Matsui	Polis	Takai
McCollum	Price (NC)	Takano
McDermott	Quigley	Thompson (CA)
McGovern	Rangel	Thompson (MS)
McNerney	Richmond	Titus
Meeks	Roybal-Allard	Tonko
Meng	Ruiz	Torres
Moore	Rush	Tsongas
Moulton	Sanford	Van Hollen
Nadler	Sarbanes	Vargas
Napolitano	Schakowsky	Veasey
Neal	Schiff	Velázquez
Nolan	Schrader	Visclosky
Norcross	Scott (VA)	Walz
O'Rourke	Scott, David	Wasserman Schultz
Pallone	Serrano	Waters, Maxine
Pascrell	Sewell (AL)	Watson Coleman
Pelosi	Sherman	Welch
Perry	Sires	Wilson (FL)
Peters	Slaughter	Yarmuth
Peterson	Smith (WA)	
Pingree	Speier	
Pocan	Swalwell (CA)	

NOT VOTING—13

Barletta	Chu, Judy	Ribble
Bishop (GA)	Cleaver	Sánchez, Linda T.
Black	Davis, Danny	Sanchez, Loretta
Blackburn	Edwards	
Capps	Mulvaney	

□ 1917

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. REED) having assumed the chair, Mr. POE of Texas, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H. R. 1735) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 21 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1927

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARDY) at 7 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 644. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend and expand the charitable deduction for contributions of food inventory.

H.R. 1295. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the process for making determinations with respect to whether organizations are exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(4) of such Code.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1356. An act to clarify that certain provisions of the Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act of 2014 will not take effect until after the Director of the Office of Personnel Management promulgates and makes effective regulations relating to such provisions.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 260 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 1735.

Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED) kindly take the chair.

□ 1929

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1735) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, with Mr. REED (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, amendment No. 17 printed in House Report 114–112 offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 23 OFFERED BY MR. ROHRABACHER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 23 printed in House Report 114–112.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 12xx. SENSE OF CONGRESS RELATING TO DR. SHAKIL AFRIDI.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The attacks of September 11, 2001, killed approximately 3,000 people, most of whom were Americans, but also included hundreds of individuals with foreign citizenships, nearly 350 New York Fire Department personnel, and about 50 law enforcement officers.

(2) Downed United Airlines flight 93 was reportedly intended, under the control of the al-Qaeda high-jackers, to crash into the White House or the Capitol in an attempt to kill the President of the United States or Members of the United States Congress.

(3) The September 11, 2001, attacks were largely planned and carried out by the al-Qaeda terrorist network led by Osama bin Laden and his deputy Ayman al Zawahiri, after which Osama bin Laden enjoyed safe haven in Pakistan from where he continued to plot deadly attacks against the United States and the world.

(4) The United States has obligated nearly $30 billion between 2002 and 2014 in United States taxpayer money for security and economic aid to Pakistan.

(5) The United States very generously and swiftly responded to the 2005 Kashmir Earthquake in Pakistan with more than $200 million in emergency aid and the support of several United States military aircraft, approximately 1,000 United States military personnel, including medical specialists, thousands of tents, blankets, water containers and a variety of other emergency equipment.

(6) The United States again generously and swiftly contributed approximately $150 million in emergency aid to Pakistan following the 2010 Pakistan flood, in addition to the service of nearly twenty United States military helicopters, their flight crews, and other resources to assist the Pakistan Army's relief efforts.

(7) The United States continues to work tirelessly to support Pakistan's economic development, including millions of dollars allocated towards the development of Pakistan's energy infrastructure, health services and education system.

(8) The United States and Pakistan continue to have many critical shared interests, both economic and security related, which could be the foundation for a positive and mutually beneficial partnership.

(9) Dr. Shakil Afridi, a Pakistani physician, is a hero to whom the people of the United States, Pakistan and the world owe a debt of gratitude for his help in finally locating Osama bin Laden before more innocent American, Pakistani and other lives were lost to this terrorist leader.

(10) Pakistan, the United States and the international community had failed for nearly 10 years following attacks of September 11, 2001, to locate and bring Osama bin Laden, who continued to kill innocent civilians in the Middle East, Asia, Europe, Africa and the United States, to justice without the help of Dr. Afridi.

(11) The Government of Pakistan's imprisonment of Dr. Afridi presents a serious and growing impediment to the United States' bilateral relations with Pakistan.

(12) The Government of Pakistan has leveled and allowed baseless charges against Dr. Afridi in a politically motivated, spurious legal process.

(13) Dr. Afridi is currently imprisoned by the Government of Pakistan, a deplorable and unconscionable situation which calls into question Pakistan's actual commitment to countering terrorism and undermines the notion that Pakistan is a true ally in the struggle against terrorism.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that Dr. Shakil Afridi is an international hero and that the Government of Pakistan should release him immediately from prison.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 260, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

□ 1930

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my amendment to H.R. 1735, a sense of the Congress that Dr. Afridi, a hero of freedom and decency, is imprisoned and that Pakistan

should release him from prison immediately.

Last year, this very same amendment was adopted by the House but stripped during the House-Senate conference negotiations process. Yes, a short note of acknowledging this amendment was included in the fiscal year '15 NDAA Joint Explanatory Statement, but that amendment itself was nevertheless stripped. I intend to request a recorded vote to demonstrate solid bipartisan support for Dr. Afridi so that future conferees will take this language more seriously and include it in the final fiscal year '16 NDAA.

Mr. Chairman, we need to make a statement in support of this American and international hero against terrorism. We need to support Dr. Afridi. If we abandon this friend, we put ourselves at great risk because he put himself at great risk for us. No amount of aircraft carriers will make us secure if we abandon our friends who stand with us.

Dr. Afridi is the Pakistani medical doctor who helped pinpoint the location for Osama bin Laden, the terrorist coward who masterminded the massacre of 3,000 Americans on 9/11.

Because of his cooperation with the United States, Dr. Afridi was tried and imprisoned by Pakistan's corrupt and oppressive government. That should be considered a hostile act by Pakistan against the people of the United States. Worse, after years of effort on the part of the United States to free him, Dr. Afridi continues to languish in a Pakistan dungeon. Yes, it is shameful we have abandoned such an heroic friend. All the while, of course, we continue to provide weapons and cash to his captors. Since 9/11 we have given Pakistan over $25 billion, the majority of which goes to the military and security services which they use to murder and oppress their own people, people like the heroic Baloch people or the Sindhis, who are struggling for their freedom under Pakistan oppression.

It is a grotesque charade to suggest that our aid is buying Pakistan's cooperation in the war on terror or anything else. So long as Dr. Afridi remains left to suffer this brutal imprisonment, no Pakistani promise of cooperation means anything if they cannot get themselves to release such an heroic person who never should have been arrested and who risked his life for us. How can we believe they are not supporting or even arming or supplying the world's worst and most bloodthirsty terrorists? Pakistan has taken us for fools, and shame on us for being so stupid for financing a regime that so blatantly despises us.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment will remind the Government of Pakistan and our own government that we have not forgotten Dr. Afridi nor his courageous actions, and it will remind other brave allies of freedom as well as intelligence assets throughout the world that the United States will not forget them if they risk their lives for us. We will not turn our back and leave them to suffer a terrible fate because they were loyal to us.

Save Dr. Afridi. I ask my colleagues to join me in that statement, and Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Rhode Island is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I have no speakers, so at this time, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, let me just remind all of us as we try to decide how much money we are going to be spending on the military, let's remind ourselves that we can arm ourselves to the teeth, we can make sure that we have rockets, aircraft carriers, and new airplanes, but if the people around the world cannot trust us, if people put themselves in an alliance with the United States, if we lose those people who can be intelligence assets, who will fight battles against terrorists like up in Erbil, which is going on right now, we have no chance at peace.

We can't carry the load ourselves. I just voted against that added aircraft carrier because what we need to do is to make sure that we are enlisting the people around the world to carry their part of the load. The American people can't do this alone. But I will tell you, if we abandon our friends like this, if we abandon Dr. Afridi, we are putting ourselves at risk for it.

It is shameful that we couldn't even get a statement in legislation last year supporting this heroic man who risked his life to finger Osama bin Laden, the murderer, the man who slaughtered 3,000 Americans.

Mr. Chairman, I ask my colleagues to join me in this noble endeavor to send a message to Dr. Afridi, and send a message to our adversaries, the brutal terrorists around the world, that we will stand with those free people who are willing to stand with us and not forget them.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 27 OFFERED BY MR. LAMBORN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 27 printed in House Report 114–112.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk, No. 27.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 12xx. LIMITATION ON FUNDS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW START TREATY.

(a) LIMITATION.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Defense may be used for implementation of the New START Treaty until the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(1) the armed forces of the Russian Federation are no longer illegally occupying Ukrainian territory;

(2) the Russian Federation is respecting the sovereignty of all Ukrainian territory;

(3) the Russian Federation is no longer taking actions that are inconsistent with the INF Treaty;

(4) the Russian Federation is in compliance with the CFE Treaty and has lifted its suspension of Russian observance of its treaty obligations; and

(5) there have been no inconsistencies by the Russian Federation with New START Treaty requirements.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) CFE TREATY.—The term ''CFE Treaty'' means the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, signed at Paris November 19, 1990, and entered into force July 17, 1992.

(3) INF TREATY.—The term ''INF Treaty'' means the Treaty Between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles, commonly referred to as the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, signed at Washington December 8, 1987, and entered into force June 1, 1988.

(4) NEW START TREATU.—The term ''New START Treaty'' means the Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, signed on April 8, 2010, and entered into force on February 5, 2011

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section takes effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and applies with respect to funds described in subsection (a) that are unobligated as of such date of enactment.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 260, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment is very simple. We should not implement a treaty—the New START treaty in this case—unless we believe the other party to the treaty is trustworthy and will uphold their end of the bargain.

Now, if you don't trust Vladimir Putin, then you should vote for this amendment, and let me explain why.

Right now, I don't believe the Russians are trustworthy. We know that they are already violating three major agreements: the INF Treaty, the CFE Treaty, and the Budapest Memorandum. Mr. Putin also continues to deny that Russian forces are engaged in combat in Ukraine.

Because this amendment deals with treaties, let me expand on the details of these three treaties. First, in 1994, Russia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the United States signed the Budapest Memorandum. This agreement included a commitment to ''respect''—and I have got a copy right here—''respect the independence and sovereignty and the existing borders of Ukraine'' and a commitment to ''refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Ukraine.''

Clearly, the recent invasions of Crimea and eastern Ukraine show that the Russian Federation is in violation of the Budapest Memorandum.

Second, in 1987, Reagan and Gorbachev signed the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, or INF Treaty. Last year, the State Department released its annual compliance report which states—and I have a copy of it right here—''the United States has determined that the Russian Federation is in violation of its obligations under the INF Treaty.''

Third, in 2007 President Putin announced that he was suspending Russian participation in the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty, or the CFE Treaty. This came after years of Russian violations of that treaty. Today, as we speak, the Russian military continues to occupy Ukrainian territory.

Russian noncompliance with treaties cannot be disputed. My amendment would prevent the continued reduction of our nuclear weapons as required by the New START treaty unless the President can certify to Congress that the Russian Federation is no longer occupying Ukrainian territory and also certifies that the Russian Federation is abiding by their obligations under these three treaties.

So if you think that the Russian Federation might not be trustworthy, then please support this amendment. We should not unilaterally disarm and blindly assume that the Russians will do their part. If the President can certify that the Russians are doing their part on these treaties, then the funding to implement the New START treaty will be released.

Mr. Chairman, I urge adoption of this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Tennessee is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I stand second to no one in my dislike of Vladimir Putin. I think most everyone in this body hates Vladimir Putin. We despise his territorial aggression vis-a-vis Ukraine, but this is not the right way to get back at Putin and Russia. The gentleman is a very senior and distinguished member of the committee. He is my friend. I don't recall the gentleman offering this amendment in the Armed Services Committee markup. Did the gentleman offer this amendment?

Mr. LAMBORN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. COOPER. I yield to the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. LAMBORN. No.

Mr. COOPER. May I ask why?

Mr. LAMBORN. If the gentleman will continue to yield, I thought that it was better timing to do it in this particular venue because we had other things going on in committee.

Mr. COOPER. But we spent some 18 hours in committee. We considered hundreds of amendments. But the gentleman did not offer our committee, the Armed Services Committee, the opportunity to discuss this amendment.

Mr. LAMBORN. I didn't want it to be 18½ hours.

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I would call this amendment by my friend from Colorado the boomerang amendment because it does not hit the intended target. Instead, it comes back and hits us.

How does it do this? His amendment, as proposed, would amount to a unilateral U.S. treaty violation. This would effectively blind the United States when it comes to looking at things like the number of Russian nuclear weapons on deployed intercontinental ballistic missiles, the number of deployed submarine-launched ballistic missiles, counting nuclear weapons onboard or attached to deployed heavy bombers, and confirming weapons systems conversions. These are the things that the New START treaty allows us to do with Russia. We need the continued ability to look at those Russian weapons systems. By cutting off funding for these essential national security activities, the gentleman has hit the wrong target here. That is why this is the boomerang amendment.

Mr. Chairman, the gentleman pointed out that Russia is despicable in so many ways. They probably violated the INF Treaty, the CFE Treaty, and the Budapest Treaty. But the gentleman is using the New START treaty to get back at those violations. He has picked the wrong target. So I have the highest regard for the gentleman, but he proposed this last year, and it was dropped in conference. Instead, it was substituted. We had an inquiry to the Pentagon to get their opinion on this, and they wrote us back, and they said that the New START treaty facilitates conditions to make the United States more secure, and its continued implementation remains in the national security interests of the Nation.

The Pentagon went on to say that the New START treaty sustains effective deterrence and increases stability in the U.S.-Russian nuclear relationship at significantly lower levels of strategic delivery systems and warheads. Finally, the report said that the New START treaty provides the United States a vital window into the Russian strategic nuclear arsenal.

Let's not blind the United States. The gentleman had a chance in the committee to offer this. The gentleman offered this last year, and this is the response of the Secretary of Defense, who is strongly against the gentleman's amendment; the Joint Chiefs of Staff are strongly against the gentleman's amendment. And I would suggest that, Mr. Chairman, this amendment is not in the national security interests of the United States. For the gentleman to propose a unilateral treaty violation, a solemn obligation of this country, is a serious undertaking, and we need more than 10 minutes to debate such a serious breach.

This is a treaty, after all, only entered into in 2010, but it was entered into by a solid vote of the United States Senate, 71–26. I know many of us here wish that we were Senators, but we are not. The Senate entered into that treaty solemnly. This would be a grave mistake for this body to accept the gentleman's amendment.

So, Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to oppose the Lamborn amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 15 seconds to say it is not the right time to continue to unilaterally disarm under the terms that we would be facing in the face of these violations.

At this time, Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Alabama, Representative MIKE ROGERS, the distinguished chairman of the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the distinguished vice chairman of the Strategic Forces Subcommittee for this amendment and for yielding time.

Mr. Chairman, the New START treaty is the only bilateral arms control treaty I am aware of that only requires one party to reduce its nuclear weapons, and that is the United States, while the other party, Russia, increases its stockpile.

□ 1945

I have a prediction here for you today. If this truly is fully implemented by the United States prior to the 2018 deadline, we will see Russia cheating on the treaty immediately thereafter. Mark my words, unless there is a U.S. President in office at the time Putin respects, he will cheat on this treaty as soon as he gets a chance.

The Russians have no respect for the agreements they make. They have no respect for international law or sovereignty. They respect one thing and one thing alone: strength.

I urge support of this prudent amendment.

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Tennessee has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Chairman, with all due respect to my distinguished friends and colleagues, this should have been offered in committee where Members are more conversant with these issues.

This is not the right way to get back at Putin and Russia, for the United States to commit a unilateral treaty breach. The gentleman has not even alleged that the Russians have violated the New START treaty. This is one treaty that they actually seem to be adhering to. Now, we may question the wisdom of that treaty, but the Senate voted to confirm it, to ratify the treaty. It would be a grave mistake for this lower body to challenge that judgment.

The key point is this: Why blind the United States to counting the number of Russian nuclear weapons? Why defund those activities? Don't we want to know how many ICBMs are in their silos, how many nuclear armed submarines they have? Why don't we want to know what is really going on in Russia?

I think the gentleman is mistaken by proposing this as an appropriate way to get back at Putin. We need more insight into what the Russians are doing, not less. This is a boomerang amendment; it attacks the wrong target. In fact, it comes back and hits us.

I would urge the defeat of the Lamborn amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Chairman, I would just conclude by saying that we are being taken for suckers if we are expected to keep up one end of a bargain and we are dealing with a country that, in so many cases, is not keeping their end of the bargain. That is why this amendment is proposed, not to get back at them, but to protect ourselves.

I urge adoption of this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 32 OFFERED BY MR. BLUMENAUER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 32 printed in House Report 114–112.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Strike section 1407 and insert the following:

SEC. 1407. REPEAL OF NATIONAL SEA-BASED DETERRENCE FUND.

(a) REPEAL.—Section 2218a of title 10, United States Code is repealed.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 131 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 2218a.

SEC. 1408. ELIMINATION OF TRANSFERRED FUNDS FOR NATIONAL SEA-BASED DETERRENCE FUND.

(a) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 201 for Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4201, for Navy, Advanced Component Development and Prototypes, Advanced Nuclear Power Systems (Line 045) is hereby increased by $419,300,000.

(b) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 201 for Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4201, for Navy, Advanced Component Development and Prototypes, Ohio Replacement (Line 050) is hereby increased by $971,393,000.

(c) REDUCTION.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 4501 for the National Sea-Based Deterrence Fund, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4501, for National Sea-Based Deterrence Fund is hereby reduced by $1,390,693,000.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 260, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is simple. It would move the funding authority for the Navy's next submarine—the Ohio class replacement—out of the so-called national sea-based deterrence fund and put it back where it belongs, in the Navy's shipbuilding budget.

The amendment would not reduce funding for this project. It is a vote, however, for sound budget process because the sea-based deterrence fund is no different than using any other sleight of hand oversea contingency operations, some sort of slush fund, to get around the cost caps for other programs.

This fund was created in the last defense authorization because the Navy could not afford to simultaneously build back up a 300-plus surface fleet and procure the 12 Ohio class replacement nuclear submarines.

The problem with the deterrence fund is that it doesn't solve how we pay for all of this. It simply would shift that burden onto the Pentagon in some magic way.

That is why the appropriators refused to put money into the account after it was authorized. It doesn't take an accountant to understand, if you buy the same amount of goods but charge them on two different credit cards, your debt will be the same amount.

This fund will only lead to increased costs for the program and decrease transparency stability for manufacturers. The increased costs come from untethering the program from the Navy's shipbuilding budget, thereby reducing scrutiny and discipline, the tradeoffs that we expect.

Shipbuilders will face increased uncertainty because no one has yet answered the question about where that funding will come from, setting them up for dramatic cuts once reality catches up with the budgetary gimmick.

I ask my colleagues if this is, in fact, a national priority, then make the case to amend the restrictions. Find the room to pay for the program through the traditional means.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 1½ minutes.

Mr. Chairman, the Armed Services Committee and especially the Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee is probably the most bipartisan committees in Congress. We work very, very carefully to make sure that we are defending and protecting the United States of America.

