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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, January 18, 2008, at 10 a.m.

House of Representatives

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2008

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord, if and when Members of Congress are ever broken-hearted or frustrated in their efforts to do Your will or accomplish good purpose for Your people, let them recall the words of Isaiah: ''Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them around the Earth and spread across the Earth crops and resources. It is I, the Lord, who have called you for the victory of justice. I have grasped you by the hand. I have formed you and set you as a covenant of the people and a light for the nations.''

Open, Lord, their eyes that they may have a vision filled with hope and promise. Bring them out of their prison of emptiness and from the dizziness of their darkness. Glorify Your name in them and through them again and again, both now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

A NEW VISION FOR INVESTING IN AMERICA

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, there's a certain irony: As the country is slipping towards recession, the Bush administration is backing away from its own study on infrastructure finance. The answer is simple. It's not a gimmick. Think of the subprime mess that got us into this situation in the first place. The solution is more money to invest. There are examples of where money may be available. For example, the carbon-constrained economy that we are moving into will create a great deal of value, some of which could be captured to help pay for infrastructure.

It is critical, however, that we have a new vision of cleaning up the environment, rebuilding America, and making it more energy efficient, because people are not, nor should they put a lot of money into yesterday's plan. A new vision for investing in America in this century is a key, not just to fighting this temporary recession but making our communities more livable and making our families safer, healthier, and more economically secure.

IN RECOGNITION OF AMBER McDANIEL

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to wish a fond farewell to a member of the Second Congressional District staff, Amber McDaniel. A member of our team from the very beginning, Amber served as deputy campaign manager during my 2001 run for Congress, as a field representative and as our office manager. She will be joining Emerging Markets Private Equity Association as their executive assistant.

Amber's hard work and dedication have earned her a reputation as someone that is willing to always go that extra mile to get the job done. I have had the privilege of getting to know Amber as someone of immense personal and professional integrity, as well as a dear friend. Her service will be missed.

As a 4-year letterman graduate of the University of South Carolina, Amber is the daughter of Pete and Andi Riddell of Westerville, Ohio, and sister of Andrew Riddell and Richard Fleeman. We are all tremendously proud of Amber and wish her the best in the years to come.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

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DEMOCRATS RECOGNIZE THAT ECONOMY IS IN TROUBLE, VOW TO WORK WITH BUSH TO STIMULATE ECONOMY

(Mr. SIRES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SIRES. Madam Speaker, across the country more and more Americans are struggling to make ends meet. Unemployment has risen to 5 percent. Home values are dropping and millions of Americans are getting hit with mortgage rate adjustments. At the same time, the costs of health care, groceries, gasoline, home heating oil, and college educations continue to rise. It is welcome news that Federal Reserve Chairman Bernanke is signaling that the Fed will cut interest rates to address the slowing economy. But this is not enough.

Democrats want to work with the President and the Republican Congress in the coming weeks to jump-start the economy and provide sound relief to American families. I would hope that we can all agree that the economy needs a jolt. Democrats believe a fiscal stimulus plan should adhere to three simple principles to be effective: It must be timely, targeted, and temporary.

Madam Speaker, we want to work in a bipartisan fashion immediately to develop a legislative plan based on these three principles so that the stimulus plan can be passed and implemented into law without delay.

SOUND POLICY FOR AMERICA'S ENERGY NEEDS, NOT HOLLOW PROMISES

(Mr. BOUSTANY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, across the country, American families are dealing with high energy prices. Families, especially those at risk due to home foreclosure, illness, and job insecurity face high anxiety about just how high these prices will go. Oil and gas prices soared last year, but this Congress did nothing to address the underlying problem. Some suggest an increase in the gasoline tax, a 40-cent per gallon increase. Now that is a lot of money in southwest Louisiana.

Washington must rein in waste and promote energy solutions to meet our energy needs. This Congress should promote sensible policies that unleash American ingenuity to come up with the next generation of alternative fuels. Washington also needs to work to fix our aging roadways and bridges. But we have a responsibility to cut wasteful spending instead of hiking taxes.

Let's do something positive for the people. We can promote energy solutions and fund necessary repairs for our infrastructure. Increasing taxes is not a solution. Let's make the hard decisions, because that is what the American people put us here to do.

ADMINISTRATION'S BUILDUP TO WAR IN IRAN

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, over the past few years this administration has been beating the drums of war against Iran. There are parallels against their efforts to try to create a war against Iran and the falsehoods that set us on the path to war against Iraq. We know that the United States intelligence community was able to demonstrate that the administration's claims that Iran had a nuclear weapons program were in fact not true.

The January 6 incident at the Strait of Hormuth is still another cause for this Congress to look deeply at the administration's Iranian war buildup, because it appears from news reports that the Department of Defense grossly inflated an encounter that took place in the strait, an encounter that was not like any that had taken place before, and then not only inflated it, but fabricated information that would cause the American people to believe that Iran was demonstrating military aggressiveness.

We really have to get off the path of war towards Iran and start working on building diplomatic relations.

TAX INCREASES HARM THE ECONOMY

(Mr. AKIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, as we start a new year, one of the things that we are seeing in the economy is signs of stress. The unemployment is rising somewhat, we see the trouble with the housing market, the savings and loan crisis. Over the past year, the Chairman of the Fed, Ben Bernanke, warned that the Democrat tax increases increasingly threaten our economy. Last year, the Democrats passed a $528 billion tax increase here in the House and proposed the mother of all tax increases, a $3.5 trillion tax increase, the largest in the history of our country.

That is exactly the wrong medicine in an economy that is struggling. Instead, what we should be doing is we should be returning a portion of that money that people earn so that it can be invested and strengthen the economy and put us back on the road to recovery, just as we did in 2001 and 2002. It's time for us to understand that tax increases are exactly the wrong medicine when the economy is struggling. I hope the Democrats remember that.

TAX BREAKS FOR THOSE SUFFERING THE MOST

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, the Dow Jones Industrial Average has dropped over 10 percent, and all economic indicators indicate that we are in serious financial trouble. This Congress needs to respond on behalf of the American people. Unfortunately, in the past this Congress has responded by giving tax breaks to the wealthiest, and it has created the largest gap in income between the upper 1 percent and the other 99 percent, probably in the history of this country.

We need to work in a bipartisan fashion. We need to work together. The previous speaker was correct: We need to give money back to taxpayers. But they need to be the working taxpayers, who are suffering the most, the people who are now unemployed, not able to pay taxes because they have lost their jobs, or people who need help with food stamps, and people who will immediately put that money into the economy, not the wealthiest who have savings in the hundreds and thousands and millions of dollars and can live on through this and survive it and won't put that money back into the economy.

The tax breaks of the past were mistakes. The spending needs to be for people who are suffering. They are the people who know the hard economic times we have. I read my e-mails on a daily basis and there are many people out there suffering who need economic help now. We need to act in a bipartisan fashion, but remember those who suffer the most.

□ 1015

EMPLOYERS WHO HIRE ILLEGALS

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, during a routine traffic stop, an illegal immigrant named Juan Leonardo Quintero-Perez shot Houston Police Officer Rodney Johnson in the back of the head and killed him. This case highlights the illegal immigrant epidemic in this country.

It seems, however, that Juan Quintero-Perez had already been deported before from the United States. In 1998, Quintero was arrested and convicted of indecency with a child in Texas and then was deported back to Mexico. But Perez was able to return to the United States a few months later because his employer, Robert Camp, sent money to Mexico to hire a smuggler that snuck Perez back to Houston.

Camp knew that Quintero-Perez was an illegal immigrant and a criminal, but Camp hired him again anyway. Camp even rented a home for Quintero-Perez, and then Perez murdered Officer Johnson.

Those who knowingly hire and house illegal immigrants, all in the name of making a little money, should go to jail. Rodney Johnson's blood is on the hands of the employer who brought the illegal outlaw back to the United States.

And that's just the way it is.

DEMOCRATS RECOGNIZE THAT ECONOMY IS IN TROUBLE AND VOW TO WORK WITH PRESIDENT TO STIMULATE IT

(Mr. ALTMIRE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, as Congress resumes this week, our priority must be to work in a bipartisan fashion to address our struggling economy.

There is no way to sugarcoat this economy. Over the past 12 months, wages have fallen, forcing hardworking middle-class families to work harder for less. As a result, family debt is at an all-time high and household debt averages an average 133 percent of disposable income. Last year, families were spending 14.5 percent of their disposable income to service their own debt, and middle-class families are having a harder and harder time just making ends meet.

Democrats want to work with President Bush to create a bipartisan economic plan that is timely, targeted, and temporary. Economic experts say this is the best way to stimulate the economy. Last Friday, congressional leaders sent a letter to President Bush asking him to come to the table so that a bipartisan plan can be reached.

Madam Speaker, the American people need our help during this uncertain economic time. We cannot wait any longer to help this economy, and the only way it can be done is if we work together.

MEDIA COVERAGE OF DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES MORE FAVORABLE THAN COVERAGE OF REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, a study by Harvard University and the Project for Excellence in Journalism has reaffirmed what many of us have long observed: Media coverage of Democratic Presidential candidates has been far more abundant and favorable than coverage of Republican Presidential candidates.

The study found that 49 percent of all stories involved Democratic candidates, while just 31 percent involved Republican candidates. In addition, Democratic Presidential candidates received twice as much favorable coverage as Republicans, and Hillary Clinton drew nearly twice as much media coverage as any Republican nominee.

Until we hold journalists to the highest standards of their profession, unfair reporting will continue to influence elections and undermine our democracy.

BETTER LEADERSHIP NEEDED DURING TRYING ECONOMIC TIMES

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, America is sliding into a full-fledged recession. Meanwhile, the President continues to pour hundreds of billions of dollars more into the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the first wars in America's history in which most Americans have never been asked to sacrifice anything.

The President has offered no means to pay for this war spending. It is being financed solely through increased borrowing. Apparently, the idea is to borrow money, particularly from China, while driving up oil prices that benefit Iran in order to fight the war on terrorism. I am not sure that is such a wise strategy.

We send an astounding $60 million a day to China. We now owe China $1.4 trillion. America has never been so deeply in debt to another country in our Nation's history. It is the equivalent of every American borrowing $4,000 from China.

Today, the Bush administration will announce that our trade deficit with China is $250 billion, a quarter of a trillion dollars, just this year. We have gotten ourselves into a financial vise, too dependent upon a totalitarian state. It can't continue and should not. We need better leadership, Madam Speaker.

COMMENDING PETER GROFF ON BECOMING FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN STATE SENATE PRESIDENT IN COLORADO HISTORY

(Mr. PERLMUTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commend my friend Peter Groff on his historic achievement of becoming the first African American State Senate President in Colorado's history. Senator Groff becomes only the third African American Senate President in U.S. history. This momentous accomplishment is well-deserved.

Senator Groff is one of the most honorable, bright, and deliberate individuals I have ever had the pleasure to serve with. He embodies statesmanship and has earned the trust and esteem of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

Senator Groff's courageous and visionary approach to governing can be summed up in his own words: ''To be bigger than the politics of the moment.'' I find it fitting that the man nicknamed ''the conscience of the Colorado Senate'' would be the first in our State's history to shatter this once seemingly impenetrable glass ceiling.

In closing, the Honorable Shirley Chisholm once said, ''I don't measure America by its achievement, but by its potential.'' I can think of no better person to help Colorado achieve its potential than Peter Groff. He will serve Colorado with honor and distinction.

BRINGING ECONOMIC SECURITY TO WORKING FAMILIES

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to express my strong concern about the fiscal crisis that we are facing here in our country.

The subprime mortgage crisis has directly impacted millions of American homeowners, particularly in my own district in the San Gabriel Valley. As the chart shows, nearly 650 families in my district somewhere lost their homes to foreclosure. In Los Angeles alone, a family loses their home every hour.

Nationally, unemployment rates have risen above 5 percent. Half of my district has a rate above 5 percent. In East Los Angeles, it is upwards of 7.2 percent. Other economic indicators are showing signs of an economic slowdown, including a sharp decline in consumer spending and the largest annual increase in wholesale prices in 26 years.

While I am proud that this House has passed billions to provide relief for middle-income Americans and small businesses and increased the minimum wage, we still have to do more. I look forward to working with my colleagues across the aisle to bring economic security back to the working families, not only in my district, but across this country.

RESPONSE NEEDED REGARDING SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN MILITARY

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to associate myself with the remarks that my colleagues have made on the existence of an economic crisis and to ask this administration to wake up. I hope that we will do something to deal with the catastrophic subprime mortgage collapse, and that is to call for a moratorium on all foreclosures across America, those individuals who are behind in their payments and those who are in fact keeping up with their payments. Some response has to come.

But I do want to step aside from the economic engine and the need for that to cite a situation that I think is drastic and, of course, a disaster, and that is the tragedy of the young marine, the young woman, who has now lost her

life in North Carolina, and to ask the United States military what happens when a woman alleges sexual harassment, or, in this instance, rape. I think it is imperative that we have a system and a response that was not given to this young woman.

Some years ago, the Women's Caucus, Republicans and Democrats, raised the question of sexual harassment that was permeating our United States military. They are too good for this and this must stop. I am saddened by her loss. I believe it could have been avoided. We need a response, and we need it now.

PRESIDENT MUST WORK WITH CONGRESS TO HELP WORKING AMERICANS

(Ms. SHEA-PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Speaker, for months now, economic experts have been warning that our economy was in trouble. After some disturbing signs about job losses in this country, the President finally came out and made some comments saying that there were ''mixed signals'' about the state of the economy.

These are not mixed signals about the state of the economy, and Americans understand. Americans know they are having more trouble paying for their mortgages, having trouble paying for their heating bills, having trouble paying for their gas, having trouble paying for all the costs of living in America right now.

The President should not continue to call these signs ''mixed signals,'' should acknowledge that we have some problems, and work in a bipartisan manner to straighten this out.

He might also wonder what impact the war in Iraq is having as we pour billions of dollars into Iraq and take the money from our own people and then borrow the money to continue the fight in Iraq. He might ask himself if this, too, is hurting our economy.

I ask the President to work with us to find answers for America's working people.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. JONES of Ohio). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Recorded votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

CONDEMNING ASSASSINATION OF FORMER PAKISTANI PRIME MINISTER BENAZIR BHUTTO AND REAFFIRMING COMMITMENT OF UNITED STATES TO ASSIST PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 912) condemning the assassination of former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and reaffirming the commitment of the United States to assist the people of Pakistan in combating terrorist activity and promoting a free and democratic Pakistan.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 912

Whereas on December 27, 2007, former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was assassinated while departing a peaceful election rally;

Whereas the attack on Ms. Bhutto also killed some 20 other innocent bystanders and fellow Muslims;

Whereas Ms. Bhutto had returned to Pakistan in October 2007 after 8 years of self-imposed exile for the stated purpose of bringing democracy and the voice of moderation back to Pakistan;

Whereas Pakistan has struggled historically in its path toward a secure and stable democracy, having been ruled by unelected leaders for 34 out of 60 years of Pakistan's history;

Whereas Pakistan has been plagued by over 40 suicide attacks, claiming over 700 lives in 2007;

Whereas the Federally Administered Tribal Areas in Pakistan are being used by al Qaeda, the Taliban, and other terrorist and extremist elements to regroup, retrain, and recruit for future attacks in Afghanistan and Pakistan;

Whereas Pakistan is a nuclear-armed nation, adding another level of complexity to Pakistan's deteriorating security situation and raising the specter of nuclear arms falling into the hands of extremists in the future;

Whereas the international community has a vital interest in supporting a free, stable, and secure Pakistan so as to stem the rise of extremism in the region, prevent global acts of terrorism originating in Pakistan, and support the movement toward stable political institutions and democratic values and the rule of law;

Whereas in the past 5 years, the United States has provided over $5,000,000,000 in assistance to Pakistan and an additional $5,000,000,000 to reimburse Pakistan for its expenses incurred in combating terrorism;

Whereas a significant portion of United States assistance and reimbursements have gone to support Pakistani military operations in the Pakistan-Afghanistan border region, counterterrorism operations in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas in Pakistan and to increase Pakistan's counterterrorism and military capability;

Whereas there is an acute need for additional assistance from the United States and other countries to support and promote Pakistan's economic, social, and political development; and

Whereas the tragic death of Ms. Bhutto creates even greater uncertainty in an unstable region: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns in the strongest terms the assassination of former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and expresses its condolences to her family and the families of all those who were killed or injured in the attack of December 27, 2007;

(2) supports efforts by Pakistan to expeditiously bring to justice those who have perpetrated this cruel and cowardly attack;

(3) welcomes the provision of assistance by the Government of the United Kingdom of expertise to the Government of Pakistan in the conduct of the investigation of the attack;

(4) commends the Government of Pakistan for accepting such assistance and urges that government to allow experts from the United Kingdom to participate in such investigation in the fullest possible manner;

(5) urges the people and Government of Pakistan to be relentless in its pursuit of a democratically-elected government, including the holding of free and fair elections at the earliest possible opportunity;

(6) expresses its support for the freedom of the media, the ability of political parties to express their views without restriction, and the independence of the judiciary in Pakistan; and

(7) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to assist the people of Pakistan in combating terrorist activity and promoting a free and democratic Pakistan.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 912.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, on December 27, former Prime Minister of Pakistan Benazir Bhutto was assassinated in Rawalpindi as she left a peaceful political rally. In addition, 20 of her supporters were killed in a suicide bomb blast and Pakistan was wracked by violence and instability in the immediate aftermath.

Former Prime Minister Bhutto had returned to Pakistan in October after several years in exile in an attempt to bring Pakistan back to the democratic fold and inject the voice of moderation into the Pakistani parliamentary elections. Her killers cut short that effort in an attack that was one of 40 suicide bombings that killed 700 people in Pakistan during 2007.

Ms. Bhutto's life was marked by tragedy that played out on Pakistan's public stage. Her father was hung after a questionable trial. Her brother was murdered. As Prime Minister, she was twice removed from office by the army amid allegations of corruption and wound up in self-imposed exile. Yet she

remained very popular with the people of Pakistan, especially those in her home province of Sindh, and as the awful events of December 27 demonstrate, she was perceived as a threat by someone.

The United States and the rest of the international community have a vital interest in supporting a free, stable, and secure Pakistan so as to stem the rise of extremism in South Asia, prevent global acts of terrorism from originating in Pakistan, and support the movement toward stable political institutions, democratic values, and the rule of law.

The fact that al Qaeda, the Taliban and other extremist elements are using the federally administered tribal areas to regroup, retain and recruit for future attacks in Pakistan and Afghanistan is a dangerous component of instability that, when added to Pakistan's possession of nuclear weapons, conjures up the frightening possibility of terrorists with access to weapons of mass destruction.

All of this means that the United States and the rest of the international community need to do all that we can to promote and support Pakistan's economic, social and political development to prevent Pakistan from becoming a failed state.

□ 1030

The resolution before us today condemns Ms. Bhutto's assassination, expresses condolences to her family and the families of the other victims of the attacks, and reaffirms the commitment of the United States to the people of Pakistan as they combat terrorism and work to establish a free and democratic country. I urge all of our colleagues, Madam Speaker, to support the resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, this resolution condemns the assassination of former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and reaffirms the commitment of the United States to assist the people of Pakistan in combating terrorist activity and promoting a free and democratic Pakistan.

I would like to commend the author Mr. ACKERMAN and the distinguished chairman of our committee Mr. LANTOS for their leadership in introducing this timely resolution.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the people of the United States and the Congress, this resolution expresses our sympathy for the people of Pakistan on the tragic assassination of former Prime Minister Bhutto last December 27. It should be noted that, in the immediate aftermath of the attack, both the President and Secretary of State Rice immediately extended condolences to the Bhutto family and the family of others who were killed and wounded on that horrible day. And, as so many observers have noted, Ms. Bhutto's death is a great loss to Pakistan. As Secretary Rice stated, she was a woman of great courage with an impressive commitment to democracy and to the future of Pakistan itself.

Madam Speaker, as President Bush has emphasized, the perpetrators of this terrible crime must be brought to justice. In this regard, the Congress joins with the administration in welcoming the government of Pakistan's decision to accept British assistance to the investigation into Ms. Bhutto's death. We all hope that their actions to ensure a credible and transparent investigation of the circumstances surrounding Ms. Bhutto's death will help to restore calm, contribute to the conditions needed for a free and fair election to take place, and bring the perpetrators of her death to justice.

The assassination of the former Prime Minister and the apparent attempt to destabilize Pakistan remind us again how consequential this relationship is to American national interests and our own homeland security. It is vital that we continue to seek to forge an enduring relationship and partnership with a democratic, stable, and prosperous Pakistan that remains a strong partner in the campaign against Islamic militants and which maintains responsible control over its nuclear weapons technology.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) be permitted to manage the remainder of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. With that, I urge support for the resolution and reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY).

Mr. KENNEDY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution, remembering a true pioneer in the Muslim world. As the first woman to lead an Islamic nation, Prime Minister Bhutto represented a great hope for Pakistan and world peace.

I had a chance to meet with Benazir Bhutto when she came to the United States to visit the John F. Kennedy Library back in the 1990s; and I was hopeful that I would have the chance to meet her again on the evening of her assassination when I was visiting Islamabad. Tragically, I heard the news as I was on my way to go visit her that evening while I was visiting Islamabad, and it was an evening obviously that I will never forget. It was one of those moments that many people tell me about when they recall my uncle's assassination. They say to me, ''I'll never forget where I was when I heard the news.''

Madam Speaker, I often heard from people when I was over there when they tell me about my uncle and how they had heard the news all the way over in Pakistan over 40 years ago where they were when they heard the news; and I can tell you, when I went and visited the headquarters of her party after her assassination and visited the supporters of hers, their heartbroken feelings were such that she was considered by them to be part of their family. And it was something that I will never forget, because she was much more than just a political leader in their view; she was someone who was somewhat of an icon, a person who inspired a nation much more than just as any ordinary political leader would. As such, this assassination represents much more than just the killing of a political leader; it represents the dashing of hopes and aspirations of millions of Pakistanis.

So, I join my colleagues in this resolution to say that we in the United States stand with our friends in Pakistan in joining in solidarity with them, and ensuring that her death is not a death that is going to be in vain, but, rather, that we are going to ensure that this election is going to be an election that she would have hoped would have been one that is transparent, fair, and would have lived up to the hopes that she had for a free and fair Pakistan. That is what we will all work for here in the United States and that I hope this resolution will help to bring about.

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support as an original cosponsor of House Resolution 912, condemning the assassination of former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, and reaffirming the commitment of the United States to assist the people of Pakistan in combating terrorist activity and promoting a free and democratic Pakistan.

Let me begin by commending the chairman of the subcommittee, on which I serve as ranking member, for taking his usual efforts with speed and sensitivity and professionalism to bring this resolution to the floor forthwith. I also want to commend Chairman LANTOS. And I would take note of the presence of the Speaker of the House on the floor. This is an important resolution for this Congress to embrace, and it is important in the wake of this tragedy that it be the first thing this Congress do in this year.

All of us, as we were enjoying time with our families in the immediate aftermath for many of us of a memorable Christmas, we were struck by the extraordinary and tragic events of 27 December 2007. As my colleague, Mr. KENNEDY, just said, some of us were closer to those events at the time than others, but they were events that shattered the hopes of the entire world for a move in the midst of our critical ally, Pakistan, from a military dictatorship to democracy.

And while there is always second-guessing about decisions that were made and policies that were made, let

me say squarely, as does this resolution, the blame for this outrage, the blame for this tragedy lies squarely with the assassins. They alone are responsible for the horrific death of Benazir Bhutto. In fact, an al Qaeda commander and spokesman, Mustafa Abu al-Yazid, gloated to the Italian news agency that they had ''terminated the most precious American asset which vowed to defeat the mujahadeen.''

And, of course what makes this tragedy so moving and this congressional action so timely is that the former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto knew the stakes. She knew precisely the dangers into which she was entering. In a late November interview even with Parade magazine here in the States, she said, ''It is only now that America has awakened to what we are already fighting, namely, Islamic jihadists.''

As the ranking member of the full committee said moments ago, eloquently, Secretary of State Rice called Benazir Bhutto ''a woman of great courage.'' And courage is a word we throw around a lot in political life, it seems, but it was in this moment that I was struck with the reality of courage. Courage is not the absence of fear; courage is action on one's principles in the midst of fear. One has to know that this 54-year-old Harvard and Oxford graduate, giving up a life of luxury in exile, knew the dangers that faced her and the mortal peril in which she was walking on behalf of a free and democratic Pakistan. One cannot fail but be moved by that. If there was any doubt, then the immediate attack upon her on 18 October 2007, which left some 145 of her supporters dead, relieved all doubt of the danger in which she was entering. And yet Benazir Bhutto, the first woman elected to lead a Muslim country, went forward, continued to take the risk, continued to advocate freedom, and paid the ultimate sacrifice.

I will say that while I want to acknowledge her unapologetically secular approach to leadership in government, I can't help, when I look at Benazir Bhutto, to think that she will long be remembered with a verse that comes out of a Christian tradition, which is, that greater love has no man or, if I may, woman, than this than to lay down their life for their friends.

Benazir Bhutto showed a love for the people of Pakistan. She showed a love for freedom. And in this resolution, the United States of America by its Congress will reaffirm to the people of Pakistan our commitment to justice in this instance, and our commitment to see stability and democracy reign in that critical ally.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the distinguished Speaker of the House, Ms. PELOSI.

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for giving us this opportunity to express our sympathy and sadness and recognize the tremendous contribution of Benazir Bhutto to the cause of democracy.

Thank you, Mr. ACKERMAN and Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN, ranking member of the full committee; Mr. LANTOS and Mr. PENCE for their giving this opportunity to us as well and for their strong words and support of democracy in Pakistan.

Benazir Bhutto about 15 years ago came to this Chamber of Congress, one of the first women ever to address a joint session of Congress. Only in her thirties, I believe, at the time, she inspired us, she filled us with hope, and the confidence which she projected gave us the confidence that democracy could come to Pakistan. That was a while ago, and much has transpired since then. She has been in and out and in again as Prime Minister. And, as you know, when she returned to Pakistan, it was to participate in an election to take Pakistan back down the path to democracy.

Her return was courageous. Mr. PENCE mentioned the word courageous. It was courageous for many reasons. It is important to note that her father and two of her brothers had been assassinated. They were victims of political violence. And, of course, their family was dealt another blow as were the people of Pakistan with the brutal assassination of Benazir Bhutto.

She possessed a remarkable optimism about the future, a belief in the power of dialogue, and a strong, strong commitment to democracy. She was an advocate for reconciliation between Islamic and non-Islamic societies, and outlined how that goal could be achieved. She not only had a vision, she had a plan on how it would be done. The strength of her message of hope has underscored how much we lost in her tragic death.

In the days and the weeks that have followed Benazir Bhutto's death, there has been little good news from Pakistan. The Musharraf government continues to deny the Pakistani people a full accounting of the assassination and the events that followed. There must be a strong international investigation of this despicable crime. I acknowledge and recognize that the government has accepted assistance from Scotland Yard and the government of Great Britain. But the government has delayed scheduled parliamentary elections while continuing to jail democratic activists, suppress journalists, and shut out international monitors. The Bush administration must continue to press the Pakistani government to ensure that the coming election is free and fair.

□ 1045

I think it is important to note, my colleagues and Madam Speaker, that the 9/11 Commission recommendations, which were passed by this body and were signed into law last year, condition U.S. assistance to Pakistan on the cooperation of the Pakistani Government with global efforts against terrorism.

Since 2001, Pakistan has received nearly $10 billion in U.S. assistance. The Bush administration has repeatedly certified that our assistance would facilitate Pakistan's transition to democracy. We clearly have not seen enough progress in this area.

Troubling questions have been raised about our assistance to Pakistan, that it has not been properly monitored and that the Pakistani Government may be using it for purposes other than those intended.

Last year, under the leadership of Chairwoman NITA LOWEY and Ranking Member FRANK WOLF of the Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee, under their leadership, our legislation shifted economic assistance for Pakistan from going directly to the Musharraf government to going directly to the Pakistani people on the ground. Indeed, this was a step forward and a recognition of the concerns that we had about how that aid was being used in Pakistan.

I believe the best way for the United States to honor the legacy of Benazir Bhutto is to renew our engagement directly with the people of Pakistan. We urge the Musharraf government to implement democratic reforms by restoring the Pakistani constitution, ensuring freedom of expression and assembly, guaranteeing free and fair democratic elections, and restoring an independent judiciary.

The opportunity that Mr. ACKERMAN and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. LANTOS and Mr. PENCE have given us today to give an overwhelming vote in support of this resolution can tell the world that again we have gone on record in support of the democratic hopes of the Pakistani people and to pay tribute to the legacy of Benazir Bhutto.

I know I speak for all Members when I express my condolences to the family of Benazir Bhutto, and also to all of the others who lost loved ones in this tragic incidence of violence and assassination in Pakistan.

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the ranking member of the legislative branch of the Appropriations Subcommittee, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP).

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, I consider it a privilege to follow the distinguished Speaker of the House in recognizing our support for the people of Pakistan and our remorse that the world community of peacemakers has lost the great Benazir Bhutto. I, too, considered her a personal friend. I spent many hours with her, mostly associated with the National Prayer Breakfast here.

