned may pay a proficiency bonus to
3 a member of a regular or reserve component of the
4 uniformed services who—

5 “(A) is entitled to basic pay under section
6 204 of this title or compensation under section
7 206 of this title or is enrolled in an officer
8 training program; and

9 “(B) is determined to have, and maintains,
10 certified proficiency under subsection (d) in a
11 skill designated as critical by the Secretary con-
12 cerned or is in training to acquire proficiency in
13 a critical foreign language or expertise in for-
14 eign cultural studies or a related skill des-
15 ignated as critical by the Secretary concerned.

16 “(2) INCLUSION OF CERTAIN SENIOR ROTC
17 MEMBERS.—A proficiency bonus may be paid under
18 this subsection to a student who is enrolled in the
19 Senior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps program
20 even though the student is in the first year of the
21 four-year course under the program. During the pe-
22 riod covered by the proficiency bonus, the student
23 shall also be entitled to a monthly subsistence allow-
24 ance under section 209(c) of this title even though
25 the student has not entered into an agreement under

1 section 2103a of title 10. However, if the student re-
2 ceives incentive pay under subsection (g)(2) for the
3 same period, the student may receive only a single
4 monthly subsistence allowance under section 209(c)
5 of this title.”.

6 (b) AVAILABILITY OF INCENTIVE PAY FOR PARTICI-
7 PATION IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION OR TRAIN-
8 ING PROGRAMS.—Such section is further amended—

9 (1) by redesignating subsections (g), (h), and
10 (i) as subsections (h), (i), and (j), respectively; and

11 (2) by inserting after subsection (f) the fol-
12 lowing new subsection (g):

13 “(g) FOREIGN LANGUAGE STUDIES IN OFFICER
14 TRAINING PROGRAMS.—

15 “(1) AVAILABILITY OF INCENTIVE PAY.—The
16 Secretary concerned may pay incentive pay to a per-
17 son enrolled in an officer training program to also
18 participate in an education or training program to
19 acquire proficiency in a critical foreign language or
20 expertise in foreign cultural studies or a related skill
21 designated as critical by the Secretary concerned.

22 “(2) INCLUSION OF CERTAIN SENIOR ROTC
23 MEMBERS.—Incentive pay may be paid under this
24 subsection to a student who is enrolled in the Senior
25 Reserve Officers’ Training Corps program even

1 though the student is in the first year of the four-
2 year course under the program. While the student
3 receives the incentive pay, the student shall also be
4 entitled to a monthly subsistence allowance under
5 section 209(c) of this title even though the student
6 has not entered into an agreement under section
7 2103a of title 10. However, if the student receives
8 a proficiency bonus under subsection (b)(2) covering
9 the same month, the student may receive only a sin-
10 gle monthly subsistence allowance under section
11 209(c) of this title.

12 “(3) CRITICAL FOREIGN LANGUAGE DE-
13 FINED.—In this section, the term ‘critical foreign
14 language’ includes Arabic, Korean, Japanese, Chi-
15 nese, Pashto, Persian-Farsi, Serbian-Croatian, Rus-
16 sian, Portuguese, or other language designated as
17 critical by the Secretary concerned.”.

18 (c) PILOT PROGRAM FOR FOREIGN LANGUAGE PRO-
19 FICIENCY TRAINING FOR RESERVE MEMBERS.—

20 (1) PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.—The Sec-
21 retary of Defense shall conduct a pilot program to
22 provide a skill proficiency bonus under section
23 353(b) of title 37, United States Code, to a member
24 of a reserve component of the Armed Forces who is
25 entitled to compensation under section 206 of such

1 title while the member participates in an education
2 or training program to acquire proficiency in a crit-
3 ical foreign language or expertise in foreign cultural
4 studies or a related skill designated as critical under
5 such section 353.

6 (2) DURATION OF PILOT PROGRAM.—The Sec-
7 retary shall conduct the pilot program during the pe-
8 riod beginning on October 1, 2008, and ending on
9 December 31, 2013. Incentive pay may not be pro-
10 vided under the pilot program after December 31,
11 2013.

12 (3) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than
13 March 31, 2012, the Secretary shall submit to Con-
14 gress a report containing the results of the pilot pro-
15 gram and the recommendations of the Secretary re-
16 garding whether to continue or expand the pilot pro-
17 gram.

18 (d) EXPEDITED IMPLEMENTATION.—Notwith-
19 standing section 662 of the National Defense Authoriza-
20 tion Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110–181; 122
21 Stat. 180; 37 U.S.C. 301 note), the Secretary of a military
22 department may immediately implement the amendments
23 made by subsections (a) and (b) in order to ensure the
24 prompt availability of proficiency bonuses and incentive
25 pay under section 553 of title 37, United States Code, as

1 amended by such subsections, for persons enrolled in offi-
2 cer training programs.

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