That is why we will have bipartisan opposition to this amendment. If you are against nuclear deterrence, you should vote for this amendment; but, if you are for it, you should vote against this amendment because this sea-based deterrence fund begins us down the path to fund the Ohio class replacement.

Mr. Chairman, I would just like to remind this body that these 12 submarines will carry 70 percent of the nuclear capacity of our deterrence for the United States of America. To not have this deterrence fund would be absolutely irresponsible. It is something we have worked for, and, while it is true it is not the complete solution, it puts us on the road to that solution. That is why I hope we will reject this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY), ranking member on the Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee, who has worked very, very hard for this fund and done great work on it.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Chairman, again, I thank the chairman who, it is true, over the last 3 years, we have worked together, as well as our predecessors going back to Gene Taylor and Roscoe Bartlett, who started this discussion about the challenge of funding the Ohio replacement program.

Mr. Chairman, when President Obama signed the New START treaty on April 8, 2010, after ratification by the U.S. Senate, one thing became crystal clear: the U.S. Navy's nuclear

strategic mission became even more critical than ever.

Why? Because, as the chairman said, the implementation of a nuclear arsenal in the post-New START era will rest even more heavily on ballistic submarines—in fact, two-thirds of the triad in the post-New START era will be sea-based, and that is why every strategic review going back to Secretary Gates has identified construction of the Ohio replacement program as one of the top—if not the number one—defense priority of the country.

Let's be clear, the Ohio program will be built. That is not in debate. The question for Congress is whether we will let this once in a multigenerational cost suffocate the rest of the Navy shipbuilding account. The Seapower report in the underlying bill provides a solution to this problem, which will provide help both for our fleet and the industrial base.

The underlying bill activates the national sea-based deterrence fund passed last year on a bipartisan, bicameral basis to fund the design and engineering work for the Ohio replacement program and is a responsible way to support construction of the Ohio replacement fleet.

Sponsors of this amendment call the fund a gimmick and a shell game. It is not a gimmick, and there is a clear precedent for this. In fact, Congress has supported the construction of defense and Navy sealift ships through a similar fund called the national defense sealift fund, which was created in 1993, and to this day pays for construction of new oilers, troop transport ships, supply ships, and the like outside of the Navy shipbuilding account. We have done it before to protect recurring upgrades to our fleet, and we should do it again.

Vote ''no'' on this amendment to protect our shipbuilding fleet and account and also to protect America's shipbuilding industrial base.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN), my friend.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman for yielding.

I rise as well in opposition to the Blumenauer amendment and echo the comments of the chairman and the ranking member.

The national sea-based deterrence fund is crucial to the future of our national security. It provides space outside the shipbuilding fund for the most survivable piece of our national deterrence, a bill that last came due in the eighties and the Reagan defense buildup.

These boats are absolutely essential. This is not just a Navy issue. As Secretary of Defense Carter has said, ''This is a national priority.''

The deterrence fund allows us to treat it accordingly and avoid pressuring the Navy out of badly needed investment in other ships and capabilities. Unless Congress acts, these boats will consume half of the projected shipbuilding funding for a decade, causing crippling shortages that would echo in our fleet for decades thereafter.

Congress has already acknowledged these problems ahead, and last year, this body took a bipartisan, bicameral step, modeled on existing funding mechanisms to help.

This amendment does nothing to address the fundamental challenges at stake and simply moves us backward in policy as time marches on.

I urge this amendment's defeat.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to the amount of time remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon has 3 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Virginia has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Who has the right to close?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia has the right to close.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, this is by no stretch of the imagination a vote on whether or not one believes in nuclear deterrence.

The United States has in its possession now and will continue to have far more nuclear firepower than is necessary to deter anybody in the world. We have not only the submarine-based weapons, we have 450 land-based missiles, and we have the bomber fleet.

It has been acknowledged repeatedly by studies at the Pentagon that we can effectively reduce the amount of nuclear armaments we have by a third or more without jeopardizing our deterrence, our ability to destroy any country in the world many times over.

The question is: How do we pay for what we have and where we are going? An amendment that I had, which was not ruled in order, I am sad to say, would have requested a CBO study for what our costs are over the course of the next 25 years.

Most estimates are that we are in a pattern of spending $1 trillion or more over the course of these 30 years. That is big money, no matter how you cut it.

We are in the process of hollowing out our military. We have got problems in terms of compensation and benefit. We have a military that has been strained, stretched, and damaged by the ill-advised adventure in Iraq.

Now, we are embarking upon, without doing the tough decisionmaking about setting priorities, we are launching down a road here that would allow us to bypass the budgetary process and make appropriate tradeoffs, whether it is within the Department of Defense overall, but I would argue that it ought to be within the Navy budget.

My amendment wouldn't stop going forward. The money involved would go into submarine construction, but it would inject a little bit of discipline here.

Now, this doesn't tell us where the money is going to come from for the project and their account, this sleight of hand, doesn't make it easier to finance, but it makes it harder to track, and it eliminates the discipline, as I say, by forcing the Navy and then the Pentagon to be able to deal with it openly, honestly, and know where we are at. There is no reason to go down this path.

I hope some day we have a spirited debate on the floor of the House about how much deterrence is enough. Are the Pentagon experts right that we can reduce it? Or do we need to go down a path spending $1 trillion over the course of the next 30 years?

The truth is we are going to have to face some very difficult budgetary decisions. This proposal doesn't help us do that. It helps us to evade it.

I urge adoption of the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 2000

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Chairman, the sponsor of this amendment would suggest that we need to pick priorities. This is not just a priority—it is the national strategic priority. If you ask the CNO of the Navy, he would tell you that this is his top priority.

As far as being open and transparent, how much more could we be than to lay out this fund now and to begin to fund it now instead of waiting until midnight when we need it and say, ''We need $95 billion''?

Mr. Chairman, I close where I began: if you are against nuclear deterrence, then vote for this amendment and take away the capacity that we have for ships that will carry 70 percent of our nuclear deterrence. If you believe, as a bipartisan group of people in the Armed Services believes, that this fund is valuable, that this fund is important, and that these votes are vital to the national security of this country, we should reject this amendment. I hope we will vote ''no'' on it.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oregon will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 35 OFFERED BY MRS. LUMMIS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 35 printed in House Report 114–112.

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end of subtitle D of title XVI the following:

SEC. 1657. PROHIBITION ON DE-ALERTING INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILES.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the Sense of Congress that—

(1) the responsiveness and alert levels of intercontinental ballistic missiles are a unique feature of the ground-based leg of the United States nuclear triad;

(2) such responsiveness and alert levels are critical to providing robust nuclear deterrence and assurance; and

(3) any action to reduce the responsiveness and alert levels of United States intercontinental ballistic missiles would be contrary to longstanding United States policy, and deeply harmful to national security and strategic stability in a crisis.

(b) IN GENERAL.—

(1) PROHIBITION.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 shall be obligated or expended for reducing, or preparing to reduce, the responsiveness or alert level of United States intercontinental ballistic missiles.

(2) CLARIFICATION RELATING TO MAINTENANCE, SAFETY, SECURITY, ETC.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to any of the following activities:

(A) Maintenance or sustainment of intercontinental ballistic missiles.

(B) Ensuring the safety, security, or reliability of intercontinental ballistic missiles.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 260, the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. LUMMIS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wyoming.

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today, I rise in support of the Lummis-Zinke-Cramer-Smith amendment: to prohibit the unilateral decrease of the alert status of our Nation's ICBM force.

Nuclear deterrence is based on the fundamental belief that a nuclear attack on the United States would cause us to retaliate. Reducing the alert status would change the time needed to retaliate from as few as 30 minutes to 3 days. This makes it much easier for an enemy to strike first, wiping out the U.S. nuclear force before it can retaliate. For this reason, Mr. Chairman, I urge the adoption of the amendment.

I now yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ZINKE), my colleague and a member of the Armed Services Committee.

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of this amendment that prohibits reducing the alert posture of the ICBM forces.

What has changed? Are we safer today than yesterday?

Dr. Kissinger, former Secretary of State, testified before Congress, stating:

> The United States has not faced a more diverse and complex array of crises since the end of the Second World War.

On top of the threats that Dr. Kissinger was referring to, we have seen since: the framework of a nuclear agreement with Iran that may give a legal pathway to a nuclear weapon; Russia has announced it will lift its ban and sell advanced missile systems to Iran; and just this past week, there were reports that North Korea has tested a submarine-launched ballistic missile.

Mr. Chairman, this is no time to gamble with our safety and with the security of the United States. I support this amendment, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER). He lives in the State that houses Minot Air Force Base.

Mr. CRAMER. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding, and I thank my colleagues who have helped cosponsor this important amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I think that the author of the amendment did a great job in discerning between 3 days and 30 minutes, as 30 minutes is hardly what some have called a ''hair trigger.'' Clearly, we want to be at a strategic advantage, and we would be at a tremendous strategic disadvantage should we have to take 3 days. Anybody who has been to one of these bases, as many of us have—anybody who has been in the bunkers and has seen the control system—knows that the protocols that are in place are anything but a hair trigger. We can be confident that we have the ability to respond quickly but not the ability to respond too quickly.

I urge a ''yes'' vote on the amendment.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Rhode Island is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 4 minutes.

While I applaud my colleagues for their attention to the ICBM force, I think their attention is in the wrong place. First of all, the amendment is unnecessary, and no one is even proposing reducing alert levels at this time.

My concern here is that investigations, DOD reviews, and press articles over the past few years have revealed that we have had significant problems in the ICBM force, including the nearly 100 officers involved in cheating on tests, the possession of narcotics, security violations, pervasive morale issues, an instance of an ICBM officer who was later found to have been a gang member, a two-star general in charge of all U.S. ICBM who was stripped of his command for going on a drinking binge during an official visit to Russia, an ICBM wing at Minot Air Force Base failing a safety and security test, and reported narcotics by which launch control officers violated security regulations designed to protect the ICBM firing keys.

Mr. Chairman, these are problems rising to the level of congressional attention, but instead of focusing on those very real issues affecting national defense, we are spending time on parochial concerns, quite frankly.

There are no near-term plans, as I said in my opening, to reduce alert levels, and there are no FY16 funding requests to do so. This is a solution, quite frankly, in search of a problem and is a dangerous example of micromanaging in the area of our national defense in which very small actions, considered rationally and in isolation, reduce the strategic flexibility of the Commander in Chief. In no other area is the possibility for cataclysmic error so real. Let's not make deterrence harder.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Chairman, in recognition of the fact that the concern here is the unilateral decrease of the alert status, I now yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS), the chair of the Armed Services Committee's Strategic Forces Subcommittee.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. I thank the gentlewoman for her amendment, and I urge its passage.

As chairman of the Strategic Forces Subcommittee, I understand the responsiveness of our ICBMs as their most critical feature and their most significant contribution to our nuclear triad. The U.S. has had ICBMs on alert since the early 1960s. This amendment ensures that there is no change to the longstanding, bipartisan U.S. defense posture that ICBMs are kept on high alert levels.

In recent weeks, the usual groups who want to disarm the United States have been calling on the U.S. to de-alert ICBMs. We should continue to pay no attention to these tired, repetitive voices who long for the nuclear freeze days of the cold war when they were relevant. Instead, Admiral Haney, the current commander of U.S. Strategic Command, said just last week he ''fundamentally disagrees'' with these calls to de-alert U.S. ICBMs.

Finally, this amendment ensures the administration follows its own stated policy. In an April 2015 hearing before my subcommittee, the DOD witnesses told us that the administration explicitly examined and rejected de-alerting our ICBMs.

Those who are arguing against the amendment are even further to the left on nuclear weapons than our global zero President. This is not just a missile state issue—this is a profound national security issue. De-alerting our ICBMs is a terrible idea. I urge a ''yes'' vote on my colleague's amendment.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I do appreciate the gentleman from Rhode Island for setting the context here.

Mr. Chairman, we ought to be concerned about what is going on. My understanding is that they found out about the widespread cheating among the missileers because they were investigating the drug abuse.

There are things that ought to concern us, not something that to this point is, as they just testified, a proposal on behalf of the administration,

but, rather, the notion that somehow any action to reduce responsiveness is contrary to longstanding policy and is deeply harmful to national security and strategic stability in a crisis. There may well come a time when we are able to make some changes that would remove a little bit of the hair trigger. I don't think that is something that we should prejudge.

In the meantime, if people care about these missiles, they ought to make sure that they are managed in an effective fashion, that we take care of the longstanding abuses, and that we deal with the point that I made a moment ago: when we are launching on a $1 trillion program over the next three decades, we ought to find out how much we need and how we are going to pay for it.

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Rhode Island has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I will just close by saying, as I said in the beginning, that this amendment is a solution in search of a problem, and I would say it is not necessary at this time. No one is proposing reducing the alert levels at this time, and I would ask my colleagues to oppose the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. LUMMIS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. THORNBERRY OF TEXAS

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, pursuant to House Resolution 260, I offer amendments en bloc.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc No. 3 consisting of amendment Nos. 37, 39, 42, 44, 45, 46, 51, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 59, 63, 64, and 66 printed in House Report No. 114–112, offered by Mr. THORNBERRY:

AMENDMENT NO. 37 OFFERED BY MR. HARDY OF NEVADA

At the end of title XXVIII, add the following new section:

SEC. 28___. USE OF MILITARY OPERATIONS AREAS FOR NATIONAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.

The expansion or establishment of a national monument by the President under the authority of chapter 3203 of title 54, United States Code (commonly known as the Antiquities Act of 1906; 54 U.S.C. 320301 et seq.), after the date of the enactment of this Act on land located beneath or associated with a Military Operations Area (MOA) shall not be construed to prohibit or constrain any activities on or above the land conducted by the Department of Defense or other Federal agencies for national security purposes, including training and readiness activities.

AMENDMENT NO. 39 OFFERED BY MR. ZINKE OF MONTANA

At the end of title XXVIII, add the following new section:

SEC. 28___. RENAMING OF THE CAPTAIN WILLIAM WYLIE GALT GREAT FALLS ARMED FORCES READINESS CENTER IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN JOHN E. MORAN, A RECIPIENT OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR.

(a) RENAMING.—The Captain William Wylie Galt Great Falls Armed Forces Readiness Center in Great Falls, Montana, shall hereafter be known and designated as the ''Captain John E. Moran and Captain William Wylie Galt Armed Forces Reserve Center''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, map, regulation, map, document, paper, other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to the Captain John E. Moran and Captain William Wylie Galt Armed Forces Reserve Center.

AMENDMENT NO. 42 OFFERED BY MR. COSTELLO OF PENNSYLVANIA

At the end of subtitle B of title I, add the following new section:

SEC. 1___. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON TACTICAL WHEELED VEHICLE PROTECTION KITS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) Army personnel face an increasingly complex and evolving threat environment that requires advanced and effective technology to protect our soldiers while allowing them to effectively carry out their mission;

(2) the heavy tactical vehicle protection kits program provides the Army with improved and necessary ballistic protection for the heavy tactical vehicle fleet;

(3) a secure heavy tactical vehicle fleet provides the Army with greater logistical tractability and offers soldiers the necessary flexibility to tailor armor levels based on threat levels and mission requirements; and

(4) as Congress provides for a modern and secure Army, it is necessary to provide the appropriate funding levels to meet its tactical wheeled vehicle protection kits acquisition objectives.

AMENDMENT NO. 44 OFFERED BY MR. COLLINS OF NEW YORK

At the end of subtitle C of title II, add the following new section:

SEC. 226. COMMERCIAL-OFF-THE-SHELF WIDE-AREA SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS FOR ARMY TACTICAL UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—Congress finds that—

(1) unmanned aerial systems provide the military services with high-endurance, wide-area surveillance;

(2) wide-area surveillance has proven to be a significant force multiplier for intelligence gathering and dismounted infantry operations;

(3) currently fielded wide-area surveillance sensors are too heavy to be incorporated into tactical unmanned aerial systems; and

(4) the growing commercial market for unmanned aerial systems with full-motion video sensors may offer a commercial-off-the-shelf solution suitable for use on the military services' tactical unmanned aerial systems.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Army shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report that contains the findings of a market survey and flight assessment of commercial-off-the-shelf wide-area surveillance sensors suitable for insertion into Army tactical unmanned aerial systems.

(c) ELEMENTS.—The market survey and flight assessment required by subsection (b) shall include—

(1) specific details regarding the capabilities of current and commercial-off-the-shelf wide-area surveillance sensors utilized on the Army unmanned aerial systems, including—

(A) daytime and nighttime monitoring coverage;

(B) video resolution outputs;

(C) bandwidth requirements;

(D) activity-based intelligence and forensic capabilities;

(E) simultaneous region of interest monitoring capability;

(F) interoperability with other sensors and subsystems currently utilized on Army tactical unmanned aerial systems;

(G) sensor weight;

(H) sensor cost; and

(I) any other factors the Secretary deems relevant;

(2) an assessment of the impact on Army tactical unmanned aerial systems due to the insertion of commercial-off-the-shelf wide-area surveillance sensors; and

(3) recommendations to upgrade or enhance the wide-area surveillance sensors of Army tactical unmanned aerial systems, as deemed appropriate by the Secretary.

(d) FORM.—The report required under subsection (b) may contain a classified annex.

(e) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''Army tactical unmanned aerial systems'' includes, at minimum, the MQ–1C Grey Eagle, the MQ–1 Predator, and the MQ–9 Reaper.

AMENDMENT NO. 45 OFFERED BY MR. HUNTER OF CALIFORNIA

Page 58, after line 5, insert the following:

SEC. 226. REPORT ON TACTICAL COMBAT TRAINING SYSTEM INCREMENT II.

(a) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than January 29, 2016, the Secretary of Navy and the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the baseline and alternatives to the Navy's Tactical Air Combat Training System (TCTS) Increment II.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An explanation of the rationale for a new start TCTS II program as compared to an incremental upgrade to the existing TCTS system.

(2) An estimate of total cost to develop, procure, and replace the existing Department of the Navy TCTS architecture with an encrypted TCTS II compared to upgrades to existing TCTS.

(3) A cost estimate and schedule comparison of achieving encryption requirements into the existing TCTS program as compared to TCTS II.

(4) A review of joint Department of the Air Force and the Department of the Navy investment in live-virtual-constructive advanced air combat training and planned timeline for inclusion into TCTS II architecture.

(5) A cost estimate to integrate F-35 aircraft with TCTS II and achieve interoperability between the Department of the Navy and Department of the Air Force.

(6) A cost estimate for coalition partners to achieve TCTS II interoperability within the Department of Defense.

(7) An assessment of risks posed by non-interoperable TCTS systems within the Department of the Navy and the Department of the Air Force.

(8) An explanation of the acquisition strategy for the TCTS program.

(9) An explanation of key performance parameters for the TCTS II program.

(10) Any other information the Secretary of the Navy and Secretary of the Air Force determine is appropriate to include.

(c) LIMITATION.—The Secretary of the Navy shall not proceed with the approval or designation of a contract award for TCTS II until 15 days after the date of the submittal of the report required by subsection (a).