During the years she was in exile, she came many times to our National Prayer Breakfast, which is always the first Thursday in February. She was a proud participant in the Islamic tradition. However, she was always interested in the teachings of Jesus, and she was very much fascinated by the concepts of forgiveness and reconciliation,

and the principles that the last would be first and basically the way that the teachings of Jesus turned the world upside down. And we had coffee with her. We had lunches with her. My wife and I had dinner with her and her controversial husband and got to know him when he was here the last time she was here and visited with us.

She was truly a courageous human being, someone who understood the West, yet maintained her solid heartfelt conviction to her favorite country, Pakistan. She spent a lot of time with us, and she truly was a peacemaker.

I believe the greatest way to honor her courageous death would be for us to work tirelessly to empower the moderates within Islam to stand with us against radicalization, in any faith, frankly. But today, particularly in the Islamic faith, the radicals threaten the world. Yet 92 percent of people within Islam believe that terrorism is not an acceptable means to an end. And she was a leader among that 92 percent.

The problem is 8 percent of Islam is 130 million people who think that terrorism is acceptable, and those are the people that killed her. And they will kill anyone who threatens their ideology. And they killed her.

We need to empower all of the moderates within this very large religion to stand with us against the radicals, and then we can honor her courageous death. She will live on though, really through eternity, as one who, as MIKE PENCE said, was willing to lay down her life for a friend.

I will quote another Christian idea. It is in the Beatitudes. ''Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall inherit the Kingdom of Heaven.'' Benazir Bhutto was a peacemaker. She gave her life for a cause, and the entire world should be grateful.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, let me offer my gratitude to Chairman ACKERMAN and to his cosponsor, Mr. PENCE, and our chairman of the full committee, Mr. LANTOS, for all of his leadership and certainly his recognition as a peacemaker as well, and to the ranking member, Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN.

I rise today with a great degree of somberness and, to a certain extent, hopelessness. But I also rise to express my appreciation for the life and the legacy of Benazir Bhutto. I also want to offer a personal sympathy and acknowledgment to her husband, Mr. Zardari; her son, Bilawal; and her daughters, Bakhtwar and Aseefa, for our families mourn with you.

And I think it is important in the backdrop of one of the greatest peacemakers' birthday, Dr. Martin Luther King, to place former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in her rightful place. I am glad my colleagues called her a peacemaker. I call her a humanitarian and someone who was willing to sacrifice her own life to push the envelope of democracy.

I hold in my hand the Washington Post today that has as a headline, ''Bhutto's last day in keeping with her driven life.'' It indicates a quote that I think speaks to her life. It says, ''Wake up, my brothers.'' That is why she was campaigning in such a frenzied manner. That is why she was waving to her constituents and fellow brothers and sisters as she left the place of her speech.

So I think it is important for us to make the very important note that we should not victimize the victim. Her assassination was not her fault. Everyone in a pressing democracy wants the ability to communicate with those who you are trying to encourage to wake up. Today we honor that bravery, that courage.

We say to the Pakistani Government, for this Nation to move forward, there must be an enlisted and entrenched commitment to democracy. There must be a full investigation of this assassination. It must be determined whether al Qaeda had others beyond its reach to be involved in what may have been a conspiracy. And yes, the leadership of the Pakistan Government must ensure the security of all candidates going forward for these elections. The elections must be ensured.

But we must thank former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto for her legacy; that she was not concerned about her own safety, that she wanted greatness and excellence for her country.

I joined with President Clinton in a visit some years ago when we met President Musharraf, and there were great hopes that he would move his country towards democracy. There were times that occurred. Now he must show that he is sincere about this democracy and let the elections go forward and let a democratic leader emerge from this election. At the same time, he must of course make sure that the instruments of democracy, the court system, the media, and all of those different voices be heard, but it must be ensured that the government is in the business of security and making that happen.

In speaking to Prime Minister Bhutto in the days and weeks before her death, as I did, it was obvious that she was concerned about her security, but she was concerned about the future of the people of Pakistan. Again, a peacemaker, someone who put her life behind her love and affection for this country.

And so we rise today to acknowledge the horrific tragedy, the fact that her family has suffered such, and the fact that she was truly a fighter globally. But there is a challenge that she knew that we had to confront together, and that is the tribal areas in Pakistan. It is a place where we must accept the collapse, if you will, of the foreign policy efforts of this nation, for it is there where the Taliban is resurging and there where al Qaeda may be strong, and it is there where it is alleged that Osama bin Laden rests.

So this policy must begin to address what former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto wanted us to address: the social and economic needs, along with the security needs, of the Pakistani people. And it is my call that we not give up on the Pakistani people or Pakistan. It is a country that was founded on democratic principles. We must not give up on the Pakistani people around the world and Pakistani Americans. They want democracy. Those in my community want democracy for their nation, and my constituents in Houston, Texas, are calling me every day so we can come together to find a way to put Pakistan on the path to democracy.

Sleep well, my good friend, former Prime Minister Bhutto. We owe you an enormous debt of gratitude, and deepest sympathy to your family. But our commitment is that your lust and love for peace will never be forgotten. We owe you that in our tribute and our words and actions and deeds. May all rest in peace, in you, a great and wonderful leader.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 912, introduced by my distinguished colleague Mr. ACKERMAN. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this bipartisan resolution, which condemns the assassination of former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and reaffirms the commitment of the United States to assist the people of Pakistan in combating terrorist activity and promoting a free and democratic Pakistan. I express my sincere condolences to Ms. Bhutto's husband, Asif Ali Zardari, and her children, Bilawal, Bakhtwar, and Aseefa. I would like to thank my colleague Mr. ACKERMAN for introducing this resolution, and I would like to commend Mr. LANTOS for his leadership on Pakistan as chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

As my colleagues are aware, former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was assassinated on December 27, 2007, as she left a peaceful political rally, in an attack which also killed over 20 innocent bystanders. Ms. Bhutto's death came 2 months after she returned to Pakistan from exile and was immediately attacked in a suicide bombing that killed over 130 people, and just over 2 weeks before Pakistan's democratic elections were scheduled to occur.

It is with deep sadness that I mourn the passing of former Pakistani Prime Minister Bhutto. Ms. Bhutto was a woman and a leader who pursued excellence and greatness for her country, putting the needs of her nation above concerns for her own safety. As co-chair of the Congressional Pakistan Caucus, I had the opportunity to speak with Ms. Bhutto several times in recent months, and I was always struck by her commitment to remaining in Pakistan, despite attacks and threats on her life. Benazir Bhutto's return to Pakistan in October 2007 came in the midst of an explosion that would have driven away anyone of lesser heart. She left the relative security of family life in Dubai to return to her homeland, determined to see democratic processes and institutions grow in Pakistan.

Benazir Bhutto was one of the world's most high-profile female leaders, and she rose to prominence amidst a male-dominated political hierarchy. After gaining her education at Harvard and Oxford, Ms. Bhutto followed her father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, into politics. Like her

father, she served as Prime Minister of Pakistan, holding the office from 1988 to 1990 and again from 1993 to 1996. Also like her father, she was violently killed for her convictions, her dedication to her country, and her unwillingness to hide in the shadows upon her return to Pakistan.

The assassination of Ms. Bhutto is a horrific tragedy for Pakistan and for the world. It is essential that her killers be brought to justice immediately. This is an extremely critical time for the nation of Pakistan, with elections that had been expected in early January now scheduled for February 18, 2008. Pakistan has seen serious political instability throughout the past year, weathering approximately 60 suicide bomb attacks, which killed nearly 800 people over the course of the year.

Pakistan continues to be an important ally in the global fight against terrorism. I am particularly worried about the security of Pakistan's leaders and people, and I believe that we must examine the measures that are being undertaken to ensure their safety. As co-chair of the Congressional Pakistan Caucus, I have long advocated the need to ensure that Pakistan is stabilized, and that its leaders and people are protected.

According to the United States Department of State, Pakistan currently has 85,000 troops stationed along the border with Afghanistan. Richard A. Boucher, Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs, recently noted that Pakistan has "captured more al-Qaeda than any country in the world, and lost more people doing that." Pakistani authorities have also killed or captured several top Taliban commanders in this area in recent months.

Prime Minister Bhutto's assassination is a great blow to the democratic process in Pakistan. The international community must work together with the Pakistani government to ensure that those responsible for this brutal crime are brought to justice. In addition, we must stand with the people of Pakistan during this turbulent time, and, together, work together against our common enemy: terrorism.

Benazir Bhutto was a truly courageous woman, and a true leader for her nation and the world. Her violent and untimely death is a true tragedy, and I join with the people of Pakistan, as well as my colleagues here in Congress, in mourning the passing of an extraordinary leader, as well as those who died in the December 17th attack with her.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution, paying tribute to former Prime Minister Bhutto, condemning her assassination, supporting Pakistani and international efforts to bring her murderers to justice, and reaffirming our commitment to a free and democratic Pakistan, standing strong against our mutual enemy of terrorism.

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to a member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and original cosponsor of this resolution, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE).

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for yielding, and I also thank Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. LANTOS and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN for sponsoring this resolution.

On December 27, 2007, the world reeled as it received news that a suicide terrorist and others had assassinated Pakistan's freedom fighter and beacon of democracy, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, during a peaceful political rally.

She was educated in the tradition of western democratic philosophy, and received her higher education training at Oxford and Harvard University. She has been the voice in support of a democratic Pakistan for more than 20 years.

In 1988, at the age of 35, she became the youngest person and the first female elected to lead a Muslim state. Since that time, Ms. Bhutto has remained committed to the restoration of a true democracy in Pakistan. When Ms. Bhutto returned to Pakistan last year, she knew she was putting her life at risk because, Madam Speaker, the violent enemies of democracy throughout the world are numerous. But her commitment to democracy in Pakistan was stronger than her fear of death.

As the daughter of a former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Bhutto used to say she did not choose her life but that it chose her instead. The truth is she chose freedom and democracy, and her love for those principles compelled her continuous bold, even boisterous voice of democracy for the Pakistani people.

Ms. Bhutto has been described as a defiant and strong-willed leader. In life and in death, her charisma and determination have been admired by people throughout the world.

She was a beacon of democracy in Pakistan, and I join my colleagues in condemning her assassination with the expectation that the current government will seek out and find all of the assassins.

Pakistan has been a loyal ally and friends of the United States since 1947.

□ 1100

The United States stands with the people of Pakistan. We affirm our commitment to the Pakistani people in combating terrorism and promoting a free and democratic Pakistan. The long lamentable history of human conduct is filled with the names of martyrs who have been murdered for the cause of freedom. Today, we add the name of one more.

And that's just the way it is.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Is the gentleman from Indiana seeking to recognize further speakers?

Mr. PENCE. I thank the gentleman for his courtesy. I have no additional speakers, but would reserve the right to close for a minute or two.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Proceed.

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to rise again to express my strong support of this resolution and urge as near a unanimous adoption of this resolution as this Congress can muster.

I want to commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN) for his swift and sympathetic and thoughtful legislative workmanship on this measure. As I said before, I think, given the tragic events of 27 December 2007, it is important that this Congress be heard on a resolution condemning this assassination, and it is important that it be the first substantive measure that this Congress takes up. And I commend Mr. ACKERMAN, the chairman of the committee Mr. LANTOS, and Speaker PELOSI for facilitating that, as I do my colleagues on the committee in the minority.

This resolution condemns in the strongest possible terms the assassination of former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. It supports efforts by Pakistan to bring to justice those who have perpetrated this cruel and cowardly act. It welcomes the provision of assistance by the government of the United Kingdom, and it commends the government of Pakistan for accepting such assistance.

In addition, it urges the people and the government of Pakistan to be relentless in their pursuit of a democratically elected government, including the holding of free and fair elections at the earliest possible opportunity. It urges support for a free media.

And perhaps in the seventh paragraph, as I close, Madam Speaker, it, this resolution, which I hope and trust will be unanimously adopted today, reaffirms the commitment of the United States to assist the people of Pakistan in combating terrorist activity and promoting a free and democratic Pakistan.

I quote again the words of the late and, no one would argue, great Benazir Bhutto who said just this fall in an American magazine, "It's only now that America has awakened to what we were already fighting, Islamic jihadists."

I believe the greatest legacy that Benazir Bhutto could leave is not only a legacy of a democratically elected government in her country, but it would be a legacy of a further awakening in the world to the threat that free societies and those that seek to be free face from radical Islamic jihadists. If her legacy can be not only progress for her people toward democracy, but progress in the free world to renewing our determination to confront those who oppose our way of life with violence, both in support of the Pakistani Government and in places like Afghanistan and Iraq, if I might add, then that would be a powerful and meritorious legacy indeed.

I urge support of all of my colleagues for this important resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ACKERMAN. I would like to thank Mr. PENCE, Mr. LANTOS, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, all those who participated in this discussion. I don't think we can call it a debate. I think all of the indications that we have heard today indicate that we are on the same side on this.

I would urge unanimous support for the resolution.

Mr. MANZULLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my anger and sadness regarding the assassination of former Prime

Minister Benazir Bhutto. The horrific murder of Prime Minister Bhutto is a chilling reminder that extremist forces are continually trying to undermine democracy and freedom. Today, we stand with the democrats in Pakistan and throughout the world to oppose tyranny and terrorism.

Benazir Bhutto was the first woman elected to lead a Muslim state and served twice as Prime Minister of Pakistan. I had the distinct honor and privilege to meet her when she spoke to members of the House International Relations Committee during the mid-1990's in an ornate ceremonial room just one floor below this rostrum. Her accomplishment paved the way for other women leaders to seek and win top offices throughout the developing world. Bhutto's dedication to democracy in Pakistan is closely tied to the time she spent as a student in the United States. In fact, she credits her exposure to America as a driving force behind her push for a free Pakistan.

Former Prime Minister Bhutto was also no stranger to the good people of Illinois' 16th Congressional District. In 2002, she spoke to an overflow audience at Rockford College about the link between promoting democracy and defeating extremist terrorists. I know I speak for the people of northern Illinois in expressing our heartfelt gratitude that she visited Rockford. Bhutto's speech was inspirational and enlightening. I enclose for the RECORD the article titled, "Ex-Premier Pushes U.S. to Aid Democracy Fight" from the Rockford Register Star, published on September 20, 2002, discussing Bhutto's historic remarks at Rockford College.

Pakistan must continue its journey to political reform and democracy. The United States must stand with those who advocate for the fundamental freedoms that were bestowed onto all of us by our creator. Let's not forget Bhutto's legacy and stand with the people of Pakistan in this dark hour.

[From the Rockford Register Star, Sept. 20, 2002]

EX-PREMIER PUSHES U.S. TO AID DEMOCRACY FIGHT

ROCKFORD.—Former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said Thursday that people of her country support her battle to bring democracy to Pakistan. She wants President Bush to help.

The deposed leader—who at age 35 became the first female prime minister in the Muslim world—continues her efforts, made more important in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Bhutto remains critical of the regime of Gen. Pervez Musharraf, who has controlled the country since 1999. She is an author and active in the Pakistan People's Party, the country's largest, pro-democracy party.

"I support democracy in Pakistan and, with the war on terrorism, there is a new commitment to bringing democracy to the Muslim world and the empowering of the Muslim people based on fundamental human rights," she said.

Bhutto planned to share this message later Thursday night with a sold-out crowd at Maddox Theatre at Rockford College. Additional crowds were seated in the Cheek Theatre and dance studio to watch a live television feed of Bhutto's presentation.

Bhutto's visit kicked off the 2002–03 Rockford College Forum Series, a program of speakers and workshops focused on the politics and culture of Islam.

Bhutto acknowledged that she hasn't met with Bush about bringing democracy to her home country but "other U.S. officials" assured her that the United States remains committed to fostering democracy in Pakistan.

"I want President Bush to say 'Look, you've been our ally, and we want to help bring democracy because democracy doesn't promote terrorism,'" she said.

Her determination to see Pakistan become a democracy began after she completed her education at Radcliffe College and Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, in the late 1970s.

Bhutto was born June 21, 1953, in Karachi, Pakistan. In 1977, at age 24, she returned home and took up the struggle to restore democracy and human rights in the country as a leader of the Pakistan People's Party.

Bhutto faced imprisonment and exile while guiding the resistance to Pakistan's military regime.

Her government was replaced by opposing political forces in 1990, but Bhutto was again elected prime minister in 1993 and served until 1996, when the government was overthrown by a military coup.

"My leadership was of different vision than the conservatives. It was dictatorship vs. democracy."

Jeff Hendry, chairman of the forum series committee, said Bhutto's visit was "huge, especially now with all the news in that part of the world."

In her speech: "she will deal with the international political climate and deal more with what the U.S. can do and should be doing to bring democracy to Pakistan as well as the strategic importance of the region," he said.

WHAT SHE SAID

The Register Star asked Benazir Bhutto:

Is Osama bin Laden dead? "It's 50–50, and it's anybody's guess. I thought for a while if he was dead, there had to be certain funeral ceremonies done for the soul, but maybe he was killed and nobody knew. He could be playing dead and he could pop in the next five years. But if he's hiding, it would probably be in the mountains of Afghanistan."

How the people of Pakistan view the United States: "Pakistan has mixed feelings toward the U.S. It's like a love-hate relationship. They see it as a land of opportunity and power and to them, they feel they are powerless. They like the power the U.S. has, but they hate their own powerlessness."

Have the Pakistani people been treated differently in the United States since the terrorist attacks? "I have respect largely in the area of academia. I have talked to students who have said Americans came to them and asked 'Are you OK?' Other stories I hear from big cities are of hate crimes and of some men who have shaved their beards off in fear of being targeted. But President Bush is right when he says Pakistan is safe here. I hear others say, 'We are Americans, and please accept us as the way we are.'"

Mr. ACKERMAN. Having no additional speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 912.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

PROVIDING FOR CONCURRENCE BY HOUSE WITH AMENDMENT IN SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 4253, MILITARY RESERVIST AND VETERAN SMALL BUSINESS REAUTHORIZATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2008

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 921) providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 4253, with an amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 921

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution the bill (H.R. 4253) entitled "An Act to improve and expand small business assistance programs for veterans of the armed forces and military reservists, and for other purposes", with the Senate amendment thereto, shall be considered to have been taken from the Speaker's table to the end that the Senate amendment thereto be, and the same is hereby, agreed to with the following amendment:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the amendment of the Senate, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Military Reservist and Veteran Small Business Reauthorization and Opportunity Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.
Sec. 2. Table of contents.
Sec. 3. Definitions.

TITLE I—VETERANS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Sec. 101. Increased funding for the Office of Veterans Business Development.
Sec. 102. Interagency task force.
Sec. 103. Permanent extension of SBA Advisory Committee on Veterans Business Affairs.
Sec. 104. Office of Veterans Business Development.
Sec. 105. Increasing the number of outreach centers.
Sec. 106. Independent study on gaps in availability of outreach centers.
Sec. 107. Veterans assistance and services program.

TITLE II—RESERVIST PROGRAMS

Sec. 201. Reservist programs.
Sec. 202. Reservist loans.
Sec. 203. Noncollateralized loans.
Sec. 204. Loan priority.
Sec. 205. Relief from time limitations for veteran-owned small businesses.
Sec. 206. Service-disabled veterans.
Sec. 207. Study on options for promoting positive working relations between employers and their Reserve Component employees.
Sec. 208. Increased Veteran Participation Program.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term "activated" means receiving an order placing a Reservist on active duty;

(2) the term ''active duty'' has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 10, United States Code;

(3) the terms ''Administration'' and ''Administrator'' mean the Small Business Administration and the Administrator thereof, respectively;

(4) the term ''Reservist'' means a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces, as described in section 10101 of title 10, United States Code;

(5) the term ''Service Corps of Retired Executives'' means the Service Corps of Retired Executives authorized by section 8(b)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(b)(1));

(6) the terms ''service-disabled veteran'' and ''small business concern'' have the meaning as in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632);

(7) the term ''small business development center'' means a small business development center described in section 21 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648); and

(8) the term ''women's business center'' means a women's business center described in section 29 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656).

TITLE I—VETERANS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

SEC. 101. INCREASED FUNDING FOR THE OFFICE OF VETERANS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Office of Veterans Business Development of the Administration, to remain available until expended—

(1) $2,100,000 for fiscal year 2008; and

(2) $2,300,000 for fiscal year 2009.

(b) FUNDING OFFSET.—Amounts necessary to carry out subsection (a) shall be offset and made available through the reduction of the authorization of funding under section 20(e)(1)(B)(iv) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 note).

(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that any amounts provided pursuant to this section that are in excess of amounts provided to the Administration for the Office of Veterans Business Development in fiscal year 2007, should be used to support Veterans Business Outreach Centers.

SEC. 102. INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE.

Section 32 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657b) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as (f); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

''(c) INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the President shall establish an interagency task force to coordinate the efforts of Federal agencies necessary to improve capital and business development opportunities for, and ensure achievement of the pre-established Federal contracting goals for, small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans and small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans (in this section referred to as the 'task force').

''(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The members of the task force shall include—

''(A) the Administrator, who shall serve as chairperson of the task force; and

''(B) a senior level representative from—

''(i) the Department of Veterans Affairs;

''(ii) the Department of Defense;

''(iii) the Administration (in addition to the Administrator);

''(iv) the Department of Labor;

''(v) the Department of the Treasury;

''(vi) the General Services Administration;

''(vii) the Office of Management and Budget; and

''(viii) 4 representatives from a veterans service organization or military organization or association, selected by the President.

''(3) DUTIES.—The task force shall—

''(A) consult regularly with veterans service organizations and military organizations in performing the duties of the task force; and

''(B) coordinate administrative and regulatory activities and develop proposals relating to—

''(i) improving capital access and capacity of small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans and small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans through loans, surety bonding, and franchising;

''(ii) ensuring achievement of the pre-established Federal contracting goals for small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans and small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans through expanded mentor-protégé assistance and matching such small business concerns with contracting opportunities;

''(iii) increasing the integrity of certifications of status as a small business concern owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans or a small business concern owned and controlled by veterans;

''(iv) reducing paperwork and administrative burdens on veterans in accessing business development and entrepreneurship opportunities;

''(v) increasing and improving training and counseling services provided to small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans; and

''(vi) making other improvements relating to the support for veterans business development by the Federal Government.''.

SEC. 103. PERMANENT EXTENSION OF SBA ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON VETERANS BUSINESS AFFAIRS.

(a) ASSUMPTION OF DUTIES.—Section 33 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657c) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (h); and

(2) by redesignating subsections (i) through (k) as subsections (h) through (j), respectively.

(b) PERMANENT EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY.—Section 203 of the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999 (15 U.S.C. 657b note) is amended by striking subsection (h).

SEC. 104. OFFICE OF VETERANS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT.

Section 32 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657b) is amended by inserting after subsection (c) (as added by section 102) the following:

''(d) PARTICIPATION IN TAP WORKSHOPS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Associate Administrator shall increase veteran outreach by ensuring that Veteran Business Outreach Centers regularly participate, on a nationwide basis, in the workshops of the Transition Assistance Program of the Department of Labor.

''(2) PRESENTATIONS.—In carrying out paragraph (1), a Veteran Business Outreach Center may provide grants to entities located in Transition Assistance Program locations to make presentations on the opportunities available from the Administration for recently separating or separated veterans. Each presentation under this paragraph shall include, at a minimum, a description of the entrepreneurial and business training resources available from the Administration.

''(3) WRITTEN MATERIALS.—The Associate Administrator shall—

''(A) create written materials that provide comprehensive information on self-employment and veterans entrepreneurship, including information on resources available from the Administration on such topics; and

''(B) make the materials created under subparagraph (A) available to the Secretary of Labor for inclusion in the Transition Assistance Program manual.

''(4) REPORTS.—The Associate Administrator shall submit to Congress progress reports on the implementation of this subsection.

''(e) WOMEN VETERANS BUSINESS TRAINING.—The Associate Administrator shall—

''(1) compile information on existing resources available to women veterans for business training, including resources for—

''(A) vocational and technical education;

''(B) general business skills, such as marketing and accounting; and

''(C) business assistance programs targeted to women veterans; and

''(2) disseminate the information compiled under paragraph (1) through Veteran Business Outreach Centers and women's business centers.''.

SEC. 105. INCREASING THE NUMBER OF OUTREACH CENTERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall use the authority in section 8(b)(17) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(b)(17)) to ensure that the number of Veterans Business Outreach Centers throughout the United States increases—

(1) subject to subsection (b), by at least 2, for each of fiscal years 2008 and 2009; and

(2) by the number that the Administrator considers appropriate, based on need, for each fiscal year thereafter.

(b) LIMITATION.—Subsection (a)(1) shall apply in a fiscal year if, for that fiscal year, the amount made available for the Office of Veterans Business Development is more than the amount made available for the Office of Veterans Business Development for fiscal year 2007.

SEC. 106. INDEPENDENT STUDY ON GAPS IN AVAILABILITY OF OUTREACH CENTERS.

The Administrator shall sponsor an independent study on gaps in the availability of Veterans Business Outreach Centers across the United States, to inform decisions on funding and on the allocation and coordination of resources. Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report on the results of the study.

SEC. 107. VETERANS ASSISTANCE AND SERVICES PROGRAM.

Section 21 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(n) VETERANS ASSISTANCE AND SERVICES PROGRAM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A small business development center may apply for a grant under this subsection to carry out a veterans assistance and services program.

''(2) ELEMENTS OF PROGRAM.—Under a program carried out with a grant under this subsection, a small business development center shall—

''(A) create a marketing campaign to promote awareness and education of the services of the center that are available to veterans, and to target the campaign toward veterans, service-disabled veterans, military units, Federal agencies, and veterans organizations;

''(B) use technology-assisted online counseling and distance learning technology to overcome the impediments to entrepreneurship faced by veterans and members of the Armed Forces; and

''(C) increase coordination among organizations that assist veterans, including by establishing virtual integration of service providers and offerings for a one-stop point of contact for veterans who are entrepreneurs or owners of small business concerns.

''(3) AMOUNT OF GRANTS.—A grant under this subsection shall be for not less than $75,000 and not more than $250,000.

''(4) FUNDING.—Subject to amounts approved in advance in appropriations Acts, the Administration may make grants or enter into cooperative agreements to carry out the provisions of this subsection.''.

TITLE II—RESERVIST PROGRAMS

SEC. 201. RESERVIST PROGRAMS.

(a) APPLICATION PERIOD.—Section 7(b)(3)(C) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(3)(C)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''90 days'' and inserting ''1 year''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following: ''The Administrator may, when appropriate (as determined by the Administrator), extend the ending date specified in the preceding sentence by not more than 1 year.''.

(b) PRE-CONSIDERATION PROCESS.—

(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ''eligible Reservist'' means a Reservist who—

(A) has not been ordered to active duty;

(B) expects to be ordered to active duty during a period of military conflict; and

(C) can reasonably demonstrate that the small business concern for which that Reservist is a key employee will suffer economic injury in the absence of that Reservist.

(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall establish a preconsideration process, under which the Administrator—

(A) may collect all relevant materials necessary for processing a loan to a small business concern under section 7(b)(3) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(3)) before an eligible Reservist employed by that small business concern is activated; and

(B) shall distribute funds for any loan approved under subparagraph (A) if that eligible Reservist is activated.

(c) OUTREACH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense, may develop a comprehensive outreach and technical assistance program (in this subsection referred to as the ''program'') to—

(A) market the loans available under section 7(b)(3) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(3)) to Reservists, and family members of Reservists, that are on active duty and that are not on active duty; and

(B) provide technical assistance to a small business concern applying for a loan under that section.

(2) COMPONENTS.—The program shall—

(A) incorporate appropriate websites maintained by the Administration, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Defense; and

(B) require that information on the program is made available to small business concerns directly through—

(i) the district offices and resource partners of the Administration, including small business development centers, women's business centers, and the Service Corps of Retired Executives; and

(ii) other Federal agencies, including the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense.

(3) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 6 months thereafter until the date that is 30 months after such date of enactment, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report on the status of the program.

(B) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include—

(i) for the 6-month period ending on the date of that report—

(I) the number of loans approved under section 7(b)(3) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(3));

(II) the number of loans disbursed under that section; and

(III) the total amount disbursed under that section; and

(ii) recommendations, if any, to make the program more effective in serving small business concerns that employ Reservists.

SEC. 202. RESERVIST LOANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator and the Secretary of Defense shall develop a joint website and printed materials providing information regarding any program for small business concerns that is available to veterans or Reservists.

(b) MARKETING.—The Administrator is authorized—

(1) to advertise and promote the program under section 7(b)(3) of the Small Business Act jointly with the Secretary of Defense and veterans' service organizations; and

(2) to advertise and promote participation by lenders in such program jointly with trade associations for banks or other lending institutions.

SEC. 203. NONCOLLATERALIZED LOANS.

Section 7(b)(3) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(G)(i) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator may make a loan under this paragraph of not more than $50,000 without collateral.

''(ii) The Administrator may defer payment of principal and interest on a loan described in clause (i) during the longer of—

''(I) the 1-year period beginning on the date of the initial disbursement of the loan; and

''(II) the period during which the relevant essential employee is on active duty.''.

SEC. 204. LOAN PRIORITY.

Section 7(b)(3) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(3)), as amended by this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(H) The Administrator shall give priority to any application for a loan under this paragraph and shall process and make a determination regarding such applications prior to processing or making a determination on other loan applications under this subsection, on a rolling basis.''.

SEC. 205. RELIEF FROM TIME LIMITATIONS FOR VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES.

