

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7712

To prohibit the Secretary of Defense from eliminating or otherwise modifying certain programs of the National Defense University pending an assessment of such programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 21, 2020

Mr. PANETTA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To prohibit the Secretary of Defense from eliminating or otherwise modifying certain programs of the National Defense University pending an assessment of such programs.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Special Operations and
5 International Security Education Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. COLLEGE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS**
2 **OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY.**

3 (a) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary of Defense may
4 not eliminate, divest, downsize, or reorganize the College
5 of International Security Affairs, nor its satellite program,
6 the Joint Special Operations Masters of Arts, of the Na-
7 tional Defense University, or seek to reduce the number
8 of students educated at the College, or its satellite pro-
9 gram, until 30 days after the date on which the congres-
10 sional defense committees receive the report required by
11 subsection (c).

12 (b) ASSESSMENT, DETERMINATION, AND REVIEW.—
13 The Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, in consultation
14 with the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and
15 Readiness, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special
16 Operations/Low-Intensity Conflict, the Deputy Assistant
17 Secretary of Defense for Counternarcotics and Global
18 Threats, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for
19 Stability and Humanitarian Affairs, the Deputy Assistant
20 Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Com-
21 bating Terrorism, the Chief Financial Officer of the De-
22 partment, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and
23 the Commander of United States Special Operations Com-
24 mand, shall—

25 (1) assess requirements for joint professional
26 military education and civilian leader education in

1 the counterterrorism, irregular warfare, and asym-
2 metrical domains to support the Department and
3 other national security institutions of the Federal
4 Government;

5 (2) determine whether the importance, chal-
6 lenges, and complexity of the modern counterter-
7 rorism environment and irregular and asymmetrical
8 domains warrant—

9 (A) a college at the National Defense Uni-
10 versity, or a college independent of the National
11 Defense University whose leadership is respon-
12 sible to the Office of the Secretary of Defense;
13 and

14 (B) the provision of resources, services,
15 and capacity at levels that are the same as, or
16 decreased or enhanced in comparison to, those
17 resources, services, and capacity in place at the
18 College of International Security Affairs on
19 January 1, 2019;

20 (3) review the plan proposed by the National
21 Defense University for eliminating the College of
22 International Security Affairs and reducing and re-
23 structuring the counterterrorism, irregular, and
24 asymmetrical faculty, course offerings, joint profes-
25 sional military education and degree and certificate

1 programs, and other services provided by the Col-
2 lege; and

3 (4) assess the changes made to the College of
4 International Security Affairs since January 1,
5 2019, and the actions necessary to reverse those
6 changes, including relocating the College and its as-
7 sociated budget, faculty, staff, students, and facili-
8 ties outside of the National Defense University.

9 (c) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than February 1,
10 2021, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional de-
11 fense committees a report on—

12 (1) the findings of the Secretary with respect to
13 the assessments, determination, and review con-
14 ducted under subsection (b); and

15 (2) such recommendations as the Secretary may
16 have for higher education in the counterterrorism,
17 irregular, and asymmetrical domains.

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