AMENDMENT NO. 46 OFFERED BY MR. PALAZZO OF MISSISSIPPI

At the end of subtitle C of title II, add the following new section:

SEC. 226. IMPROVEMENT TO COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION OF DEFENSE RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2364 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following new subsection:

''(a) COORDINATION OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND TECHNOLOGICAL DATA.—The Secretary of Defense shall promote, monitor, and evaluate programs for the communication and exchange of research, development, and technological data—

''(1) among the Defense research facilities, combatant commands, and other organizations that are involved in developing for the Department of Defense the technological requirements for new items for use by combat forces;

''(2) among Defense research facilities and other offices, agencies, and bureaus in the Department that are engaged in related technological matters;

''(3) among other research facilities and other departments or agencies of the Federal Government that are engaged in research, development, and technological matters;

''(4) among private commercial, research institution, and university entities engaged in research, development, and technological matters potentially relevant to defense on a voluntary basis; and

''(5) to the extent practicable, to achieve full awareness of scientific and technological advancement and innovation wherever it may occur, whether funded by the Department of Defense, another element of the Federal Government, or other entities.'';

(2) in subsection (b), by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following new paragraph:

''(3) that the managers of such facilities have broad latitude to choose research and development projects based on awareness of activities throughout the technology domain, including within the Federal Government, the Department of Defense, public and private research institutions and universities, and the global commercial marketplace;''; and

(3) in the section heading, by inserting ''**and technology domain awareness**'' after ''**activities**''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 139 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 2364 and inserting the following:

''2364. Coordination and communication of defense research activities and technology domain awareness.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 51 OFFERED BY MR. FARENTHOLD OF TEXAS

At the end of title III (page 77, after line 21), add the following new section:

SEC. 3___. ACCESS TO WIRELESS HIGH-SPEED INTERNET AND NETWORK CONNECTIONS FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES DEPLOYED OVERSEAS.

Consistent with section 2492a of title 10, United States Code, the Secretary of Defense is encouraged to enter into contracts with third-party vendors in order to provide members of the Armed Forces who are deployed overseas at any United States military facility, at which wireless high-speed Internet and network connections are otherwise available, with access to such Internet and network connections without charge.

AMENDMENT NO. 53 OFFERED BY MR. LOEBSACK OF IOWA

Page 77, after line 21, insert the following new section:

SEC. 334. TEMPORARY AUTHORITY TO EXTEND CONTRACTS AND LEASES UNDER THE ARMS INITIATIVE.

Contracts or subcontracts entered into pursuant to section 4554(a)(3)(A) of title 10, United States Code, on or before the date that is five years after the date of the enactment of this Act may include an option to extend the term of the contract or subcontract for an additional 25 years.

AMENDMENT NO. 54 OFFERED BY MR. FLEMING OF LOUISIANA

At the end of title IV (page 83, after line 16), add the following new section:

SEC. 422. REPORT ON FORCE STRUCTURE OF THE ARMY.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report containing the following:

(1) An assessment by the Secretary of Defense of reports by the Secretary of the Army on the force structure of the Army submitted to Congress under section 1066 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112–239; 126 Stat. 1943) and section 1062 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291).

(2) An evaluation of the adequacy of the Army force structure proposed for the future-years defense program for fiscal years 2017 through 2021 to meet the goals of the national military strategy of the United States.

(3) An independent risk assessment by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the proposed Army force structure and the ability of such force structure to meet the operational requirements of combatant commanders.

(4) A description of the planning assumptions and scenarios used by the Department of Defense to validate the size and force structure of the Army, including the Army Reserve and the Army National Guard.

(5) A certification by the Secretary of Defense that the Secretary has reviewed the reports by the Secretary of the Army and the assessments of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and determined that an end strength for active duty personnel of the Army below the end strength level authorized in section 401(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291) will be adequate to meet the national military strategy of the United States.

(6) A description of various alternative options for allocating funds to ensure that the end strengths of the Army do not fall below levels of significant risk, as determined pursuant to the risk assessment conducted by the Chairman of the Joint Chief under paragraph (3).

(7) Such other information or updates as the Secretary of Defense considers appropriate.

(b) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

AMENDMENT NO. 55 OFFERED BY MR. MCKINLEY OF WEST VIRGINIA

At the end of subtitle B of title V (page 96, after line 22), add the following new section:

SEC. 5___. ELECTRONIC TRACKING OF OPERATIONAL ACTIVE-DUTY SERVICE PERFORMED BY MEMBERS OF THE READY RESERVE OF THE ARMED FORCES.

The Secretary of Defense shall establish an electronic means by which members of the Ready Reserve of the Armed Forces can track their operational active-duty service performed after January 28, 2008, under section 12301(a), 12301(d), 12301(g), 12302, or 12304 of title 10, United States Code. The tour calculator shall specify early retirement credit authorized for each qualifying tour of active duty, as well as cumulative early reserve retirement credit authorized to date under section 12731(f) of such title.

AMENDMENT NO. 56 OFFERED BY MR. CROWLEY OF NEW YORK

Page 179, after line 21, insert the following:

SEC. 539. SENSE OF CONGRESS RECOGNIZING THE DIVERSITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The United States military includes individuals with a variety of national, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds that have roots all over the world.

(2) In addition to diverse backgrounds, members of the Armed Forces come from numerous religious traditions, including Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, non-denominational, non-practicing, and many more.

(3) Members of the Armed Forces from diverse backgrounds and religious traditions have lost their lives or been injured defending the national security of the United States.

(4) Diversity contributes to the strength of the Armed Forces, and service members from different backgrounds and religious traditions share the same goal of defending the United States.

(5) The unity of the Armed Forces reflects the strength in diversity that makes the United States a great nation.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the United States should—

(1) continue to recognize and promote diversity in the Armed Forces; and

(2) honor those from all diverse backgrounds and religious traditions who have made sacrifices in serving the United States through the Armed Services.

AMENDMENT NO. 57 OFFERED BY MR. TAKANO OF CALIFORNIA

Page 226, after line 13, insert the following:

(C) A comparison of the pilot program to other programs conducted by the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs to provide unemployment and underemployment support to members of the reserve components and veterans.

Page 226, line 14, strike ''(C)'' and insert ''(D)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 59 OFFERED BY MR. ISRAEL OF NEW YORK

Page 227, after line 19, insert the following new section:

SEC. 569. REPORT ON CIVILIAN AND MILITARY EDUCATION TO RESPOND TO FUTURE THREATS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than June 1, 2016, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report describing both civilian and military education requirements necessary to meet any threats anticipated in the future security environment as described in the quadrennial defense review. Such report shall include—

(1) an assessment of the learning outcomes required of future members of the Armed Forces and senior military leaders to meet such threats;

(2) an assessment of the shortfalls in current professional military education requirements in meeting such threats;

(3) an assessment of successful professional military education programs that further the ability of the Department of Defense to meet such threats;

(4) recommendations of subjects to be covered by civilian elementary and secondary schools in order to better prepare students for potential military service;

(5) recommendations of subjects to be included in professional military education programs;

(6) recommendations on whether partnerships between the Department of Defense and private institutions of higher education (as defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a))) would help meet such threats; and

(7) an identification of opportunities for the United States to strengthen its leadership role in the future security environment and a description of how the recommendations made in this report contribute to capitalizing on such opportunities.

(b) UPDATED REPORTS.—Not later than 10 months after date of the publication of each subsequent quadrennial defense review, the Secretary of Defense shall update the report described under subsection (a) and shall submit such report to the congressional defense committees.

AMENDMENT NO. 63 OFFERED BY MR. KEATING OF MASSACHUSETTS

At the end of title V, add the following new section:

SEC. 5___. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON DESIRABILITY OF SERVICE-WIDE ADOPTION OF GOLD STAR INSTALLATION ACCESS CARD.

It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of each military department and the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating should—

(1) provide for the issuance of a Gold Star Installation Access Card to Gold Star family members who are the survivors of deceased members of the Armed Forces in order to expedite the ability of a Gold Star family member to gain unescorted access to military installations for the purpose of obtaining the on-base services and benefits for which the Gold Star family member is entitled or eligible;

(2) work jointly to ensure that a Gold Star Installation Access Card issued to a Gold Star family member by one Armed Force is accepted for access to military installations of another Armed Force; and

(3) in developing, issuing, and accepting the Gold Star Installation Access Card—

(A) prevent fraud in the procurement or use of the Gold Star Installation Access Card;

(B) limit installation access to those areas that provide the services and benefits for which the Gold Star family member is entitled or eligible; and

(C) ensure that the availability and use of the Gold Star Installation Access Card does not adversely affect military installation security.

AMENDMENT NO. 64 OFFERED BY MS. MENG OF NEW YORK

Page 247, after line 20, insert the following:

SEC. 596. ANNUAL REPORT ON PERFORMANCE OF REGIONAL OFFICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Section 7734 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by inserting before the period the following: ''and on the performance of any regional office that fails to meet its administrative goals'';

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''and'';

(3) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph (3):

''(3) in the case of any regional office that, for the year covered by the report, did not meet the administrative goal of no claim pending for more than 125 days and an accuracy rating of 98 percent—

''(A) a signed statement prepared by the individual serving as director of the regional office as of the date of the submittal of the report containing—

''(i) an explanation for why the regional office did not meet the goal;

''(ii) a description of the additional resources needed to enable the regional office to reach the goal; and

''(iii) a description of any additional actions planned for the subsequent year that are proposed to enable the regional office to meet the goal; and

''(B) a statement prepared by the Under Secretary for Benefits explaining how the failure of the regional office to meet the goal affected the performance evaluation of the director of the regional office; and''.

AMENDMENT NO. 66 OFFERED BY MS. ADAMS OF NORTH CAROLINA

Page 302, after line 18, insert the following new section:

SEC. 723. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND FAMILIES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) It has been shown that some members of the Armed Forces struggle with post-traumatic stress and other behavioral health disorders from traumatic events experienced during combat.

(2) It has also been shown that emotional distress and trauma from life events can be exacerbated by traumatic events experienced during combat.

(3) Members of the Armed Forces who struggle with post-traumatic stress and other behavioral health disorders are often unable to provide emotional support to spouses and children, causing emotional distress and the risk of behavioral health disorders among the dependents of the members.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Department of Defense should continue to support members of the Armed Forces and their families by providing family counseling and individual counseling services that reduce the symptoms of post-traumatic stress and other behavioral health disorders and empowers members to be emotionally available to their spouses and children;

(2) such services should be readily available at branches of the Department and military bases;

(3) the Department should rely on industry standards established by the medical community when developing standards for their own practice of family and individual counseling; and

(4) the Department should conduct a five-year study of the progress of members of the Armed Forces that are treated for mental health disorders, including with respect to—

(A) difficulty keeping up with treatment;

(B) familial status before and after treatment; and

(C) access to mental health counseling at Department facilities and military installations.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 260, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY) and the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 30 seconds.

In this en bloc package, which I hope Members will support, there are a total of 16 amendments. Nine of them have been sponsored by Republican Members of the House, and seven of them have been sponsored by Democratic Members of the House. They cover a variety of very important topics related to our country's national defense.

With all of the hard work that went into writing and now adopting, hopefully, these amendments, I hope that all Members who sponsored these amendments will see their work to its logical conclusion, and that is in their adoption in a bill that passes the House, for it would seem fruitless to me to go through all of the work on these amendments and not have those amendments as part of a bill that passes.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HARDY).

Mr. HARDY. Mr. Chairman, my amendment was inspired by the Obama administration's proposal to establish a national monument in the Basin and Range area of Nevada, directly under the airspace of the Nevada Test and Training Range.

My amendment is not about disputing land ownership. My amendment is about protecting America's national security, and that means ensuring that our military has guaranteed access to land located beneath—or associated with—military operations areas for essential training and readiness activities. These activities are often tied directly to flight operations and can include anything from tactical ground parties, SERE, pararescue training, ground instrumentation maintenance, and the list goes on and on.

My amendment elevates national security above politics and legacy projects, and it gives our military the certainty it needs to adequately train and prepare for current and future conflicts.

□ 2015

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS).

Ms. TITUS. I thank my colleague for the time.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today to bring attention to a provision that is included in this package that, besides being completely unnecessary, may have far-reaching impacts on the management of our Nation's public lands. Specifically, this package contains language that would allow the Department of Defense to utilize certain public lands designated as national monuments for whatever purpose it chooses.

Our national monuments are part of America's story. Sixteen Presidents, both Democrats and Republicans, from Teddy Roosevelt to George Bush to President Obama, have utilized their authority under the Antiquities Act to designate land as national monuments. These designations have protected iconic parts of our Nation, such as Chimney Rock in Colorado, San Juan Islands in the Puget Sound, and the ancient flint quarries in the Texas Panhandle. In each and every case, careful

consideration and collaboration with other Federal agencies, including the Department of Defense, occurred.

Now, representing southern Nevada, I have an acute understanding of the importance of our armed services and the training necessary to support national security missions, but the language included in this package ignores the fact that today's military operations continue at our national monuments.

Just look to Oregon Mountain-Desert Peaks National Monument in New Mexico, which was created with clear exceptions for military overflight operations, or the Sonoran Desert National Monument in Arizona, designated by President Clinton, which abuts the Barry Goldwater Range and to this day continues to serve as an example of how our national security and conservation goals can coexist.

Closer to home, the recently designated Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument north of Las Vegas was designed in coordination with the needs of neighboring Nellis and Creech Air Force bases. If this provision were to become law, it would essentially cede national monuments to the Department of Defense, dismissing the long history of the armed services working to conserve our sensitive lands while protecting the mission.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. LANGEVIN. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. TITUS. So instead of having the DOD at the table to evaluate and inform the monument creation process on a case-by-case basis, this provision would grant a virtual veto over any future designations.

Mr. Chairman, as this legislation moves forward, I hope that we can remove unnecessary provisions such as this one that are really just solutions in search of a problem.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ZINKE), a member of the Armed Services Committee.

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of my amendment, which will rename the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Great Falls, Montana, to the Captain John E. Moran and Captain William Wylie Galt Armed Forces Reserve Center.

As many of you may know, Montana has a strong heritage of military service, with more veterans per capita than almost any other State in the Union. Captain Moran and Captain Galt are an inspiration to every Montanan, myself included. Both Captain Moran and Captain Galt received the Medal of Honor, one in the Spanish-American War and one in World War II.

Memorializing these two heroes by renaming the Armed Forces Reserve Center will provide a daily reminder to us all in Montana of the service and sacrifice Captain Moran and Captain Galt made to this country and Montana.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KEATING).

Mr. KEATING. I thank the gentleman from Rhode Island for yielding me the time.

Mr. Chairman, most of us in this Chamber have had the honor to meet and to get to know Gold Star families, those families who have lost loved ones in the service in defense of our country. Most of us on those occasions also told those families, if there is anything we can ever do to help you in any way going forward, please let us know.

Gold Star families in my district came to me on an issue that really was something that was quite difficult for them at times and bothersome, and that is the issue that the access they had while their loved ones were alive was no longer there for military installations. The military installations would often have memorials to those that served. They would have survivor workshops, and things that could help them. They would have military exercises and ceremonies that they would want to participate in that had greater meaning to them than perhaps any other group of people.

They told me how, gaining access many times, they had to relive the story by again explaining who they were and why they wanted to come. I investigated this and found that the Army had a pilot program that provided an access card for these institutions, these military institutions, and that that made the process so much easier for them.

This amendment simply expands the pilot program and demonstrates Congress' support for expanding these programs beyond the pilot stage and to all services. I hope we can move forward and actually see the implementation of this occur.

I want to thank the chairman and the ranking member for their support of this amendment en bloc, and I want to express, I think, the sentiment of our entire body to really be there in something that is a modest request, but an important one for our Gold Star families.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO).

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, the Army faces an increasingly complex threat environment and must be prepared to rapidly deploy soldiers with the most advanced and effective vehicle armor critical to the safety and mobility of our soldiers.

The tactical wheeled vehicle protection kits program provides our men and women in uniform the adaptable armor protection that minimally impacts performance. The Army needs this proven program in order to improve ballistic protection for the tactical wheeled vehicle fleet. This program enables greater logistical flexibility and allows our soldiers to tailor armor levels based on the threat level and mission requirements.

Lastly, the use of these armor kits will allow the Army to greatly extend vehicle service life and reduce maintenance costs. It is important that Congress provide the necessary funding levels for the Army to meet their tactical wheeled vehicle protection kits acquisition objectives. I urge my colleagues to support my amendment.

I also wish to thank Chairman THORNBERRY and Ranking Member SMITH for their efforts in providing the necessary and critical funding for our Nation's defense.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, at this time I have no speakers. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD).

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to speak in favor of my amendment encouraging the Department of Defense to provide free WiFi access to our military members deployed overseas.

Communications with family members back home is critical not only for the mental health and well-being of our servicemembers but also for their families who support them while they defend our great Nation. Our military members sacrifice time with their spouses and children and their loved ones they leave behind when they proudly serve our Nation. Giving them the ability to stay in touch with their family through Skype and FaceTime so they can watch those important moments, birthdays or children's first steps, makes it easier for servicemembers to cope with the physical and emotional distance deployment brings.

Family members play a crucial role in helping our servicemembers persevere through tough times and manage through long deployments. Right now military members have to pay $60, sometimes $100 a month just to stay in touch with their families. I am encouraging the Department of Defense to strongly consider working internally and with third-party vendors to remove this burden from servicemembers and urge support of this entire en bloc amendment.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I have no additional speakers at this time. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time just to say I hope that all 16 Members who have amendments in this en bloc package will support this package as well as the logical conclusion of their efforts, which would be to support final passage of this legislation.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY).

The en bloc amendments were agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 38 OFFERED BY MR. LUCAS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 38 printed in House Report 114–112.

Mr. LUCAS. I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 823, after line 20, insert the following:

SEC. ___. IMPLEMENTATION OF LESSER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN RANGE-WIDE CONSERVATION PLAN AND OTHER CONSERVATION MEASURES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CANDIDATE CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS.—The terms ''Candidate Conservation Agreement'' and ''Candidate and Conservation Agreement With Assurances'' have the meaning given those terms in—

(A) the announcement of the Department of the Interior and the Department of Commerce entitled ''Announcement of Final Policy for Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances'' (64 Fed. Reg. 32726 (June 17, 1999)); and

(B) sections 17.22(d) and 17.32(d) of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

(2) RANGE-WIDE PLAN.—The term ''Range-Wide Plan'' means the Lesser Prairie-Chicken Range-Wide Conservation Plan of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, as endorsed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service on October 23, 2013, and published for comment on January 29, 2014 (79 Fed. Reg. 4652).

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) PROHIBITION ON TREATMENT AS THREATENED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any prior action by the Secretary, the lesser prairie chicken shall not be treated as a threatened species or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) before January 31, 2021.

(2) PROHIBITION ON PROPOSAL.—Beginning on January 31, 2021, the lesser prairie chicken may not be treated as a threatened species or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) unless the Secretary publishes a determination, based on the totality of the scientific evidence, that conservation (as that term is used in that Act) under the Range-Wide Plan and the agreements, programs, and efforts referred to in subsection (c) have not achieved the conservation goals established by the Range-Wide Plan.

(c) MONITORING OF PROGRESS OF CONSERVATION PROGRAMS.—The Secretary shall monitor and annually submit to Congress a report on progress in conservation of the lesser prairie chicken under the Range-Wide Plan and all related—

(1) Candidate Conservation Agreements and Candidate and Conservation Agreements With Assurances;

(2) other Federal conservation programs administered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Department of Agriculture;

(3) State conservation programs; and

(4) private conservation efforts.

SEC. ___. REMOVAL OF ENDANGERED SPECIES STATUS FOR AMERICAN BURYING BEETLE.