Section 3(q) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(q)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(5) RELIEF FROM TIME LIMITATIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Any time limitation on any qualification, certification, or period of participation imposed under this Act on any program that is available to small business concerns shall be extended for a small business concern that—

''(i) is owned and controlled by—

''(I) a veteran who was called or ordered to active duty under a provision of law specified in section 101(a)(13)(B) of title 10, United States Code, on or after September 11, 2001; or

''(II) a service-disabled veteran who became such a veteran due to an injury or illness incurred or aggravated in the active military, naval, or air service during a period of active duty pursuant to a call or order to active duty under a provision of law referred to in subclause (I) on or after September 11, 2001; and

''(ii) was subject to the time limitation during such period of active duty.

''(B) DURATION.—Upon submission of proper documentation to the Administrator, the extension of a time limitation under subparagraph (A) shall be equal to the period of time that such veteran who owned or controlled such a concern was on active duty as described in that subparagraph.

''(C) EXCEPTION FOR PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO FEDERAL CREDIT REFORM ACT OF 1990.—The provisions of subparagraphs (A) and (B) shall not apply to any programs subject to the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).''.

SEC. 206. SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report describing—

(1) the types of assistance needed by service-disabled veterans who wish to become entrepreneurs; and

(2) any resources that would assist such service-disabled veterans.

SEC. 207. STUDY ON OPTIONS FOR PROMOTING POSITIVE WORKING RELATIONS BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND THEIR RESERVE COMPONENT EMPLOYEES.

(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on options for promoting positive working relations between employers and Reserve component employees of such employers, including assessing options for improving the time in which employers of Reservists are notified of the call or order of such members to active duty other than for training.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the study conducted under subsection (a).

(2) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) provide a quantitative and qualitative assessment of—

(i) what measures, if any, are being taken to inform Reservists of the obligations and responsibilities of such members to their employers;

(ii) how effective such measures have been; and

(iii) whether there are additional measures that could be taken to promote positive working relations between Reservists and their employers, including any steps that could be taken to ensure that employers are timely notified of a call to active duty; and

(B) assess whether there has been a reduction in the hiring of Reservists by business concerns because of—

(i) any increase in the use of Reservists after September 11, 2001; or

(ii) any change in any policy of the Department of Defense relating to Reservists after September 11, 2001.

(c) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 208. INCREASED VETERAN PARTICIPATION PROGRAM.

Section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(32) INCREASED VETERAN PARTICIPATION PROGRAM.—

''(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph—

''(i) the term 'cost' has the meaning given that term in section 502 of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 661a);

''(ii) the term 'pilot program' means the pilot program established under subparagraph (B); and

''(iii) the term 'veteran participation loan' means a loan made under this subsection to a small business concern owned and controlled by veterans of the Armed Forces or members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces.

''(B) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator shall establish and carry out a pilot program under which the Administrator shall reduce the fees for veteran participation loans.

''(C) DURATION.—The pilot program shall terminate at the end of the second full fiscal year after the date that the Administrator establishes the pilot program.

''(D) MAXIMUM PARTICIPATION.—A veteran participation loan shall include the maximum participation levels by the Administrator permitted for loans made under this subsection.

''(E) FEES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The fee on a veteran participation loan shall be equal to 50 percent of the fee otherwise applicable to that loan under paragraph (18).

''(ii) WAIVER.—The Administrator may waive clause (i) for a fiscal year if—

''(I) for the fiscal year before that fiscal year, the annual estimated rate of default of veteran participation loans exceeds that of loans made under this subsection that are not veteran participation loans;

''(II) the cost to the Administration of making loans under this subsection is greater than zero and such cost is directly attributable to the cost of making veteran participation loans; and

''(III) no additional sources of revenue authority are available to reduce the cost of making loans under this subsection to zero.

''(iii) EFFECT OF WAIVER.—If the Administrator waives the reduction of fees under clause (ii), the Administrator—

''(I) shall not assess or collect fees in an amount greater than necessary to ensure that the cost of the program under this subsection is not greater than zero; and

''(II) shall reinstate the fee reductions under clause (i) when the conditions in clause (ii) no longer apply.

''(iv) NO INCREASE OF FEES.—The Administrator shall not increase the fees under paragraph (18) on loans made under this subsection that are not veteran participation loans as a direct result of the pilot program.

''(F) GAO REPORT.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date that the pilot program terminates, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate a report on the pilot program.

''(ii) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under clause (i) shall include—

''(I) the number of veteran participation loans for which fees were reduced under the pilot program;

''(II) a description of the impact of the pilot program on the program under this subsection;

''(III) an evaluation of the efficacy and potential fraud and abuse of the pilot program; and

''(IV) recommendations for improving the pilot program.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, this body has heard time and again of the courage, discipline and selflessness with which our veterans serve this Nation. What is less well known, however, are the contributions that veterans make to our Nation's economy.

Last month, 407 Members of this House voted to pass H.R. 4253. This bill represented an important step toward a comprehensive update of the Small Business Administration's veterans assistance programs, programs which remove barriers to veterans' self-employment and provide veteran entrepreneurs with support for growth and expansion. Again, I wish to commend Congressman JASON ALTMIRE and Congressman VERN BUCHANAN for their leadership on this legislation.

Not long after this body passed H.R. 4253, the Senate took up the legislation and offered a number of changes. The resolution we are considering today provides for the concurrence in the Senate amendment and makes additional changes of our own.

The amendment in this resolution does two things. First, the amendment makes technical revisions to clarify language in the bill. Second, the amendment removes a nongermane provision that was inserted by the Senate amendment to H.R. 4253.

As the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan continue, the number of returning veterans will only increase. Our support for veterans, however, does not end with their deployment. We must continue to work to support these budding entrepreneurs as they reach for the American dream of business ownership. I believe the underlying bill is a major step towards realizing this goal, and I strongly support this legislation. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today, Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the request to suspend the rules and pass House Resolution 921, which agrees to the Senate amendment to H.R. 4253, the Military Reservist and Veterans Small Business Reauthorization Opportunity Act of 2007, subject to an amendment.

I would like to thank Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ for working in a cooperative and bipartisan manner to bring this resolution to the floor, which, again, incorporates a number of provisions of a bill authored by Mr. BUCHANAN from Florida, a freshman member of the Small Business Committee.

The provisions of this resolution are substantially similar to those contained in H.R. 4253 passed by the House in the last session. For the sake of brevity, interested parties can refer to the December 5, 2007 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for that statement.

The resolution makes necessary technical changes to the Senate amendment. The House bill required the establishment of an interagency task force to improve business advice given to veteran-owned small businesses. This resolution restores the requirement that the interagency task force include the advice from veteran service organizations. It makes no sense to try and improve veterans services to veterans without actually consulting them.

Reservists have their own set of operational problems, especially if they own a business or are a key employee in a small business. These Reservists are making a sacrifice to the health of their business in order to protect the liberty and freedom of all Americans. The least we can do is provide the small businesses owned by or employing these Reservists sufficient access to advice and capital to enable their businesses to survive during their absence. The resolution before us today does just that.

In particular, the resolution ensures that small communities where a Reservist-owned business is a major source of employment will have access to economic injury disaster loan funds from the SBA to pay employees and meet other expenses while the owner is on active duty. Small communities that rely on one employer should not have to suffer because the owner of a business has elected the noble obligation to serve our country in uniform.

Finally, the resolution adopts a modified form of the reduction in costs for guaranteed loans made to veterans under SBA's 7(a) loan program. I commend the chairwoman for taking an approach that helps veterans obtain loans without unduly increasing costs to the American taxpayer or other borrowers under the 7(a) loan program.

No one can dispute the sacrifice that America's veterans have made and continue to make in defense of our country. While the repayment of that debt may never be fully compensated, we can never fully pay back those that have served this country so honorably in uniform, we can certainly provide them with the needed assistance to prosper in civilian life. Today's resolution will do that. I want to thank the chairwoman again for working to make this possible and thank Mr. BUCHANAN for his leadership on this issue.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I would now like to yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania, a lead sponsor of the bill, Mr. JASON ALTMIRE, as much time as he may consume.

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, last month the House and the Senate passed the Military Reservist and Veterans Small Business Reauthorization and Opportunity Act to expand business opportunities for veterans and Reservists. And after Senate action, today we will vote again to pass this legislation that I introduced to ensure veterans and Reservists are afforded every opportunity for economic success at home given their sacrifices abroad.

Starting and maintaining a small business can be challenging for anyone, and unfortunately veterans often face unique obstacles as a result of their military service. The unemployment rate among veterans is more than twice that of the national average, and nearly 40 percent of Reservists lose income when they are deployed.

While Congress has taken action to provide Federal agencies with resources to encourage entrepreneurial opportunities for veterans, I believe that more can still be done to relieve the burden that is placed on small business owners during and after deployment.

At a time when our veteran population continues to grow, it is more important than ever for us to afford our brave men and women in uniform every opportunity for success. The Military Reservist and Veterans Small Business Reauthorization and Opportunity Act provides the SBA's Office of Veterans Business Development with the resources necessary to expand entrepreneurial opportunities for veterans and Reservists and improve existing programs to help keep small businesses afloat while their members are deployed.

The amendment we will consider today makes minor changes to the bill we passed in December, but the intent remains the same. This legislation increases funding for the SBA's Office of Veterans Business Development, improves programs designed to help relieve the burden placed on small business owners during and after deployments, facilitates the coordination of all Federal agencies to focus attention on expanding opportunities for veteran-owned businesses, makes the SBA Advisory Committee on Veterans Business Affairs permanent, and increases the number of veterans business outreach centers across the country.

Madam Speaker, there is no question that veterans have a unique ability to thrive as entrepreneurs. They have the skill and the drive necessary to run successful businesses. But more must be done to help them fulfill their goals and their needs.

I strongly support this legislation, which I introduced, and I ask my colleagues for their support of the Military Reservist and Veterans Small Business Reauthorization and Opportunity Act, and urge the Senate to quickly take up and pass this important legislation.

□ 1115

Lastly, Madam Speaker, I would thank the gentleman from Florida, my good friend, Mr. BUCHANAN; the ranking member, Mr. CHABOT, for their help in working through these issues. And hopefully now, with the work of the chairwoman, we can have a bill that can pass both Chambers and move to the President's desk.

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I would just like to commend two freshman Members. I think this is another example that shows bipartisanship on the Small Business Committee, to the credit of the chairwoman, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ALTMIRE), a freshman Member, and Mr. BUCHANAN, a freshman Member from Florida, working together to benefit veterans and small businesses in this country. So I think I'd like to see that spirit illustrated in the rest of the Congress, and I want to thank again Mr. ALTMIRE and Mr. BUCHANAN.

Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to Mr. BUCHANAN.

Mr. BUCHANAN. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the ranking member for yielding me the time, and I rise in support of the resolution.

I'd also like to thank my fellow freshman, Congressman ALTMIRE, and I want to thank the chairman of our Small Business Committee, because she has been very bipartisan from day one. She's been very helpful to me, and I think, frankly, this is what the country is looking for. So I want to thank the freshman Congressman. I think this is a very powerful thing.

Also, I just wanted to say that I know there's a Senate compromise, and a number of provisions in that are important to me.

This resolution incorporates legislation I introduced in May and the House passed in June, creating an important program within the Small Business Administration. This will give our veterans not just a chance at success in a small business enterprise, but provide them with the help and assistance a grateful Nation can offer.

My legislation is intended to help veterans through grants, information services and contacts with professionals in their field of endeavor. This Federal support will enhance the ability of veterans to become an entrepreneur in his or her own right.

The measure puts an emphasis on providing veterans with the market research, financial options, and technological training important to becoming a successful small business owner.

This legislation not only expands the number but the scope of Veteran Outreach Centers. It ensures the opening of more doors in terms of that and the opportunity for women veterans. Assisting our women returning from combat has been an area long overlooked, and it's high time we did something about it.

I know in my personal situation, I went in as an 18-year-old in the Air National Guard. At 23, I had a chance to get in business for myself, for a kid that grew up in a blue-collar family, and I've lived that American Dream, being self-employed for 30 years. I want to make sure that our veterans have that same opportunity today for all the sacrifices they are making.

I'm excited today that the House will pass a resolution that will help individuals make an important transition from a veteran to a small business entrepreneur, and we are one step closer to having this important legislation signed into law.

I urge my colleagues to suspend the rules and support the resolution.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I have no additional speakers, but I reserve the right to close.

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, we yield back the balance of our time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I just want to take the opportunity again to thank Ranking Member CHABOT and Mr. BUCHANAN and Mr. ALTMIRE and also the staff from the Democratic side and the Republican side for working in a bipartisan manner to help achieve this goal of providing the tools necessary for the veterans who are returning home.

With that, I strongly urge my colleagues to vote for H. Res. 921.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 921.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2768, SUPPLEMENTAL MINE IMPROVEMENT AND NEW EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACT OF 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 918 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 918

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2768) to establish improved mandatory standards to protect miners during emergencies, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. General debate shall be confined to

the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Labor now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived except those arising under clause 10 of rule XXI. Notwithstanding clause 11 of rule XVIII, no amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. During consideration in the House of H.R. 2768 pursuant to this resolution, notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, the Chair may postpone further consideration of the bill to such time as may be designated by the Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from New York is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS). All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 918.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H. Res. 918 provides for consideration of H.R. 2768, the Supplemental Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act, under a structured rule.

As the Clerk just read, the rule provides 1 hour of general debate controlled by the Committee on Education and Labor. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill except clauses 9 and 10 of rule XXI. The rule makes in order all four amendments that were submitted to the Rules Committee on this bill, including a full substitute. The amendments are debatable for 10 minutes each, except for the substitute which is debatable for 30 minutes. The rule also provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Madam Speaker, like most Americans, I vividly remember the terrible mine tragedy at Crandall Canyon Mine in Utah last August as we waited day after day, praying for the safety of the miners. We watched with great trepidation and sadness as three rescue workers were also killed attempting to save six miners who were trapped in a horrific mine collapse, all of whom, I am sad to say, did not survive.

As a native Kentuckian and one who remembers vividly the mines and particularly the whistles in the middle of the night indicating something had gone wrong at the mine, I was touched by that tragedy on a very personal level. It reminded me not only of the dangers of the profession but also the important role of Congress to do all that we can to ensure their safety.

I was simply shocked by some of the disturbing facts that were revealed after just a brief review of the evidence. The Crandall Canyon tragedy appears to have been preventable, and the rescue effort handled by the Mine Safety and Health Administration was tragically mismanaged.

Following the tragedy, the New York Times and other publications reported that the Mine Safety and Health Administration ''failed to conduct the required inspections . . . at 107 of the Nation's 731 underground coal mines,'' and ''that the agency had misstated the number of inspections it had conducted, apparently to inflate its rate of completed inspections.''

□ 1130

How tragic that is when lives are at stake. Sadly, on the day of the accident, we saw it was not NIOSH that was in charge of safety for the miners, but the owner, concerned only with his bottom line.

Madam Speaker, the evidence shows that, despite significant progress over the last several decades, mining remains one of the most dangerous jobs in America. Mining fatalities occur at a rate more than seven times the average for all private industries, far exceeding other dangerous occupations. Last year alone, 56 miners died on the job in the United States.

Unfortunately, the tragedy at Crandall Canyon Mine was only the latest in a series of mine disasters, including three others last year which combined claimed 19 lives, the Sago Mine explosion, the fire at Aracoma Alma Mine, and the Kentucky Darmy Mine.

Madam Speaker, Congress owes it to the victims and to their families to perform a vigorous investigation to uncover what went wrong during these tragedies and how we can ensure that it never happens again. I am proud to say that we stand here today resolute in our promise to enhance the safety of our mine workers, bringing forth a bill that will aim to fulfill that pledge.

The Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act, or H.R. 2768, will help to prevent future disasters as well as improve our emergency response should another tragedy occur. We took an important step last Congress enacting into law the MINER Act, the bill intended to prevent disasters such as Crandall Canyon. However, the administration made it crystal clear that it did not intend to go any further or move more quickly than required under the MINER Act, despite new evidence that quicker action is necessary to ensure the safety of miners.

This bill empowers the Mine Safety and Health Administration to protect miners, providing them with the much-needed authority to investigate mine operators and punish those that ignore or break the law. Unfortunately, too many persons on the Oversight Committee are mine owners themselves. By providing the agency with subpoena authority, it will be permitted to stop production in mines that do not pay off delinquent accounts, and to shut down mines that do not abate violations. That is certainly long overdue and should have been done at least a century ago.

The bill also requires oversight and accountability by the agency, demanding that MSHA take a more active role in protecting the safety of the workers. For example, MSHA will be required to carefully review every plan for the notoriously dangerous practice known as ''retreat mining'' and to physically observe the process when it begins. In addition, they will be required to issue emergency response plans. Remember that the Crandall Canyon Mine had already been retreat-mined before these miners started work.

Furthermore, the bill is an important tool to enhance the safety and security of miners. It creates a miner ombudsman office to process incoming complaints and to assist whistleblowers while establishing solid ground rules for independent investigation of multiple fatality mine accidents. In addition, it requires improved communications and tracking systems, and it cuts the coal dust exposure limit in half, which is so important because I learned yesterday from Chairman MILLER that black lung disease, one of the most awful ways to live and die, is on the upsurge.

While this legislation takes groundbreaking steps to protect miners, we still have a long way to go to ensure that mining no longer carries the ominous description of ''one of America's most deadly professions.'' More must be done to reduce long-term health risks facing miners, such as

black lung disease, which can be just as deadly as on-the-job tragedies. We must expand on the MINER Act until tragedies like Crandall Canyon are a thing of the past and the death toll ceases to rise. Many oversight hearings conducted by the Committee on Education and Labor concluded that not only were the recent mining disasters preventable, but that the risk of a repeat incident is still very real.

I would like to take a moment to commend the House Education and Labor Committee under the wonderful leadership of Chairman GEORGE MILLER. It was Mr. MILLER who leapt into action to take on this immense responsibility.

This represents a marked change in the way the Congress has been operating following last year's election. Since Democrats regained control of the House and Senate last November, we have once again begun to use two of the most basic tools in our legislative tool box, they are oversight and investigation, and today's bill is no exception.

The bill shows our commitment to proactively advocate for working men and women, especially the victims and families of disasters like that that occurred at Crandall Canyon last August. We must do everything we can to ensure that every single miner is able to return home at the end of the day to their family. I am proud to say this is, at its heart, the true intention of this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairwoman of the Rules Committee, Ms. SLAUGHTER, for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

(Mr. HASTINGS of Washington asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, it is imperative that the over 200,000 miners in the United States work in a safe environment. Tragedies in recent years have highlighted the need to improve mine safety. In an effort to improve mine safety and prevent future tragedies, I was pleased that in 2006 the Senate unanimously, and the House overwhelmingly, passed the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response (MINER) Act, which was signed into law. This comprehensive, overwhelmingly bipartisan law represented a significant step, the first in some 30 years, forward in improving mine safety. But, Madam Speaker, it's unfortunate that today Democrat leaders have put bipartisanship aside and brought forth a rule to allow the House to consider legislation that threatens to jeopardize, not improve, meaningful achievements and efforts currently under way.

The MINER law of 2006 is still being implemented, and to date, the Mine Safety and Health Administration has met all of its statutory deadlines in implementing the new law. However, Democratic leaders have chosen to bring forth the Supplemental Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act, which ignores the progress that has been made, and further, provides no opportunity for stakeholder participation in the regulatory process and imposes unrealistic time requirements on employers.

In addition, it is concerning that this bill would allow technology to be placed in mines that has not been deemed ''intrinsically safe'' by the Mine Safety and Health Administration. This has the potential, Madam Speaker, to result in serious safety issues, such as maybe an explosion.

Another major safety concern is that this bill creates a two-tiered notification system in the event of an accident, with one set of reportable incidents being subject to be reported within 15 minutes and another set within an hour. Madam Speaker, current law requires a mine operator to call the Mine Safety and Health Administration within 15 minutes of a reportable incident or face a fine. This new confusing tiered system could potentially lessen protection to miners.

Lastly, this bill does not empower all miners to participate in the development of safety policies and procedures through the formation of safety teams. Currently, miners who are not part of a union can be prohibited from working with management to promote safety. Representatives KLINE of Minnesota and WILSON of South Carolina will be offering a substitute amendment later to end this discrimination between union and nonunion employees. All miners should be able to have a say when it comes to their safety, and this bill fails to do that.

Before enacting additional legislation that could be counterproductive, Congress should allow current law to be fully implemented. Congress should also review the law first before dictating mine safety regulations that fail to advance safety, potentially threatens jobs, and impose over $1 billion in unfunded mandates on the mining industry.

So, Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote against this rule and the underlying legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I would like to inquire if the gentleman from Washington has any remaining speakers.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I do have another speaker.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. At this time, I would like to recognize the ranking member of the Workforce Committee, Mr. MCKEON, for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCKEON. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Since the 110th Congress was gaveled into session, not a single bill within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Education and Labor has been considered under an open rule. Sadly, today's bill is no exception. Nonetheless, I do want to thank the majority for making the Republican substitute in order. I believe the S–MINER Act is fundamentally flawed and cannot be fixed with discrete amendments. As such, anything short of the Republican substitute will only result in cosmetic changes to a bill whose flaws run much deeper.

Each of us recognizes the importance of mine safety. The individuals who work in mines supply the energy that powers this Nation. Their job is dangerous, yet vital, and keeping them safe is critical.

Our commitment to mine safety is nothing new. In fact, it was nearly 2 years ago that we first took up the MINER Act in an effort to implement the most comprehensive reforms to mine safety in a generation. That bill enjoyed broad bipartisan support as well as the backing of both labor and industry.

The MINER Act was signed into law just a year and a half ago, and already it is producing major changes in the operation of our Nation's mines. The law included an aggressive implementation timetable, and the mining community has acted quickly to embrace the law and make its required changes. Our committee has monitored implementation of the MINER Act in order to ensure it is quickly and effectively put into place. There should be no question about our commitment to mine safety. Yet, here we are today to consider a bill that in many ways ignores the progress that has been made.

At best, the S–MINER Act is premature. The 2006 MINER Act has not yet been given the chance to take root, with many of its reforms still being developed by MSHA and those in the field. At worst, the S–MINER Act could actually derail ongoing progress by sending regulators and the mining community back to square one on many critical safety issues.

I would like to quote from an article published by the Lexington, Kentucky Herald-Leader by Rick Honaker, Mining Foundation distinguished professor and chairman of the University of Kentucky department of mining engineering:

''But now it seems very strange, almost incomprehensible, that a move is afoot in Congress to impose an entirely new set of requirements on coal mine operators and mine inspectors even before there has been an opportunity to comply with the far-reaching provisions of the MINER Act. It threatens to disrupt the all-important emergency rescue provisions of the law. Simply put, additional legislation now serves no useful purpose.''

Madam Speaker, Republicans have developed an alternative to the S–MINER Act that we believe strikes the appropriate balance between strengthening mine safety and maintaining the

widely supported reforms enacted less than 2 years ago. First and foremost, our substitute underscores the importance of the MINER Act reforms and restates our commitment to seeing them implemented fully and forcefully. In addition to supporting these strong reforms, our substitute goes further to protect miners by allowing them to be full participants in the safety process.

During the Education and Labor Committee's consideration of this bill, Representative KLINE offered an amendment that would have taken meaningful steps to enhance mine safety, without jeopardizing work already under way. That amendment, like our substitute, would empower miners by directly engaging them in the development of safety policies and procedures through the formation of safety teams. Currently, nonunionized miners may be prohibited from working with management to promote safety through teams.

To further protect miners, our substitute would enhance the MINER Act reforms by fostering communication between MSHA and the Bureau of Land Management; studying the conditions the next generation of miners will face with deep mine conditions, as well as fostering a better understanding of retreat mining using pillar removal; and clarifying information dissemination in the event of a tragedy.

Lastly, we would implement a testing program for illegal substances. This would not only protect those in the mines, but also identify miners who are struggling with addiction and in need of help. The States of Virginia and Kentucky have already implemented this safety measure, and miners have been protected because of it.

Madam Speaker, I cannot help but notice that the amendment offered by the distinguished chairman of the committee also includes a provision to address the issue of drug abuse among miners. I also cannot help but notice that this provision was inserted at the very last possible minute, several hours after the deadline for amendments to the Rules Committee. I hope this 11th-hour acknowledgement of the crippling problem of drug abuse among miners is a signal of genuine interest in addressing the issue. Unfortunately, by providing only a study rather than a strong testing program like that called for by Republicans, this gesture rings hollow.

Madam Speaker, although the rule makes in order a strong Republican alternative, it remains flawed because it allows consideration of a bill that should not pass.

□ 1145

The S–MINER Act abandons bipartisan mine safety reforms and replaces stakeholder expertise with bureaucratic Washington mandates that threaten mine workers' jobs. I urge a ''no'' vote.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, for the last several months, Republicans have highlighted the need to change the House rules in order to restore accountability and enforceability to the earmark rule.

Clearly, the rules are flawed when it comes to enforceability of earmarks. House Republicans believe every earmark should be debatable on the House floor, but time after time Members have been denied the opportunity to challenge earmarks during consideration of the rule and the bill.

Over the last several months, we have learned that the earmark rule does not apply when considering amendments between the Houses. This loophole has prevented numerous earmarks from being challenged in the energy bill, the State Children's Health Insurance Program expansion legislation, and the omnibus bill, which contained nearly 9,000 earmarks, including at least 150 earmarks that were airdropped in the bill at the last minute.

Madam Speaker, in October Parliamentarian John Sullivan sent a letter to Chairwoman SLAUGHTER confirming that the current rules are flawed as they relate to earmarks. In his letter, he states the earmark rule ''does not comprehensively apply to all legislative propositions at all stages of the legislative process.''

Madam Speaker, I will insert this letter from House Parliamentarian John Sullivan into the RECORD.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
OFFICE OF THE PARLIAMENTARIAN,
Washington, DC, October 2, 2007.

Hon. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER,
Committee on Rules, House of Representatives, Washington, DC

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN SLAUGHTER: Thank you for your letter of October 2, 2007, asking for an elucidation of our advice on how best to word a special rule. As you also know, we have advised the committee that language waiving all points of order ''except those arising under clause 9 of rule XXI'' should not be adopted as boilerplate for all special rules, notwithstanding that the committee may be resolved not to recommend that the House waive the earmark-disclosure requirements of clause 9.

In rule XXI, clause 9(a) establishes a point of order against undisclosed earmarks in certain measures and clause 9(b) establishes a point of order against a special rule that waives the application of clause 9(a). As illuminated in the rulings of September 25 and 27, 2007, clause 9(a) of rule XXI does not comprehensively apply to all legislative propositions at all stages of the legislative process.

Clause 9(a) addresses the disclosure of earmarks in a bill or joint resolution, in a conference report on a bill or joint resolution, or in a so-called ''manager's amendment'' to a bill or joint resolution. Other forms of amendment—whether they be floor amendments during initial House consideration or later amendments between the Houses—are not covered. (One might surmise that those who developed the rule felt that proposals to amend are naturally subject to immediate peer review, though they harbored reservations about the so-called ''manager's amendment,'' i.e., one offered at the outset of consideration for amendment by a member of a committee of initial referral under the terms of a special rule.)

The question of order on September 25 involved a special rule providing for a motion to dispose of an amendment between the Houses. As such, clause 9(a) was inapposite. It had no application to the motion in the first instance. Accordingly, Speaker pro tempore Holden held that the special rule had no tendency to waive any application of clause 9(a). The question of order on September 27 involved a special rule providing (in pertinent part) that an amendment be considered as adopted. Speaker pro tempore Blumenauer employed the same rationale to hold that, because clause 9(a) had no application to the amendment in the first instance, the special rule had no tendency to waive any application of clause 9(a).

The same would be true in the more common case of a committee amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text for the purpose of further amendment. Clause 9(a) of rule XXI is inapposite to such an amendment.

In none of these scenarios would a ruling by a presiding officer hold that earmarks are or are not included in a particular measure or proposition. Under clause 9(b) of rule XXI, the threshold question for the Chair—the cognizability of a point of order—turns on whether the earmark-disclosure requirements of clause 9(a) of rule XXI apply to the object of the special rule in the first place. Embedded in the question whether a special rule waives the application of clause 9(a) is the question whether clause 9(a) has any application.

In these cases to which clause 9 of rule XXI has no application in the first instance, stating a waiver of all points of order except those arising under that rule—when none can so arise—would be, at best, gratuitous. Its negative implication would be that such a point of order might lie. That would be as confusing as a waiver of all points of order against provisions of an authorization bill except those that can only arise in the case of a general appropriation bill (e.g., clause 2 of rule XXI). Both in this area and as a general principle, we try hard not to use language that yields a misleading implication.

I appreciate your consideration and trust that this response is to be shared among all members of the committee. Our office will share it with all inquiring parties.

Sincerely,

JOHN V. SULLIVAN,
Parliamentarian.

Madam Speaker, today I will be asking my colleagues to vote ''no'' on the previous question so that I can amend the rule in order to close the loopholes and restore accountability and enforceability to the House earmark rules.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the amendment and extraneous material be inserted into the RECORD prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on the previous question, oppose the rule.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I urge a ''yes'' vote on the previous question so that we can give more safety to the miners who work day after day in

sometimes unsafe and unspeakable conditions. I also urge a ''yes'' vote on the rule.