Notwithstanding the final rule of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Determination of Endangered Status for the American Burying Beetle'' (54 Fed. Reg. 29652 (July 13, 1989)), the American burying beetle shall not be listed as a threatened or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 260, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today, I offer an amendment that will de-list the lesser prairie chicken from the list of threatened species over a period of at least 5 years. This time will allow the five States in the prairie chicken's range to implement their joint rangewide plan, which has been endorsed by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Again, this does not permanently delist the lesser prairie chicken. If in 5 years' time the Department of Interior thinks this plan hasn't worked, they can begin the process of re-listing the chicken. I am confident, however, though, that the rangewide plan will be effective not only in maintaining but in increasing the population of the lesser prairie chicken.

The second portion of my amendment would de-list the American burying beetle. Since being deemed endangered in the 1980s, the beetle's population has skyrocketed well beyond the targets set in the Fish and Wildlife's own recovery plan.

Military installations are among the entities that have to ensure their new development projects do not infringe on the habitats of these endangered species. Any military exercises that would take place on critical habitat also must meet those requirements before they can commence. It is highly inappropriate for such exercises critical to national defense readiness to be dependent on a bureaucratic process, especially given the large populations and State-level plans for these two species. There are numerous military bases in the lesser prairie chicken's range and dozens more in the ever-larger estimated range of the American burying beetle that are affected. This amendment would help many of our military bases to perform the critical functions that comprise our national readiness. I urge my colleagues to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Rhode Island is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, at this time I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS).

Ms. TSONGAS. This amendment attempts to add yet another completely unrelated Endangered Species Act rider to the underlying bill. Specifically, this amendment would prohibit the lesser prairie chicken and the American burying beetle from being listed as endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. The lesser prairie chicken was listed as threatened under the ESA in March 2014, and the American burying beetle was listed as endangered in 1989.

Given the very broad language of this amendment, it is clear that DOD lands are not the primary driver of this attack on the Endangered Species Act. If the sponsors really wanted to protect DOD activities and military readiness, they would have written the language as such. In fact, the amendment does not make a single reference to military readiness.

The Department of Defense does not believe this amendment is necessary. DOD has given no indication that the listings of these species has negatively impacted military readiness, for good reason. Since being listed, neither the lesser prairie chicken nor the burying beetle have had critical habitat designated on DOD lands. Just look at this map. There is virtually no overlap between our military installations, which are in red, and the lesser prairie chicken's range. In fact, if you look, they are separated in most instances by hundreds of miles, with the green areas representing the current range of the species and the red areas our military installations.

For the record, DOD also does not believe that the language already included in the bill regarding the greater sage grouse is necessary to protect military readiness, either.

The Endangered Species Act has been successful in preventing the extinction of species since its enactment 40 years ago. Congress should allow the Fish and Wildlife Service to make species-listing decisions in accordance with the law and the best available science. Congress should not further delay these scientific decisions by micromanaging the process on a species-by-species basis, especially in the context of the NDAA.

The administration has already indicated they would strongly consider vetoing this bill, in part because of the nongermane provisions that would delay listing of the greater sage grouse for 10 years. Adoption of this amendment would add another provision to their list of objections. The Senate has already agreed that harmful Endangered Species Act riders do not belong in the NDAA, instead referring the matter to the Environment and Public Works Committee.

□ 2030

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. LANGEVIN. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. TSONGAS. I urge my colleagues to reject this misguided amendment and vote to protect the scientific integrity of the Endangered Species Act, as well as the integrity of the NDAA.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate everybody's concerns that may or may not live around the area, but the truth is, I do, and no one wants to protect the habitat more than I do.

I have worked on this issue since arriving in Congress because I believe we must protect our job creators and ensure the military has the ability to prepare itself against threats at home and overseas.

Matters of national defense and readiness should not be subject to the schedule of agency bureaucrats. It is inappropriate that military bases within the proximity of these two species must consider its habitat before developing new facilities or even planning training exercises.

The people living in the States that contain the lesser prairie chicken and the American burying beetle know how to best conserve the species, while protecting military preparedness, jobs, and land rights; and they have already taken steps to do so.

I urge you to support this amendment and delist the lesser prairie chicken and the American burying beetle and support our military readiness.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Rhode Island has 2¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I yield the balance of my time to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER).

Ms. SPEIER. I thank the gentleman from Rhode Island for yielding.

Mr. Chair, one of our most solemn duties in Congress is dealing with emerging national security threats. We eliminated bin Laden. We are making process in weakening ISIL.

Unfortunately, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have alerted us to a new threat emerging deep in the heart of the Western United States, a sort of feathery sleeper cell that just can't wait to disrupt our way of life. What is inspiring so much fear? It is the lesser prairie chicken.

Listening to this debate, you would think that the lesser prairie chicken was single-handedly providing aid and comfort to the enemy, not just living on the prairie and doing the occasional little dance; but, as with its unfortunate relative, the greater sage grouse, my colleagues across the aisle are trying to use the NDAA to do a little dance of their own around the science of the Endangered Species Act.

The prairie chicken has not attacked our citizens, threatened our allies, or disrupted our military operations. Listing the prairie chicken as endangered is a scientific decision not within the purview of Congress and will have absolutely no effect on Department of Defense operations.

The worst that anyone can say about the prairie chicken is that it is really not a chicken, but a grouse.

This amendment has no place in the NDAA, and I urge my colleagues to oppose it.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from the great State of Kansas (Ms. JENKINS), where they are working very diligently on a State level to repopulate the species.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of this amendment which would delist the lesser prairie chicken under the Endangered Species Act. I have long opposed this listing for many reasons because the rules unnecessarily restrict and hamper defense operations on Federal land under the species' habitat.

In Kansas, we have a proud military tradition and a number of important installations, including Fort Riley. An enormous benefit to Fort Riley is its huge training areas which have no encroachment issues and are some of the largest and most cost effective in the Nation.

Any similarly ill-advised listing affecting Fort Riley would potentially complicate this vital training area, amounting to nothing more than an overreach of the Endangered Species Act because it would imperil the actions taken by our military and hamper our local economies which these installations complement.

Preservation efforts do not have to come at a cost to our national defense preparedness, and I urge my colleagues to pass this amendment.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE), from another one of those States working very diligently to increase the population of these species in a very scientific way.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of Mr. LUCAS' amendment.

Contrary to what was said, New Mexico has Cannon Air Force Base, and the listing of the prairie chicken falls right in the bombing regions held by Cannon.

For those people who say it is just alarmist, remember 1999 and 2000, when almost all of Camp Pendleton was shut completely down? The marines had to push their boats on the beach, but they couldn't get out because of the endangered species. They, instead, flew their boats over to Utah, set up stakes where the water would have been, and offloaded them there.

When we talk about the effect of the Endangered Species Act, we have to remember the past. Remember that it was the spotted owl that shut down 85 percent of the timber logging in this country, only to have the Fish and Wildlife Service say a couple of years ago: Oh, never mind. It wasn't logging that was causing the spotted owl to go extinct.

The Fish and Wildlife Service shut down 23,000 jobs in California because of a species.

We want our national defense to reign supreme.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chairman, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP), the chairman of the Natural Resources Committee and an individual who has worked diligently on preserving all of our environment.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, whether one is talking about the sage grouse, which is yet to be listed, or the prairie chicken, which has been listed, it is true that each of those does have an impact on the readiness of our military. It does have an impact, and each branch of the military has actually said so.

On one Army base alone, they are spending $1.5 million a year to manage 250 birds. That is the cost that goes to that, as well as to the readiness of this Nation.

It would be nice—and one would presume—that each department would be talking to each other about the impacts of their decisions. As chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, I am going to say that did not happen. It should.

I urge adoption.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Rhode Island will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 41 OFFERED BY MR. NADLER

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). It is now in order to consider amendment No. 41 printed in House Report 114–112.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Strike section 3121.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 260, the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment would strike from the bill section 3121, which attempts to undermine our efforts to destroy unnecessary nuclear weapons that have already been retired and scheduled for dismantlement.

Section 3121 of the bill was a last-minute addition to the NDAA that is both totally unnecessary and counterproductive to our long-term national security goals. Our Armed Forces and National Nuclear Security Administration, or NNSA, firmly oppose this provision to limit the dismantlement of surplus nuclear weapons.

Section 3121, which my amendment would strike, does three things.

First, it caps at $50 million a program that is scheduled to cost about $50 million, thereby having no practical impact whatever.

Second, the section prohibits for 5 years the scheduled dismantlement of the W84 nuclear warhead. The W84 warhead was retired back in 2007, 8 years ago, and was recently retired again in favor of keeping the W80 for the long-range standoff option. There is no reason to keep the W84 around longer than necessary. Storing and securing unneeded and retired nuclear weapons wastes a large amount of money in maintaining them.

Third, there is a large queue of warheads waiting for dismantlement. There are approximately 2,500 retired nuclear warheads scheduled for dismantlement. Storing these warheads costs money. Why would we want to slow down the process of dismantlement of retired warheads?

We have about 5,000 active nuclear warheads, and 2,000 would suffice to destroy the entire world. Why waste money maintaining retired warheads beyond the 5,000 active warheads sufficient to destroy the world two and a half times over?

In fact, by seeking to limit nuclear dismantlement, this section of the bill sends the wrong message to the rest of the world about the value of nuclear weapons, and it undermines our efforts at nuclear nonproliferation. We have promised, as part of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, to reduce our nuclear warheads eventually to zero. The other nuclear nations have made the same promise. On that basis, the non-nuclear nations have undertaken not to develop nuclear weapons.

By delaying dismantlement of retired weapons, we are sending the wrong message of nonadherence to the nonproliferation treaty.

Contrary to the claims of the authors of section 3121, this section of the bill is not about unilateral disarmament. All of these weapons have already been retired and are scheduled to be dismantled.

This section, by delaying dismantlement by 5 years, would simply waste a large sum of taxpayers' money, would not contribute at all to national security—because having retired weapons in the storage bin doesn't help national security—and would send the wrong message on nonproliferation. It is a total waste of money for no useful purpose whatsoever.

I urge all my colleagues to support this amendment to strike section 3121. We must not needlessly restrict the Defense Department's ability to determine the appropriate rate of warhead dismantlement of retired and surplus warheads.

I urge the adoption of this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I strongly oppose this amendment because it strikes a section that helps us set priorities in defense spending. Dismantling U.S. nuclear weapons is not a priority. Getting nuclear modernization done is the priority.

Two weeks ago, Secretary of State Kerry announced at the NPT review conference that the U.S. would accelerate its dismantlement of nuclear warheads by 20 percent. While Russia continues to make overt nuclear threats to the U.S. and our allies, we accelerate unilateral nuclear disarmament. This is insane.

Let's be clear about one point in particular. Section 3121 of the underlying bill does not contradict any U.S. treaty obligations. Current arms control treaties do not require the U.S. to dismantle any nuclear warheads.

In the FY16 budget request, NNSA detailed its plan to focus the next 5 years of dismantlement work on warheads retired prior to 2009. Section 3121 provides them enough money to do so, and it does not restrict this work on pre-2009 warheads.

Section 3121 allows the administration to carry out the dismantlement plan it described in the FY16 budget request. It simply prevents the unilateral disarmament and acceleration proposed by Secretary Kerry, which is a misguided attempt to appease those who would disarm the United States.

Section 3121 also prohibits dismantlement of certain U.S. nuclear cruise missile warheads for 5 years. This is a prudent measure because Russia is in plain violation of the INF Treaty through its flight testing and deployment of ground-launched, intermediate-range cruise missiles.

Simply put, we should not unilaterally disarm the United States cruise missile warheads when Russia is building and deploying its own cruise missiles in direct violation of the INF Treaty.

As Russia continues to make nuclear threats against the U.S. and our allies, accelerating the U.S. nuclear weapon dismantlement by 20 percent is exactly the wrong message to send.

□ 2045

I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York has 90 seconds remaining. The gentleman from Alabama has 3 minutes remaining.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, as a member of the Strategic Forces Subcommittee, I oppose this amendment as wrong policy.

Why would we rush headlong into unilateral disarmament at the same time Russia has not lived up to its treaty obligations with the INF treaty?

Section 3121 wisely prohibits the disarmament of nuclear warheads for 5 years, enough time to see if actually Russia will live up to its agreement.

If you are actually going to get rid of a weapons system, for heaven's sakes, get something for it. Unilateral disarmament gets us nothing. That is why this is the wrong policy with the wrong message that would go to our potential adversaries but, more importantly, the wrong message that would go to our allies, who are waiting to see if the United States will retreat from a position of leadership.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, the central flaw in the argument against this amendment is that we are not talking about disarmament, unilateral or otherwise. Retired weapons do not add security. All they do is waste money to maintain them.

What this amendment says is do not prohibit the administration from dismantling already-retired weapons.

Now, talking about the threat from Russia, okay. There is a threat from Russia. I don't deny that. Modernization of nuclear weapons maybe should be a priority. That is a separate issue; but dismantling retired weapons doesn't weaken us versus Russia, doesn't help us—in fact, maybe it helps us by freeing up money for modernizing weapons. It is simply a waste of money to retain retired weapons.

If we should have more active weapons, that is a different question; but, once we have retired the weapon, it costs money to maintain it. It also is a potential target for a terrorist to grab it or get the plutonium out of it or whatever. Retired warheads should be dismantled, regardless of the threat elsewhere. The question is: How many active warheads do we need? That is a separate topic.

A retired warhead does not protect us. Dismantling a retired warhead just saves money. A retired warhead doesn't help us against the Russians or anybody else. It is simply a question of not wasting money.

If modernization is a priority, fine. I don't agree with that, but spend money on modernization. Why waste money on keeping retired warheads in the storage bins?

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN), the vice chairman of the Strategic Forces Subcommittee.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman of the subcommittee.

President Obama is doing something that much of the country, including

myself and many of us on this side of the aisle, are really disturbed about, and that is using his pen and his phone to go around Congress and do things by executive order, or unilaterally, if you might agree with that.

To take that same approach with our nuclear stockpile, our strategic defense, is not a good idea. I totally want to resist this amendment. I urge everyone to vote ''no'' on it.

Secondly, as has been pointed out earlier this evening, the New START treaty is, I believe, flawed; but what it does is require us to reduce our stockpile and Russia to increase its stockpile. Countries like China are not even included in that treaty.

When we are already on a path to seriously reduce the number of our warheads and then to consider unilaterally even cutting them further, that is the height of folly, Mr. Chairman. We should resist this amendment and vote ''no.''

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY), chairman of the full committee.

Mr. THORNBERRY. I appreciate the distinguished chairman of the Strategic Forces Subcommittee for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, it is in my district where this dismantlement occurs, and I think we are missing one key point, but Mr. ROGERS raised it earlier.

We have a limited number of facilities, a limited number of people, and a limited number of dollars. We can use them to take things apart, or we can use them to help modernize our existing stockpile so it can be more effective, so it can be safe, so it can be reliable in providing that nuclear deterrence that we depend upon.

The concern is, based on what Secretary Kerry said 2 weeks ago, that this administration is going to put more money and people and facilities into taking things apart than they should. They have got their priorities wrong. This amendment or the underlying provision of the gentleman from Alabama tries to set those priorities straight, and that is what is important.

We can't do everything. We have got to set priorities, and the priority ought to be defending the country, especially in light of what Russia and China continue to do: building nuclear weapons.

I think this amendment should be rejected and the underlying provision supported.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 52 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 52 printed in House Report 114–112.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 77, after line 21, insert the following:

SEC. 334. ASSESSMENT OF OUTREACH FOR SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY WOMEN AND MINORITIES REQUIRED BEFORE CONVERSION OF CERTAIN FUNCTIONS TO CONTRACTOR PERFORMANCE.

No Department of Defense function that is performed by Department of Defense civilian employees and is tied to a certain military base may be converted to performance by a contractor until the Secretary of Defense conducts an assessment to determine if the Department of Defense has carried out sufficient outreach programs to assist small business concerns owned and controlled by women (as such term is defined in section 8(d)(3)(D) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(d)(3)(D))) and small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals (as such term is defined in section 8(d)(3)(C) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(d)(3)(C))) that are located in the geographic area near the military base.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 260, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Let me thank the chairman of the full committee, the gentleman from Texas; and the ranking member, the gentleman from Washington; and the manager who is managing, my dear friend from Rhode Island, for their leadership on many, many issues.

All of us have encountered the very energetic small business community. Included in that, of course, are women and minority-owned businesses. They are a vital part of our community.

In the State of Texas, we are very much engaged with our military bases. Over the years, we have had any number of them, very large facilities. In my own community, we have the Ellington base that we have retrofitted and improved and added a number of assets.

This amendment speaks to the compatibility between the Department of Defense and its needs and the small and minority and women-owned businesses and asks the Secretary of Defense to outreach to these minority and women and small businesses, as a way of ensuring the growth of their businesses and the utilization of their services for that of the DOD.

The Jackson Lee amendment will help the United States maintain the most talented, diverse, effective, and powerful workforce in an increasingly globalized economy.

Why? Because our small businesses located in our neighborhoods and our communities are there to create opportunity and to create jobs—as a practical matter, the Department of Defense has the discretion to choose whether a contract can be insourced or outsourced. We would ask that they look at the minority businesses in the area as they make those determinations.

Since March of 2009, it is understood that certain Federal contracts that were formerly completed by civilian contracts would be looked at in a different way. We ask that the assessment of the value of small businesses be considered and, in particular, be considered on how many jobs are created and also the importance of a healthy and diverse small business community.

I would ask my colleagues to support this amendment and just want to particularly say that, in my home city of Houston, Texas, it is home to more than 60,000 women-owned businesses and more than 60,000 African American-owned businesses and thousands upon thousands of Hispanic businesses.

In fact, just this past week, I visited two of my manufacturing companies, one of them a member of the Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

I ask my colleagues to support the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk; it is listed as #55 on the roster.

The Jackson Lee Amendment requires the Secretary of Defense to conduct outreach for small business concerns owned and controlled by women and minorities prior to the outsourcing of military contracts related to local military bases.

I would like to thank both Chairman THORNBERRY and Ranking Member SMITH for their dedication and hard work on this important piece of legislation which ensures that our men and women in uniform have the resources they need and deserve.

Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have sponsored legislation that promotes economic opportunity and inclusion for women, veterans, and minority businesses.

The Jackson Lee Amendment will help the United States maintain the most talented, diverse, effective, and powerful workforce in an increasingly globalized economy.

The Jackson Lee Amendment requires the Department of Defense to consider the impact that changes to current outsourcing guidelines will have on small minority and women owned business by requiring them to engage with these businesses.

Promoting diversity is more than just an idea; it requires an understanding that there is a need to have a process that will ensure the inclusion of minorities and women in all areas of American life.

As a practical matter the Department of Defense has the discretion to choose whether a contract should be in-sourced or out-sourced.

Since March of 2009 it is understood that certain federal contracts that were formerly completed by civilian contractors would be returned to federal employees.

It is important to find balance between contracts that should be conducted by the federal government versus civilian contractors.

As it stands the policies implemented by the DOD has the unintended consequence of

harming small minority and women owned businesses by taking away civilian contracts that are not inherently serving a federal government purpose such as janitorial services, painting buildings, mowing lawns and related activities.

These service contracts which tend to be the bread and butter for minority and women owned business are slowly being withdrawn and returned to the federal government.

I have worked hard to help small business owners to fully realize their potential.

That is why I support entrepreneurial development programs, including the Small Business Development Center and Women's Business Center programs.

These initiatives provide counseling in a variety of critical areas, including business plan development, finance, and marketing.

My amendment would require the Department of Defense to utilize a similar outreach program prior to outsourcing.

Outreach is key to developing healthy and diverse small businesses.

There are approximately 6 million minority owned businesses in the United States, representing a significant aspect of our economy.

According to the most recent available Census data, minority owned businesses employ nearly 6 million Americans and generate $1 trillion dollars in economic output.

Women owned businesses have increased 20% between 2002 and 2007, and currently total close to 8 million.

My home city of Houston, Texas is home to more than 60,000 women owned businesses, and more than 60,000 African American owned businesses.

The Department of Defense (DOD) estimates that during the Vietnam War, the ratio of contractors to soldiers was 1 in 10.

This rate increased to about 1 contractor for every soldier during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

These contracts generate billions of dollars in revenue for the companies to which they are awarded.

A mandatory DOD outreach program would make women and minority owned businesses aware of all of the contract opportunities available to them.

Small businesses deserve a fair shot at federal contracts.

They have a chance to compete for overseas contracts with the Department of Defense as well as access to international contracts with the United States Agency for International Development.

In addition, I believe that work needs to be done to modernize key contracting developmental programs designed to increase opportunities for women, minorities and low-income individuals.

Programs like the Outreach Program that I support through my amendment will reduce the current barriers and ensure small businesses have access to perform federal contracts.

This can save taxpayer dollars, because the increased competition for government contracts will lead to better prices and better quality.

The vibrancy of our economic prosperity depends on the ability of our nation's small business community to adapt to opportunities at home and aboard.

Outreach programs that are properly designed and implemented, strengthen the national community, promote its economic well-being, and maximize the benefits of our great diversity.

The Jackson Lee Amendment ensures that the Department of Defense reaches out to small minority and women owned business to hear their concerns and recognizes the important role they play in revitalizing our economy.

I urge all members to support the Jackson Lee Amendment.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Let me thank the Chairman for his kindness.

May I ask the Chairman how much time is remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Texas has 2 minutes remaining.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS).

Mr. POLIS. I want to thank the gentlewoman from Texas for bringing forth this amendment. This is tremendous talent and the entrepreneurial spirit across this country.

Mr. Chair, to ensure that we have the ability to take advantage of that great diversity, which is America's asset, it is so important to make sure that women entrepreneurs, minority entrepreneurs, are able to be in a position to supply and work with our United States military.

I am proud of the steps that the military, itself, has taken with regard to diversity, but we can do better on the entrepreneurial and business side.

As a former entrepreneur myself, I know how important it is to make sure that we develop the next great generation of American companies, American suppliers, that reflects not only the diversity of the military, but the diversity of the American people. That is the strength of our country, to make sure that women entrepreneurs, minority entrepreneurs, are empowered.

That is something that I know is a cause that the gentlewoman from Texas holds dear. It is a cause that I hold dear, and I hope that we can adopt this amendment to further that end.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, let me conclude by first thanking the gentleman from Colorado.

I think, Mr. Chairman, it evidences that the appreciation for small businesses reaches from States like Texas to New York to California to Missouri to Colorado and Florida and many other places. I would ask my colleagues to support this important amendment investing in our small businesses, women-owned and minority businesses of America.

Mr. Chairman, I conclude by saying I want to also thank my colleagues for my amendment being in en bloc amendment No. 4, and I will later include a statement into the RECORD regarding amendment No. 75.

With that, I ask for support of amendment No. 52.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of the time.

Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the gentlewoman for offering this amendment and just mention to my colleagues that there are a number of provisions in the underlying bill that try to help encourage small businesses to participate with the Department of Defense because I completely agree with the statements that were made.

That is where much of the innovation occurs in this country, and the bureaucracy, the difficulty in our acquisition system makes it very hard sometimes—many times—for small businesses to contribute.

I think that idea and especially the small businesses targeted by the gentlewoman's amendment is appropriate.

I hope, Mr. Chairman, that all Members, the supporters of this amendment and those who are concerned about small businesses having some greater opportunity to participate in Department of Defense procurement, will support not only this amendment, but also final passage of the bill because that is the only way that this amendment actually can become law.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. THORNBERRY OF TEXAS

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, pursuant to House Resolution 260, I offer amendments en bloc.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc No. 4 consisting of amendment Nos. 58, 60, 61, 65, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 75, 79, 80, 81, and 82 printed in House Report No. 114–112, offered by Mr. THORNBERRY of Texas:

AMENDMENT NO. 58 OFFERED BY MR. HURD OF TEXAS

At the end of subtitle F of title V, add the following new section:

SEC. 5___. AVAILABILITY OF CYBER SECURITY AND IT CERTIFICATIONS FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PERSONNEL CRITICAL TO NETWORK DEFENSE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2015 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking ''to obtain'' and inserting ''and when appropriate, other Department of Defense personnel, to obtain''; and

(B) by adding ''or industry recognized'' between ''professional'' and ''credentials''; and

(2) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the following:

''(3) The authority under paragraph (1) may be used to pay the expenses of a member of the active Air Force, Army, Navy, Coast

Guard, the reserve components, defense contractors, or civilians with access to information systems and identified as critical to network defense to obtain professional and industry recognized credentials related to information technology and cyber security functions.''.

(b) CONSTRUCTION.— No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the amendments made by this section, and such amendments shall be carried out using amounts otherwise made available for such purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 60 OFFERED BY MR. STIVERS OF OHIO

At the end of subtitle H of title V (page 234, after line 12), add the following new section:

SEC. 5___. POSTHUMOUS COMMISSION AS CAPTAIN IN THE REGULAR ARMY FOR MILTON HOLLAND.

(a) POSTHUMOUS COMMISSION.—Milton Holland, who, while sergeant major of the 5th Regiment, United States Colored Infantry, was awarded the Medal of Honor in recognition of his action on September 29, 1864, during the Battle of Chapin's Farm, Virginia, when, as the citation for the medal states, he ''took command of Company C, after all the officers had been killed or wounded, and gallantly led it'', shall be deemed for all purposes to have held the grade of captain in the regular Army, effective as of that date and continuing until his separation from the Army.

(b) PROHIBITION OF BENEFITS.—Section 1523 of title 10, United States Code, applies in the case of the posthumous commission described in subsection (a).

AMENDMENT NO. 61 OFFERED BY MS. MOORE OF WISCONSIN

At the end of subtitle H of title V, add the following new section:

SEC. 584. SENSE OF CONGRESS SUPPORTING THE DECISION OF THE ARMY TO POSTHUMOUSLY PROMOTE MASTER SERGEANT (RETIRED) NAOMI HORWITZ TO SERGEANT MAJOR.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Naomi Horwitz was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1916.

(2) In 1942, Ms. Horwitz marched into the Army recruiters office and asked to join.

(3) Ms. Horwitz served with the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, the Women's Army Corps, and the Reserves.

(4) Ms. Horwitz served from 1942 until 1946 and reenlisted a few years later.

(5) On October 24, 1965, one of the proudest moments of her military career, Ms. Horwitz's was promoted to the rank of Sergeant Major in the U.S. Army Reserve.

(6) As women were only eligible to hold the rank of Sergeant Major since 1960, Ms. Horwitz was one of only a handful of women to hold such rank during that time period.

(7) Despite her promotion, Ms. Horwitz was not allowed to hold the rank of Sergeant Major.

(8) Ms. Horwitz retired from the military in 1976 at a lower rank.

(9) After her retirement from the military, Ms. Horwitz was a tireless veteran's advocate serving for decades with AMVETS Post 60, Jewish War Veterans, the American Legion Milwaukee Women's Post 448, the Allied Veterans Council of Milwaukee and the Veterans Day Parade Committee.

(10) Ms. Horwitz was named Veteran of the Year in Milwaukee County in 2004.

(11) In October 2014, Ms. Horwitz died at the age of 98.

(12) One of Ms. Horwitz's final wishes was that one of the proudest moment of her Army career be reflected on her gravestone.

(13) In March 2015, the Secretary of the Army corrected this injustice and approved a request to posthumously promote Sergeant Major Horwitz.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—Congress—

(1) joins the Army and our Nation in expressing our gratitude to Sergeant Major Naomi Horwitz for her 26 years of honorable military service and continued civilian service; and

(2) supports the decision of the Army to posthumously promote Master Sergeant (retired) Naomi Horwitz to Sergeant Major.

AMENDMENT NO. 65 OFFERED BY MR. AUSTIN SCOTT OF GEORGIA

Page 298, line 12, insert ''in the pilot program'' after ''beneficiaries''.

Page 298, beginning line 13, strike ''pursuant to section 1074g(f) of title 10, United States Code'' and insert ''through its Prime Vendor contracting process''.

Page 298, line 17, strike ''be comprised of small business pharmacies'' and insert ''include small business pharmacies (as defined by the Small Business Administration)''.

Page 298, line 19, insert before the semicolon the following: ''provided there are sufficient number of small business pharmacies willing to participate in the pilot program''.

Page 299, line 11, insert after ''(a)'' the following: ''and shall work with small business pharmacies to participate in the pilot program''.

Page 299, line 25, insert after ''Secretary'' the following: ''shall give preference to regions with high small business pharmacy participation rates and''.

Page 300, after line 21, insert the following new paragraph (and redesignate the subsequent paragraphs):

(2) retail pharmacies;

AMENDMENT NO. 67 OFFERED BY MR. GRAYSON OF FLORIDA

Page 302, after line 18, insert the following new section:

SEC. 723. PROVISION OF TRANSPORTATION OF DEPENDENT PATIENTS RELATING TO OBSTETRICAL ANESTHESIA SERVICES.

Section 1040(a)(2) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking subparagraph (F).

AMENDMENT NO. 68 OFFERED BY MR. AUSTIN SCOTT OF GEORGIA

Page 314, line 1 (in section 804), after ''any requirement under'' insert ''subsection (a)(3) or''.

AMENDMENT NO. 69 OFFERED BY MR. COLE OF OKLAHOMA

Page 359, line 8, strike ''regulations and practices'' and insert ''regulations, practices, and sustainment requirements''.

Page 359, line 14, insert before the period the following: ''and each Center of Industrial and Technical Excellence (described in section 2474 of title 10, United States Code)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 70 OFFERED BY MS. FOXX OF NORTH CAROLINA

Page 359, line 8, insert ''(1)'' before ''Department''.

Page 359, line 10, insert before the period the following: ''; and (2) Department of Defense practices related to the procurement, management, and use of intellectual property rights to facilitate competition in sustainment of weapon systems throughout their life-cycle''.

AMENDMENT NO. 71 OFFERED BY MR. BOST OF ILLINOIS

At the end of subtitle D of title VIII, add the following new section:

SEC. 8___. ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OFFICE OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS IN THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION; PETITIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF SIZE STANDARDS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OFFICE OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS IN THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 5 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 634) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(i) OFFICE OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

''(A) OFFICE.—There is established in the Administration an Office of Hearings and Appeals—

''(i) to impartially decide matters relating to program decisions of the Administrator—

''(I) for which Congress requires a hearing on the record; or

''(II) that the Administrator designates for hearing by regulation; and

''(ii) which shall contain the office of the Administration that handles requests submitted pursuant to sections 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the 'Freedom of Information Act') and maintains records pursuant to section 552a of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the 'Privacy Act of 1974').

''(B) JURISDICTION.—The Office of Hearings and Appeals shall only hear appeals of matters as described in this Act, the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), and title 13 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

''(C) ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR.—The head of the Office of Hearings and Appeals shall be the Chief Hearing Officer appointed under section 4(b)(1), who shall be responsible to the Administrator.

''(2) CHIEF HEARING OFFICER DUTIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Chief Hearing Officer shall—

''(i) be a career appointee in the Senior Executive Service and an attorney licensed by a State, commonwealth, territory or possession of the United States, or the District of Columbia; and

''(ii) be responsible for the operation and management of the Office of Hearings and Appeals.

''(B) ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION.—The Chief Hearing Officer may assign a matter for mediation or other means of alternative dispute resolution.

''(3) HEARING OFFICERS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Office of Hearings and Appeals shall appoint Hearing Officers to carry out the duties described in paragraph (1)(A)(i).

''(B) CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT.—A Hearing Officer appointed under this paragraph—

''(i) shall serve in the excepted service as an employee of the Administration under section 2103 of title 5, United States Code, and under the supervision of the Chief Hearing Officer;

''(ii) shall be classified at a position to which section 5376 of title 5, United States Code, applies; and

''(iii) shall be compensated at a rate not exceeding the maximum rate payable under such section.

''(C) AUTHORITY; POWERS.—Notwithstanding section 556(b) of title 5, United States Code, a Hearing Officer—

''(i) shall have the authority to hear claims arising under section 554 of such title;

''(ii) shall have the powers described in section 556(c) of such title; and

''(iii) shall conduct hearings and issue decisions in the manner described under sections 555, 556, and 557 of such title, as applicable.

''(D) TREATMENT OF CURRENT PERSONNEL.—An individual serving as a Judge in the Office of Hearings and Appeals (as that position and office are designated in section 134.101 of title 13, Code of Federal Regulations) on the effective date of this subsection shall be considered as qualified to be, and redesignated as, a Hearing Officer.

''(4) HEARING OFFICER DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'Hearing Officer' means an individual appointed or redesignated

under this subsection who is an attorney licensed by a State, commonwealth, territory or possession of the United States, or the District of Columbia.''.

(2) ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR AS CHIEF HEARING OFFICER.—Section 4(b)(1) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 633(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following: ''One such Associate Administrator shall be the Chief Hearing Officer, who shall administer the Office of Hearings and Appeals established under section 5(i).''.

(3) REPEAL OF REGULATION.—Section 134.102(t) of title 13, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on January 1, 2015, (relating to types of hearings within the jurisdiction of the Office of Hearings and Appeals) shall have no force or effect.

(b) PETITIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF SIZE STANDARDS FOR SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.—Section 3(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(9) PETITIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF SIZE STANDARDS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A person may file a petition for reconsideration with the Office of Hearings and Appeals (as established under section 5(i)) of a size standard revised, modified, or established by the Administrator pursuant to this subsection.

''(B) TIME LIMIT.—A person filing a petition for reconsideration described in subparagraph (A) shall file such petition not later than 30 days after the publication in the Federal Register of the notice of final rule to revise, modify, or establish size standards described in paragraph (6).

''(C) PROCESS FOR AGENCY REVIEW.—The Office of Hearings and Appeals shall use the same process it uses to decide challenges to the size of a small business concern to decide a petition for review pursuant to this paragraph.

''(D) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—The publication of a final rule in the Federal Register described in subparagraph (B) shall be considered final agency action for purposes of seeking judicial review. Filing a petition for reconsideration under subparagraph (A) shall not be a condition precedent to judicial review of any such size standard.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 72 OFFERED BY MR. HANNA OF NEW YORK

At the end of subtitle D of title VIII, add the following new section:

SEC. 8___. LIMITATIONS ON REVERSE AUCTIONS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that, when used appropriately, reverse auctions may improve the Federal Government's procurement of commercially available commodities by increasing competition, reducing prices, and improving opportunities for small businesses.

(b) LIMITATIONS ON REVERSE AUCTIONS.—The Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 47 (15 U.S.C. 631 note) as section 48; and

(2) by inserting after section 46 the following new section:

''SEC. 47. LIMITATIONS ON REVERSE AUCTIONS.

''(a) PROHIBITION ON USING REVERSE AUCTIONS FOR COVERED CONTRACTS.—In the case of a covered contract described in subsection (c), a reverse auction may not be used if the award of the contract is to be made under—

''(1) section 8(a);

''(2) section 8(m);

''(3) section 15(a);

''(4) section 15(j);

''(5) section 31; or

''(6) section 36.

''(b) LIMITATIONS ON USING REVERSE AUCTIONS.—In the case of the award of a contract made under paragraphs (1) through (6) of subsection (a) that is not a covered contract, a reverse auction may be used for the award of such a contract, but only if the following requirements are met:

''(1) DECISIONS REGARDING USE OF A REVERSE AUCTION.—Subject to paragraph (2), the following decisions with respect to such a contract shall be made only by a contracting officer:

''(A) A decision to use a reverse auction as part of the competition for award of such a contract.

''(B) Any decision made after the decision described in subsection (A) regarding the appropriate evaluation criteria, the inclusion of vendors, the acceptability of vendor submissions (including decisions regarding timeliness), and the selection of the winner.

''(2) TRAINING REQUIRED.—Only a contracting officer who has received training on the appropriate use and supervision of reverse auctions may use or supervise a reverse auction for the award of such a contract. The training shall be provided by, or similar to the training provided by, the Defense Acquisition University as described in section 824 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. 'Buck' McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291).

''(3) NUMBER OF OFFERS; REVISIONS TO BIDS.—A Federal agency may not award such a contract using a reverse auction if only one offer is received or if offerors do not have the ability to submit revised bids with lower prices throughout the course of the auction.

''(4) TECHNICALLY ACCEPTABLE OFFERS.—A Federal agency awarding such a contract using a reverse auction shall evaluate the technical acceptability of offers only as technically acceptable or unacceptable.

''(5) USE OF PRICE RANKINGS.—A Federal agency may not award such a contract using a reverse auction if at any time during the award process the Federal agency misinforms an offeror about the price ranking of the offeror's last offer submitted in relation to offers submitted by other offerors.

''(6) USE OF THIRD-PARTY AGENTS.—If a Federal agency uses a third party agent to assist with the award of such a contract using a reverse auction, the Federal agency shall ensure that—

''(A) inherently governmental functions (as such term is used in section 2303 of title 41, United States Code) are not performed by private contractors, including by the third party agent;

''(B) information on the past contract performance of offerors created by the third party agent and shared with the Federal agency is collected, maintained, and shared in compliance with section 1126 of title 41, United States Code;

''(C) information on whether an offeror is a responsible source (as defined in section 113 of title 41, United States Code) that is created by the third party agent and shared with the Federal agency is shared with the offeror and complies with section 8(b)(7) of this Act; and

''(D) disputes between the third party agent and an offeror may not be used to justify a determination that an offeror is not a responsible source (as defined in section 113 of title 41, United States Code) or to otherwise restrict the ability of an offeror to compete for the award of such a contract or task or delivery order.

''(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) CONTRACTING OFFICER.—The term 'contracting officer' has the meaning given that term in section 2101(1) of title 41, United States Code.

''(2) COVERED CONTRACT.—The term 'covered contract' means a contract—

''(A) for design and construction services;

''(B) for goods purchased to protect Federal employees, members of the Armed Forces, or civilians from bodily harm; or

''(C) for goods or services other than those goods or services described in subparagraph (A) or (B)—

''(i) to be awarded based on factors other than price and technical responsibility; or

''(ii) if awarding the contract requires the contracting officer to conduct discussions with the offerors about their offer.

''(3) DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION SERVICES.—The term 'design and construction services' means—

''(A) site planning and landscape design;

''(B) architectural and interior design;

''(C) engineering system design;

''(D) performance of construction work for facility, infrastructure, and environmental restoration projects;

''(E) delivery and supply of construction materials to construction sites;

''(F) construction, alteration, or repair, including painting and decorating, of public buildings and public works; and

''(G) architectural and engineering services as defined in section 1102 of title 40, United States Code.