The material previously referred to by Mr. HASTINGS of Washington is as follows:

AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 918

OFFERED BY MR. HASTINGS OF WASHINGTON

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 3. That immediately upon the adoption of this resolution the House shall, without intervention of any point of order, consider the resolution (H. Res. 479) to amend the Rules of the House of Representatives to provide for enforcement of clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives. The resolution shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution to final adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Rules; and (2) one motion to recommit.

(The information contained herein was provided by Democratic Minority on multiple occasions throughout the 109th Congress.)

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Democratic majority agenda and a vote to allow the opposition, at least for the moment, to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives, (VI, 308–311) describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as ''a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge.'' To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that ''the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition'' in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R–Illinois) said: ''The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition.''

Because the vote today may look bad for the Democratic majority they will say ''the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever.'' But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the definition of the previous question used in the Floor Procedures Manual published by the Rules Committee in the 109th Congress, (page 56). Here's how the Rules Committee described the rule using information from Congressional Quarterly's ''American Congressional Dictionary'': ''If the previous question is defeated, control of debate shifts to the leading opposition member (usually the minority Floor Manager) who then manages an hour of debate and may offer a germane amendment to the pending business.''

Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled ''Amending Special Rules'' states: ''a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate.'' (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon.''

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Democratic majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on ordering the previous question will be followed by 5-minute votes on adoption of the resolution, if ordered; suspending the rules and agreeing to House Resolution 912; and suspending the rules and agreeing to House Resolution 921.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 222, nays 191, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 2]

YEAS—222

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baird
Baldwin
Bean
Becerra
Berman
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Castor
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Lincoln
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Frank (MA)
Giffords
Gillibrand
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
Klein (FL)
Kucinich
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Melancon
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Space
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tauscher
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Wexler
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth

NAYS—191

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachmann
Bachus
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Crenshaw
Cubin
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Fallin
Feeney
Ferguson
Flake
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gilchrest
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Hall (TX)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hulshof
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jordan
Keller
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McHugh
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moran (KS)
Murphy, Tim
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Pearce
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Porter
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Sali
Saxton
Schmidt
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shays
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Tancredo
Terry
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner

Upton
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—17

Baca
Baker
Berkley
Berry
Culberson
Forbes
Fossella
Honda
Hunter
Jefferson
Lantos
Meeks (NY)
Miller, Gary
Paul
Shimkus
Tanner
Westmoreland

□ 1212

Messrs. SESSIONS and MILLER of Florida changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONDEMNING ASSASSINATION OF FORMER PAKISTANI PRIME MINISTER BENAZIR BHUTTO AND REAFFIRMING COMMITMENT OF UNITED STATES TO ASSIST PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 912, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 912.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 413, nays 0, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 3]

YEAS—413

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berman
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carter
Castle
Castor
Chabot
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Fortenberry
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Hooley
Hoyer
Hulshof
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Space
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tancredo
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Wexler
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—18

Baca
Baker
Berkley
Berry
Cole (OK)
Culberson
Forbes
Fossella
Honda
Hunter
Jefferson
Lantos
Meeks (NY)
Miller, Gary
Paul
Shimkus
Tanner
Westmoreland

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining on this vote. We are encouraging Members to hurry up and vote, please.

□ 1220

Mr. WELLER of Illinois changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONCURRENCE BY HOUSE WITH AMENDMENT IN SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 4253, MILITARY RESERVIST AND VETERAN SMALL BUSINESS REAUTHORIZATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2008

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 921, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 921.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 406, nays 2, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 4]

YEAS—406

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berman
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carter
Castle
Castor
Chabot
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conaway

Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Fortenberry
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Hooley
Hoyer
Hulshof
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Space
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tancredo
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Wexler
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—2

Broun (GA)
Flake

NOT VOTING—22

Baca
Baker
Berkley
Berry
Bilbray
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Culberson
Forbes
Fossella
Hastings (FL)
Honda
Hunter
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Lantos
Meeks (NY)
Miller, Gary
Paul
Shimkus
Tanner
Westmoreland

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised 2 minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1228

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2768.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

SUPPLEMENTAL MINE IMPROVEMENT AND NEW EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACT OF 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 918 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2768.

□ 1230

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 consideration of the bill (H.R. 2768) to establish improved mandatory standards to protect miners during emergencies, and for other purposes, with Mr. GUTIERREZ in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

□ 1230

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER).

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, today I rise in strong support of legislation that would greatly enhance the health and safety protections in the Nation's coal mines.

Despite significant progress over the last several decades, mining remains one of the most dangerous jobs in America. Mining fatalities occur at a rate more than seven times the average of all private industries; and we are reminded of how dangerous mining can be by the tragedies like the one in Utah in August of this last year, where six miners and three rescuers died in what appears to have been a preventable disaster, and the tragedies of Kentucky and West Virginia in 2006.

Accidents every year claim the lives of one or two miners at a time. In 2007, according to the Mine Safety and Health Administration, 32 coal miners and 31 metal and nonmetal miners died on the job. Miners also face serious health risks, including a resurgence of black lung disease.

The legislation we are considering today, the S–MINER Act, builds on the work of the last Congress when it passed the MINER Act of 2006. The S-MINER Act represents a comprehensive approach to minimize the health and safety risks facing miners. It is critical that Congress take this action, because one of the things that is clear is that we cannot leave mine safety and health to the Bush administration.

When the Sago Mine disaster occurred, we learned that the Bush administration had withdrawn or delayed more than a dozen health and safety proposals that would have benefited miners. The Bush administration filled top-level positions at MSHA with executives from the very industry that the agency was charged with regulating. Dangerous rules favored by the industry, which would leave miners vulnerable to aggressive ''belt air'' fires, became law under this administration.

From 2001 to 2006, the Bush administration gutted MSHA by cutting funding and staffing, and especially in coal mine enforcement, where the worst tragedies would strike in 2006 and 2007. Even as coal production increased around the country, the Bush administration cut the Mine Safety and Health Administration's coal enforcement personnel by 9 percent by 2006. And then came the Sago disaster, Aracoma Alma, Darby, and Crandall Canyon mines. Even after these recent tragedies, even after the MINER Act was enacted, we continue to see neglect from this administration.

The Inspector General found this past fall that MSHA was failing to conduct mandated inspections on time, leaving thousands of miners unprotected. In 2006 alone, MSHA failed to complete the required inspections of 107 mines, employing 7,500 miners. And,

Secretary Chao failed to meet a simple deadline under the MINER Act to produce regulations on rescue teams, fundamental regulations on rescue teams, at the end of this last year.

The track record of this administration on mine safety and health has been horrendous, and Congress needs to act. That is why we are here today, to make sure that our government fulfills its obligations to protect those brave men and women who risk their safety to keep this country running.

The S–MINER Act addresses three broad issues: disaster prevention; improved emergency response; and long-term health risks. And I will talk more about those areas in a moment.

Later today, in addition to the underlying bill, I will be offering a manager's amendment that makes modifications to the bill. Among other things, that amendment will address the troubling problems of substance abuse. Because of injuries, overwork, and stress that miners often suffer, we have heard reports of substance abuse among miners.

I want to be absolutely clear. None of the recent mine tragedies have been linked to drug use in any way, but we should nevertheless be proactive in heading off the dangers that drug use poses to the miners. A few States have already adopted drug testing requirements for miners. Most, if not all, of the large coal mining companies already utilize some form of drug testing program. It will take further study to determine what role, if any, the Federal Government should play here, but this issue should be dealt with. That is why the amendment I will offer later today will require the Secretary of Labor to conduct a study on best practices and will authorize her, within 6 months, to set up a drug testing and rehabilitation program for miners, in consultation with miners, their unions, operators, State agencies, and public health experts.

Two other amendments will be offered by Representatives BOUCHER and ELLSWORTH to build upon and modify this legislation, and I support those amendments.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of mine safety and in opposition to this bill, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The men and women who work in and around our Nation's mines are often unrecognized for the integral role they play in powering our country. These individuals work hard, in difficult and often dangerous conditions, to unearth the raw materials that each of us relies upon in our day-to-day lives.

While mining is inherently dangerous, there are steps we can take to mitigate that risk. For that reason, mine safety has been an ongoing priority both legislatively and within the context of oversight.

Although our commitment to mine safety is constant, we also recognize that new mandates from Washington translate into major changes within the operation of our Nation's mines. For that reason, we do not and we must not take a piecemeal approach to mine reform. Rather, we should develop thoughtful, comprehensive consensus reforms, and then give those reforms a chance to work. I am pleased to say that we did just that less than 2 years ago. In 2006, Congress passed the MINER Act which required MSHA to revise its penalties, increase penalties for major violations, undertake several studies regarding mining practices, and work to improve the technology for communications underground. The MINER Act received strong bipartisan, bicameral support. It was backed by both industry and labor, and its reforms were understood to be the most significant in a generation.

With the MINER Act, we called on the mining industry to overhaul itself, to develop and implement new technologies, and to comply with strong new protections that were to be developed by the experts. This type of transformation cannot take place overnight; but let there be no doubt, change is well under way.

Mr. Chairman, I fear that with this bill before us, we run a very real risk of derailing that progress and returning to square one on many critical mine safety issues. H.R. 2768 ignores the safety guidelines being developed through expert research and review, and replaces them with arbitrary new mandates established by Congress. This bill makes an end run around the regulatory process, shutting stakeholders out.

Simply put, the S–MINER Act abandons the mine safety momentum of the MINER Act and sends us back to the drawing board.

I appreciate Chairman MILLER's concern about the dangers faced by our Nation's miners, and I share his desire to see strong reforms in place that will promote safety. That is why Republicans will offer a substitute amendment that would accomplish exactly that.

The Wilson/Kline amendment will balance successful implementation of the 2006 MINER Act with a number of mine safety enhancements. I look forward to supporting that amendment when it is offered, because it provides a real opportunity to promote mine safety without backing away from the progress that has been made.

In addition to the Republican substitute, we will consider a number of other amendments today, including one to be offered by Chairman MILLER. I would be remiss, however, if I did not point out the rather transparent political expediency of one portion of that amendment.

Included in the Republican substitute is a proposal to implement mandatory drug testing within the mining industry. A similar proposal was offered by the late Charlie Norwood, our colleague from Georgia, who was a stalwart on this issue. The ravaging impact of drug abuse among miners came into sharp focus this past weekend, when the front page of the Washington Post carried a story of miners who struggle with addiction to pain killers. We believe that mandatory drug testing is the most effective and, indeed, the only way to immediately address the prevalence of drug abuse that is putting miners' lives at risk.

Our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, however, appear to have discovered the devastation of drug abuse among miners only late yesterday afternoon. At that time, several hours after the deadline for submitting amendments, the chairman was permitted to resubmit a revised version of his manager's package that included a hastily drafted study of drug abuse among miners. While this amendment may offer a fig leaf now that the issue of drug abuse can no longer be ignored, it should not be mistaken for a legitimate attempt to deter drug abuse in the way that testing would.

Mr. Chairman, the S–MINER Act is fundamentally flawed. It brings the progress of the 2006 MINER Act to a jarring halt, creating instead a package of new prescriptive mandates from Washington. The bill imposes $1 billion in unfunded mandates on the mining community, placing the jobs of miners in jeopardy. This bill is the wrong answer at the wrong time for our Nation's miners. There is a better way.

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 30 seconds.

My colleague from California said that we had a study in this. Yes, we have a study for the Secretary to determine the best way to implement a drug testing and treatment program after 6 months of talking to the States and local agencies and the companies and the miners. We don't impose this from Washington. And then the Secretary, if she determines that it is feasible, she is instructed to start the program.

We just thought it would be wise to consult the companies who have programs, States that have programs, the miners themselves, the local public health agencies.

I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BOSWELL).

(Mr. BOSWELL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOSWELL. Mr. Chairman, I think we all agree that, first and foremost, safety is the top priority for everyone involved in the mining industry. We, as a Congress, must ensure that legislation is heading in the right direction for the health and safety of American miners. Over the past several years, we have seen bad safety conditions and the devastating effects these conditions can have, not only on communities, but on human life.

We also must recognize the fact that not all mining operations are the same.

Repeat. Not all mining operations are the same. So I understand, Mr. Chairman, that you will continue to work with us Members, that you just said a moment ago, to address any concerns the bill raises as it moves through the process. And I want to thank Chairman MILLER for his leadership on this issue and his willingness to continue to work and listen to other Members on the issue. He in fact is a true champion of our Nation's workers.

Again, I would like to thank him for yielding this time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McKEON. I am happy now to yield to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE), the ranking member of the committee, such time as he may consume.

□ 1245

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, today I rise in favor of mine safety but in strong opposition to the S–MINER Act.

Unfortunately, the bill as written does little to improve safety in our Nation's mines. As someone who voted for the MINER Act, I am concerned that this legislation derails much of what has already been achieved. I appreciate that there is concern about the speed of implementation, but the answer is not to call a halt to the work that has already been done and completely turn direction.

We have heard from mine engineering academics that this bill is flawed. We have heard from over 28 industry groups that this bill interrupts the progress being made in mine safety, while the Mine Safety and Health Administration's opinion has been dismissed by the other side, apparently until today, when we are going to turn over to MSHA the issue of drug testing. The President has issued a veto threat citing safety concerns.

The statement of administration policy specifically states, ''The requirement to use boreholes to sample behind mine seals weakens existing safety standards since boreholes have metal casings that could introduce an ignition source, such as lightning, into an area of the mine that may contain explosive methane. The S–MINER bill would weaken current regulations requiring a mine operator to contact the Mine Safety and Health Administration within 15 minutes of a serious accident by creating a two-tiered notification system of 15 minutes or 1 hour depending on the severity of the incident.''

I question how in good conscience we can be considering legislation that, according to the very people who enforce the law, weakens current regulations.

This bill is going to mandate the use of refuge chambers, examples of which were demonstrated on Capitol Hill. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, NIOSH, tested several of these units and found serious deficiencies.

In a letter to the State of West Virginia, NIOSH expressed concerns stating, ''Since findings from our field testing raise issues about the performance of such refuge chambers, NIOSH believes it is imperative to inform you of our findings as soon as possible before deployment of refuge chambers.''

Mr. Chairman, later today I will join my committee colleague, Mr. WILSON, in offering an amendment in the nature of a substitute. This is a Republican substitute that does not upend the mine safety progress currently under way.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on the S–MINER Act.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 30 seconds.

The gentleman should have finished reading the rest of the letter where NIOSH says that these technical modifications can be addressed quickly. And, in fact, the preliminary feedback is that manufacturers have already made many of these, and they have already been implemented. Read the whole letter. I suggest that the gentleman on the other side of the aisle read the legislation, and when they want to introduce evidence, read the complete evidence.

I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY).

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Chairman, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 2768, the S–MINER Act. The health and safety of miners is too important to ignore or to delay, and it is vitally important that we act now, not tomorrow, not in another year, to pass this critical legislation.

I want to commend Chairman MILLER for putting together comprehensive legislation that actually tackles the problems plaguing mining for many, many years.

With this legislation, we can prevent the appalling loss of life that we have had in the past couple of years at Sago, at Darby, at Aracoma, and most recently at Crandall Canyon in Utah.

Since the year 2006, about 80 miners have been killed at their workplaces. And that is in the 21st century. Don't forget, this is the 21st century.

Now it is true that working conditions for miners have improved over the years, and we have come a long ways since the turn of the last century when thousands of miners died every year. But miners, who provide a valuable service to this country at great danger to themselves, are still dying as a result of incidents that were preventable had everyone been following the law.

And black lung, a disease we thought had pretty much been eradicated, is back with a vengeance. This is absolutely unacceptable.

I have heard on numerous occasions that miners love their jobs. So our job for them is to keep them as healthy and safe as possible so they will return home every night to their families at the end of the working day and that they will return safe and healthy.

The Subcommittee on Workforce Protection, which I chair, had a hearing on this legislation in July. And the S–MINER Act actually puts teeth in the MINER Act which Congress passed in 2006. Let me mention a few provisions which I think highlight why this legislation is so very important.

For example, while we know that true wireless communications systems are not yet fully developed, technologies do exist that greatly improve communications between miners below ground with those on the surface. The MINER Act requires that wireless communications systems be installed, but not until the year 2009. Miners can't wait until 2009. And the S–MINER Act mandates that miners have communication capabilities now instead of having to go without until the most perfect system has been developed.

One of the things that is so outrageous, as I said, in this day and age is that black lung is back, a disease everyone thought was eradicated. This legislation, the S–MINER Act, requires the use by each miner of a personal dust monitor so that exposure to coal dust can be cut in half. And because the committee recognizes it could be a burden for mine operators to provide this equipment to their employees, the manager's amendment authorizes $30 million for MSHA to pay for those devices.

In addition, the Crandall Canyon disaster showed us once again that retreat mining is a perilous activity, and this legislation requires MSHA to closely review these plans.

Another thing the families of miners told us was that miners were afraid to come forward to report safety and health violations. So this legislation provides for a miner ombudsman to be appointed to process complaints and assist whistleblowers with their cases.

And finally, this legislation requires that physicians be created at MSHA to be in charge of communicating with families and the community while a rescue effort is going on.

In developing this legislation, we have done our utmost to reach out across the aisle and to all interest groups, including industry, to come up with a bipartisan bill.

While industry does not support this bill, and shame on them, many of their concerns are reflected in the current legislation and in Mr. MILLER's manager's amendment.

Mr. Chairman, this is the 21st century and we must have 21st century solutions to adequately protect miners in this country. Vote for the S–MINER Act.

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Chairman, we have some speakers on their way to the floor and I would like to reserve our time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HARE), a member of the committee.

Mr. HARE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of this critical piece of legislation.

Mining remains one of the most dangerous occupations in the United States, and our laws have not kept up with the changes in the industry. As a member of the House Education and Labor Committee, I participated in several hearings on this issue. At one in particular, I was touched by the little boy whose father had just been killed in the Crandall Canyon tragedy. It is for him and the countless other children who will grow up without a mom or a dad that I believe, as Members of Congress, we have the responsibility to do all we can to ensure that our miners are safe and come home to their families safely every night.

The recent tragedies at Sago, Darby and Crandall Canyon mines have made it apparent that the MINER Act of 2006 has fallen short in some areas. The legislation we are considering today addresses these areas. I am particularly pleased that the bill grants MSHA the authority to shut down mines that have neglected to pay fines for safety violations. Additionally, the retreat mining and whistleblower protections are much-needed improvements in the bill.

While the MINER Act of 2006 was a very good first step towards improving mine safety, it is clear that more work must be done. I believe today's bill will take us that one step further in making mining a little safer. I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on this important legislation.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HARE. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I thank the gentleman for his support of this legislation, and more importantly, to thank him for all of his support on behalf of workers during our first session of Congress. I thank you for your attendance at the hearings and advocacy and questions on behalf of workers. I know of your very strong interest in miners, and I want to thank you for your advocacy on behalf of all workers.

Mr. HARE. I thank the chairman for your comments and for your work. There is not a more stand-up Member in this Congress for the working men and women of this Nation.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I yield 3½ minutes to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL).

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Chairman, I thank the distinguished chairman of the Education and Labor Committee for yielding me this time, and commend him for his career, lifelong service of dedication to our working men and women of this country. Chairman GEORGE MILLER has certainly shown over his career in this body that there is no person that will take a second seat to him as far as protecting the health, safety, and well-being of our working men and women.

Mr. Chairman, there are those who have argued on the other side that this measure, coming on the heels of major mine safety legislation in 2006, is too much too soon. They argue that the Mine Safety and Health Administration is struggling to fix numerous problems and must be allowed to implement one bill before additional legislative mandates are hefted upon them.

Now, that argument has a valid point. And yes, the industry is making strides to improve safety, especially in my home State of West Virginia.

But an equally valid argument can be made that the Congress should not simply sit back and hope that MSHA follows through on needed improvements. To do so would be to neglect our duty to serve as a check, and we must not return to the hands-off mentality that allowed MSHA to slip into its recent dismal state of decline.

This legislation seeks to return to MSHA the business of protecting our Nation's miners, plain and simple. This should be our overall goal. MSHA has strayed too far from its mission, and the MINER Act did not touch some challenges that most agree need to be addressed. This bill supports a course correction that now is taking place. It sets a high bar because its purpose is the highest: the protection of the lives of our coal miners. And in this regard, we can never be too vigilant when it comes to protecting the health and safety and well-being of our Nation's coal miners.

Most coal companies in my State work hard to ensure improved workplace safety, and they are making significant investment, for which they deserve commendation. Likewise, most of the employees of MSHA, including those in my home State, are well-intentioned, dedicated and hardworking. These individuals put their lives on the line to save other lives, and they should be recognized for that.

As well, my home State of West Virginia, above all others, has taken the challenge of improving mine conditions seriously. But none of this excuses the management of MSHA from doing its job, and it certainly does not excuse the Federal legislative branch from its responsibility to ensure that the senior Federal agency charged with the safety of our coal miners fulfills its statutory mission.

First and foremost, MSHA is supposed to inspect mines to ensure that they are abiding by the law to operate as safely as possible. That is its most fundamental job, its reason for existence. But yet, we found that MSHA last year failed to complete more than 40 percent of its required quarterly inspections in my own congressional district alone. That fact speaks most compellingly for the need for this legislation.

This bill would address that deadly lack of inspections at mines in southern West Virginia. It aims to provide for badly needed increases in the ranks of highly trained inspectors, including bringing experienced retirees back into service and directing limited resources into the field where they are needed most.

So given these conditions, Mr. Chairman, again I commend Chairman MILLER and urge passage of this legislation.

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Chairman, I am happy to yield at this time to the ranking member on the Resources Committee, the senior Republican from Alaska, Mr. YOUNG, such time as he may consume.

(Mr. YOUNG of Alaska asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Chairman, here we go again; another nail in the coffin of energy independence. Another nail, in fact, adding to the unemployment rate.

□ 1300

If this bill was to become law, mines will be shut down. They will be shut down. And what bothers me the most is we had a bipartisan bill, actually it was passed in 2006, I believe, or 2007, that improved the 1977 Mine Safety Health Act. It was supported by everybody, that side and this side, the administration. And we have not given the time, that's less than a year and a half, given the time for the operators of these mines to even reach that requirement that we said was the right thing to do.

Now, it always amazes me. I don't think there's much coal mining in Vallejo or in the Bay Area or in Point Reyes. And I do respect the gentleman from West Virginia because he does have mining. And I've heard from his operators in that area that there's a very difficult thought process going forth with this bill. Can they operate? Because in this bill, they stop the ability for belt air, which, in fact, was put in for safety purposes, supported by the people who understand this, for diluting methane and dust levels, and this bill prohibits that. How is that improving the life of our miners? It is not.

And more than that, I want to remind people. As bad as it may appear, as very much, you know, heart wrenching when there is a death in a mine, we still have the safest mining industry in the world. China lost 6,000 people, that we know of last year in their coal mines; building one new coal fired plant a week.

And here we are, with this bill, if it was to become law, again, adding another nail in our coffin for energy independence. Coal is a solution to this terrible dependence that we have on foreign oil.

I was a little disappointed today when I saw the President ask the OPEC countries to produce more oil so we can lower the price.

Our fault in this country is we're not producing oil on our lands, which we have, and we're not producing the coal, which we have an abundance of. And I believe, when saying this under the guise of helping the miner out, we are jeopardizing their jobs, jeopardizing

the economy in this country, and driving us further into the depression which may occur.

If that does happen, I want to compliment that side of the aisle, because you haven't addressed the issue of energy. And I'm a little bit disappointed. I watched all the Presidential debates. Not even on my side, let alone that side, has anybody talked about solving the energy problem in this country. We must address that issue because our economy is based on energy that can move product. Every ship is fossilly driven. Every train is fossilly driven. Every truck is fossilly driven. Every car, everything you eat and everything you consume is delivered to you by fossil fuels.

Now, we can improve nuclear power to give us fixed power, and we can burn coal, and we can use solar, and we can use hydro. We can do all these things. But there's fixed power. And we, as a Nation, and this Congress have not got to the point where we understand if we don't do something, we keep sending the dollars abroad, there's a great possibility that this whole economy we have will implode.

I'm saying, wake up, Mr. and Mrs. America. Start asking your Members of Congress, let's do something about energy. You can't conserve yourself into a prosperity position. You've got to have new energy, new production. Yes, drilling. Offshore in California, shame on you. Offshore in Florida, shame on Florida. Offshore in Alaska, shame on Alaska. We must start developing our fossil fuels in the Rocky Mountains. We must start at the Roan Plateau, which you took off the table. The Roan Plateau, have that developed. We have to start doing what is necessary to make sure we're no longer dependent on those foreign countries that are not our friends.

So I urge a ''no'' on this bill because it's another nail in the coffin that creates in this country more weaknesses and not the ability to provide for the future generations.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I yield myself 30 seconds.

The gentleman from Alaska is quite correct. It's a pathetic sight to see the President of the United States begging the Saudi prince to release more oil 8 years after that President has been in office; several energy bills passed by the Republican Congress, and the President is left going hat in hand begging the Saudi prince for more oil. It just shows the opportunity cost of this administration, of that Republican Congress and the pathetic energy policy that we were left with.

The new energy bill, however, reverses that trend. I'm very proud to be part of it.

Mr. MCKEON. I yield the gentleman 30 seconds to respond.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. My good friend from California, he is my good friend, you have to recognize that we have not done anything. When you were in the majority you did nothing. You in fact had President Clinton veto opening of new oil discoveries in Alaska.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. That's 10 years ago.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Ten years ago. Again, everybody tells me we can do it at a later date. And what we're doing is nothing. I ask each one of you in this room that's sitting here today, I'm asking you, are we going to sit until this whole country comes to a collapse because we're not addressing the energy policy? The energy bill we passed here has produced no energy at all.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2768, the S-MINER Act.

Over the past year the Education and Labor Committee, of which I am a member, has held several hearings on the topic of mine safety. During those hearings, witness after witness asked that the Federal Government take stronger actions to protect the health and safety of miners. Hearing their call to action, we are here today to pass landmark legislation that will save the lives of countless miners.

H.R. 2768 builds upon the MINER Act to boost prevention efforts, improve emergency response and reduce health risks. The MINER Act, which passed during the last session of Congress in response to the Sago mining disaster, made important steps in protecting miners, but implementation has been slow, and more needs to be done. Sadly, since H.R. 2768 was introduced, miners have been seriously injured or killed while on the job. That is why it is crucial for this Congress to act now and pass this legislation.

This Congress has been entrusted with the responsibility to make sure that all workers are protected at their workplace. We take that responsibility seriously. And I am proud to support this bill which will take the necessary steps in safeguarding the health and safety of America's miners.

I want to thank and commend Chairman MILLER for introducing this legislation and moving it so quickly to the floor. And I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on H.R. 2768.

Mr. MCKEON. I am happy to yield to the gentlelady from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) such time as she may consume.

Mrs. CAPITO. I'd like to thank the ranking member for his recognition.

Over the past several years, this country has witnessed a series of tragic mining disasters, starting with the 12 miners killed on January 3, 2006 at the Sago Mine in my district. I know the families, I know the communities, and this is a wound that will never heal. This tragedy was followed by more deaths in accidents around the country, and each of these disasters has identified and highlighted deficiencies in the protection afforded miners.

In response to Sago and the other mine disasters, Congress enacted the MINER Act. We did it in a bipartisan way. It was a very proud day for me, as a West Virginian, to stand with my fellow West Virginians, several Governors, the President of the United States. Members of my own community, from the Sago community, came to the signing to sign the MINER Act. I'm proud of that effort, and I'm proud of the efforts that the companies have moved forward to improve the safety since the enactment of the MINER Act. It has substantially tightened regulations and enforcement procedures, and the mining industry has made significant changes in operations and equipment to comply with the strengthened requirements.

A number of Federal agencies and several State agencies, West Virginia has been very aggressive in this regard, has pushed reforms to better respond to incidents that occur and how we can improve the chances of miners to survive a serious accident. Today more self-contained self-rescuers are being stored underground than in the past, and that is a good positive first step.

With the success of the original MINER Act in mind, I do hold some reservations that additional legislation could complicate the safety improvements currently under way, and I am not alone in my concern. I encourage my colleagues to keep this in mind if this legislation moves forward.

Unfortunately, the events of Sago serve as a reminder that we must always strive to make America's mines as safe as they can possibly be.

This bill is flawed in many ways. The junior Senator from West Virginia has publicly expressed his concern, and I have concern that this bill will hold up some of the progress as it has moved forward.

But at the end of the day, for me, this is about those Sago miners, and their tragedies stay with me. My hope is that we can continue the good work that has moved forward as a result of the MINER Act. It is crucial that Congress continue to highlight mine safety so that the tragedies we've seen in West Virginia and across the Nation are not repeated.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. May I inquire of the Chair how much time each side has remaining.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman has 13 minutes, and 15½ on the other side.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT), a member of the committee.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, there's no question that mining has been a dangerous job. And today coal mining is rated among the most dangerous occupations in America. It does not have to be that way.

As a scientist, I've paid some attention to mine safety technology, but I also feel strongly about the concerns of those working in mines because I was born and raised in West Virginia, where my father, many years ago, as a member of the House of Delegates, and later

in the Senate, was known as one of the best friends the miner ever had.

As an original cosponsor of the S–MINER Act, I want to thank Chairman MILLER and our staff for recognizing the importance of getting communications technology, currently existing, and that being developed, into the mines as quickly as possible.

This bill improves the work of the previous Congress by requiring that enhanced communications and miner tracking systems be installed immediately upon enactment.