''(4) REVERSE AUCTION.—The term 'reverse auction', with respect to procurement by an agency, means an auction between a group of offerors who compete against each other by submitting offers for a contract or task or delivery order with the ability to submit revised offers with lower prices throughout the course of the auction.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 75 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE OF TEXAS

Page 384, line 8, strike ''; and'' and insert a semicolon.

Page 384, line 13, strike the period and insert a semicolon.

Page 384, after line 13, insert the following new subparagraphs:

''(C) to evaluate commercial off-the-shelf business systems for security, resilience, reliability, interoperability, and integration with existing interrelated systems where such system integration and interoperability are essential to Department of Defense operations;

''(D) to work with commercial off-the-shelf business system developers and owners in adapting systems for Department of Defense use;

''(E) to work with commercial off-the-shelf business system developers and owners where necessary to evaluate the feasibility of making the necessary changes where needed to adapt systems for Department of Defense use;

''(F) to perform Department of Defense system audits to determine which systems are related to or rely upon the system to be replaced or integrated with commercial off-the-shelf business systems;

''(G) to include data mapping as a step in the testing of commercial off-the-shelf business systems prior to deployment; and

''(H) to perform full backup of systems that will be changed or replaced by the installation of commercial off-the-shelf business systems prior to installation and deployment to ensure reconstitution of the system to a functioning state should it become necessary.

AMENDMENT NO. 79 OFFERED BY MR. CONNOLLY OF VIRGINIA

At the end of title VIII (page 400, after line 23), add the following new section:

SEC. 865. EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council shall prescribe

a regulation making clear that agency acquisition personnel are permitted and encouraged to engage in responsible and constructive exchanges with industry, so long as those exchanges are consistent with existing law and regulation and do not promote an unfair competitive advantage to particular firms.

AMENDMENT NO. 80 OFFERED BY MR. CONNOLLY OF VIRGINIA

At the end of title VIII (page 400, after line 23), add the following new section:

SEC. 865. STRENGTHENING PROGRAM AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE.

(a) PLAN ON STRENGTHENING PROGRAM AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE.—Not later than 180 days following the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, shall submit to the relevant congressional committees a plan for improving management of IT programs and projects.

(b) MATTERS COVERED.—The plan required by subsection (a) shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(1) Creation of a specialized career path for program management.

(2) The development of a competency model for program management consistent with the IT project manager model.

(3) A career advancement model that requires appropriate expertise and experience for advancement.

(4) A career advancement model that is more competitive with the private sector and that recognizes both Government and private sector experience.

(c) COMBINATION WITH OTHER CADRES PLAN.—The Director may combine the plan required by subsection (a) with the acquisition human capital plans that were developed pursuant to the October 27, 2009, guidance issued by the Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy in furtherance of section 1704(g) of title 41, United States Code (originally enacted as section 869 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4553)), to address how the agencies are meeting their human capital requirements to support the timely and effective acquisition of information technology.

AMENDMENT NO. 81 OFFERED BY MR. FARR OF CALIFORNIA

Page 400, after line 23, insert the following:

SEC. 8____. SYCHRONIZATION OF DEFENSE ACQUISITION CURRICULA.

Section 1746(c) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''The'' and inserting ''(1) The''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) The President of such University shall also convene a review board annually with faculty representatives from relevant professional schools and degree-granting institutions of the Department of Defense and military departments, such as the service academies, the Naval Postgraduate School, and other similar schools and institutions, in order to review and synchronize defense acquisition curricula across the entire Department of Defense.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 82 OFFERED BY MR. FARR OF CALIFORNIA

Page 400, after line 23, insert the following:

SEC. 8___ RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS OF DEFENSE ACQUISITION POLICY.

Section 1746(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) research and analysis of defense acquisition policy issues from academic institutions, such as the Naval Postgraduate School and other Department of Defense schools, that offer in-depth analysis of the entire defense acquisition decision support system from both a business and public policy perspective and from an operational and information sciences perspective.''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 260, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY) and the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased at this point to yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST).

Mr. BOST. I thank the chairman for yielding and this opportunity to offer my amendment.

Mr. Chair, when the Small Business Administration sets a size standard for a small business, it is determining whether that company can qualify for loans, Federal contracts, and other development assistance.

Unfortunately, there are times that the SBA sets an inappropriate size standard, wrongly classifying a small business as a large business, which can deny them critical access and assistance and contract opportunities.

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My bipartisan amendment, offered with the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY), builds upon previous efforts to improve the SBA size standards process. This will empower America's job creators to appeal directly to the SBA when they believe they have received an inappropriate designation. This change will spare small businesses from having to engage in expensive and time-consuming lawsuits to make their voice heard.

Our amendment is supported by the National Small Business Association, the National Defense Industrial Association, and other small business organizations.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, at this time, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, again, let me offer my appreciation to the chairman and ranking member for including my amendment, No. 75, in en bloc amendment No. 4.

I want to thank, also, my good friend from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN). Both of us serve on the Committee on Homeland Security. He serves on the Armed Services Committee, but we see that there are overlapping issues.

My amendment simply makes an important contribution to the bill by ensuring that changes made to DOD computing systems using software bought and modified for agency operations will not result in the disruption of DOD operations.

I would like to offer this amendment in recognition of a great unsung hero of the modern computing age, Rear Admiral Grace Murray Hopper, who was one of the first programmers, who invented the first compiler for a computer programming language and was a visionary who worked to make machine-independent programming languages possible. Rear Admiral Grace Murray Hopper is not very well known outside of the world of computing, but I salute her work in advancing the science of advanced computing systems while she served as a member of the armed services.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. LANGEVIN. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. The Jackson Lee amendment will provide the Department of Defense chief privacy officer with the tools it needs to plan and execute updates and changes to the DOD computer networks.

In this world of hacking and the importance of securing our infrastructure of cybersecurity, I believe that this amendment will contribute to the improvement of the DOD and protect against cyber attacks.

Again, I thank the chairman and ranking member for including my amendment.

Mr. Chair, I thank Chairman THORNBERRY and Ranking Member SMITH for their work on this bill and their devotion to the men and women of the Armed Forces.

I also thank them for including in En Bloc Amendment #4 the Jackson Lee Amendment (No. 125), which makes an important contribution to the bill by ensuring that changes made to DOD computing systems using software bought and modified for agency operations will not result in the disruption of DOD operations.

I would like to offer this amendment in recognition of a great unsung hero of the modern computing age.

Rear Admiral Grace Murray Hopper who is one of the first programmers who invented the first compiler for a computer programming language, and was the visionary who worked to make machine-independent programming languages possible.

Rear Admiral Grace Murray Hopper is not very well known outside of the world of computing, but I salute her work in advancing the science advance computing systems while she served as a member of the armed services.

The Jackson Lee Amendment will provide the Department of Defense Chief Privacy Officer with the tools it needs to plan and execute updates and changes to DOD computer networks.

There is no entity like the Department of Defense so the agency will need all of the resources necessary to prepare to transition its computing networks using software and components purchased and modified for specialized purposes.

The importance of DOD functions for the security of our nation makes the importance of modernizing their computing systems of value to the nation and the demands they will face today and into the future.

Jackson Lee Amendment No. 125 will ensure that changes made to DOD computing systems using software bought and modified for agency use will not result in disruption of DOD operations.

I thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for including this amendment in this En Bloc

Amendment #4 and I encourage all Members to support it.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HURD).

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my amendment, No. 58.

As chairman of the Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Information Technology, over the past 5 months, one thing has become painfully clear to me: the IT infrastructure of the Federal Government is behind the times, and those who maintain our already-outdated systems have a difficult job due to red tape and bureaucratic hurdles. Compounding this issue and making it worse is the fact that there is a shortage of high-skilled labor in IT security both in the public and private sectors.

My amendment would modify existing law to allow all personnel identified as critical to network defense within DOD and DHS who have received the appropriate training to take the necessary exams, backing their skills with certification.

A large number of these individuals receive the valuable training needed to protect our networks and defend cyber domains, but their skills are not always backed by certification. This not only means there is little accountability in the system, but also that those who choose to leave the Federal Government have a hard time explaining their qualifications to potential employers.

This amendment solves both of these issues by providing internationally recognized certification to individuals in critical roles. More importantly, this amendment would not seek any additional funding to implement this policy change.

This change will enhance U.S. national security, ensure value of taxpayer investments in IT training, and even help our veterans transition their hard-earned skills to civilian employment once their service has ended.

I thank the chairman for his support and commend him for his work on this bill.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, since there are no additional speakers on my side, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 30 seconds to note that there are 15 amendments in this en bloc package, 8 sponsored by Republicans and 7 by Democrats. There truly was bipartisan participation in formulating this package, and I hope all the sponsors of these 15 amendments will support this bill on final passage.

I urge adoption of the en bloc, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY).

The en bloc amendments were agreed to.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. THORNBERRY OF TEXAS

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, pursuant to House Resolution 260, I offer amendments en bloc.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc No. 5 consisting of amendment Nos. 62, 73, 74, 77, 78, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 92, 93, 95, 97, 98, and 100 printed in House Report No. 114–112, offered by Mr. THORNBERRY of Texas:

AMENDMENT NO. 62 OFFERED BY MR. THOMPSON OF PENNSYLVANIA

At the end of subtitle I of title V, add the following new section:

SEC. 5___. PRELIMINARY MENTAL HEALTH SCREENINGS FOR INDIVIDUALS BECOMING MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 31 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 520d. Preliminary mental health screenings

''(a) PROVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING.—Before any individual enlists in an armed force or is commissioned as an officer in an armed force, the Secretary concerned shall provide the individual with a mental health screening.

''(b) USE OF SCREENING.—(1) The Secretary shall use the results of a mental screening conducted under subsection (a) as a baseline for any subsequent mental health examinations of the individual, including such examinations provided under sections 1074f and 1074m of this title.

''(2) The Secretary may not consider the results of a mental health screening conducted under subsection (a) in determining the promotion of a member of the armed forces.

''(c) APPLICATION OF PRIVACY LAWS.—With respect to applicable laws and regulations relating to the privacy of information, the Secretary shall treat a mental health screening conducted under subsection (a) in the same manner as the medical records of a member of the armed forces.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding after the item relating to section 520c the following new item:

''520d. Preliminary mental health screenings.''.

(c) REPORTS.—

(1) INITIAL REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the National Institute of Mental Health of the National Institutes of Health shall submit to Congress and the Secretary of Defense a report on preliminary mental health screenings of members of the Armed Forces.

(B) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The report under subparagraph (A) shall include the following:

(i) Recommendations with respect to establishing a preliminary mental health screening of members of the Armed Forces to bring mental health screenings to parity with physical screenings of members.

(ii) Recommendations with respect to the composition of the mental health screening, evidenced-based best practices, and how to track changes in mental health screenings relating to traumatic brain injuries, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other conditions.

(C) COORDINATION.—The National Institute of Mental Health shall carry out subparagraph (A) in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the surgeons general of the military departments, and other relevant experts.

(2) REPORTS ON EFFICACY OF SCREENINGS.—

(A) SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.—Not later than one year after the date on which the Secretary of Defense begins providing preliminary mental health screenings under section 520d(a) of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the efficacy of such preliminary mental health screenings.

(B) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the submittal of the report under subparagraph (A), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the efficacy of the preliminary mental health screenings described in such subparagraph.

(C) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The reports required by subparagraphs (A) and (B) shall include the following:

(i) An evaluation of the evidence-based best practices used by the Secretary in composing and conducting preliminary mental health screenings of members of the Armed Forces under such section 520d(a).

(ii) An evaluation of the evidence-based best practices used by the Secretary in tracking changes in mental health screenings relating to traumatic brain injuries, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other conditions among members of the Armed Forces.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION OF PRELIMINARY MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING.—The Secretary of Defense may not provide a preliminary mental health screening under section 520d(a) of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), until the Secretary receives and evaluates the initial report required by subsection (c)(1).

(e) REPORT ON EFFICACY OF PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES UPON SEPARATION FROM ACTIVE DUTY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report on the efficacy of the mental health components of the physical examinations provided under paragraph (5) of section 1145(a) of title 10, United States Code, to members of the Armed Forces who are separated from active duty as described in paragraph (2) of such section.

(2) EVALUATION OF EFFECTIVENESS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include an evaluation of the effectiveness of the physical examinations described in such subsection in—

(A) identifying members of the Armed Forces with traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other mental health conditions; and

(B) ensuring that health care is provided for such members.

AMENDMENT NO. 73 OFFERED BY MR. RUSSELL OF OKLAHOMA

Page 376, after line 4, insert the following:

SEC. 844. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON PROCUREMENT OF FIRE HOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—

(1) The General Services Administration has historically procured specialized fire hoses designed for combating wildfires used by the Forest Service.

(2) A memorandum of agreement was signed on February 5, 2014, by the Administrator of General Services and the Director of the Defense Logistics Agency designating the Defense Logistics Agency as the integrated material manager and source of supply for such fire hoses.

(3) While the intent of this agreement was to secure efficiencies in procurement and cost savings for the Government, the transfer of procurement authority to the Department of Defense had the unintentional effect

of requiring all suppliers of such fire hoses to comply with the domestic sourcing requirements of section 2533a of title 10, United States Code, also known as the Berry Amendment.

(4) There is currently only one known provider of such fire hoses and that provider is not fully compliant with the domestic sourcing requirements of the Berry Amendment.

(5) As a result of the designation of the Defense Logistic Agency as the integrated material manager for the procurement of such fire hoses and the new requirement for compliance with the Berry Amendment, the Forest Service does not anticipate the ability to procure the necessary number of fire hoses before the fire season begins in early June and is currently facing a shortfall of 56,000 hoses out of the 93,000 required. According to the Chief of the Forest Service, this shortfall represents a critical risk to a number of States that are likely to experience a season of above average wildfire activity.

(6) During the period of May 1, 2014, through May 5, 2015, less than 9 percent of quantities of such hoses purchased by the Defense Logistics Agency were procured for the purposes of the Department of Defense.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—Based on the findings in subsection (a), it is the sense of Congress that procurement authority for specialized fire hoses for the United States Forest Service should be reestablished as an activity of the General Services Administration.

AMENDMENT NO. 74 OFFERED BY MR. MCGOVERN OF MASSACHUSETTS

Page 379, after line 20, insert the following

(e) LIMITATION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to a covered item as defined in subparagraphs of (B), (C), (D), or (E) of section 2533a(b)(1) of title 10, United States Code.

AMENDMENT NO. 77 OFFERED BY MR. WALKER OF NORTH CAROLINA

At the end of title VIII (page 400, after line 23), add the following new section:

SEC. 865. STANDARDS FOR OROCUREMENT OF SECURE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND CYBER SECURITY SYSTEMS.

(a) ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense shall conduct an assessment of the application of the Open Trusted Technology Provider Standard to Department of Defense procurements for information technology and cyber security acquisitions and provide a briefing to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The assessment and briefing required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Assessment of the current Open Trusted Technology Provider Standard to determine what aspects might be adopted by the Department of Defense and where additional development of the standard may be required.

(2) Identification of the types or classes of programs where the standard might be applied most effectively, as well as identification of types or classes of programs that should specifically be excluded from consideration.

(3) Assessment of the impact on current acquisition regulations or policies of the adoption of the standard.

(4) Recommendations the Secretary may have related to the adoption of the standard or improvement in the standard to support Department acquisitions.

(5) Any other matters the Secretary may deem appropriate.

AMENDMENT NO. 78 OFFERED BY MR. YOUNG OF ALASKA

At the end of title VIII, insert the following new section:

SEC. 8___. MODIFICATIONS TO THE JUSTIFICATION AND APPROVAL PROCESS FOR CERTAIN SOLE-SOURCE CONTRACTS FOR SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.

(a) REPEAL OF SIMPLIFIED JUSTIFICATION AND APPROVAL PROCESS.—Section 811 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 2405; 41 U.S.C. 3304 note) is repealed.

(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR JUSTIFICATION AND APPROVAL PROCESS.—

(1) DEFENSE PROCUREMENTS.—Section 2304(f)(2)(D)(ii) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''if such procurement is for property or services in an amount less than $20,000,000'' before the semicolon at the end.

(2) CIVILIAN PROCUREMENTS.—Section 3304(e)(4) of title 41, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''or section 8(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(a)).'' and inserting ''; or''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(E) the procurement is for property or services in an amount less than $20,000,000 and is conducted under section 8(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(a)).''.

AMENDMENT NO. 84 OFFERED BY MR. PALAZZO OF MISSISSIPPI

Strike section 1053 and insert the following new section:

SEC. 1053. LIMITATION ON TRANSFER OF CERTAIN AH–64 APACHE HELICOPTERS FROM ARMY NATIONAL GUARD TO REGULAR ARMY AND RELATED PERSONNEL LEVELS.

Section 1712 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking ''March 31, 2016'' and inserting ''June 30, 2016''; and

(2) in subsection (e), by striking ''March 31, 2016'' and inserting ''June 30, 2016'' both places it appears.

AMENDMENT NO. 85 OFFERED BY MRS. ELLMERS OF NORTH CAROLINA

Page 474, after line 17, insert the following:

SEC. 1060. LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS TO DEACTIVATE 440TH AIRLIFT WING.

None of the funds authorized to be appropriated in this Act or otherwise made available for the Department of Defense may be used to deactivate the 440th airlift wing, or to move the personnel or aircraft of the 440th airlift wing, or to otherwise degrade the capabilities of the 440th airlift wing until the Secretary of Defense certifies that the deactivation of the 440th airlift wing will not affect the military readiness for the airborne and special operations units stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

AMENDMENT NO. 86 OFFERED BY MR. KATKO OF NEW YORK

Page 485, after line 2, add the following new section:

SEC. 10___. REPORT ON OPTIONS TO ACCELERATE THE TRAINING OF REMOTELY PILOTED AIRCRAFT PILOTS.

Not later than February 1, 2016, the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report addressing the immediate and critical training and operational needs of the remotely piloted aircraft community. The report shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the viability of using non-rated, civilian, contractor, or enlisted pilots to execute remotely piloted aircraft missions.

(2) An assessment of the availability and existing utilization of special use airspace available for remotely piloted aircraft training and a plan for accessing additional special use airspace in order to meet anticipated training requirements for remotely piloted aircraft.

(3) A comprehensive training plan aimed at increasing the throughput of undergraduate remotely piloted aircraft training without sacrificing quality and standards.

(4) Establishment of an optimum ratio for the mix of training airframes to operational airframes in the remotely piloted aircraft inventory necessary to achieve manning requirements for pilots and sensor operators and, to the extent practicable, a plan for fielding additional remotely piloted aircraft airframes at the formal training units in the active, National Guard, and reserve components in accordance with optimum ratios for MQ–9 and Global Hawk remotely piloted aircraft.

(5) Establishment of optimum and minimum crew ratios to combat air patrols taking into account all tasks remotely piloted aircraft units execute and, to the extent practicable, a plan for conducting missions in accordance with optimum ratios.

(6) Identification of any resource, legislative, or departmental policy challenges impeding the corrective action needed to reach a sustainable remotely piloted aircraft operations tempo.

(7) An assessment, to the extent practicable, of the direct and indirect impacts that the integration of remotely piloted aircraft into the national airspace system has on the ability to generate remotely piloted aircraft crews.

(8) Any other matters the Secretary determines appropriate.

AMENDMENT NO. 87 OFFERED BY MR. THORNBERRY OF TEXAS

At the end of subtitle F of title X (page 485, after line 2), add the following new section:

SEC. 1067. EXPEDITED MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF THE ARMY.

Section 1702(f) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3665) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: ''Section 10 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. I) shall not apply to a meeting of the Commission unless the meeting is attended by five or more members of the Commission.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 88 OFFERED BY MR. HECK OF WASHINGTON

At the end of title V (page 247, after line 20), add the following new section:

SEC. 5___. REPORT REGARDING NEW RULEMAKING UNDER THE MILITARY LENDING ACT AND DEFENSE MANPOWER DATA CENTER REPORTS AND MEETINGS.

(a) REPORT ON NEW MILITARY LENDING ACT RULEMAKING.—After the issuance by the Secretary of Defense of the regulation issued with regard to section 987 of title 10, United States Code (commonly known as the Military Lending Act), and part of 232 of title 32, Code of Federal Regulations (its implementing regulation), but before the relevant compliance date for any provisions of such regulation that relate to the identification of a covered borrower under the Military Lending Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that discusses—

(1) the ability and reliability of the Defense Manpower Data Center in meeting real-time requests for accurate information needed to make a determination regarding whether a borrower is covered by the Military Lending Act; or

(2) an alternate mechanism or mechanisms for identifying such covered borrowers.

(b) DEFENSE MANPOWER DATA CENTER REPORTS AND MEETINGS.—

(1) REPORTS ON ACCURACY, RELIABILITY, AND INTEGRITY OF SYSTEMS.—The Director of the Defense Manpower Data Center shall submit to Congress reports on the accuracy, reliability, and integrity of the Defense Manpower Data Center systems used to identify covered borrowers and covered policyholders under military consumer protection laws. The first report is due six months after the date of the enactment of this Act, and the Director shall submit additional reports every six months thereafter as necessary to show improvements in the accuracy, reliability, and integrity of such systems.

(2) REPORT ON PLAN TO STRENGTHEN CAPABILITIES.—Not later than six months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Defense Manpower Data Center shall submit to Congress a report on plans to strengthen the capabilities of the Defense Manpower Data Center systems, including staffing levels and funding, in order to improve the identification of covered borrowers and covered policyholders under military consumer protection laws.

(3) MEETINGS WITH PRIVATE SECTOR USERS OF SYSTEMS.—The Director of the Defense Manpower Data Center shall meet regularly with private sector users of Defense Manpower Data Center systems used to identify covered borrowers and covered policyholders under military consumer protection laws to learn about issues facing such users and to develop ways of addressing such issues. The first meeting pursuant to this requirement shall take place with three months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

AMENDMENT NO. 89 OFFERED BY MR. CRAWFORD OF ARKANSAS

Page 528, after line 2, insert the following:

SEC. 1092. SITUATIONS INVOLVING BOMBINGS OF PLACES OF PUBLIC USE, GOVERNMENT FACILITIES, PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS, AND INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 18 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 383. Situations involving bombings of places of public use, Government facilities, public transportation systems, and infrastructure facilities

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The direct participation of members of the Armed Forces assigned to explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) units providing support to civilian law enforcement agencies does not involve search, seizure, arrest or other similar activity. Upon the request of the Attorney General, the Secretary of Defense may provide such assistance in Department of Justice activities related to the enforcement of section 2332f of title 18 during situations involving bombings of places of public use, Government facilities, public transportation systems, and infrastructure facilities.

''(b) MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT.—The Secretary of Defense, through mutual aid agreement with the Attorney General shall, in the interest of public safety, waive reimbursement on military EOD support of Department of Justice activities related to the enforcement of section 2332f of title 18 for situations involving bombings of places of public use, Government facilities, public transportation systems, and infrastructure facilities.

''(c) RENDERING-SAFE SUPPORT.—Military EOD units providing rendering-safe support to Department of Justice activities relating to the enforcement of section 175, 229, or 2332a of title 18 emergency situations involving weapons of mass destruction shall be consistent with the provisions of section 382 of this title.

''(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) The term 'explosive ordnance'—

''(A) means—

''(i) bombs and warheads;

''(ii) guided and ballistic missiles;

''(iii) artillery, mortar, rocket, and small arms ammunition;

''(iv) all mines, torpedoes, and depth charges;

''(v) grenades demolition charges;

''(vi) pyrotechnics;

''(vii) clusters and dispensers;

''(viii) cartridge- and propellant– actuated devices;

''(ix) electroexplosives devices;

''(x) clandestine and improvised explosive devices (IEDs); and

''(xi) all similar or related items or components explosive in nature; and

''(B) includes all munitions containing explosives, propellants, nuclear fission or fusion materials, and biological and chemical agents.

''(2) The term 'explosive ordnance disposal procedures' means those particular courses or modes of action for access to, recovery, rendering–safe, and final disposal of explosive ordnance or any hazardous material associated with an EOD incident, including—

''(A) access procedures;

''(B) recovery procedures;

''(C) render-safe procedures; and

''(D) final disposal procedures.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''383. Situations involving bombings of places of public use, Government facilities, public transportation systems, and infrastructure facilities.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 92 OFFERED BY MR. DEFAZIO OF OREGON

Page 528, after line 2, insert the following:

SEC. 1092. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING TECHNICAL CORRECTION.

It is the sense of Congress that a technical correction to the Carl Levin and Howard P. ''Buck'' McKeon National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3881) should be enacted in order to expeditiously carry out the intent of such section 3095.

AMENDMENT NO. 93 OFFERED BY MR. LYNCH OF MASSACHUSETTS

In division A, at the end of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 1092. OBSERVANCE OF VETERANS DAY.

(a) TWO MINUTES OF SILENCE.—Chapter 1 of title 36, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 145. Veterans Day

''The President shall issue each year a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe two minutes of silence on Veterans Day in honor of the service and sacrifice of veterans throughout the history of the Nation, beginning at—

''(1) 3:11 pm Atlantic standard time;

''(2) 2:11 pm eastern standard time;

''(3) 1:11 pm central standard time;

''(4) 12:11 pm mountain standard time;

''(5) 11:11 am Pacific standard time;

''(6) 10:11 am Alaska standard time; and

''(7) 9:11 am Hawaii-Aleutian standard time.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 1 of title 36, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''145. Veterans Day.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 95 OFFERED BY MR. CONNOLLY OF VIRGINIA

At the end of subtitle A of title XII (page 544, after line 16), add the following:

SEC. 12xx. MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF OVERSEAS HUMANITARIAN, DISASTER, AND CIVIC AID PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated by this Act to carry out sections 401, 402, 404, 407, 2557, and 2561 of title 10, United States Code, up to 5 percent of such amounts may be made available to conduct monitoring and evaluation of programs conducted pursuant to such authorities during fiscal year 2016.

(b) BRIEFING.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall provide a briefing to the appropriate congressional committees on mechanisms to evaluate the programs conducted pursuant to the authorities listed in subsection (a). The briefing shall include the following:

(1) A description of how the Department of Defense evaluates program and project outcomes and impact, including cost effectiveness and extent to which programs meet designated goals.

(2) An analysis of steps taken to implement the recommendations from the following reports:

(A) The Government Accountability Office's Report entitled ''Project Evaluations and Better Information Sharing Needed to Manage the Military's Efforts''.

(B) The Department of Defense Inspector General Report numbered ''DODIG–2012–119''.

(C) The RAND Corporation's Report prepared for the Office of the Secretary of Defense entitled ''Developing a Prototype Handbook for Monitoring and Evaluating Department of Defense Humanitarian Assistance Projects''.

(c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means the following:

(1) The congressional defense committees.

(2) The Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

AMENDMENT NO. 97 OFFERED BY MR. CICILLINE OF RHODE ISLAND

At the end of subtitle B of title XII (page 550, after line 26), add the following:

SEC. 12xx. REPORT ON EFFORTS TO ENGAGE UNITED STATES MANUFACTURERS IN PROCUREMENT OPPORTUNITIES RELATED TO EQUIPPING THE AFGHAN NATIONAL SECURITY FORCES.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State shall submit to Congress a report on efforts of the Secretaries to engage United States manufacturers in procurement opportunities related to equipping the Afghan National Security Forces.

AMENDMENT NO. 98 OFFERED BY MS. SINEMA OF ARIZONA

Page 557, after line 3, insert the following (and redesignate the subsequent provisions accordingly):

(6) the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with Secretary of State, shall continue to pursue efforts to shut down ISIL's illicit oil revenues;

Page 559, after line 6, insert the following (and redesignate the subsequent provisions accordingly):

(F) A detailed description of the resources required by the Secretary of Defense to counter ISIL's illicit oil revenues

AMENDMENT NO. 100 OFFERED BY MR. BLUMENAUER OF OREGON

In the section heading for section 1216, strike ''**SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING**'' (and conform the table of contents accordingly).

In section 1216, strike ''It is the sense of Congress'' and insert the following:

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress

At the end of section 1216, add the following:

(b) SPECIAL IMMIGRANT STATUS FOR CERTAIN AFGHANS.—Section 602(b) of the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(A)(ii)(II), by striking ''International Security Assistance Force'' each place such term appears and inserting ''International Security Assistance Force, the Resolute Support Mission, or any successor organization'';

(2) in paragraph (3)(F)(i), by striking ''September 30, 2015;'' and inserting ''December 31, 2015;''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(15) ADDITIONAL REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State jointly shall submit a report to the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate containing the following:

''(A) The number of citizens or nationals of Afghanistan employed in Afghanistan by, or on behalf of, entities or organizations described in paragraph (2)(A)(ii).

''(B) A prediction of the number of such individuals who will be so employed on the date that is 2 years after the date used for the count under subparagraph (A).''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 260, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY) and the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK), a colleague on the Armed Services Committee who is also vice chair of the Subcommittee on Readiness.

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Chairman, while I will support this en bloc package, I stand in opposition to the provision to delay the transfer of Apaches from the National Guard to the Active Army.

In committee, Chairman WILSON of South Carolina and I worked very closely to authorize a congressional review, no less than 60 days, following the Commission's report release. The gentleman from Mississippi's (Mr. PALAZZO) provision would scratch this and limit our review time.

More importantly, this amendment would have devastating impacts on the Army's combat aviation brigades and on States like New York, Kansas, Hawaii, Arizona, and California.

As the Representative of Fort Drum, home of the 10th Mountain Division, any delay would cause this high operational tempo unit to be left without an aviation brigade. Let me be clear. Any Apache delay will have grave consequences on Army's readiness, deployment schedule, and dwell time.

And to clarify, in exchange for the Apaches, the National Guard is set to receive fully modernized Blackhawks. However, derailing, delaying, or limiting Apache transfers would halt Blackhawk modernization and would, consequently, inhibit lift and rescue operations, which are critical to a State's emergency response.

Mr. Chairman, while I will not vote against this package, I will continue to fight for an on-time transfer of the Apaches from the National Guard to the Army.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, let me first say that I want to thank the chairman of the Armed Services Committee for his bipartisan cooperation in arriving at this en bloc package.

I have no speakers at this point, so I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS).

Mr. ROTHFUS. I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, since its establishment, the National Guard has persistently answered the call to defend our Nation and respond in times of national crises.

After September 11, 2001, the National Guard was, once again, called on to stand to post, deploying for months on end, leaving loved ones behind.

Unfortunately, the Army's Aviation Restructuring Initiative, or ARI, is set to have a devastating impact not only on the National Guard in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, but on the entire National Guard, leaving the force less combat capable and less able to provide operational depth.

Last year, Congress wisely created the National Commission on the Future of the Army to offer a deliberate approach to addressing force structure issues and ARI. We need to allow the Commission to do its work and ensure that Congress has sufficient time to consider the Commission's report and recommendations before the Army takes any further harmful and irreversible actions.

The amendment I have offered Representatives PALAZZO and WALZ will ensure that Congress has that opportunity, and I would urge your support.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. ELLMERS).

Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I thank Chairman THORNBERRY and the committee staff for continuing to work with me on issues facing Fort Bragg, including the deactivation of the 440th Airlift Wing.

My amendment is simple. I am demanding accountability for what I believe to be a terribly misguided and shortsighted decision. The airborne and special operations units the 440th supports are unique because there are paratroopers within the Global Response Force who are on call 24/7, packed and ready to deploy anywhere in the world within hours. It is safe to say that the level of readiness required for these forces is unparalleled.

In the midst of global uncertainty, the idea of deactivating such a vital element is simply baffling to me. I see this as dangerous to our paratroopers, and I demand accountability for this ill-advised decision. As the Representative of Fort Bragg, I will not stand idly by when I see a decision that negatively impacts the brave men and women serving our country.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO).

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of amendment No. 86 to bring awareness to an issue that greatly affects the future of our Air Force, and it can be boiled down to one specific fact: we need more remotely piloted aircraft pilots.

As many of you know, the military has increasingly emphasized the use of unmanned aerial systems to support military operations around the world. We should continue providing the assets necessary to protect and enable our servicemembers to do their job.

Air Force leadership has recently made several remarks, stating the need for 300 annually trained RPA pilots. However, we can only muster a fraction of that number at this time.

I stand before this body today to ask support for a report to Congress that requests clarification on how the Department of Defense—specifically, the Air Force—plans on solving this problem.

I ask my colleagues to not restrict the operational needs of our Air Force and ask for strong support of this amendment.

I thank the gentleman from Texas for his time, and I urge adoption of my amendment.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased at this point to yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment on behalf of our Nation's servicemembers. This amendment is verbatim to a bill that the gentleman from Ohio, Congressman TIM RYAN, and I introduced earlier this year, H.R. 1465, the Medical Evaluation Parity for Servicemembers Act of 2015. This amendment will help the military identify behavioral health issues and improve suicide prevention by instituting a mental health assessment for all incoming military recruits.

A recent Army study confirmed the need to address mental health issues in a timely manner, finding that ''nearly one in five Army soldiers enter the service with a psychiatric disorder, and nearly half of all soldiers who tried suicide first attempted it before enlisting.''

The amendment is respective of servicemembers' privacy, and the mental

evaluation cannot be used in determining promotion. This amendment will simply ensure that we have a better baseline for the mental health of a servicemember during his or her military career.

These brave men and women put their lives on the line every day in the service of our Nation, and it is our responsibility to offer everything in our power to guarantee they return home safely, both physically and mentally.

This amendment has strong bipartisan support and the support of a large number of military and mental health advocacy groups which understand our troops deserve as much support as we can provide them.

Mr. Chairman, 108 of our military took their own lives between October and December of 2014 by suicide. Let's stop this tragedy.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this amendment and the underlying bill.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, at this point, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. MICA. I thank the distinguished gentleman from Texas for yielding and also for entering into this colloquy.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in concern to a potential Air Force determination under section 2667 of title 10, referencing an enhanced used lease agreement offered by the Canaveral Port Authority for use of Department of Defense lands directly adjacent to the Canaveral Harbor's deepwater port.

As you know, the Canaveral Port Authority is, in fact, an independent governmental agency established by the Florida Legislature back in 1939. Therefore, the Canaveral Port Authority is a public organization. And under section 2667 of title 10, it could be determined by the Secretary of the Air Force that public interest would be served as a result of the enhanced use leave agreement that is being offered and that competitive procedures are not compatible with the public benefit served by this public interest.

Thusly, it is in the public interest to deal with a public entity. The competitive procedures for selection of leases under this section should allow the Air Force to negotiate solely with the Canaveral Port Authority.

□ 2115

Mr. THORNBERRY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MICA. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. THORNBERRY. I fully agree that section 2667 of title 10 provides the Secretary of the Air Force the flexibility to enter into a lease with the Canaveral Port Authority. I further understand that such lease would be at full market value. So along with the gentleman, I look forward to hearing from the Secretary of the Air Force as to her determination on this particular case.

Mr. MICA. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I have no speakers on my side, so I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the remainder of my time just to mention that in this en bloc package there are amendments from nine Republicans and eight Democrats. We have heard discussed over the last two en bloc packages a number of important issues such as cybersecurity and about equipping and training our National Guard. Again, Members from both sides have contributed to this product. But to make their contributions count, this bill is going to have to pass, and I hope that all the Members who offered these 17 amendments of this en bloc and the other packages will support the final passage not only of this en bloc package but the final of the entire bill.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Chairman, I thank the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Armed Services Committee for including the Lynch-Boustany Amendment in this en bloc amendment.

This amendment would add the text of the bill, H.R. 995, the "Veterans Day Moment of Silence Act" to the NDAA. Last year, this language was incorporated into the House-passed FY 15 NDAA. Unfortunately, it was not included in the final Defense Authorization Conference Report.

Mr. Chair, this amendment calls for the national observation of two minutes of silence every Veterans Day in honor of all our veterans, past and present. It sets a time where all Americans can pause, come together, and reflect on the service of generations of brave American men and women in uniform.

Our nation is facing difficult challenges and we have strong disagreements over how to address them. However despite such differences, support for, and gratitude to, our veterans is something that we can all agree on. This silent tribute lets us set aside our differences, and come together as one nation, to say to our veterans that we appreciate everything they have done and sacrificed to keep us safe.

I would like to thank my friend and colleague, Mr. BOUSTANY, for cosponsoring this amendment with me, and for being an original cosponsor of H.R. 995.

Mr. Chair, again I thank the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Armed Services Committee for their cooperation.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Chair, I thank the Ranking Member for yielding me this time and for his leadership on so many national security and defense issues. I want to thank Chairman THORNBERRY and Ranking Member SMITH for supporting my efforts to bring this amendment to the floor for debate and making it part of this en bloc amendment.

Mr. Chair, is amendment will maintain the current simplified acquisition threshold—or SAT—for a wide variety of items, including textiles, tents, tarpaulins, flags, clothing, apparel, footwear, head gear, a wide variety of cotton, wool, silk and synthetic yarns, and the list goes on.

But most importantly, this amendment ensures that that small and medium-sized American companies, with American workers, using American-made content will continue to have the opportunity to do business with the Pentagon and provide textiles, clothing, apparel and other such materials to our service men and women at good prices.

In Dorchester, Massachusetts, AbilityOne provides employment opportunities for people who are blind or who have significant disabilities. They manufacture Berry-compliant items, including uniforms, chemical protective garments, tents, tarpaulins, hats, caps and other clothing and textile items. This amendment protects their jobs and their relationship with the DOD. It means textile, footwear and apparel manufacturers in North Brookfield, Fall River and elsewhere in Massachusetts can continue to support our troops with their high quality products and materials.

The current language in the NDAA would raise the SAT from $150,000 to $500,000. My amendment simply maintains the $150,000 threshold. Now the difference between $150 and $500,000 might not sound like much. But if that threshold had been raised in FY 2014, then 6,813 contracts totaling over $337 million in textile and clothing alone would have been exempt from the Berry amendment. This amendment keeps the Berry Amendment strong, and it keeps America strong.

Mr. Chair, this amendment is a compromise. The original amendment that I submitted to the House Rules Committee would have also maintained the current SAT on food and on specialty metals, hand tools, measuring tools, and so forth. Chairman THORNBERRY did not support maintaining the current SAT on those items, and in the spirit of compromise we narrowed the scope of the amendment to textiles, clothing, apparel and related materials. I hope as the NDAA moves through the legislative process that the scope of my original amendment will be reinstated.

This amendment is supported by a broad array of national textile and manufacturing organizations, and I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and the en bloc amendments in total.

MAY 14, 2015.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: The undersigned nine trade associations ask for your vote in support of McGovern Amendment #74 under the rule (see H. Res. 260). It will be in order during consideration of FY 2016 National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 1735) today.