I remain troubled that the Mine Safety and Health Administration and mine operators have delayed getting promising technology into the mines. It is really heartrending to share in the terror and tragedy of miners stranded without communication.

A year ago, NIOSH reached an agreement with the U.S. Army Communications and Electronics Research Center at Fort Monmouth in New Jersey to test and develop the KUTTA communications system because communications on the battlefield and in noisy environments subject to disruptions have lessons for communications in the mines.

Mr. Chairman, MSHA has not acted with the urgency needed to prevent future miner fatalities. Today Congress is acting.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation because, in the wake of the Sago and Darby and Crandall Canyon mine tragedies, we should not have to face more families who have faced these tragedies, and we should do everything we can to prevent such tragedies in the future.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH), a member of the committee.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the S–MINER Act because it will quite simply and without doubt save the lives of innocent Americans. It could have saved the life of my fellow Kentuckian, Jimmy Lee, whose widow Melissa I met this past year. She courageously came to us for help because, though it was too late to save her Jimmy, we still had the chance to prevent more loving spouses from becoming courageous widows.

Yesterday, Melissa and 27 other Kentuckians sent me a letter. Each has lost a father, son or husband in a preventable mine disaster, and each urges the implementation of this legislation.

I found it very interesting to listen to my colleague from across the aisle, the gentleman from Alaska. And he used the term on a number of occasions, a nail in the coffin: And this is what we're talking about.

In my case, today, I'm talking about a letter from 28 Kentuckians who had to put their relatives, their loved ones in coffins and bury them because this government has not done what it can and should do to protect them.

In any event, the White House threatens a veto, not so much because it disagrees, but because the Department of Labor still hasn't implemented the last law. Congress is here to act when bureaucracies drag their feet. And here the consequences of the administration stonewalling are disastrous.

This is one of those choices we face in this era. We face the decision between money and lives. And as I said during the hearing when we looked into the Darby disaster and Sago and Crandall Canyon, we need to have a country and a government that value the lives of the miners as much as what they bring out of the ground. That's what this legislation is all about. That's what we stand here to do. And that's why I congratulate the chairman for his courageous act and his passion for this cause.

So with that, I urge my colleagues and the President to join me in supporting the Supplemental Mining Improvement and New Emergency Response Act. And I urge them to begin saving lives today.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I yield myself 30 seconds.

I want to thank the gentleman. I've had an opportunity to read the letter from his constituents, and I want to thank him for entering it into the RECORD. It's on behalf of those families and the families of the other mining tragedies who have also written to us that we made a pledge in our committee, as the gentleman knows, that this committee was going to be very diligent about pursuing mine safety.

□ 1315

It had been ignored for too long. The families had been closed out of the process. They were not allowed to testify. They were not allowed to go to the investigations. They were not allowed to attend the hearings, and this legislation changes much of that.

And you're quite correct and I want to thank him and his constituents for the support of this legislation.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN. Members are reminded to refrain from wearing communicative badges while under recognition.

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON). He's the senior ranking member on the subcommittee.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I thank Congressman MCKEON very much for the introduction. I appreciate his leadership on the committee.

I speak in opposition to the bill and in favor of mine safety, as fully explained by the Statement of Administration Policy dated January 15, 2008, from the Office of Management and Budget.

In 2006, the President signed the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response, MINER, Act, the most significant mine safety legislation in nearly 30 years. The administration has worked with miners, mine owners, miners' representatives, and other stakeholders in the mining industry to meet the safety improvement goals set forth in the original MINER Act, including issuing regulations to strengthen emergency mine evacuation practices, improve the strength requirements for seals, and increase civil penalties. In addition, on December 26, 2007, the President signed the Omnibus Appropriations Act, which mandates additional rulemaking on belt air and refuge chambers on rigorous timetables.

H.R. 2768, the Supplemental Mine Improvement New Emergency Response Act, the S–MINER bill, would place in jeopardy meaningful achievements and efforts currently under way as a result of these measures. In particular, several of the regulatory mandates in the S–MINER bill would weaken several existing regulations and overturn regulatory processes that were required by the MINER Act and are ongoing.

These changes would provide no opportunity for stakeholder participation in the regulatory process and would impose burdensome and unrealistic time requirements. The S–MINER bill would also fundamentally change the investigation of mining accidents and jeopardize the ability to hold mine operators accountable for violations of mine safety regulations.

For these reasons, the administration strongly opposes House passage of the bill. If H.R. 2768 were presented to the President in its current form, the President's senior advisers would recommend he veto the bill.

The S–MINER bill requires new regulations on the strength of mine seals, even though a new emergency temporary standard on mine seals was issued in May 2007 and a final regulation will be issued in February 2008. To reopen this process would cause confusion within the industry and put on hold improvements already being made to underground mine seals.

The S–MINER bill would weaken current regulations requiring a mine operator to contact the Mine Safety and Health Administration, MSHA, within 15 minutes of a serious accident by creating a new two-tiered notification system of 15 minutes or 1 hour, depending on the severity of the incident.

Of particular concern is a provision requiring the MSHA to adopt the recommended exposure limits issued by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health as permissible exposure limits, PELs. This provision overturns a Federal court decision that requires agencies like the MSHA to perform a risk assessment prior to issuing a PEL. This provision would mandate the adoption of potentially hundreds of PELs without any input from stakeholders and without determination of whether the PEL is economically and technologically feasible.

The S–MINER bill would allow a stakeholder to challenge a PEL only after its issuance. This process undermines the rigor of the normal rulemaking process and places the burden

of proof of technological and economic feasibility on stakeholders instead of the Department of Labor.

The S–MINER bill would potentially quadruple the number of investigations into multi-injury or multifatality accidents by adding a requirement for another investigation by an independent investigative team and by giving the Chemical Safety Board, as well as the Office of the Inspector General within the Department of Labor, the right to investigate mine accidents. These provisions undermine the government's ability to hold accountable mine operators who violate mine safety and health regulations since multiple investigations potentially using different methodologies and reaching different conclusions could prejudice the government's ability to prosecute civil or criminal investigations of mine safety and health standards that contributed to or exacerbated an accident.

Current law gives MSHA the sole authority to investigate mine accidents, and when MSHA investigators uncover possible criminal violations, they identify the necessary enforcement action to take against a mine operator and make an appropriate referral to the Department of Justice.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LOEBSACK).

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Chairman, in recent years we have seen several mine tragedies that cost the lives of hard-working individuals. Our first thought should always be the safety of mine workers. We must ensure there are adequate regulations in place to provide the safest working environments possible.

Iowa is a proud home to many limestone producers. While they share our goal of protecting mine workers, we must also recognize the differences between limestone mining and coal mining. These local producers are concerned that some provisions in this bill may harm small businesses. These businesses provide jobs in our local communities and are critical to Iowa's continued economic development.

I want to thank the chairman for his work on this bill and for his willingness to continue a dialogue on this issue. As this bill continues to move through the legislative process, I hope we can reach a compromise supported by workers, industry, Congress, and the administration.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS), a member of the committee.

(Mr. ANDREWS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

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

In the spring of 2007 at the Crandall Canyon Mine, retreat mining began, and when they started the retreat mining on the north side of the mountain, there were indications that there could be trouble. There were literally noises, sounds, that say there could be trouble. So they stopped.

In June of 2007, the company conducting that mining went to the mine safety regulators, the Federal Government, and said we want to now do on the south side of the mountain what we stopped doing on the north side of the mountain. In just over a week, 9 days as I recall, the Federal regulators said go ahead and do it. How much care could they have taken in that analysis in that short period of time? Tragically, in August of 2007, nine people lost their lives.

Here's what this bill would change. It would say that the next time a mining company submits a retreat mining plan, they've got to have a computer model of what might happen when they start. They've got to send people from the mine safety agency to the mine to watch that it's being done the right way, and they've got to look at every possible technology that could be used to protect and save people's lives.

Tonight, nine families have an empty chair at the dinner table because of the tragedy that occurred at Crandall Canyon. I can't assure any of those people that we would avoid a future tragedy, but we have to try, and this bill is an intelligent, good-faith effort in that regard. It deserves the vote of every Democrat and every Republican. It deserves to become law.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy, as I appreciate his leadership.

I voted against the last mining reform on the floor of the House, even though it represented some progress, because, frankly, it didn't go far enough and it didn't do it quickly enough. The treatment of our miners compared to what is going on in other developed countries who take mine safety seriously is a national disgrace. I am pleased to see a comprehensive piece moving forward. This is going to help reverse that course.

I heard some say that this administration would veto the legislation. I would consider a veto of mining legislation by this administration a badge of honor, an administration that has put the wrong people in charge, has been not zealous in dealing with the problems that have come forward, that have taken tragedies to at least seemingly get their attention.

I hope that each Member of the House spends a little time looking at this legislation comparing it to what's going on in the rest of the world. I'm confident that they will then support the legislation, and if by some reason the administration chooses to override it, I'm confident that people of good conscience can override it to give the miners the safety they deserve.

Mr. MCKEON. May I ask about the remaining time?

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON) has 10½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) has 4½ minutes remaining.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I'm the only speaker. We were looking for a gentlewoman to do a colloquy, but she's not here. If she shows up, I would do the colloquy with her, but I wouldn't take additional time. So you can go ahead and use your time.

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Today we've heard a great deal about how to keep miners safe. It should go without saying that mine safety is the proposition to which we're all committed. However, we're not here today debating whether to protect miners. Instead, we're here considering a bill that would actually derail the most comprehensive mine safety overhaul in decades.

All of us are for mine safety. You know, during this campaign, I have been listening to some of the candidates running, and I think the feeling amongst many people is that Washington is broken and that we don't seem to attack things that are really important.

Well, in 2006, we passed a miner safety bill, the first one in 30 years. That was passed with the support of 381 Members to 37 Members here in the House and unanimously in the Senate.

Now here we are less than 2 years later talking about another bill that's going to, after a 30-year hiatus, we pass a bill, we're doing what we can to implement that bill. By the time regulations are written, by the time people are trained on enforcing those regulations, by the time the mine owners put those regulations into effect, it takes some time, and then here we're stepping on that bill with a new approach to change some things.

And we heard from Mr. WILSON the President's response and why he says we should give the time to fully implement the bill that was just passed less than 2 years ago. It makes sense. We live in a large country, and to try to disseminate this information and get it all into effect takes some time, and we're just saying that's why people think Washington's broke. We're stepping on something that we haven't even implemented yet.

And I don't question any motives because I think the motives are good. We should be out to protect miners. It's just which way will protect them best: implementing the bill that was already passed overwhelmingly or trying to pass a bill that will step on some of those concerns.

This law was only given 1½ years to take hold, as mentioned. It's already having an impact on our Nation's mines. Stringent safety standards are being put in place and they're being enforced. A recent article in a mining industry publication explored the impact on the mines as seen from the eyes of a miner.

He says, ''As you can imagine, the regulatory environment for safety has

evolved a lot in the last few months, and we're seeing as much as a 50 percent increase in underground mine inspections on an annualized basis.'' That's the words of a miner to an analyst.

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With all the progress that has been made, it seems to me that the last thing we should be considering is the disruption of that momentum, yet that's exactly what will happen if the S–MINER Act becomes law. This bill discards the expert studies already under way, replacing the wisdom and recommendations of professionals with arbitrary mandates from Washington.

Although the bill purports to protect miners, in reality it threatens the jobs we rely on. That's another thing that I'm learning, that people are very interested in the economy and jobs, and here we have an effort that probably will cut jobs. With $1 billion in unfunded mandates in the underlying bill, the majority's attempt to mask these burdensome costs by extending the implementation timeline is a weak attempt to divert attention from the toll that will be taken on the mining community.

Mr. Chairman, as a strong supporter of mine safety, I want to be clear that there is a better way to protect the interests of the Nation's miners. We can stand for strong safety protections without diverting attention and resources from the work already under way. Later today, Representatives WILSON and KLINE will offer an amendment to do exactly that. The Wilson/Kline amendment incorporates a strong drug testing requirement that will protect miners from the dangers of illegal substance abuse in the already dangerous mining environment.

I am pleased to see our colleagues on the other side of the aisle joining us in our concern about the danger and devastation of drug use among miners. I am saddened, however, by the appearance of cynicism in the last-minute addition of this issue to the manager's package. I hope they will join us in supporting a real solution in the form of drug testing, something that our colleague, Charlie Norwood, who passed away last year, had been working on for years before, rather than a mere study that provides more political cover than genuine safety protections.

Despite the best intentions of its sponsors, this bill will do much more harm than good. It will layer new rules and requirements on top of the critical mine safety reforms already in place. With this bill, we are abandoning the bipartisan reforms of the 2006 MINER Act and abandoning all the progress that has been made.

Members on both sides of the aisle have expressed concern that this legislation is premature. A group of seven respected Democrats representing districts with a history of underground and surface mining wrote to the chairman of the Education and Labor Committee to urge us to proceed with caution. From them I quote: ''We believe that before moving forward on new mine safety legislation, it would be prudent for the committee to wait for the conclusion of the studies called for in the MINER Act and the implementation of all the major requirements of the MINER Act.'' They were right. The academic experts are right. The Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission is right. The National Mining Association is right. Each of these stakeholders understands that the S–MINER Act is the wrong bill at the wrong time.

As a strong supporter of mine safety, I have no choice but to oppose this bill. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman has 4½ minutes.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK).

Ms. KILPATRICK. First, let me congratulate you for a fine piece of legislation for the safety of our coal miners and others who need to make sure that our people working in the mines across this country are safe and that they have a working atmosphere that is safe for them and for their families. I congratulate you on that act.

In Michigan, in my district specifically, we have salt mines; no explosions, they aren't dangerous, and this act also covers our salt mines. I live under some of the salt mines. I live over the salt mines, I might add. They are a hundred years old. We've never had a collapse. They don't have the same requirements. They provide critical infrastructure needs that we have in our community, and have been very, very good business partners in our community for over 100 years. I worry that, with this legislation, they may be penalized and have to come under some of the limits, air limits, the larger fines, and the impact of those. So, I am asking, can you assure us that our salt mines in Michigan and my constituents, that this S–MINER will not be unfairly applied to them?

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. If the gentlewoman would yield.

Ms. KILPATRICK. I will yield.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I want to thank you for your support of this legislation. I would note that the manager's amendment will slow down the required schedule of underground mines to convert to the new more fire-resistant conveyer belts. These belts will help prevent deaths in all kinds of underground mines. And the amendment will ensure that mine operators have a chance to use up the perfectly good belts that they have in their inventory.

Also, the S–MINER Act will not adopt new safety standards for underground non-coal mines, except for the conveyor belt, and in this case, the mines which regularly emit methane gas, new rules for explosion-proof seals. It certainly does not treat these mines like coal mines.

The current air quality standards for underground salt mines are based on 1973 rules established by a private organization and incorporated by reference into the MSHA regulations. It is hard to even locate a copy of these old standards. It is the intent of S–MINER to adopt air standards that are justified by the unbiased scientific evidence as preventing health risks to miners and are feasible for the mines to achieve. If mine operators object to the new mine health limits based upon concerns of technological or economic feasibility, the bill requires them to fully analyze these concerns before adopting new standards. By speeding up the rulemaking process, we want to accelerate MSHA to address real hazards, but do not intend to adopt unsupported standards that do not create significant benefits or are not feasible for compliance.

The S–MINER Act does increase minimum and maximum penalties for violation of requirements that specifically protect the health and safety in underground metal and non-metal mines. However, it leaves in place the requirements in the law that small mines get a break, that a mine operator's history is a factor in assessment, and that the degree of negligence and seriousness of the hazard is to be considered.

Also, I want to note that our colleague, Congressman ELLSWORTH, has an amendment which would eliminate the requirement from the bill that concerns many of your constituents with respect to escrowing proposed penalties before contest.

Ms. KILPATRICK. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to thank Chairman GEORGE MILLER and his colleagues on the House Education & Labor Committee for their work on H.R. 2768: Supplemental Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2007 or S–MINER. The efforts of the Committee further address the dangers associated with mining, particularly the threats to coal miners we have seen all too frequently, most recently with the Crandall Canyon Mine disaster in 2007.

While I supported the MINER Act in 2006 and believe that Congress has a responsibility to continue to strengthen mine health and safety regulations, I am not able to support H.R. 2768 because of the unintended consequences it may have on mining operations outside of the coal industry.

While I acknowledge the Education and Labor Committee's efforts to engage industry in this debate, I feel the concerns of the surface mining industry are not adequately addressed in this legislation. As such, S–MINER may unnecessarily harm many small mining operations with new burdensome compliance requirements.

In South Dakota, aggregate mining operations create good paying jobs and provide products essential to the construction industry.

They are an important part of numerous local economies in the state. Therefore, I cannot discount the concerns of aggregate mining operations over the process by which ''permissible exposure limits'' (PELs) will be adopted under S–MINER. With the cost of road construction and maintenance skyrocketing, South Dakota and other states are often forced to make tough decisions. If aggregate miners are required to adopt additional regulations under S–MINER, we may see the cost of this construction component rise even higher.

I believe it is imperative that we continue to closely monitor the progress of MINER implementation, and I will continue to look for ways to support regulation reform that protect the health and safety of mine workers.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Chairman, I submit the following articles supporting H.R. 2768 from Lexington, Kentucky and Salt Lake City, Utah.

[From Lexington Herald-Leader, Dec. 10, 2007]

UNADDRESSED RISKS: ADDITIONAL MINE-SAFETY MEASURE NEEDED

Congress and President Bush nearly broke their arms patting themselves on the back last year when a new mine-safety act became law.

The measure had the coal industry's blessings and was about all that could get through the Republican-controlled Congress, even in a year when 47 miners were killed in accidents, including underground explosions in Kentucky and West Virginia.

The MINER Act was a decent start. But it was also riddled with weaknesses, including no provisions that directly addressed the conditions leading to the deaths of 12 men at the Sago, W.Va., mine.

There were no requirements that mines have rescue chambers or that miners' emergency breathing devices be subject to random checks to be sure they work.

Now it's time to do better.

The Supplementary Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act, known as S-MINER, is awaiting action by the House.

In addition to filling the previously listed gaps, the measure includes a range of health and safety improvements that have long been needed, including new limits on:

Retreat mining, in which coal pillars supporting the mine's roof are removed and which led to the deaths of six miners and three rescuers at the Crandall Canyon mine in Utah this year.

The use of coal conveyor-belt tunnels to ventilate mines, a practice that carries flames and poison gases to where miners are working when a fire occurs on a conveyor belt and that contributed to the deaths of two miners at the Aracoma mine in West Virginia last year.

Also, at long last, the measure requires more advanced technology for measuring dust levels in mines to prevent black lung, the smothering disease that is making a resurgence among American miners.

And, in a major advance for mine safety, the bill provides for independent panels to investigate mine accidents causing multiple deaths, injuries or entrapments.

Under the current law, the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration is responsible for investigating itself, an obvious conflict of interest.

The coal industry argues that it would be unfair to impose new safety requirements while it's still struggling to put last year's law into place. But that's a lame excuse when the proposed changes are so obviously needed.

Of course, no law will keep miners safe until Congress and a new president rebuild MSHA.

An inspector general recently found that while underground mining increased 9 percent from 2002 to 2006, the number of federal mining inspectors had decreased by 18 percent, from 605 to 496.

As a result, MSHA failed to conduct required inspections last year at 107 of the nation's 731 underground coal mines.

[From the Lexington Herald-Leader, Jan. 16, 2008]

TOUGHEN MINE SAFETY: BILL ADDS SCRUTINY TO ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS

President Bush says he would veto a strong mine-safety law because it would interfere with a weak mine-safety law and confuse the coal industry.

Bush's logic will produce more widows and orphans in the coal fields.

Kentucky's House delegation—the Republicans and the Democrats—should support S-MINER, the Supplementary Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act.

The MINER Act, enacted in 2006, was the best that could be gotten from a Republican-controlled Congress. Now with the Democrats in charge it's time to fix the weaknesses in that law.

The bill awaiting House action directly addresses the causes of mine fatalities at Darby in Kentucky, Sago and Aracoma in West Virginia and Crandall Canyon in Utah.

Of all the objections to S-MINER raised by Bush, the silliest is his claim that independent investigations would dilute accountability for mine accidents. Just the opposite is true.

In Kentucky, we've seen firsthand the folly of requiring the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration to investigate itself.

After the Darby explosion in Harlan County, in which five miners died, MSHA appeared to be more interested in covering its backside than uncovering all the facts.

An MSHA inspector had spent three days in the mine during the week before the explosion. But MSHA refused to let Kentucky investigators or anyone outside MSHA question him.

Such conduct puts miners at risk and damages the public's confidence in government.

The bill before the House would provide for independent panels to investigate mine accidents that cause multiple deaths, injuries or entrapments.

Congress should approve it and Bush should sign it.

[From the Salt Lake Tribune, Nov. 15, 2007]

MINE SAFETY: CONGRESS CONSIDERS OVERHAUL OF RULES AND REGS

It's a simple, noble, attainable goal, one Utah's underground miners can live with. ''We want to do everything we can to ensure that miners are able to return home safely at the end of their shifts.''

That from U.S. Rep. George Miller, D-Calif., the chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee and sponsor of the Supplemental Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2007.

The bill was drafted in response to another deadly year in U.S. deep mines—25 coal miners and 28 other miners have died to date. It enhances and hastens many of the safety provisions contained in the Miner Act of 2006 and provides for additional rules and regulations in an industry where safety is sometimes sacrificed in the quest for profit.

There's a lot to like about Miller's bill, which is co-sponsored by U.S. Rep. Jim Matheson, D-Utah, and was inspired in part by the tragic accidents at Utah's Crandall Canyon coal mine in Emery County, where six miners and three rescue workers were killed in mine collapses in August.

The legislation would establish the Office of Miner Ombudsman, which would receive and track anonymous complaints from miners who are aware of dangerous mining conditions or safety violations, but are afraid to speak up for fear of losing their jobs. It would give the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration absolute authority to supervise and direct rescue and recovery efforts after mine accidents, negating the need for voluntary cooperation of mine owners.

And it would provide for more oversight of retreat mining—a dangerous mining method in which coal is scavenged from mine support walls—in mines more than 1,500 feet underground, which are common in the West.

The committee forwarded the bill to the full House in a 26–18 vote that fell along partisan lines, with Republicans, including Rep. Rob Bishop of Utah, siding with the mine industry and MSHA in opposition.

Bishop, who argued that the Miner Act of 2006 is not yet fully-implemented and probes of the Crandall Canyon tragedies are still under way, says the bill is premature and takes ''everything to an extreme.'' But it's obvious that immediate and extreme measures are needed, because miners are still dying by the dozens. Congress should approve this bill.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Chairman, workers in this country should be able to go to work each day secure in the knowledge that all measures are being taken to ensure their safety. The tragedies at Sago, Aracoma, and Darby demonstrated that this was not the case in the mining industry.

That is why Republicans and Democrats came together during the last Congress in a bipartisan manner to enact the first significant mine safety reform legislation in generations. I believe that the requirements and studies in the MINER Act are making great strides in putting in place regulations and standards and in developing technology to protect mine workers.

Today, we are considering the Supplemental Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act (S–MINER). I believe that this legislation is flawed in many ways and could, in fact, undermine many of the needed reforms put in place by the MINER Act.

In my own State of Wisconsin, aggregate (stone, sand, and gravel) mining is a dominant industry. The safety hazards and appropriate safety procedures and equipment for this industry vary greatly from that of coal mining. In many instances, the condition of a stone, sand, or gravel operation is more similar to that of an earth-moving construction site than that of an underground coal mine.

However, the S–MINER Act takes a ''one size fits all'' approach and fails to take into account these differences. Many of the regulations and penalties mandated in the S–MINER Act will fail to improve safety in aggregate mines, while putting an undue financial burden on the industry.

It is important that Congress continues strict oversight of Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) and related agencies as the MINER Act is fully implemented. As the recent Crandall Canyon disaster demonstrates, these reforms are vitally needed in the industry. However, today I am voting against the S–MINER Act because the bill is premature and overbroad.

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Chairman, I would like to compliment Chairman MILLER. He has been a tireless advocate for America's mine workers and has worked hard to improve mine safety. I appreciate working with the Chairman to include language in H.R. 2768 that will allow for the appropriate use of belt-air in mines.

This legislation is very near to my heart and is something that I have been working on in the aftermath of the disaster at Crandall Canyon Mine which is in my district.

On August 6, six miners were trapped when rocks and debris exploded off the walls of the tunnels where they were working, more than eighteen hundred feet underground. During the rescue attempt that followed, further disaster struck when underground activity caused a burst of rubble to explode off the cavern wall, killing three rescuers.

One of the most difficult aspects of the Crandall Canyon mine collapse was not knowing where the trapped miners were when the cave-in occurred. It made for an excruciating ordeal for the families, the mine owner and the mine rescuers. The lack of communications left the rescuers with the frustrating scenario of trying to drill blindly through hundreds of feet of rock with the hope of reaching survivors.

While mines generally have reliable communications systems in place, most mines have properties that make implementation of current technology difficult. For example, the open air pathway required for radio signals and WiFi do not exist and less than ten percent of the radio spectrum used above ground can be used underground. Because of the challenges of the mine environment and the limited nature of the market, much needed technology has not yet been developed or is not commercially available.

H.R. 2768 contains a provision that accelerates the deployment of current mine communications technology in mines, which is very important. I would also like to add that the House recently passed legislation that I wrote, H.R. 3877, the Mine Communications Technology Innovation Act.

That bill, if enacted, would accelerate the development of innovative, next generation mine tracking and communications technology. Communications issues are critical and must be addressed as soon as possible in order to better protect our miners.

I thank you Mr. Chairman for your leadership on mine safety issues.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr Chairman, today I will vote in favor of H.R. 2768, the Supplemental Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act. This comprehensive legislation addresses the many short-comings of the MINER Act of 2006, which Congress passed in the wake of several fatal coal mining accidents.

I voted against the 2006 legislation because it did not go far enough to prevent these tragic, avoidable accidents, instead focusing exclusively on emergency response and rescue. It is a national disgrace that S–MINER is the first legislation in over 30 years that addresses preventing mining accidents and illness. We have witnessed far too many needless disasters and I am proud to support this comprehensive legislation which will not only further improve emergency response, but also reduce health risks to workers and enhance prevention efforts.

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

The CHAIRMAN. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the bill shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule and shall be considered read.

The text of the committee amendment is as follows:

H.R. 2768

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Supplemental Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2007'' or the ''S–MINER Act''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Findings.
Sec. 3. Definitions; references.
Sec. 4. Supplementing emergency response plans.
Sec. 5. Supplementing enforcement authority.
Sec. 6. Supplementing rescue, recovery, and incident investigation authority.
Sec. 7. Respirable dust standards.
Sec. 8. Other health requirements.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) while the MINER Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–236) was an essential first step in addressing the many health and safety hazards that miners still face, supplemental action is necessary and feasible to better protect miners in coal and other mines;

(2) essential standards to protect miner health established by the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 are out of date after 40 years, posing a significant threat to miner health; and

(3) the Secretary of Labor has failed in recent years to adequately fulfill the Secretary's obligations under the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 801 et seq.), additional Congressional intervention is needed.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS; REFERENCES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this Act—

(1) the term ''Secretary'' refers to the Secretary of Labor; and

(2) any other term used in this Act that is defined in section 3 of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 802) shall have the meaning given the term in such section.

(b) REFERENCES.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 801 et seq.).

SEC. 4. SUPPLEMENTING EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANS.

(a) POST ACCIDENT COMMUNICATIONS.—Section 316(b)(2)(F)(ii) (30 U.S.C. 876(b)(2)(F)(ii)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''Not later than'' and inserting the following:

''(II) Not later than''; and

(2) by inserting after the clause designation the following:

''(I) Not later than 120 days after the enactment of the S–MINER Act, a plan shall, to be in approved status, provide for a post accident communication system between underground and surface personnel, and for an electronic tracking system permitting surface personnel to determine the location of any persons trapped underground, that utilizes a system at least as effective as a 'leaky feeder' or wireless mesh type communication and tracking system currently in use in the industry. These systems shall be enhanced physically, electronically, or redundantly, to improve their survivability in the event of a mine disaster. In addition, to be in approved status, an emergency response plan must be revised promptly to incorporate new technology which the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health certifies can be added to the existing system to improve its ability to facilitate post-accident communication with or tracking of miners. No miner shall be disciplined based on information obtained from an electronic communications and tracking system.''.

(b) UNDERGROUND REFUGES.—Section 316(b)(2)(E) (30 U.S.C. 876(b)(2)(E)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(vi) Not later than June 15, 2008, the Secretary shall issue interim final regulations, consistent with the design criteria recommended by National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health in its report pursuant to section 13(b)(1) of the MINER Act, and subject to the requirements of the next sentence, requiring each emergency response plan to provide for the installation of portable rescue chambers meeting National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health design criteria, or refuge shelters carved out of the mine workings and sealed with bulkheads meeting National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health design criteria, or other refuge designs recommended by National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health that provide miners with equivalent or better protection, in the working areas of underground coal mines within 60 days following plan approval. In addition, a plan shall provide for the maintenance of a mobile emergency shelter within 500 feet of the nearest working face in each working section of an underground coal mine.''.

(c) IMPROVEMENTS TO SEALS, VENTILATION CONTROLS, AND ROCK DUSTING TO LIMIT THE DAMAGE FROM EXPLOSIONS.—

(1) REPEAL.—The MINER Act (30 U.S.C. 801 note) is amended by striking section 10 (concerning sealing of abandoned areas).

(2) SEALS.—Section 303(z) (30 U.S.C. 863(z)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4)(A) The Secretary shall inspect all seals under construction after the date of enactment of the S–MINER Act, during at least part of their construction, to ensure the mine operator is complying with the approved seal plan, and shall develop an inspection protocol for this purpose.

''(B) Not later than 3 months of the date of enactment of the S–MINER Act, the Secretary shall issue final rules regarding approval, design, construction, inspection, maintenance and monitoring of underground coal mine seals which shall meet the requirements of this paragraph. Except as otherwise provided by this paragraph, these regulations shall implement the most recent recommendations of the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health concerning seal design, construction, inspection, maintenance and monitoring. The regulations shall also provide that all seals in a mine shall be monitored if they are not designed or installed to withstand a constant total pressure of 240 pounds per square inch, using a static structural analysis. Monitoring of seals shall be done by continuous monitoring devices within one year of the date of enactment of this Act, and prior thereto by qualified personnel at such intervals as the Secretary determines are adequate to ensure safety. The Secretary shall require mine operators to utilize a tamper-resistant method to retain records of all such monitoring and ensure they are available for examination and verification by the agency. Monitoring of seals shall be done both by—

''(i) sampling through at least 1 seal in each bank of seals; and

''(ii) for new seals, unless infeasible due to property rights, sampling through a sufficient number of boreholes from the surface to the sealed areas underground to effectively determine the gas concentrations within the area.

''(C) In addition, the regulations shall provide that—

''(i) seal sampling pipes shall be composed of materials that minimize the risk of transmitting

any electrical charge, and no conductive materials may be used to line boreholes within three feet of the surface;

''(ii) an action plan for sealing and repair be established that will, among any other requirements, include specific actions the mine operator will take to protect miners during the critical time period immediately after sealing or repair takes place, and which shall be reviewed by personnel from the Mine Safety and Health Administration who have the required expertise prior to approval; and

''(iii) methane pressures behind any seal required to be monitored shall be maintained in such a manner as ensure that normal pressure variations that can be reasonably anticipated in the area of the seal do not bring the methane-air mixture into an appropriate safety range surrounding the known explosive range of such mixtures.''.

(3) VENTILATION CONTROLS.—Section 303(c) (30 U.S.C. 863) is amended by inserting at the end the following new paragraph:

''(4) Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the S–MINER Act, the Secretary shall publish interim final regulations to enhance the survivability of underground mine ventilation controls. The Secretary shall require that stoppings be constructed using solid concrete blocks laid wet and sealed with an appropriate bonding agent on at least the side subjected to the velocity of the intake air coursing through the entry, except that in the case of stoppings constructed during barrier reduction and pillar removal operations, such stoppings may be constructed using hollow block and an appropriate bonding agent.''.

(4) ROCK DUSTING.—Section 304(d) (30 U.S.C. 864) is amended by adding at the end the following: ''Not later than June 15, 2009, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health shall issue recommendations as to whether changes to these requirements are necessary to ensure an equivalent level of protection in light of any changes to the size and composition of coal dust since these requirements were established, and the Secretary of Labor shall take appropriate action, including the issuance of an emergency temporary standard if warranted, to respond to these recommendations.''.

(d) LIMITING CONVEYOR BELT RISKS.—

(1) FLAME RESISTANT CONVEYOR BELTS.—Section 311(h) is amended by adding at the end the following: ''Not later than January 31, 2008, the Secretary shall publish interim final regulations to ensure that all conveyor belts in use in underground coal mines are replaced no later than December 31, 2012, with belts that can meet the flame resistance requirements recommended by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and which limit smoke and toxic emissions. Any conveyor belt installed in a coal mine after the date of enactment of the S–MINER Act shall meet such requirements.''.

(2) BELT AIR.—Section 303(y) (30 U.S.C. 863) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(3) Not later than June 20, 2008, the Secretary shall revise the regulations prescribed pursuant to this section to require, in any coal mine, regardless of the date on which it was opened, that belt haulage entries not be used to ventilate active working places. The Secretary may agree to a modification of this requirement, pursuant to the procedures of section 101(c), if and only if—

''(A) the mine operator establishes to the satisfaction of the Secretary that significant safety constraints require such usage; and

''(B) the mine operator agrees to comply with criteria established by the Secretary which shall, at a minimum, include the conditions recommended by the Technical Study Panel established under section 514.

''(4) Plans that have been approved by the Secretary prior to the date of enactment of the S–MINER Act that permit the use of belt-air to ventilate active working places in a mine are permitted to remain in use to complete current mining up until the date of issuance of the regulation required pursuant to paragraph (3).''.

(e) PRE-SHIFT REVIEW OF MINE CONDITIONS.—Section 303(d) (30 U.S.C. 863(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the S–MINER Act, all mine operators shall be required to implement a communication program at each of such operators' facilities to ensure that each person entering the operation is made aware at the start of that person's shift of the current conditions of the mine in general and of that person's specific worksite in particular. In an effort to facilitate these communications, all agents of the operator who are responsible for ensuring the safe and healthful working conditions at the mine, including mine foremen, assistant mine foremen, and mine examiners, shall, upon exiting the mine or workplace, communicate with those replacing them on duty to verbally update them on the conditions they observed during their shift, including any conditions that are abnormal or hazardous. Prior to entering the mine or other workplace the on-coming agent of the operator shall meet with all members of the crew they are responsible for and inform them of the general conditions at the operation and in their specific work area. This process shall be completed prior to the start of each shift at the operation and recorded in a book designated for that purpose and available for inspection by all interested parties. In the event the operation is idle prior to the start of any shift the agent of the operator shall meet with the individual or individuals who were responsible for examining the mine to obtain the necessary information.''.

(f) ATMOSPHERIC MONITORING SYSTEMS.—Section 317 (30 U.S.C. 877) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(u) Not later than May 1, 2008, an operator of an underground mine shall install atmospheric monitoring systems in all underground areas where miners normally work and travel that provide real-time information regarding carbon monoxide levels, and that can, to the maximum extent possible, withstand explosions and fires.''.

(g) METHANE MONITORS.—Section 303(h) (30 U.S.C. 863(h)) is amended by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3), and inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

''(2) Each miner who is working alone for part of a shift shall be equipped with a multi-gas detector that measures current levels of methane, oxygen, and carbon monoxide.''.

(h) LIGHTNING STUDY BY NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Academy of Sciences shall submit to the Secretary and to Congress recommendations on—

(1) actions that need to be taken to strengthen existing requirements in law or regulations to ensure that miners are protected, to the fullest extent permitted, from the risks of lightning strikes near a mine;

(2) recommendations for adopting any existing technology to the mining environment to minimize any such risks; and

(3) research needed for improved technology.

(i) ROOF AND RIB SUPPORT, BARRIER REDUCTION AND PILLAR EXTRACTION, SPECIAL ATTENTION TO DEEP MINING.—

(1) AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING LAW.—Section 302 is amended—

(A) by amending the section heading to read ''ROOF AND RIB SUPPORT, BARRIER REDUCTION AND PILLAR EXTRACTION, SPECIAL ATTENTION TO DEEP MINING'';

(B) in subsection (a), by inserting after the second sentence the following: ''The Secretary shall by regulation ensure the appropriate use of roof screen in belt entries, travelroads, and designated intake and return escapeways in accordance with the requirements of subsection (g).''; and

(C) by inserting at the end the following:

''(g) Where screening is required, at least forty percent of the width of the exposed roof shall be screened. Screening to meet the requirements of this section must have a load bearing capacity at least equivalent to a load of 2.5 tones between bolts on a 4 foot pattern.

''(h)(1) An operator shall be required to have a current and approved barrier reduction or pillar extraction plan, or both, before performing such activities. The Secretary shall only approve a barrier reduction or pillar extraction plan if it provides adequate protection and minimizes the risks for miners engaged in the activity, reflecting appropriate engineering analysis, computer simulations, and consultations with technical experts in the agency, in the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and in the Bureau of Land Management for any mines leasing Federal coal resources, and only if the plan complies with any specific requirements that may be adopted by the Secretary for barrier reduction or pillar extraction activities including requirements related to the depth of the mine, geology of the mine, mine height and methods, and emergency response capabilities.

''(2) A copy of a proposed barrier reduction or pillar extraction plan, or both, shall be provided to the authorized representative of miners at least 10 days prior to submission to the Secretary for approval. The authorized representative of miners may provide comments to the Secretary who shall respond thereto.

''(3) The Secretary shall establish a special internal review process for operator plans to protect miners from the risks addressed by this section when working at depths of more than 1500 feet and in other mines with a history of mountain bumps.

''(i) Not later than 1 week before the commencement of any barrier reduction or pillar extraction operations, the mine operator shall notify the appropriate representative of the Secretary of his intention to begin or resume barrier reduction or pillar extraction. The Secretary shall document such notification in writing, and shall, before barrier reduction or pillar extraction operations begin, take action to ensure that every person who will be participating in such operations is trained in the operator's barrier reduction and/or and pillar extraction plan. The Secretary shall observe the barrier reduction or pillar extraction operations for a sufficient period of time to ensure that the mine operator is fully complying with the barrier reduction or pillar extraction plan. The Secretary may preclude the commencement of such operations or halt such operations at any time the safety of miners comes into question.''.

(2) STUDY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Academy of Sciences shall, in consultation with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, submit to the Secretary and to Congress recommendations for—

(A) actions that need to be taken to strengthen existing requirements in law or regulations to ensure that miners are protected, to the fullest extent permitted, from ground control hazards, including the special hazards associated with barrier reduction and pillar extraction;

(B) adopting any existing technology to the mining environment to improve miner protections during barrier reduction and pillar extraction, and on research needed for improved technology to improve miner protections during such operations;

(C) adopting any existing technology to the mining environment to improve miner protections during mining at depths below 1000 feet, and on research needed for improved technology to improve miner protections during such operations; and

(D) adopting any existing technology to the mining environment to improve miner protections during secondary mining of coal resources, and on research needed for improved technology

to improve miner protections during such operations.

(j) SCSR INSPECTION PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(A) establish a program to randomly remove and have tested by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health field samples of each model of self-rescue device used in an underground coal mine in order to ensure that the self-rescue devices in coal mine inventories are working in accordance with the approval criteria for such devices;

(B) require a manufacturer of a self-rescue device and the mine operator who owns a device to contact the Secretary immediately upon notification of any potential problem with any such device, and provide a copy of such notice to the representative of miners at the affected operation; and

(C) notify immediately all operators of underground coal mines if the Secretary detects or is advised of any problems with the self-rescue devices.

(2) DETERMINATION.—For the purposes of paragraph (1)(A), the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health shall determine the number of field samples of each device to be removed for testing, and the mines from which the samples are to be drawn to ensure a random sample is obtained, and shall provide mine operators with self-rescue devices to replace any removed for random testing. Should this testing reveal a potential problem with a device that requires additional testing, the Secretary shall remove such additional samples from such mines as may be requested by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and it shall be the obligation of mine operators to provide self-rescue devices to promptly replace any removed as a result of such additional testing.

(k) APPLICATION TO UNDERGROUND METAL AND NONMETAL MINES.—Title II is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 207. APPLICATION TO UNDERGROUND METAL AND NONMETAL MINES.

''(a) CONVEYOR BELTS.—The regulations to be issued pursuant to section 311(h) concerning conveyor belts shall also provide that all conveyor belts in use in underground metal and nonmetal mines are to be replaced, on the same schedule, with belts that can meet the flame resistance requirements recommended by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and which limit smoke and toxic emissions. Any conveyor belt installed in an underground metal or nonmetal mine after the date of enactment of the S–MINER Act shall meet such requirements.

''(b) SEALS.—The regulations to be issued pursuant to section 303(z)(2) concerning the approval, design, construction, inspection, maintenance and monitoring of underground coal mine seals shall make the same rules applicable to seals in underground metal and nonmetal mines which have been classified by the Secretary as a category I, III, or V mine pursuant to section 57.22003 of title 30, Code of Federal Regulations, because they naturally emit defined quantities of methane.

''(c) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—Promptly after the date of enactment of the S–MINER Act The Secretary shall establish an advisory committee to provide recommendations as to the need to revise the regulations applicable to underground metal and nonmetal mines to ensure that miners in such mines are as protected in emergency situations as will be underground coal miners following the full implementation of the MINER Act, the provisions of the S–MINER Act, and related actions by the Secretary. The advisory committee shall be established pursuant to the Advisory Committee Act, and shall provide recommendations to the Secretary and to Congress not later than 21 months after the date of enactment of this Act, including recommendations as to any action by Congress that could facilitate the goal of providing equivalent protections to miners in underground metal and nonmetal mines.''.

(l) APPROVAL CENTER PRIORITIES.—The Secretary shall expedite the process for approving any—

(1) self-rescue device that permits the replenishment of oxygen without requiring the device user to remove the device; and

(2) underground communication device that provides for communication between underground and surface personnel via a wireless two-way medium.

(m) TECHNOLOGY AND MINE EMERGENCY HEALTH AND SAFETY RESEARCH PRIORITIES.—In implementing its research activities in the 5-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health shall give due consideration to new technologies, and existing technologies that could be adapted for use in underground coal or other mines, that could facilitate the survival of miners in a mining emergency. Such technologies include—

(1) self-contained self-rescue devices capable of delivering enhanced performance;

(2) improved battery capacity and common connection specifications to enable emergency communication devices for miners to be run from the same portable power source as a headlamp, continuous dust monitor, or other device carried by a miner;

(3) improved technology for assisting mine rescue teams, including devices to enhance vision during rescue or recovery operations;

(4) improved technology, and improved protocols for the use of existing technologies, to enable conditions underground to be assessed promptly and continuously in emergencies, so as to facilitate the determination by appropriate officials of the instructions to provide both to miners trapped underground and to mine rescue teams and others engaged in rescue efforts;

(5) improvements to underground mine ventilation controls separating mine entries to be more resistant to mine fires and explosions, particularly in those entries used for miner escapeways;

(6) mine-wide monitoring systems and strategies that can monitor mine gases, oxygen, air flows, and air quantities at strategic locations throughout the mine that would be functional during normal mining operations and following mine fires, explosions, roof falls, and mine bursts, including systems utilizing monitoring sensors that transfer data to the mine surface and the installation of tubing to draw mine gas samples that are distributed throughout the mine and can quickly deliver samples to the mine surface; and

(7) protective strategies for the placement of equipment, cables, and devices that are to be utilized during mine emergencies such as communication systems, oxygen supplies, and mine atmosphere monitoring systems, to protect them from mine fires, roof falls, explosions, and other damage.

SEC. 5. SUPPLEMENTING ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY.

(a) AUTHORITY OF INSPECTORS.—Section 103(a) (30 U.S.C. 813(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following: ''No person shall limit or otherwise prevent the Secretary from entry on a coal or other mine, or interfere with the Secretary's inspection activities, investigative activities, or rescue or recovery activities.''.

(b) TRANSITION TO A NEW GENERATION OF INSPECTORS.—Section 505 (30 U.S.C. 954) is amended—

(1) by striking ''The Secretary'' the first place it appears and inserting ''(a) The Secretary''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) Within 270 days of the enactment of the S–MINER Act, the Secretary shall establish a Master Inspector program to ensure that the most experienced and skilled employees in the Nation have the incentive, in terms of responsibilities and pay, to serve as mine safety and health inspectors in this Nation's mines.

''(c) In order to ensure that the Secretary has adequate time to provide that a sufficient number of qualified and properly trained inspectors of the Mine Safety and Health Administration are in place before any inspectors employed as of the date of enactment of the S–MINER Act retire, any ceilings on the number of personnel that may be employed by the Administration with respect to mine inspectors are abolished for the 5-year period beginning on the date of enactment of such Act.

''(d) In the event that, notwithstanding the actions taken by the Secretary to hire and train qualified inspectors, the Secretary is temporarily unable, at any time during the 5-year period beginning on the date of enactment of the S–MINER Act, to employ the number of inspectors required to staff all district offices devoted to coal mines at the offices' highest historical levels without transferring personnel from supervisory or plan review activities or diminishing current inspection resources devoted to other types of mines, the Administration is authorized to hire retired inspectors on a contractual basis to conduct mine inspections, and the retirement benefits of such retired inspectors shall not be reduced as a result of such temporary contractual employment.

''(e) During the 5-year period beginning on the date of enactment of the S–MINER Act, the Secretary shall issue a special report to the appropriate committees of Congress each year, or at such more frequent intervals as the Secretary or any such committee may consider appropriate, providing information about the actions being taken under this section, the size and training of the inspector workforce at the Mine Safety and Health Administration, the level of enforcement activities, and the number of requests by individual operators of mines for compliance assistance.''.

(c) OFFICE OF MINER OMBUDSMAN.—Title V is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 516. OFFICE OF MINER OMBUDSMAN.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF MINER OMBUDSMAN.—There shall be established, within the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Labor, the position of Miner Ombudsman. The President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint an individual with expertise in mine safety and health to serve as the Miner Ombudsman. The Ombudsman shall have authority to hire such personnel as are required to administer his duties in accordance with applicable law, provided they meet any general requirements for employment within the Office of the Inspector General.

''(b) DUTIES.—The Miner Ombudsman shall—

''(1) recommend to the Secretary appropriate practices to ensure the confidentiality of the identity of miners, and the families or personal representatives of the miners, who contact mine operators, authorized representatives of the miners, the Mine Safety and Health Administration, the Department of Labor, or others with information about mine accidents, incidents, injuries, illnesses, possible violations of mandatory health or safety standard violations or plans or other mine safety and health concerns;

''(2) establish a toll-free telephone number and appropriate Internet website to permit individuals to confidentially report mine accidents, incidents, injuries, illnesses, possible violations of mandatory health or safety standard violations or plans or other mine safety and health concerns, and provide plastic wallet cards, refrigerator magnets, or similar devices to all mine operators, which mine operators shall distribute to all current and new miners, with contact information for such confidential reports, and also provide supplies of these devices to miner communities;

''(3) collect and forward information concerning accidents, incidents, injuries, illnesses, possible violations of mandatory health or safety standard violations or plans or other mine safety and health concerns to the appropriate officials of the Mine Safety and Health Administration for investigation, or to appropriate officials within the Office of Inspector General for

investigation or audit, or both, while establishing practices to protect the confidentiality of the identify of those who provide such information to the Ombudsman; and

''(4) monitor the Secretary of Labor's efforts to promptly act upon complaints filed by miners under section 105(c) of the Act or pursuant to other programs administered by the Department to protect whistleblowers, and report to Congress any recommendations that would enhance such rights or protections.

''(c) AUTHORITY.—All complaints of operator violations of any section of this Act or regulations prescribed under this Act that are reported to the Secretary shall be forwarded to the Ombudsman for logging and appropriate action, except that this requirement shall be implemented in such a way as to avoid interference in any way with the ability of the Assistant Secretary for Mine Safety and Health to take prompt actions that may be required in such situations. This shall include complaints submitted in writing, via any phone system, or orally, along with all relevant information available regarding the complainant. All such information shall be retained in a confidential manner pursuant to the Privacy Act of 1974. The Ombudsman shall use such information to monitor the actions taken to ensure that miners' complaints are addressed in a timely manner and in compliance with the appropriate statutes and regulations. The Ombudsman shall refer to appropriate personnel within the Office of the Inspector General for further review any case which he determines was not handled in such fashion.

''(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Ombudsman such sums as may be required for the implementation of his duties out of the sums otherwise made available to the Mine Safety and Health Administration for its activities.''.

(d) PATTERN OF VIOLATIONS.—

(1) PROMPT IDENTIFICATION OF PATTERN.—Not later than 3 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall revise the regulations issued by the Secretary under section 104(e) of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 814(e)) as in effect on the day before such date of enactment, so that the regulations provide that—

(A) when a potential pattern of violations is identified by any inspector or district manager of the Mine Safety and Health Administration, the operator of the coal or other mine and the authorized representative of miners for the mine shall be notified by the inspector or district manager not later than 10 days after such identification; and

(B) after receiving the notification described in subparagraph (A), the appropriate official of the Mine Safety and Health Administration shall promptly review any such potential pattern of violations and, not later than 45 days after receiving such notification, make a final decision as to whether a citation for a violation of section 104(e) of such Act should be issued in light of the gravity of the violations and the operator's conduct in connection therewith.

(2) IDENTIFICATION OF PATTERN.—Section 104(e)(1) (30 U.S.C. 814(e)(1)) is amended by inserting after the first sentence the following: ''In determining whether a pattern of violations exists, the Secretary shall give due consideration to all relevant information, such as the gravity of the violations, operator negligence, history of violations, the number of inspection shifts the Secretary or her agents have spent at the operation, and the frequency of violations per number of inspection days spent at the operation.''.

(3) TERMINATION OF PATTERN.—Section 104(e)(3) (30 U.S.C. 814(e)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following: ''In addition, if an operator subject to paragraphs (1) and (2) demonstrates objective evidence that they are correcting the problems that gave rise to the pattern of violations, and the violation frequency rate for such operator declines significantly for a period of 180 days, the withdrawal order provisions of paragraphs (1) and (2) shall no longer apply.''.

(4) FINE FOR A PATTERN OF VIOLATIONS.—Section 110 (30 U.S.C. 820) is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsections (i) through (l) as subsections (j) through (m), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subsection (h) the following:

''(i)(1) If the Secretary determines that a pattern of violations under section 104(e) exists, the Secretary shall assess a penalty, in addition to any other penalty authorized in this Act for a violation of such section, of not less than $50,000 nor more than $250,000. All operators of the mine, including any corporate owners, shall be jointly and severally liable for such penalty. The amount of the assessment under this paragraph shall be designed to ensure a change in the future conduct of the operators and corporate owners of such mine with respect to mine safety and health, given the overall resources of such operators. Notwithstanding subsection (k) or section 113, a penalty assessed by the Secretary under this paragraph may not be reduced by the Commission.

''(2) In addition to the authority to withdraw miners from an area of a coal or other mine pursuant to section 104(e), the Secretary shall withdraw all miners from the entire mine when any pattern of violations has been determined to exist until such time as the Secretary certifies that all identified violations have been corrected and the operator has agreed to abide by a written plan approved by the Mine Safety and Health Administration to ensure that such a pattern of conduct will not recur.''.

(e) NOTIFICATION OF ABATEMENT.—Section 104(b) (30 U.S.C. 814(b)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively;

(2) by striking ''If,'' and inserting:

''(2) If,''; and

(3) by inserting after the subsection designation the following:

''(1) An operator issued a citation pursuant to subsection (a) shall notify the Secretary that the operator has abated the violation involved. If such operator fails to provide such a notice to the Secretary within the abatement time as provided for in the citation, the Secretary shall issue an order that requires the operator (or the agent of the operator) to immediately cause all persons, except those persons referred to in subsection (c), to be withdrawn from, and to be prohibited from entering, such area as the Secretary determines until an authorized representative of the Secretary determines that such violation has been abated. Notwithstanding any operator notice, no violation shall be determined to be abated until an authorized representative of the Secretary visits the site and determines such violation has been fully abated.''.

(f) FAILURE TO TIMELY PAY PENALTY ASSESSMENTS.—Section 105(a) (30 U.S.C. 815(a)) is amended by striking the third sentence and inserting the following: ''The operator shall, not later than 30 days from the receipt of the notification of a citation issued by the Secretary, notify the Secretary that the operator intends to contest the citation or proposed assessment of a penalty, and the operator shall place in escrow with the Secretary the amount of the proposed assessment. The Secretary shall place any escrow submitted by a mine operator for this purpose into an interest bearing account and shall release the funds to the operator, including interest accrued, upon the payment of any final assessment determination. If notification and proof of escrow is not provided to the Secretary, the citation and the proposed assessment of penalty shall be deemed a final order of the Commission and not subject to review by any court or agency. In the event that a mine operator refuses to comply with a final order of the Commission to pay civil monetary penalties and statutory interest, the Secretary shall have the authority to issue an order requiring the mine operator to cease production under such final orders of the Commission have been paid in full.''

(g) MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM PENALTIES.—Section 110(a)(1) (30 U.S.C. 820(a)(1)) is amended by striking ''more than $50,000 for each such violation.'' and inserting ''less than $500 or more than $100,000 for each such violation, except that, in the case of a violation of a mandatory health or safety standard that could significantly and substantially contribute to the cause and effect of a coal or other mine health or safety hazard, the penalty shall not be less than $1,000 or more than $150,000, for each such violation.''.

(h) FACTORS IN ASSESSING PENALTIES.—The Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 is amended—

(1) in section 105(b)(1)(B)—

(A) by striking: ''the size of the business of the operator charged'' and inserting ''the combined size of the business of the operator and any controlling entity'';

(B) by striking ''the effect on the operator's ability to continue in business,''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following: ''In settling cases, the Secretary shall utilize the same point system as that utilized to propose penalties, so as to ensure consistency in operator penalty assessments.''; and

(2) in section 110(j) (as redesignated by subsection (a)(4))—

(A) by striking: ''the size of the business of the operator charged'' and inserting ''the combined size of the business of the operator and any controlling entity'';

(B) by striking ''the effect on the operator's ability to continue in business,''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following: ''In any review requested by a mine operator, or in settling cases, the Commission shall utilize the same point system as that developed by the Secretary for proposed assessments so as to ensure consistency in operator penalty assessments.''.

(i) CIVIL PENALTY FOR INTERFERENCE OR DISCRIMINATION.—Section 110 (30 U.S.C. 820) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(n) CIVIL PENALTY FOR INTERFERENCE OR DISCRIMINATION.—Any operator who is found to be in violation of section 105(c), or in violation of section 103(a) (as amended by this Act) shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than $10,000 nor more than $100,000 for each occurrence of such violation.''.

(j) WITHDRAWAL ORDER.—Section 107(a) (30 U.S.C. 817(a)) is amended by inserting after the first sentence the following: ''In addition, in the event of any violation of section 315 or section 316, or regulations issued pursuant to such sections, such representative shall determine the extent of the area of such mine throughout which the danger exists and issue an order requiring the operator of such mine to cause all persons, except those referred to in section 104(c), to be withdrawn from, and to be prohibited from entering, such area until an authorized representative of the Secretary determines that the violations have been abated.''.

(k) CLARIFICATIONS OF INTENT IN THE 1977 ACT.—The Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 is amended—

(1) in section 3(d) (30 U.S.C. 802)—

(A) by inserting ''mineral'' before ''owner'';

(B) by inserting ''mineral'' before ''lessee'';

(C) by striking ''or any independent'' and inserting ''and any independent''; and

(D) by inserting before the semicolon the following: '', and no operator may, by contract or other agreement, limit any liability under this Act through transfer of any responsibilities to another person'';

(2) in section 103 (30 U.S.C. 813)—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) by striking the first sentence and inserting the following: ''For the purpose of enabling the Secretary to perform the functions under this Act, the Secretary may, after notice, hold public

hearings and sign and issue subpoenas for the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of information, including but not limited to relevant data, papers, books, documents and items of physical evidence, and administer oaths, whether or not in connection with a public hearing.''; and

(ii) in the last sentence by striking ''documents'' and inserting ''information, including data, papers, books, documents, and items of physical evidence''; and

(B) in subsection (h), in the first sentence, by striking ''information'' and inserting ''data, papers, books, documents, and items of physical evidence'';

(3) in section 104 (30 U.S.C. 814)—

(A) in subsections (d)(1), (e)(1), (e)(2), (e)(3), and (e)(4), as amended by this Act, by inserting ''or any provision of this Act'' after ''standard'' or ''standards'' each place either such term appears; and

(B) in subsection (d)(1), as amended by this Act, by striking ''while the conditions created by such violation do not cause imminent danger,'';

(4) in section 105 (30 U.S.C. 815)—

(A) in subsection (a), in the first sentence, by striking '', within a reasonable time after the termination of such inspection or investigation,'';

(B) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) by inserting ''or an injury or illness in a coal or other mine or that may be associated with mine employment,'' after ''of an alleged danger or safety or health violation in a coal or other mine,''; and

(II) by inserting at the end the following: ''No miner shall be required to work under conditions he has reasonable grounds to believe to be abnormally and immediately dangerous to himself beyond the normal hazards inherent in the operation which could reasonably be expected to cause death of serious physical harm before such condition or practice can be abated.''; and

(ii) in paragraph (2), by inserting after the fifth sentence the following: ''No investigation or hearing authorized by this paragraph may be stayed to await resolution of a related grievance proceeding''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(e) Attorneys representing the Secretary are authorized to contact any miner or non-managerial employee of a mine operator for the purposes of carrying out the Secretary's functions under this Act and no attorney representing the Secretary shall be disbarred or disciplined by any State bar or State court for making such contacts. No attorney representing a mine operator in a matter under this Act may concurrently represent individual miners in the same matter.''; and

(5) in section 110 (30 U.S.C. 820)—

(A) in subsection (b)(2), by striking ''under'' and inserting ''of subsections (a) through (h) of''; and

(B) in subsection (c)—

(i) by striking ''Whenever a corporate operator'' and inserting ''Whenever a mine operator'';

(ii) by striking ''safety standard'' and inserting ''safety standard or requirement of this Act'';

(iii) by inserting ''partner, owner,'' after ''director,''; and

(iv) by striking ''such corporation'' and inserting ''such mine operator''.