Offered by Cong. Jim McGovern Amendment #74 fixes a provision in Section 854 of H.R. 1735 that would seriously harm the U.S. textile, apparel, and footwear industry.

As written, Section 854 would increase the Simplified Acquisition Procedure threshold (SAT) from $150,000 to $500,000. This change would exempt contracts up to $500,000 from compliance with both the Berry Amendment and the Kissell Amendment.

An increase of this magnitude will cause significant strain on the U.S. textile, apparel, and footwear supply chain by reducing contracting opportunities for manufacturers, large and small, covered under the Berry Amendment. Analysis of DOD-funded contracts under the SAP attached as Addendum 1 on page 4.

McGovern Amendment #74 solves this problem by lowering SAT back down to $150,000 for fiber, textile, apparel, footwear,

and other textile products covered by the Berry Amendment at 10 USC 2533a.

With fierce competition for contracts, the Berry Amendment has spurred substantial innovation in the area of military textiles, apparel, and footwear by domestic manufacturers. Weight-saving carbon fibers, ballistic-resistant fabrics used in personal protective equipment, fire resistant fabrics, medical fabrics, and collapsible fuel bladders are among the thousands of products developed for the military that also have commercial applications. These innovations have helped America's textile manufacturers stay at the forefront of technical textiles, enhancing safety and boosting employment and exports.

Substantial capital investment, including a $500 million ballistic-resistant fiber plant built in South Carolina within the last five years, illustrates the industry's commitment to the technical fiber/fabric industrial base. Thanks to the U.S. government's longstanding policy with respect to military procurement encompassed in the Berry Amendment, that plant had a ready-made market, an important factor in calculating the risk when deciding to make that investment.

Also, it is important to note that some textiles used by the military do not have a commercial market. For national security reasons, DOD does not allow certain textile technologies to be exported. Classified dyeing and finishing techniques used to reduce heat signatures or to create a secure environment for electronic communication are just two examples of U.S. investments made to develop military-specific textile products exclusively for DOD use.

Congress enacted the Berry Amendment in 1941 (USC, Title 10, Section 2533a) to ensure that a strong U.S. defense industrial base is always ready to meet the needs of the troops. It requires the Department of Defense (DOD) to procure certain products such as food, specialty metals, hand measuring tools, and textiles made with 100 percent U.S. content and labor. Since then, Congress has reaffirmed its support for the Berry Amendment by strengthening its provisions, recognizing that textiles and clothing are indispensable to our warfighter's safety and ability to execute their missions.

Understanding the need for periodic adjustments in the SAP, Congress enacted Public Law 108–375 which allowed for inflation adjustments to the SAP every five years.

However, further increase in the SAT beyond what is currently proscribed by Public Law 108- 375 will seriously erode the U.S. textile, apparel, and footwear industry's ability to supply the defense industrial base, compromise U.S. investment in textile manufacturing operations, put at risk highly skilled and good paying textile jobs, and inhibit the domestic industry's competitive advantage in commercial markets.

As the House works on this important legislation, we urge that McGovern Amendment #74 be adopted so that the FY 2016 NDAA does not erode the important value that the Berry Amendment brings to the U.S. textile, apparel, and footwear industry and our warfighters.

Again, please ensure that America continues to strength its domestic textile, clothing, and footwear supply chain. Vote for McGovern Amendment #74.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

Auggie Tantillo, President, National Council of Textile Organizations; Gifford Del Grande, Chairman, Narrow Fabrics Institute; Juanita D. Duggan, President & CEO, American Apparel and Footwear Association; Sarah Y. Freidman, Executive Director, SEAMS, the National Association for the Sewn Products Industry; Marc Fleischaker, Rubber & Plastic Footwear Manufacturers Association; Paul O'Day, President, American Fiber Manufacturers Association; Bret Kelley, Chairman, United States Industrial Fabrics Institute; Tom Dobbins, President, American Composites Manufacturers Association; Gary Adams, President/CEO, National Cotton Council.

ANALYSIS OF DOD-FUNDED CONTRACTS UNDER THE SAP

Below is an analysis of DOD-funded contracts for FY 2014 from USASpending.gov with respect to Federal Supply Classification 83 (textiles, tents, flags, etc.) and Federal Supply Classification (FSC) 84 (clothing and individual equipment etc.) as pertaining to the Simplified Acquisition Procedure (SAP) threshold.

The current SAP threshold is $150,000. Language in the chairman's FY 2016 NDAA mark in Section 844 proposes to raise that figure to $500,000. Contracts less than the threshold are not subject to the Berry Amendment's domestic sourcing requirements.

KEY POINTS

Dollar amount exempted from Berry would almost double.

Almost one dollar in five would be exempt from Berry.

Almost 92 percent of contracts would be open to imports; hurts small businesses.

If the threshold would have been $500,000 in FY 2014, 6,813 contracts would have been subject to the SAP totaling $337,086,946;

DOD-FUNDED PRIME CONTRACT AWARDS FOR FSC 83 & 84 IN FY 2014

[Rounded to nearest million or percentage]

Category	$ in Millions	% of Dollars	Contracts Awarded (Actual)	% Contracts
All	1,804	100	7,438	100
More than $500k	1,467	81	625	8
$150k to $500k	157	9	549	7
Less than $150K	180	10	6,264	84

APRIL 29, 2015.

Hon. MAC THORNBERRY,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. ADAM SMITH,
Ranking Member, Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THORNBERRY AND RANKING MEMBER SMITH: On behalf of the Warrior Protection and Readiness Coalition (WPRC), I write to express our concerns regarding a provision to raise the simplified acquisition threshold from the current level of $150,000 to $500,000. This substantial change would have an immediate negative impact on the domestic industrial base that comprises WPRC membership.

The WPRC is an industry association of leading manufacturers and distributors of Berry Amendment-compliant protective gear, tactical equipment and clothing. Leading American manufacturers and suppliers to the U.S. military represent an industrial base capability critical to national security delivering superior equipment, apparel, armor, and technology to the modem warfighter and peacekeeper.

Section 844 of the FY2016 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) Chairman's Mark would create a significant challenge and irreparable harm to WPRC member companies. Increasing the simplified acquisition threshold to $500,000 would not only create unintended contracting confusion but also exempt contracts up to $500,000 from compliance with the Berry Amendment.

WPRC members are, in many cases, the final remaining domestic manufacturers of critical components for safety and survival products for our servicemen and women. Over the past five years, declining resources and commodity based procurement practices have jeopardized efforts to modernize and innovate our industry. This proposal creates another unnecessary obstacle to our member companies and significantly limits the number of fair and open competitions they can compete for.

While we applaud your efforts to review significant defense acquisition reform, Section 844 creates unintended consequences for the domestic industrial base this effort was designed to assist. The Berry Amendment was adopted to promote the purchase of American-made goods and to sustain a warm industrial base ready to meet the immediate needs of the U.S. military.

By removing the requirement for Berry Amendment-compliance for contracts under $500,000, the Committee is jeopardizing the future of the domestic military industrial base and inviting the introduction of low quality, inconsistent products to our Armed Forces. I respectfully request that the Committee reconsider Section 844 and the true impact of this action on our member companies.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued service on behalf of our military.

DAVID COSTELLO,
Executive Director,
Warrior Protection and Readiness Coalition.

MAY 12, 2015.

Hon. MAC THORNBERRY,
Chairman, House Armed Services Committee, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. ADAM SMITH,
Ranking Member, House Armed Services Committee, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THORNBERRY AND RANKING MEMBER SMITH: On behalf of the Alliance for American Manufacturing (AAM), I write to express our concerns with Section 854 of the House FY16 National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 1735), which would increase the threshold for applicability of certain domestic content preferences applicable to Pentagon spending, including the Berry Amendment and the Specialty Metals Amendment. We strongly urge the removal of Section 854 from the NDAA.

Section 854 would increase the Simplified Acquisition Procedure (SAP) threshold from $150,000 to $500,000, thus exempting a large number of contracts from compliance with domestic content preferences that ensure a strong supply chain of U.S. producers to

equip our military. Making this change will increase the Pentagon's reliance on foreign nations for the goods needed to defend the American people and ensure mission readiness. Potential political or military conflicts with foreign supplier nations that have no duty to our national defense priorities can disrupt the timely delivery of goods needed to keep our service men and women safe at home and on the battlefield.

A healthy U.S. manufacturing sector and a robust defense industrial base are essential to our national security. Preferences for the procurement of American-made goods by our military bolster the strength and long-term viability of countless companies whose mission is to produce high-quality goods to defend the American people and our Soldiers. It is with great regard for our preparedness and national security that we urge the removal of Section 854 from the NDAA.

Sincerely,

SCOTT N. PAUL,
President.

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Chair, thank you Chairman THORNBERRY and Ranking Member SMITH for your leadership on national security and for accepting my amendment.

Terrorism is an undeniable threat to our country's security and global stability. Terrorist networks constantly develop new ways to finance their deadly operations and threaten America.

To keep our country safe, we must be one step ahead of them, cutting off their funding and stopping their efforts.

The Islamic State (I–S) is one of the world's most violent, dangerous and well financed terrorist groups. In 2014, ISIL generated approximately $1 million per day, predominantly through the sale of smuggled oil.

My amendment directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury and other agencies involved in this effort, to pursue efforts to shut down ISIL's oil revenues and report on resources needed for these efforts.

As a member of the Task Force to Investigate Terrorism Financing, I'm working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to keep money out of the hands of terrorists and find solutions, like this amendment, that strengthen America's security.

Again, I thank Chairman THORNBERRY and Ranking Member SMITH for your leadership and support.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY).

The en bloc amendments were agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 83 OFFERED BY MR. BURGESS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 83 printed in House Report 114–112.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 426, after line 6, insert the following new section:

SEC. 1004. REPORT ON AUDITABLE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report ranking all military departments and Defense Agencies in order of how advanced they are in achieving auditable financial statements as required by law. The report should not include information otherwise available in other reports to Congress.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 260, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Chairman, I thank you for the recognition. My amendment today reflects the frustration that many in Congress have felt for some time over the Department of Defense's lack of real progress on being able to produce a full accounting of where the money that has been given to them over the years has been spent.

In 1990, Congress passed the Chief Financial Officers Act requiring every department and every agency in the Federal Government to produce verifiable financial statements which could be fully audited. To date, each major agency has been able to complete this task except one—the Department of Defense—and Congress has allowed the Department of Defense to continue to not comply with this law for now going on 25 years. It is time for that to end.

While the Department of Defense might claim it has taken steps toward completing an audit, purportedly to be accomplished by 2017, Congress has little verifiable proof that this will actually occur.

The amendment that I offer today with BARBARA LEE of California asks the Department of Defense to rank—in order from most ready to be audited to least ready to be audited—every entity within the Department which is required to provide financial statements for the overall efforts of the departmentwide audit. Congress needs to know which offices within the Department of Defense are making significant strides toward this goal and which offices are not.

The amendment requires no additional analysis, no additional explanation, simply a list. If Congress is serious about exercising its oversight role through the power of the purse, then this is the least we should expect the Department to provide to Congress, a pulse-check to show Members where the audit truly stands.

Ms. LEE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and I are not the only ones who have been concerned about the Pentagon's lack of progress in this arena. In 2013, the Government Accountability Office—Congress' eyes and ears on the ground for keeping the Federal Government accountable—stated that it could not complete an audit of the entire Federal Government because the Department of Defense could not produce verifiable documents. The GAO stated at the time: ''The main obstacles to a GAO opinion on the accrual-based consolidated financial statements were: serious financial management problems at the Department of Defense that made its financial statements unauditable.'' A GAO source was reported to have stated that the Pentagon routinely postponed meetings at the last minute with GAO pertaining to the audit. This is unacceptable, and the body should not accept it.

Besides being necessary for the proper separation of powers role that Congress continues to assert in overseeing how taxpayer money is spent, this amendment represents good governance. It is for this reason that our amendment today is endorsed by the Americans for Tax Reform, Taxpayers for Common Sense, and the National Taxpayers Union.

Mr. Chairman, Congress must stand up for taxpayers and tell the Pentagon that it must justify how it spends every dollar that it is given. Congress has been complacent for too long on this issue. With today's vote perhaps that will end.

Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Chairman THORNBERRY and his staff for working with my office on this. I look forward to working on this issue as the deadline approaches, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LEE. I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. LEE. First, let me thank Mr. BURGESS for his very diligent and hard work on this amendment. It is a pleasure to work with the gentleman to bring transparency and accountability to Pentagon spending so taxpayers know where their hard-earned dollars are going. I also want to thank Congresswoman SCHAKOWSKY for her support and work on this very important amendment. I am pleased to be working with Congressman BURGESS and Congresswoman SCHAKOWSKY to build upon the work that we are doing with our bipartisan Audit the Pentagon Act, H.R. 942.

Mr. Chairman, I have offered an Audit the Pentagon amendment since 2011, and this work continues now with Representatives BURGESS and SCHAKOWSKY. This is a commonsense amendment to ensure audit-readiness at the Pentagon, something that Congress mandated I think it was 25 years ago; yet two-plus decades later, Pentagon officials continue to tell Congress that audit-readiness is still years away. This is simply unacceptable.

So our amendment is simple. It would require a report ranking all military departments and Defense agencies in order of how advanced they are in achieving audit-readiness. Taxpayers deserve to know how and where their hard-earned dollars are being spent.

Pentagon spending accounts for more than half of Federal discretionary spending and totals more than half a trillion dollars. The fact that any part

of the government cannot pass an audit is unacceptable, let alone a department that spends more than $600 billion annually. That is, frankly, outrageous. I bet you the Department of Housing and Urban Development can't get away with this.

Now, I am a former small-business owner, 11 years, and I can tell you one thing. I know the importance of having one's books in order. Whether it is in the private sector or the public sector, it is critical to success. In fact, we all demand that all individuals, families, organizations, and companies be able to pass an audit. Why in the world should the Pentagon be any different?

Taxpayers deserve better than black-box budgeting and two decades of ''we will get on with this'' rhetoric, and they keep postponing and saying ''we will get to it later.'' That is unacceptable when it comes to ending waste, fraud, and abuse. I remember several years ago there were reports from The New York Times, and subsequently these reports were substantiated, that taxpayer dollars—cash money—in suitcases were being passed out in Afghanistan. What in the world are we doing? We have no clue where that money went or how much it was. It was cash money.

So we need to take this action, and I thank Mr. BURGESS and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY for this. If you ask me, I think we need to take bolder actions to address the Pentagon's failure to achieve audit-ready status and somehow at some point penalize them if they don't do that because we all would be penalized if in fact our books were not in order. So this amendment, I just have to say, is a major step in the right direction.

Mr. Chairman, the American people deserve to know how the Pentagon is spending their hard-earned tax dollars. We must end waste, fraud, and abuse at the Pentagon. We need to achieve audit-readiness. Once again, none of us could get away with this, none, no Federal agency could get away with this. So we must begin this process for accountability and transparency. It is important that the public know exactly how their money is being spent. There is no way the Pentagon should get away with this.

So, Mr. Chairman, I urge a ''yes'' vote on this amendment because unauditable is unacceptable. I thank Mr. BURGESS, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Chairman, at this time, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY), the chairman of the full committee.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I support this amendment. I rise just to make two points. Number one, unfortunately, there are a lot of Federal agencies that can't pass an audit, and I hope that all the other committees of the Congress are as diligent as our committee is about making sure they get their agencies to where they can.

Our committee in particular, led by CPA Mr. CONAWAY of Texas, we have pushed this issue, held many oversight hearings, and will continue to push this issue. I think the gentleman's amendment helps that effort. But I want to be really clear that this is a high priority of the committee, and it needs to be a high priority for the other departments besides the Department of Defense as well.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Chairman, at this point I am prepared to yield back, but I do want to thank the chairman of the full committee for hearing our amendment this evening. I also want to thank him for what I know is a significant amount of work and challenge to get this bill to the floor.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to its speedy passage tomorrow, and yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LOUDERMILK) having assumed the chair, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H. R. 1735) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 28 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2135

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LOUDERMILK) at 9 o'clock and 35 minutes p.m.

TRIBUTE TO NEVADA SENATOR HOWARD CANNON

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Nevada Senator Howard Cannon.

In 1982, I served as Senator Cannon's faculty intern; and every day, in my district office, I have the privilege of sitting behind his personal desk, loaned to me by his daughter Nancy Downey. It serves as a constant reminder of his many heroic acts. From delivering paratroopers in the lead plane on D-Day to passionately advocating for Nevada's interests on the Senate floor, Howard Cannon's valor and courage are truly unmatched.

This June, Nancy will travel to France to cut the ribbon on the new extension of the D-Day Paratrooper Historical Center, which features her father's restored C–47, the ''Stoy Hora,'' among other artifacts from the invasion. It is a fitting tribute to Senator Cannon and the brave men and women who risked or lost their lives so we can live in a safer world today.

The legacy of Howard Cannon cannot be summed up in 1 minute, Mr. Speaker, so I will now submit for the RECORD an article from the Las Vegas Review-Journal, titled: ''Humble'' Air Warrior Had Crucial D-Day Job: France to honor late Sen. Cannon.

[From the Las Vegas Review Journal: May 12, 2015]

''HUMBLE'' AIR WARRIOR HAD CRUCIAL D-DAY JOB, FRANCE TO HONOR LATE SEN. CANNON, OTHERS FOR WWII ROLES

(By Keith Rogers)

Among the accomplishments of Nevada's late-Sen. Howard Cannon, from his 33-year political career to his Air Force Reserve service as a major general, his biggest achievement arguably was his role in delivering paratroopers in the lead plane during the June 6, 1944, D-Day invasion of Normandy, France.

With mental toughness and steady hands, then-Maj. Cannon, co-pilot of the C–47 Skytrain ''Stoy Hora,'' and pilot Col. Frank Krebs, commander of the 440th Troop Carrier Group, spearheaded the assault to free France from the grip of Nazi Germany's forces.

Had their plane and others in the 45-ship formation not made it to the drop zone near St. Mere Eglise, the soldiers of the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment might never have been able to provide the cover and distraction for the massive troop landings on the Normandy coast that marked a turning point in World War II.

For that, the grand opening of the extension at the D-Day Paratroopers Historical Center featuring the restored C–47 ''Stoy Hora,'' the pilot's log book and other artifacts will be held June 12 in Normandy's Saint-Come-du-Mont. A flight simulator with special effects will treat visitors to a simulated 7-minute flight inside the aircraft.

Cannon's daughter, Nancy Downey of Genoa, and Krebs' daughter, Christine Goyer, will cut the ribbon with Ethan Wolverton, great-grandson of Lt. Col. Robert Wolverton, commander of the 3rd Battalion's stick of paratroopers, who was killed by Germany machinegun fire while he dangled in his harness after his parachute caught on a tree.

''In our region, we feel that the pilots and crews have not been significantly recognized for their action on D-Day, and we are attempting to not forget them in our museum extension,'' event coordinator Michel de Trez wrote in Downey's invitation. ''It is also our way to honor those who fought and died on the sector where we are located.''

In a telephone interview from Minden last week, Downey said she is looking forward to seeing the C–47 her father flew 71 years ago.

''I think it's a great honor to be a pilot of something that's living history, to be a memorial to people like my dad who risked their lives and lost lives to help, not only France, but the world be a safer place,'' she