(l) FEDERAL LICENSING.—The Secretary shall promptly establish an advisory committee to provide recommendations as to whether the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 should provide for Federal licensing of mines, mine operators, mine controllers, or various mine personnel in order to ensure that those engaged in mining activities are not frequent violators of safety and health requirements, and establish a national registry in connection therewith. The advisory committee shall be established pursuant to the Advisory Committee Act, and shall conduct a review of existing State licensing requirements and registries, assess their effectiveness, and shall provide its recommendations to Congress not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 6. SUPPLEMENTING RESCUE, RECOVERY, AND INCIDENT INVESTIGATION AUTHORITY.

(a) EMERGENCY CALL CENTER.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish, within the Mine Safety and Health Administration, a central communications emergency call center for all coal or other mine operations that shall be staffed and operated 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, by 1 or more employees of the Mine Safety and Health Administration. All calls placed to the emergency call center shall be answered by an individual with adequate experience and training to handle emergency mine situations. A single national phone number shall be provided for this purpose and the Secretary shall ensure that all miners and mine operators are issued laminated cards with emergency call center information.

(b) CONTACT INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall provide the emergency call center with a contact list, updated not less often than quarterly, that contains—

(1) the contact phone numbers, including the home phone numbers, for the members of each mine rescue team responsible for each coal or other mine;

(2) the phone numbers for the local emergency and rescue services unit that is located nearest to each mine;

(3) the contact phone numbers, including the home phone number, for the operator of each mine;

(4) the contact phone numbers, including the home phone numbers, for the national and district officials of the Mine Safety and Health Administration;

(5) the contact phone numbers, including the home phone numbers, for the State officials in each State who should be contacted in the event of a mine emergency in such State; and

(6) the contact phone numbers, including the home phone number, for the authorized representative of the miners at each mine.

Each mine operator shall ensure that the Secretary is provided with completely current information required to be maintained by the Secretary pursuant to paragraphs (1), (3), and (6). The Secretary shall give due consideration to the information collected by the joint government-industry Mine Emergency Operations database.

(c) MINE LOCATIONS; REPOSITORY OF MINING MAPS.—

(1) MINE LOCATIONS.—The Secretary shall establish, maintain, and keep current, on the Department of Labor's website, a detailed map or set of maps showing the exact geographic location of each operating or abandoned mine in the United States, as determined by a global positioning system. Such map or maps shall—

(A) be presented, through links within the website, in such a way as to make the location of a mine instantly available to the emergency personnel responding to the mine;

(B) be available to members of the public;

(C) allow a user to find the geographic location of a particular mine, or the geographic locations of all mines of a particular type in a county, congressional district, State, or other commonly used geographic region; and

(D) provide the geographic location of any mining waste impoundments with links to associated emergency contact information and available emergency response plans.

(2) REPOSITORY OF MINING MAPS.—The Secretary shall establish a national repository for preserving a digital archive of mining maps to be accessible directly and without delay from the Department's web site. The mining maps shall include copies of all historic maps that can be obtained, as well as copies of currently approved mining maps, which the Secretary shall arrange to copy and preserve in digital form. The Secretary may coordinate the operation of such repository with the Secretary of the Interior provided the other requirements of this paragraph are observed. In addition, the Secretary shall include in this repository copies of the most currently available mine emergency response plan, roof plans, ventilation plans, and such other plans required for any type of mine, following any required approval, so that they may be immediately accessed in an emergency, in a manner consistent with the requirements of section 312(b) of the Act.

(d) REQUIRED NOTIFICATION OF EMERGENCIES AND SERIOUS INCIDENTS.—Section 103(j) (30 U.S.C. 813(j)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by inserting ''or reportable event'' after ''accident'';

(2) in the second sentence—

(A) by inserting ''of accidents'' after ''the notification''; and

(B) by inserting '', or in the case of a reportable event that is not required to be reported as an accident, within 1 hour of the time at which the operator realizes that the event has occurred'' before the period; and

(3) by inserting at the end the following: ''For the purposes of this subsection, a reportable event shall include—

''(1) a fire not required to be reported more promptly;

''(2) a sudden change in mine atmospheric conditions in a sealed area;

''(3) a coal or rock outburst that causes the withdrawal of miners; or

''(4) any other event, as determined in regulations promulgated by the Secretary, that needs to be reported within 1 hour in order for the Secretary to determine if the working conditions in the mine are safe.''.

(e) ENHANCING THE CAPABILITIES OF MINE RESCUE TEAMS.—

(1) AMENDMENT TO FMSHA.—Section 115(e)(2)(B) (30 U.S.C. 825(e)(2)(B)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(v) The provision of uniform credentials to mine rescue team members, support personnel, or vehicles for immediate access to any mine site.

''(vi) The plans required at each mine to ensure coordination with local emergency response personnel and to ensure that such personnel receive adequate training to offer necessary assistance to mine rescue teams in the event such assistance is requested. Such local emergency response personnel shall not perform the duties of any mine rescue team.

''(vii) Requirements to ensure that operators are prepared to facilitate the work of mine rescue teams during an emergency by—

''(I) storing necessary equipment not brought on site by mine rescue teams in locations readily accessible to mine rescue teams;

''(II) providing mine rescue teams with a parking and staging area adequate for their needs;

''(III) identifying a space appropriate for coordinating emergency communications with the mine rescue team; and

''(IV) identifying and maintaining separate spaces for family members, community members, and press to assemble during an emergency so as to facilitate communications with these groups while ensuring the efforts of the mine rescue teams are not hindered.''.

(2) RESEARCH.—Section 22(h)(5)(A) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 671(h)(5)(A)) is amended by adding before the period at the end thereof: ''including advanced drilling technologies, and any special technologies required for safety or rescue in mining more than 1,500 feet in depth''.

(f) Title I of the Act is amended by adding at the end thereof a new section:

''SEC. 117. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN.

''Not later than 6 months of the enactment of the S–MINER Act, the Secretary shall establish

and disseminate guidelines for rescue operations that will: (1) establish clear lines of authority within the agency for such operations; (2) establish clear lines of demarcation so private sector and State responders can properly implement their responsibilities; (3) be appropriate for rescue in various types of conditions reasonably likely to be encountered in the United States, including such factors as the depth of the mining, ground stability, ground slope, remoteness from major roads, surface ownership and access problems, and the availability of necessary communications linkages. The Secretary shall consult with States, rescue teams and other responders in developing such guidelines, and shall update them from time to time based upon experience.''.

(g) AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY DURING RESCUE OPERATIONS.—Section 103 (30 U.S.C. 813) is further amended—

(1) in subsection (j), by adding at the end thereof:

''If the representative of the Secretary supervises and directs the rescue and recovery activities in such mine, the operator shall comply with the requests of the authorized representative of the Secretary to facilitate rescue and recovery activities including the provision of all equipment, personnel, and other resources required to perform such activities in accordance with the schedule and requirements established by the representative of the Secretary for this purpose, and failure of the operator to comply in this regard shall be considered an egregious violation of this Act.''; and

(2) in subsection (k), by striking '', when present,''.

(h) RESCUE COMMUNICATIONS.—

(1) REPEAL.—The MINER Act (30 U.S.C. 801 note) is amended by striking section 7, redesignating sections 8 and 9 as sections 7 and 8, and sections 11 through 14 as sections 9 through 12, respectively.

(2) AMENDMENT TO FMSHA.—Title I of the Act is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 118. FAMILY LIAISONS REQUIREMENT.

''The Secretary shall—

''(1) designate a full-time permanent employee of the Mine Safety and Health Administration to serve as a Family Liaison, who shall, at least in instances where multiple miners are trapped, severely injured or killed, act as the primary communication with the families of the miners concerning all aspects of the rescue operations, including the location or condition of miners, and assist the families in getting answers to their questions, and otherwise serve as a liaison to the families, and provide for the temporary reassignment of other personnel who may be required to assist the Family Liaison in connection with a particular incident;

''(2) require the Mine Safety and Health Administration to be as responsive as possible to requests from the families of such miners for information relating to the mine accident, and waive any fees required for the production of documents pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(3) in connection with a request from a family member, or authorized representative of miners, for documents relating to a mine fatality, notwithstanding any conditions for fee waivers law that may otherwise be imposed by law; and

''(3) designate a highly qualified representative of the Secretary with experience in public communications to be present at mine accident sites where rescues are in progress during the entire duration of such rescues, to serve as the primary communicator with the press and the public concerning all aspects of the rescue operations, including the location or condition of miners.''.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The Act is amended—

(A) in section 103(f), by inserting before the period at the end of the first sentence the following: '', and to participate in any accident investigation pursuant to the requirements of this Act. Any family member of a miner trapped or otherwise unable to execute a designation of a miner representative on his or her own behalf may do so on behalf of the miner for any and all purposes''; and

(B) in section 316(b)(2)(E)(vi) (as added by this Act), by adding at the end the following ''The plan shall also set forth the operator's plans for assisting the Secretary in the implementation of section 118.''.

(i) RECOVERY.—Section 103 is amended by adding at the end thereof—

''(l) Rescue efforts for trapped miners shall not cease as long as there is any possibility that miners are alive, unless such efforts pose a serious danger to rescue or other workers, and the decision to cease a rescue shall be made by the Secretary's representative. Thereafter, efforts to recover the remains of miners shall continue unless such efforts pose a serious danger to recovery workers, and the decision to cease such recovery efforts shall be made by the Secretary's representative.''.

(j) ACCIDENT AND INCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS.—Section 103(b) (30 U.S.C. 813(b), as amended by section 5(k)(2) of this Act, is further amended—

(1) by striking ''For the purpose'' and inserting the following:

''(3) For the purpose'';

(2) by inserting after the subsection designation the following:

''(1) For all accident and incident investigations under this Act, the Secretary shall determine why the accident or incident occurred; determine whether civil or criminal requirements were violated and, if so, issue citations and penalties, and make recommendations to avoid any recurrence. The Secretary shall also determine whether the conduct or lack thereof by Agency personnel contributed to the accident or incident.

''(2)(A) For any accidents or incidents involving multiple serious injuries or deaths, or multiple entrapments, there shall also be an independent investigation to consider why the accident or incident occurred, make recommendations to avoid a recurrence, and determine whether the conduct or lack thereof by agency personnel contributed to the accident or incident.

''(B) Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of the S–MINER Act, the Secretary shall initiate rulemaking activity to establish rules on the procedures that will be used to investigate accidents and incidents involving multiple serious injuries or deaths, or multiple entrapments, and shall directly contact and solicit the participation of

''(i) individuals identified by the Secretary as family members of miners who perished in mining accidents of any type during the preceding 10-year period;

''(ii) organizations representing miners;

''(iii) mine rescue teams;

''(iv) Federal, State, and local investigation and prosecutorial authorities; and

''(v) others whom the Secretary determines may have information relevant to this rulemaking.

Such rulemaking shall be completed by October 1, 2008.

''(C) The rules for the investigation of accidents or incidents involving multiple serious injuries or deaths, or multiple entrapments, shall provide for the appointment and operations of any such independent investigation team in accordance with the requirements of this paragraph. An independent investigation team shall be appointed by the Director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health as soon as possible after a qualifying accident or incident. The members shall consist of:

''(i) a representative from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health who shall serve as the Chairman;

''(ii) a representative of mine operators with familiarity with the type of mining involved;

''(iii) a representative of mine workers with familiarity with the type of mining involved, who shall be the workers' certified bargaining representative at the mine or, if there is no certified representative at the mine, then a workers' representative jointly selected by organized labor organizations:

''(iv) an academic with expertise in mining; and

''(v) a representative of the State in which the accident or incident occurred to be selected by the Governor.

''(D) Such rules shall include procedures to ensure that the Secretary will be able to cooperate fully with the independent investigation team and will use the powers of the Secretary under this section to help obtain information and witnesses required by the independent investigation team, procedures to ensure witnesses are not coerced and to avoid conflicts of interest in witness representation, procedures to ensure confidentiality if requested by any witness, and procedures to enable the independent investigation team to conduct such public hearings as it deems appropriate. Such rules shall also require that upon completion of any accident or incident investigation of accidents or incidents involving multiple serious injuries or deaths, or multiple entrapments, the independent investigation team shall—

''(i) issue findings as to the actions or inactions which resulted in the accident or incident;

''(ii) make recommendations as to policy, regulatory, enforcement or other changes, including statutory changes, which in the judgment of the independent investigation team would best prevent a recurrence of such actions or inactions at other mines; and

''(iii) promptly make all such findings and recommendations public (except findings and recommendations that must be temporarily withheld in connection with a criminal referral), including appropriate public hearings to inform the mining community of their respective findings and recommendations.

''(E) As part of the Secretary's annual report to Congress pursuant to section 511(a), the Secretary shall report on implementation of recommendations issued by any independent investigation teams in the preceding 5 years.''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit the authority of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board to conduct an independent investigation of the accident or incident or the events or factors resulting therein, nor with the authority of the Office of the Inspector General to conduct an investigation of the conduct of DOL personnel in connection with an accident or incident or the events or factors resulting therein, and the Secretary shall cooperate in full with any such investigation. Such investigation shall be in addition to any investigation authorized by section 103(b).''.

SEC. 7. RESPIRABLE DUST STANDARDS.

(a) RESPIRABLE DUST; RESPIRABLE SILICA DUST.—Section 202 (30 U.S.C. 842) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 202. DUST STANDARD AND RESPIRATORY EQUIPMENT.

''(a)(1) Effective on the date of enactment of the S–MINER Act, each coal mine operator shall continuously maintain the concentration of respirable dust in the mine atmosphere during each shift to which each miner in the active workings of such mine is exposed at or below a time-weighted average of 1.00 milligrams of respirable dust per cubic meter of air averaged over 10 hours or its dose-equivalent for shorter or longer period of time. For purposes of this paragraph, 'a dose-equivalent' means the amount of dust that a miner would inhale during his work shift as if he were working for 10 hours, and the term 'shift' means portal-to-portal for underground coal mines and 'bank to bank' for other coal mines.

''(2) At regular intervals to be prescribed by the Secretary and the Secretary of Health and

Human Services, the Secretary will take accurate samples of the amount of respirable dust in the coal mine atmosphere to which each miner in the active workings of such mine is exposed in order to determine compliance with the requirements of paragraph (a)(1) of this section. In addition, the Secretary shall cause to be made such frequent spot inspections as he deems appropriate of the active workings of coal mines for the purpose of obtaining compliance with the provisions of this title. All samples by the Secretary shall be taken by a personal dust monitor that measures, records and displays in real time the concentration of respirable dust to which the miner wearing the device is exposed, and shall include the sampling of areas, occupations or persons. For the purposes of determining compliance with the exposure limit for respirable dust, only a single sample shall be required to determine non-compliance, and there shall be no adjustment for measurement error in the measured level of respirable dust.

''(3) At intervals established by the Secretary, each operator of a coal mine shall take accurate samples of the amount of respirable dust in the mine atmosphere to which each miner in the active workings of such mine is exposed to identify sources of exposure so that the operator can take corrective action and assure that the exposure of each mine is below the exposure limit. Under the provisions of this Act, all such samples shall be taken by a personal dust monitor that measures, records and displays the concentration of respirable dust to which the miner wearing the device is exposed, and may include samples of less than a full shift. The results of such sampling shall be transmitted to the Secretary in a manner established by him, and recorded by him in a manner that will assure application of the provisions of this section of the Act.

''(4) Each miner shall be equipped with a personal dust monitor that measures, records and displays in real time the concentration of respirable dust to which the miner wearing the device is exposed. Each miner shall be permitted to adjust his work activities whenever necessary to keep his exposure to respirable coal dust, as measured, recorded and displayed by such device, at all times at or below the permitted concentration.

''(b) Effective on the date of enactment of the S–MINER Act, each operator of a coal or other mine shall continuously maintain the concentration of respirable silica dust in the mine atmosphere during each shift to which each miner in the active workings of such mine is exposed at or below a time-weighted average of 0.05 milligrams of respirable silica dust per cubic meter of air averaged over ten hours or its dose-equivalent for shorter or longer period of time. For the purposes of this paragraph, compliance shall be determined by the sampling of areas, occupations or persons, only a single sample shall be required to determine non-compliance, and there shall be no adjustment for measurement error in the measured level of respirable silica dust. For the purposes of this paragraph, a 'dose-equivalent' means the amount of dust that a miner would inhale during his work shift as if he were working for 10 hours, and the term 'shift' means portal-to-portal for underground mines and 'bank to bank' for other mines.

''(c) Respiratory equipment approved by the Secretary and the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall be made available to all persons whenever exposed to concentrations of respirable dust or silica in excess of the levels required to be maintained under this section. Use of respirators shall not be substituted for environmental control measures in the active workings. Each operator shall maintain a supply of respiratory equipment adequate to deal with occurrences of concentrations of respirable dust and silica in the mine atmosphere in excess of the levels required to be maintained under this section.

''(d) Each operator shall report and certify to the Secretary at such intervals as the Secretary may require as to the conditions in the active workings of a coal mine, including, the average number of working hours worked during each shift, the quantity and velocity of air regularly reaching the working faces, the method of mining, the amount and pressure of the water, if any, reaching the working faces, and the number, location, and type of sprays, if any, used.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 205 (30 U.S.C. 845) is repealed.

(c) ASSESSMENT ON PROGRAM OPERATIONS OF CUMULATIVE IMPACT OF EXTERNAL REQUIREMENTS ADDED SINCE 1977.—The Secretary shall request the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a study of the impact on the mine safety and health responsibilities of the Department of Labor of various statutes, executive orders, and memoranda applicable to the issuance of rulemaking and guidance and to enforcement. The study shall include an assessment of the Equal Access to Justice Act, the Regulatory Flexibility Act, the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act, the Data Quality Act, the Paperwork Reduction Act, the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Congressional Review Act, Executive Order 12866, Executive Order 13422, and memoranda from the Office of Management and Budget on guidance, risk assessment and cost analysis. The Secretary shall request that the National Academy of Sciences consult widely with experts in administrative law and other disciplines knowledgeable about such requirements, and to quantify to the extent possible the costs to miners of the aforementioned requirements. The Secretary shall further request that recommendations be included in the report, and that such report and recommendations be completed, and forwarded to the Congress, no later than 21 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 8. OTHER HEALTH REQUIREMENTS.

(a) AIR CONTAMINANTS.—Section 101 of (30 U.S.C. 811) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) Notwithstanding the other requirements of this section, not later than 30 days of the enactment of the S–MINER Act, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health shall forward to the Secretary its Recommended Exposure Limits (RELs) for chemical and other hazards to which miners may be exposed, along with the research data and other necessary information. Within 30 days of receipt of this information, the Secretary shall to adopt such recommended exposure limits as the Permissible Exposure Limits (PELs) for application in the mining industry. The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health shall annually submit to the Secretary any additional or revised recommended exposure limits for all chemicals and other hazards to which miners may be exposed, and the Secretary shall be obligated to adopt such exposure limits as PELs for application in the mining industry within 30 days of receipt of such information. Upon petition from miners or mine operators providing credible evidence that feasibility may be an issue for the industry as a whole, the Secretary may review the feasibility of any PEL established pursuant to this paragraph before placing it into effect and, following public notice and comment, make necessary adjustments thereto, provided that the adjusted standard is as protective as is feasible, and that the PEL shall go into effect as required by the other provisions of this paragraph if such action is not completed within one year. Moreover, upon petition from miners or mine operators providing credible evidence that a REL issued by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health lacks the specificity required to serve as a PEL pursuant to this Act, the Secretary may defer implementation of the requirements of this paragraph and shall promptly request National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health to recommend a sufficiently detailed REL, at which time the provisions of this paragraph shall be implemented. Nothing in this subsection shall limit the ability of the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health to make such recommendations more frequently than 1 time per year, nor limit the Secretary from establishing requirements for chemical and other substances or health hazards in the mining industry that are more comprehensive and protective than those established pursuant to this subsection and in accordance with the other requirements of this section.''.

(b) ASBESTOS.—Section 101 (30 U.S.C. 811) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) The health standard for asbestos established by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration that is set forth in section 1910.1001 of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, or any subsequent revision of that regulation, shall be adopted by the Secretary for application in the mining industry not later than 30 days of the enactment of the S–MINER Act. Nothing in this paragraph shall preclude the Secretary from adopting regulations to address asbestos hazards to miners not covered by the regulations of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.''.

(c) HAZARD COMMUNICATION.—Section 101 (30 U.S.C. 811) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(h) Unless and until there is additional rulemaking pursuant to the requirements of this section, the Secretary shall apply the provisions of the interim final rule of October 3, 2000, concerning hazard communication, in lieu of the final rule of June 21, 2002, concerning hazard communication.''.

The CHAIRMAN. No amendment to the committee amendment is in order except those printed in House Report 110–508. Each amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report; by a Member designated in the report; shall be considered read; shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent of the amendment; shall not be subject to amendment; and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. GEORGE MILLER OF CALIFORNIA

The CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 110–508.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 1 offered by Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California:

Page 5, beginning on line 6, strike ''amended by adding at the end the following:'' and insert ''amended—

(1) in clause (iii)(I), by inserting before the semicolon the following: ''and such requirement may not be satisfied by placement of an order with any company for future delivery of a portable refuge chamber or other means of providing such emergency supplies of breathable air''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

Page 5, line 8, strike ''(vi)'' and insert ''(vii)''.

Page 5, line 19, strike '', or'' and insert a semicolon.

Page 5, line 23, strike '', or'' and insert ''; or''.

Page 6, beginning on line 4, strike ''In addition'' and all that follows through ''emergency shelter'' and insert ''The regulations

shall further provide that in all cases a portable refuge chamber shall be installed and maintained''.

Strike section 4(d)(1) and insert the following:

(1) FLAME RESISTANT CONVEYOR BELTS.—Section 311(h) is amended by adding at the end the following: ''Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the S-MINER Act, the Secretary shall publish interim final rules to revise the requirements for flame resistant conveyor belts to ensure that they meet the most recent recommendations from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and to ensure such belts are designed to limit smoke and toxic emissions. A conveyor belt need not meet the requirements of the preceding sentence if—

''(A) it was ordered, in a mine's inventory, or installed prior to the date of enactment of the S-MINER Act, or it was ordered after the date of enactment of the S-MINER Act and the Secretary certifies that the mine operator was unable to obtain a belt meeting the requirements of the preceding sentence; or

''(B) in the case of any such belt that has been in use for more than 5 years in any capacity in any mine, such belt has received an annual inspection by a certified professional to ensure that the belt is free from visible defects that could cause failure or possible ignition.''.

Page 19, strike lines 6 through 15 and insert the following:

''(a) CONVEYOR BELTS.—The requirements of section 311(h) concerning conveyor belts in underground coal mines, including the exceptions and limitations in connection therewith, shall also apply to conveyor belts in underground metal and nonmetal mines.''.

Page 55, line 24, insert after the period the following: ''There is authorized to be appropriated to Secretary $30,000,000 to purchase personal dust monitors for the purposes of the preceding sentence.''.

At the end of the bill, insert the following:

(d) STUDY ON MINER SUBSTANCE ABUSE ISSUES THAT POSE SAFETY RISKS.—

(1) STUDY.—The Secretary of Labor shall conduct a study providing expert review and recommendations of policies designed to deal with substance abuse by miners, including the causes, nature, and extent of such abuse, its impact on mine safety and health, best practices for treatment, rehabilitation, and substance abuse testing policies, and the adequacy of State laws and approaches. In conducting such study, the Secretary shall solicit the views of and consult with all interested parties, including miners, miners' representatives, mine operators, appropriate State agencies, and public health and substance abuse experts.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall report the findings and recommendations of the study to the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions of the Senate

(3) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.—If, as a result of the study, the Secretary determines it to be feasible and effective, the Secretary shall be authorized to establish a program, in consultation with the parties described in paragraph (1), within the Mine Safety and Health Administration to provide for substance abuse testing of miners as well as rehabilitation and treatment of miners suffering from substance abuse.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 918, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. This amendment, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, does four things. First, it will authorize $30 million for the Department of Labor to buy a new generation of personal dust monitors required by the builder and provide them to miners. These dust monitors greatly enhance the accuracy in measuring the concentration of coal dust in underground coal mines. Both miner and industry representatives have expressed support for this initiative. It will go a long way in helping us reverse the rise in black lung and save untold amounts of costs in dealing with such debilitating disease.

Second, the amendment will increase the time permitted for the mining industry to install a new generation of fire-resistant conveyor belts, significantly cutting industry compliance costs with the underlying bill. This amendment takes into account the industry concerns about significant amounts of old-style conveyor belts already purchased and in reserve. Under this provision, miners can use up the reserved belts before purchasing new fire-resistant belts so long as after 5 years of use they pass a proper annual inspection.

Third, the amendment would eliminate delays by some mine operators in providing supplies of breathable air in underground coal mines for miners who may become trapped as required under the MINER Act of 2006. We recently learned that some miner operators are putting refuge chambers on order, with a wait of several years in some cases, and MSHA has been treating these purchase orders as sufficient to comply with the MINER Act's breathable air requirement. In the meantime, miners are underground without the breathable air that this Congress intended them to have. At least 11 of the 12 miners of the Sago explosion, for example, did not die because of the explosion. They died because, after many hours of awaiting rescue, they ran out of air. So this provision closes an apparent loophole in the MINER Act and ensures that breathable air is readily available to miners underground today while operators await the delivery of refuge chambers. Such air supplies can be provided via air cylinders or through boreholes to the surface pursuant to MSHA instructions.

Finally, this amendment deals with the potential safety problems posed by substance abuse in a direct and responsible fashion. Many of us have seen the recent reports about the rise of substance abuse problems in mines and mining communities. There is no doubt that the injuries, overwork and stress that miners experience can leave some of them vulnerable to abusing substances like painkillers. Now, none of the recent tragedies have been linked in any way to drug use, but we should be proactive in this area.

The amendment directs the Secretary of Labor to study the problem in consultation with all parties and to impose the program if she determines it to be feasible.

I urge my colleagues to pass the manager's amendment.

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

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

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Chairman, the S–MINER Act was first introduced nearly 7 months ago. It was voted on in the Education Committee more than 2 months ago. Yet in all this time this bill has been under consideration, the critical issue of drug testing was not inserted until the second try on the manager's amendment, submitted after yesterday's deadline. Forgive me if I am skeptical that we would have been given the same opportunity to revise our amendment at the last minute if we had sought to do so. Nevertheless, the amendment now before us replaces the previous version of the legislation, and it deserves our thorough review.

I want to thank Chairman MILLER for recognizing some of the flaws in the S–MINER Act and attempting to address them. The amendment includes some modest improvements, including an extension in the timeline for installation of the new generation of fire-resistant conveyor belts. At the same time, I am troubled by the proposal to limit the ability of mine operators to comply with breathable air requirements. With the ongoing backlog of the SCSRs, the breathing device required in mines, today we demand mine operators to, at a minimum, offer a purchase order to demonstrate their effort to comply with the requirement.

By preventing mine operators from producing proof of SCSR purchases as evidence of compliance, this amendment could push mines across the country out of compliance, despite their proven effort to comply with the requirement in the only way possible. What would the penalty be for the Nation's mines being deemed noncompliant? Would these mines be shut down, leaving miners without work? What possible rationale could there be for threatening mine workers' jobs as they struggle with today's economic pressures just because there aren't companies that have the ability to produce these required instruments?

Similarly, but perhaps even more troubling, the amendment imposes the same backwards logic on the new requirement for possible refuge chambers. On the one hand, it mandates that mines have these refuge chambers in order to operate. On the other hand, it makes clear that mines which purchase the chambers but through no fault of their own must wait for them to be manufactured, will be unable to operate without this very specific and widely unavailable product.

The majority knows that portable refuge chambers will have a production backlog of years. They also know that

in being so specific as to mandate portable refuge chambers with no alternative, this provision guarantees that mines will be shut down while waiting for the product to be manufactured. I don't know if that is the goal, to shut down mines, but that will be the net result.

On the issue of drug testing, while I question the last-minute addition of this proposal, I appreciate the belated acknowledgment that drug abuse in the mining community is a significant problem that demands action. Unfortunately, this amendment offers little in the way of action. Instead of immediately implementing a drug testing program, this amendment calls for a study. We don't need a study to tell us whether drug abuse is a problem in the mines. All you need to do is pick up the front page of The Washington Post Sunday edition and read about it.

At this time I would like to submit this article, written by Nick Miroff, into the RECORD. You will see the pervasiveness of this problem.

[From the Washington Post, Jan. 13, 2008]

A DARK ADDICTION

(By Nick Miroff)

TAZEWELL COUNTY, VA.—The crowd is gathering early in the dirt parking lot outside the Clinch Valley Treatment Center, the only methadone clinic within 80 miles. Third in line, Jeff Trapp smokes Winstons in his pickup, watching the cars turn off the highway and settle behind him, tires crunching on cold gravel, headlights glaring. It is 2:45 a.m., and Trapp has been awake for two hours. The clinic does not start dosing until 5.

Like Trapp, many of the patients who filled the lot one recent morning have jobs at far-off mines that start at 6 or 7. They sleep upright in their vehicles, slumped against the steering wheel, dressed for work in steel-toed black boots and coveralls lined with orange reflective strips. Dark rings circle their eyes where the previous day's coal dust didn't wash off.

''Everybody you see here works,'' says Trapp, his smoke-cured voice a low rumble. A $14 plug-in heater from ''Wally'' (Wal-Mart) whirs on the dash. ''Ain't no spongers. No loafers,'' he says.

Work in the mines hasn't been as good as it is now in a generation. With per-ton prices doubling in the past six years, Virginia unearthed about $1.6 billion worth of coal in 2006, much of it to feed the growing energy demands of the Washington region.

Wages are up, bosses are hiring and rookie miners can start at $18 an hour—a small fortune in a region where, as Trapp says, ''if you ain't working in the mines or in the prisons, you don't make money.''

But it is a boom clouded by drugs. Nearly a decade after OxyContin slammed into southwestern Virginia and much of Appalachia, the abuse of prescription painkillers in the region is worse than ever, police and public health officials say.

Publicized efforts to crack down on drug dealers and manufacturers through tougher street-level enforcement and tighter prescription regulations have failed to curb the crisis, and the result is a quiet catastrophe unfolding largely out of sight, in private bedrooms and isolated trailers far from the drug war's urban front lines.

A record 248 people died of overdoses in Virginia's western region in 2006, more than those who died from homicides, house fires and alcohol-related car accidents combined. That was an 18 percent increase from 2005 and a 270 percent increase from a decade ago, state medical examiner records show.

The problem is most acute in Virginia's poorest rural areas, and it is not limited to miners. In 2006, accidental pain pill overdoses killed more people in Tazewell County (pop. 44,000) than in Fairfax County (pop. 1.1 million). In Wise County, where Trapp lives and the per capita income is $14,000 a year, the fatal overdose rate for pain pills was 13 times those of Loudoun and Fairfax counties.

''The abuse and misuse of painkillers is the worst I have seen it in the 16 years I have worked narcotics in this area,'' said Lt. Richard Stallard of the Big Stone Gap police department. He is director of the Southwest Virginia Drug Task Force, which operates in Dickinson, Lee, Scott and Wise counties. His officers made 442 arrests through the first nine months of last year, an 86 percent increase from the same period in 2006.

In what is perhaps the most troubling sign of the problem's intractability, the single deadliest drug in the region in 2006 was the same one being legally distributed to addicts through treatment clinics such as the one Trapp visits: methadone.

A large black market has emerged for the drug, which is supposed to treat addiction or chronic pain with less risk than OxyContin and other oxycodone-based opioids. But methadone was linked to 78 deaths in western Virginia in 2006, and experts say that whatever ground was gained against the illegal use of OxyContin is being lost, engulfed in a widening circle of abuse that extends to painkillers, antidepressants and other prescription drugs.

Round-the-clock security is posted at Clinch Valley Treatment Center, a two-story cement building along Route 19 that was once a hamburger restaurant. It serves almost 1,000 patients, drawing them from steep-sided mountain ''hollers'' and tiny coal towns such as Dante, Dungannon, Honaker and other places where the winter sun casts long shadows but little light.

Every morning before sunup, Trapp drives 120 miles—from his home in Coeburn to the clinic and back—stopping once for coffee and gas at the Double Kwik in Lebanon. He has been going for two years, trading this dependency for the $600–a-day oxycodone habit that made his nose bleed and his wife cry. He is 54, with a pale moustache, a four-pack-a-day wheeze and the drained, sallow expression of someone who has not slept in a long time.

When the clinic doors open at 5, the crowd streams into the warm hallway, squinting in the indoor light. Trapp hands over $12.50 at a payment window, then lines up at another window for his dose: 80 milligrams of liquid methadone, mixed with juice in a little white cup. He must gulp it down quickly and get back on the road. His boss expects him at 6:30.

''This methadone makes you feel like a human being again,'' Trapp says.

With disability rates as high as 37 percent in coal-mining areas such as Buchanan County, the region has many people with long-term pain management needs. As is the case with lots of aging miners, Trapp's addiction to pills began in a doctor's office, not a back-alley drug deal.

''Busted-up'' from 30 years working as a heavy-equipment operator and mechanic on the massive excavators used for strip mining and mountaintop removal, Trapp needed multiple surgeries to fix seven ruptured and herniated discs. Doctors wanted to implant a magnesium rod to stabilize his spine, but Trapp refused.

''I've known too many people who've done it, and they can't tie their shoes,'' he said.

So Trapp loaded up on painkillers, first Percocet and later OxyContin. When the prescribed dose no longer did the job, Trapp took more. Then more. He began ''doctor shopping,'' driving to Roanoke and Richmond to find physicians who would give him prescriptions.

When the pharmacies couldn't provide enough pills, Trapp found dealers who would. Friends were melting oxycodone tablets and injecting themselves—''bangin' OCs''—but Trapp was too squeamish to mess with needles. He crushed the tablets and snorted them like cocaine off his kitchen table. He didn't feel high, just ''good.'' The relief was instant.

''I got hooked on those bad boys real bad,'' he says.

But when Trapp didn't have pills, the withdrawal symptoms left him ''sick as a dog'' and bedridden. ''Every muscle in your body craves it,'' he says. ''You can't sleep, can't eat. It's like the flu, but 10 times worse.''

In two years, Trapp put $60,000 of his retirement savings, maybe more, up his nose. His daughter begged him to get help, as did his wife, Sue, who works as a shift manager at a Hardee's and as a guard at Red Onion State Prison, the supermax facility where sniper Lee Boyd Malvo is being held.

Trapp was ''wormed over'' after three days into involuntary withdrawal when his wife took him to a clinic to get help in 2005. He couldn't walk, and he couldn't hold up his head. He began taking methadone that week.

Foreman Gary Boyd steers through the tunnels of Pioneer Coal No. 1 in a low-rise electric cart, sloshing across channels of cold, muddy water. His nickname, Stork, is stenciled on his scuffed plastic helmet, and a slug of dipping tobacco bulges in his lower lip.

''The good Lord put me on this Earth to be a coal miner,'' he says, ''and I can't think of nothing I'd rather do.'' He ducks slightly when the ceiling height drops to 40 inches.

A bearish man with a soot-streaked beard, Boyd stands well over 6 feet tall outside the mine. But underground, in a 3½-foot ''low coal'' operation such as this one in the mountains near Vansant, VA, Boyd mostly works on his hands and knees, crawling like an infant. He and the other men spend the entire shift, sometimes 12 hours or more, without ever standing up.

Compared with the large, corporate-owned mines that use the latest technology and enforce tighter safety codes, Pioneer No. 1, the company's only mine, is a mom-and-pop affair, run by a single operator and a 10-man crew. It extends horizontally into the mountain through a maze-like network of wide, low tunnels, and a red plastic sign along the access road outside reads ''AMBULANCE ENTRANCE.''

With narrower profit margins, small-scale outfits such as Pioneer, often known as ''dog holes,'' typically pay less and don't offer benefits such as health insurance. But for miners who have been fired from corporate mines for drug violations or other infractions, smaller mines, which must still meet state safety standards, are a good fallback.

The ''face,'' where Boyd's crew was working that day, was a half-mile into the mountain. A massive grinding machine called a continuous miner chewed at the coal seam with a spinning, snaggle-toothed steel cylinder. Water seeped from its mouth and trickled from its sides to cool the metal teeth and keep the dust down. The greasy, jet-black rock came off in chunks onto a conveyor belt.

As the machine worked, the tunnel walls cracked and groaned under the shifting pressure of the mountain. Crew members scrambled to stabilize the roof with wooden posts, wedging them into place with hammers.

''You're as safe as you would be in your mommy's arms—if you watch what you're doing,'' Boyd said. He checked a hand-held meter every few minutes to measure carbon dioxide, which is poisonous, and methane, which can explode. Flecks of coal dust swirled in the yellow beams of the miners' headlamps.

Drug use by miners who snort or shoot up underground has been a growing cause for concern among state regulators, and a law approved last year in the General Assembly imposed stringent drug-testing policies. All newly hired miners must be screened, and random testing requirements have increased. Those who fail risk losing their miner's license.

The impact of the new policies was immediate. ''I can't find nobody to work,'' said Noah Vandyke, 60, a lifelong miner who runs Pioneer Coal. ''The younger generation, you can't hardly find one that will pass a drug test.''

Since the new testing policy went into effect in July, Vandyke has lost eight crew members who were fired because of drugs or quit, possibly to avoid having their miner's license revoked for a ''dirty'' urine sample.

''Every family in the area has been affected by drug abuse,'' Vandyke said, ''and it ain't just coal miners.'' In recent years, two of his sisters have died because of drugs, and two brothers, both injured miners, are deep in the grip of addiction.

Unlike some operators, Vandyke is known as a boss who will not turn a man away for trying to get help at the methadone clinic. One of those is his on-again, off-again ''scoop man,'' Jeff Vandyke, who shuttles coal inside the mine in a huge, spoon-shaped electric cart. The two men are not directly related—Vandyke is a common name in the area—but their lives have been intertwined since the elder miner gave the younger his first job underground 15 years ago.

Like Noah, Jeff Vandyke, 34, grew up in Buchanan County near the town of Grundy. With his horizons blocked by the mountainsides, he found a new world underground. ''There's nothing like coal mining,'' he said. ''You know that nobody else will ever go where you're going. Just the people in that mine, that day.''

The mines led Jeff Vandyke to another love: drugs. He got his first prescription for OxyContin after a rock fall accident that left him with broken ribs, shoulder damage and spinal injuries. Disabled and addicted, he thought he could get away from drugs by leaving, so he moved with his brother to Arizona and got a job as a trucker. Soon they were buying pills along the Mexican border, 1,000 at a time, he said. Methamphetamine kept them awake, and OxyContin kept them high.

By 2003, Jeff Vandyke was back home and drifting deeper into addiction. He lived for more than a year in a broken-down trailer with the electricity, water and heat cut off. He spent most of his days on a couch in the dark, stirring every few hours to warm the air under his blankets with a propane camping stove.

The crippling pain and nausea of withdrawal pushed him to get help. He drives to a Kentucky clinic for a two-week supply of liquid methadone and says he has been clean for three years. He and his girlfriend, Daisy Ratliff, live with her two sons in a trailer with a thick coal seam visible on the hillside in their back yard. She has brightened the black lockbox where Vandyke stores his methadone with stickers of hearts, stars and red letters that spell ''I LV U.''

''My truck's paid off,'' Vandyke says, his long, blond hair tucked under a camouflage cap. ''I've got four bows, three shotguns.'' He takes time off from the mines in the fall to hunt deer, grouse and squirrel for winter meat.

And yet, some of the damage from his drug years can't be undone. Vandyke's father no longer speaks to him, and he and his brother haven't said a word to each other in nearly two years, ever since he said his brother shot at him with a .38 and tried to steal Ratliff's car.

''I'll probably never get off methadone because of the shape I'm in,'' said Mick Wampler, a disabled coal miner who lives in a small room at the end of a narrow hallway in his sister's house.

Wampler, 47, started working in the mines four days after his 18th birthday. His mother needed the money after floods wiped out the family's home in Haysi, VA. But he never had the nerves for it, he said, and the sight of accidents sent him over the edge. He watched one friend lose an arm to a rock hauler and saw another electrocuted by a 900-volt mining cable. Wampler began taking Valium just to go underground.

''A lot of people are scared on the job,'' he said. ''They'll use alcohol, anything.'' After falling off a loader and breaking his leg, Wampler got a prescription for oxycodone. A diabetic, he had needles, and shooting up was easy. Soon he was hooked on high-potency Fentanyl patches, ripping them in two to wring out the drug, which he would cook up with vinegar and inject through the veins in his feet. ''It was as good as heroin,'' he said. He dabbled in that, too.

Years of negative publicity about OxyContin have made doctors wary of it and other oxycodone-based drugs, local health officials say, but records show that sales of the drug have increased. In 2006, 746,901 grams of oxycodone were distributed for retail sale in Virginia, nearly triple the amount sold in 1999, according to the Virginia Department of Health Professions. Although sales have slowed since 2001, they increased 9 percent from 2005 to 2006.

Police in the region say pain pills are entering Virginia from other states, even Mexico, where they can be casually bought along the border. They can also be ordered on the Internet through shady online pharmacies. The familiar schemes remain popular, too.

We can't stop people from going doctor shopping,'' Tazewell Sheriff H.S. Caudill said. ''We need a nationwide program to check if John Doe has already been to another pharmacy.''

Doctors, meanwhile, have been giving out more methadone than ever. From 1999 to 2006, the amount of methadone distributed for retail sale in Virginia jumped from 30,531 grams to 146,479. An underground market for illegally diverted tablets and liquid doses is thriving.

''When we had problems with OxyContin being diverted, doctors started prescribing methadone,'' said Martha Wunsch, a researcher who has a grant from the National Institutes of Health to study southwestern Virginia's drug deaths.

Wunsch says that methadone in pill form, not the liquid version legally distributed through addiction clinics, is to blame for the bulk of fatal overdoses. In one study, she found that more than half of all fatal overdose victims had legitimate prescriptions for methadone tablets.

On its own, methadone can't deliver a ''high'' like oxycodone or other opiates, so users combine it with anti-anxiety drugs such as Xanax to intensify the effect, creating a toxic, often fatal, cocktail. Prescription pills have surpassed marijuana as the top drug of choice for new drug users nationwide, according to the White House's Office of National Drug Control Policy.

''There's not much to do around here,'' said Jeremy Lowe, 22, a miner who got hooked on Lortab (hydrocodone) after breaking his hand in an accident a year ago. Now he is one of the patients who wait in line at the methadone clinic every morning.

''A lot of my friends who went off to universities ended up coming back home and getting hooked,'' he said. ''It's like it's fashionable to do drugs.''

To many, the growing traffic at the Clinch Valley Treatment Center has made it a shameful symbol of the region's drug problem. Several Tazewell officials want to shut the center down or force it to move, seeing its for-profit business model and treatment mission as a conflict of interest. According to the clinic's policy, patients can buy methadone as long as they want; detoxification is voluntary.

The clinic's counseling staff members say that many patients need to be on some sort of drug to cope with severe, long-term pain and that methadone has made them functional. And for those who lack insurance or access to more personalized care, it is often the only affordable option.

''We need to change the way people look at successful drug addiction treatment,'' said the clinic's director, Sterlyn Lineberry. ''Are we reducing harm to the individual? Is the person working? Taking care of their family?''

Wunsch, who used to run a methadone clinic in the region, says the biggest problem is the lack of state and federal support for more comprehensive treatment programs. And powerful stigmas persist. ''A lot of people in southwest Virginia believe this is a moral weakness, not a public health problem,'' she said.

Jeff Trapp knows people who have died from methadone but no one who has gotten off it the hard way. He has tried to decrease his dose, but the cravings come back every time. So instead, he drives.

Trapp sets his alarm for 12:30 a.m., waking after a few hours of sleep, and gets dressed in a dark room. His boss does not like that he goes to the clinic, and even less that it has made him late to work, and has threatened to fire him.

In the kitchen, Trapp makes coffee with the light low. There is a plastic bin above the cabinets to catch the rainwater where the roof leaks, and a picture of his wife at her high school graduation hangs on the wall. He carries another photo of her riding a motorcycle. She weighs 95 pounds, but she's a tough lady, he says.

When Trapp starts the pickup down the driveway at 1 a.m., the dogs stand on the doorstep and watch him go. Last year, he put 60,000 miles on the pickup, a 1993 Chevy. The road signs say his route is a designated scenic byway, the Trail of the Lonesome Pine, but Trapp drives it in the dark, and there is nothing to see.

''I don't want to be dependent on doing this every day,'' Trapp says. He could get permission for a two-week take-home supply of methadone, if he wanted it. He hasn't had a dirty test yet. But does he trust himself? No.

So instead, he drives.

''I don't want that temptation on me,'' he says. ''I'd probably drink two bottles just to see how it felt.''

He opens the window a crack to light another Winston, watching the shoulder for deer. When a car passes him on the left, Trapp recognizes the vehicle. He has seen it before, parked outside the clinic.

There seems to be no hesitation in this body about implementing mandatory drug testing for Major League Baseball. Yesterday, Members on both sides of the aisle spent more than 4 hours examining the question of drug abuse among baseball players. I don't

know what the danger is there. I hate to see records broken by somebody because he's taken drugs, but the danger underground in mines of somebody using drugs is really a real live danger. One area on which everyone seemed to agree was on the need for mandatory drug testing for the ballplayers. Yet for our Nation's mine workers who risk their lives by entering the mines, we propose only a study.

□ 1345

We need to protect these miners now. That means testing and nothing less.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment includes some modest improvements. It makes other changes that are ill defined that create new unanswered questions, and it makes some changes that could actually worsen the bill. On the whole, this amendment, like the S-MINER Act itself, remains an unnecessary diversion from the bipartisan, widely supported mine safety reforms enacted in 2006 through the MINER Act. I oppose this amendment because I continue to oppose the underlying bill.

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, I would just say that, first of all, on the question, I'm sure we had both the same reaction when we read the story in The Washington Post that we had an opportunity in this legislation to address, the issue of substance abuse by those in the mining industry. You drafted your amendment and we drafted our amendment. Ours is, in fact, a study and then the implementation of the program.

The gentleman from the other side of the aisle and his colleagues are always saying they don't want a solution made in Washington. They want to consult other parties. We thought we should consult the companies. We thought we should consult the States that have experience in this, the public health agencies that have some experience in this, and have the Secretary develop the best program and then enact that program with drug testing. That's what we thought we should do, and I think it makes the most sense. There are States that have extensive experience, and rather than just somehow creating a program sent from Washington, whether those programs have drug testing or not, didn't make any sense to us.

With the rest of the criticisms of the amendment, I think it's sort of like maybe the ''Abbey Road'' album, where you guys play it backwards and it says ''Paul is dead'' or something. You're reading the amendments upside down or something because that's not what the amendments do. These are good amendments. They address some concerns that the industry has raised with us. And the fact of the matter is miners are entitled to have breathable air, to have 96 hours of air underground today. When the chambers come, they will come, but in the meantime they should not be unprotected given the history of the accidents that we have witnessed in this country and the problems that the miners have reaching those breathable supplies after the explosions.

So I would encourage all of my colleagues to support this amendment, the manager's amendment, by voting for it.

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

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER).

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. BOUCHER

The CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 110–508.

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 2 offered by Mr. BOUCHER: At the end of the bill, insert the following:

(d) GRANTS FOR REHABILITATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, is authorized to award grants to appropriate entities and programs for the purpose of providing rehabilitation services to current and former miners suffering from mental health impairments, including drug addiction and substance abuse issues, which may have been caused or exacerbated by their work as miners. The Secretary shall ensure such funds are directed to those regions of the country most in need of such assistance.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Labor $10,000,000 to carry out the grant program authorized by this subsection.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 918, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BOUCHER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

(Mr. BOUCHER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

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

As the gentleman from California pointed out in his recent comments, there was a compelling article on the front page of The Washington Post on Sunday that details the level of drug dependency and drug addiction that takes place among coal miners who have, because of their work, become injured, received medications, and then that has led to drug dependency, oftentimes to drug addiction, and it is a major and a growing problem. And in the Central Appalachians, where much of our Nation's coal is mined, that problem is one of the largest affecting our communities.

Among the major victims of the epidemic we are experiencing are, in fact, coal miners. But the problems in our communities are not limited just to coal miners. As the article published on Sunday indicated, the toll that this sometimes unseen epidemic is taking is worse now than ever before, and it is growing year by year. In 2006, a record 248 people died from drug overdoses in the region that I have the privilege of representing. In that year, accidental pain pill overdoses killed more people in one of the coal mining counties in my congressional district that has a population of 44,000 than died from drug overdoses in Virginia's largest county, Fairfax County, that has a population of 1.1 million. So obviously this problem is disproportionately affecting the coal-producing counties not only in Virginia, but it is happening throughout the Central Appalachian region where coal is mined.

The devastation to families and communities in the district that I represent is graphic, and that devastation was so well portrayed in the article that the gentleman from California referenced that was published in The Washington Post on Sunday. And for those who have not read that article, let me commend it because it points out the severity that this problem is imposing on our rural areas. Methadone has now replaced OxyContin as the most abused and the deadliest drug, but the epidemic spans a wide range of pain medications.

So the amendment that I'm putting forward really is the action that Mr. MCKEON called for just a moment ago in his comments. It is an important step in addressing the mental health needs of the miners who suffer from work-related drug dependency. They are not the sole victims of the epidemic, but they are disproportionately affected by it.

The amendment authorizes the expenditure of $10 million in grant awards in regions of the Nation most affected by prescription drug abuse among coal miners in order to provide drug counseling and drug rehabilitation services to them. And that article pointed out the severe lack of those very services that exist in the coal-producing regions of Virginia, and the authorities who are responsible for delivering those kinds of services talked about the inadequacy of resources with which they are currently having to contend. And we take with this amendment one small step in making sure that those resources are enhanced so they can do their jobs better.

I urge adoption of the amendment as one important step in addressing an urgent need that we have in the coal mining communities of the Eastern United States.

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

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Chairman, I rise to claim the time in opposition to the amendment, but I will not oppose its passage.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Chairman, I really want to thank Congressman BOUCHER for his effort to address this problem of drug use among miners. I think it's very, very important. I would even go so far as to say if this bill doesn't show much progress, if you brought this up as a separate bill, I'd be happy to work with you on it.

This amendment takes an important first step by acknowledging the problem and establishing opportunities for treatment. This amendment is a positive first step, but it does not go far enough.

To complement the Boucher amendment, Republicans are proposing a strong framework for mandatory drug testing. We want to ensure that miners are tested and those who are under the influence are prevented from entering the mines and putting their own lives and the lives of their coworkers at risk.

Drug abuse among miners is a serious problem, and according to recent media accounts, it is also a widespread problem. Already States are taking the lead on stringent testing initiatives to protect miners from the hazards that come from combining substance abuse and the dangerous work environment. The Federal Government needs to catch up on what is being done in the States.

I urge my colleagues to support the Republican proposal to implement drug testing. At this time I also urge passage of the Boucher amendment as an acknowledgment of the problem and an important first step toward resolving it.

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Chairman, at this time I am pleased to yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER).

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in very strong support of his amendment. I think it's well thought out. It recognizes the problems that were described in the article and experienced among his constituents to provide the kinds of resources for what clearly, from the narrative in the story, is a very difficult problem, encountering numerous substances, of people who are caught in very difficult situations, many of whom are struggling to stay employed. And I think the kinds of services that the gentleman provides in his amendment are absolutely necessary, and I rise in strong support of the amendment.

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Chairman, I likewise support the amendment, and I thank the gentleman for presenting it.

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

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, I want to say thank you to the gentleman from California for his kind remarks and for the strong support he has stated for this measure, and I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) and his outstanding staff for their leadership on the overall issue and also their strong support of this undertaking.

It is critically important that we empower the individuals who are delivering services to miners who are affected by drug abuse, who are affected by drug addiction, so that they can become productive once again, remain in the mines working, and that their families can benefit from their productive existence. This amendment takes that important step, and I urge adoption of it.

The Acting CHAIRMAN (Mr. PASTOR). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BOUCHER).

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. ELLSWORTH

The Acting CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in House Report 110–508.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 3 offered by Mr. ELLSWORTH:

Page 32, beginning on line 9, strike ''amended by striking'' and all that follows through ''The operator shall,'' and insert ''amended—

(1) by inserting ''(1)'' after the subsection designation; and

(2) by inserting at the end the following:

''(2)(A) The Secretary shall maintain a list of delinquent operators who fail to timely pay final assessments. Any operator placed on that list for the first time shall be subject to the requirements of this paragraph only until such time as the Secretary determines that the operator is no longer in arrears. Any operator placed on that list for a subsequent time shall remain on the list until such time as the Secretary determines the operator is committed to timely payment of final assessments. Any operator who believes he or she has been placed or retained on the list in error may file with the Commission a request for consideration of decision.

''(B) An operator on the list maintained pursuant to paragraph (A) shall,''.

Page 32, line 24, strike ''In the event'' and insert

''(C) In the event''.

At the end of the bill, insert the following:

SEC. 9. MINE SAFETY PROGRAM FUND.

Title I is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 117. MINE SAFETY PROGRAM FUND.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury a separate account to be known as the 'Mine Safety Program Fund' (in this section referred to as the 'Fund').

''(b) TRANSFERS TO THE FUND.—There shall be deposited in the Fund—

''(1) all penalties collected under section 110; and

''(2) any gifts, bequests, or donations to the Fund from private entities or individuals, which the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to accept for deposit into the Fund, except that the Secretary is not authorized to accept any such gift, bequest, or donation that—

''(A) attaches conditions inconsistent with applicable laws or regulations; or

''(B) is conditioned upon or would require the expenditure of appropriated funds that are not available to the Secretary of Labor.

''(c) EXPENDITURES.—Amounts in the Fund shall be available, as provided in appropriations Acts, only for inspections and investigations conducted pursuant to section 103.''.

Amend the table of contents in section 1(b) by adding at the end the following:

Sec. 9. Mine safety program fund.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 918, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ELLSWORTH) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Mr. Chairman, my staff and I worked hard with Chairman MILLER and his staff to address some important issues with this amendment.

My amendment would strike from the bill a requirement that penalizes mine operators who have been assessed penalties and pay them in a timely fashion. In its place, the amendment provides the Secretary of Labor with a mechanism to hold accountable those businesses that have a history of delinquent fine payments, while ensuring that honest businesses can contest fines without paying them up front.

As written, the underlying bill would require all mines to place the amount of an assessed fine into escrow if they choose to contest that fine. This is intended to ensure that mine operators cannot evade their responsibility to pay fines if they lose that appeal. While I support this important new collection tool, I do not think the bill takes into full account the financial burden that it could create for small businesses that do not have the means to leave funds in escrow while they contest a citation.

In Indiana and across the country, there are numerous mine operations that don't have the operating budget to cover such large and unforeseen costs. The small quarry mines in the Midwest and the sand and gravel operations in the South might not have the overhead to freeze thousands of dollars while they appeal the citation. I would hate to see those mines forced to miss a payroll or lay off their hardworking employees because of this provision.

My amendment addresses this concern by directing the Secretary to maintain a list of mine operators with a history of delinquent payments. Only

those operators who are on this list would be required to prepay their fines into escrow. The amendment would also provide businesses with an opportunity to contest their placement on this delinquency list if they believe that placement list was a mistake.

Ultimately, my amendment would relieve undue financial burden for all mines, but particularly the small mines that are acting in good faith to properly appeal and, when necessary, pay their fines.

□ 1400

This amendment also addresses an important issue affecting mine safety in recent years, the lack of comprehensive safety inspections in every mine. In November of 2007, the Department of Labor's Inspector General reported that 15 percent of mines were not fully inspected in fiscal year 2006, due mainly to lack of inspection resources. As we know, we can pass all the mine safety laws we want in this House, but if inspections of mines aren't being held, and they aren't held accountable to our standards, we haven't made any progress at all.

As the Inspector General points out in his report, and I quote: ''Incomplete or missed inspections place miners at risk because hazardous conditions in the mines may not be identified and corrected. In fiscal year 2006, approximately 7,500 miners were employed at 107 mines which did not receive at least one required inspection.''

In response to the failure outlined in that report, this amendment creates the Mine Safety Programs Fund to guarantee that all MSHA fines are reinvested in mine safety, which allows us to make sure every mine is living up to our standards and providing a safe working environment for working American miners. Last year, safety violations resulted in about $40 million of MSHA fines. If that money was reinvested in mine safety, it would have meant an estimated 20 percent increase in the inspection resources. We can pass all the mine safety laws we want, but if we don't give the Department of Labor resources to fund them, we haven't made progress for the American miners and what they expect of us.

Again, I would like to thank Chairman MILLER and his staff, as well as my staff, for working with us for what I think is an important amendment to this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition to the amendment, but I will not oppose the amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Chairman, the Ellsworth amendment, as it has been explained, would modify the collection of fines to provide relief to those mine operators who pay their fines in a timely fashion. At the same time, it establishes a trust fund so that fines collected will be used for inspections and investigations. The amendment also creates a list of those mine operators who do not pay their fines, shining a spotlight to help promote payment in a timely fashion.

Unlike the underlying bill, this amendment would not do anything to inhibit implementation of the bipartisan MINER Act of 2006. Because this amendment offers positive reforms without dismantling the mine safety improvements under way, I am pleased to support its passage.

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

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Mr. Chairman, I would like to yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER).

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, I want to rise in strong support of the gentleman from Indiana's amendment and commend him for his very thoughtful work and his diligence on putting this amendment together to make sure that we in fact attack the problem at hand, which was those few irresponsible miners who refused to pay their fines and that have a history of not paying. Then, also the creative use of these fines to provide better enforcement, better safety for our mine workers. I rise in strong support and ask all of our colleagues to vote ''yes'' on the Ellsworth amendment.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the chairman again and the ranking member for his understanding and patience on this matter.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ELLSWORTH).

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. WILSON OF SOUTH CAROLINA

The Acting CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in House Report 110–508.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment made in order under the rule.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 4 offered by Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the Sense of Congress that the Mine Safety and Health Administration should continue the full and timely implementation of the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006, P.L. No. 109-236, and that the provisions of that law should be implemented by the Administration as robustly, safely, and expeditiously as possible.

SEC. 2. SAFETY COMMITTEES.

Title II of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 208. SAFETY COMMITTEES.

''Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations pursuant to section 101(a) providing that a mine operator may establish, assist, maintain, and participate in workplace safety committees, on which committees miners shall participate to address issues of mine safety and to deal with the mine operator regarding emergency response, communication, rescue, recovery, inspection and other terms and conditions of employment relating to mine safety.''.

SEC. 3. SUBSTANCE ABUSE TESTING.

Title II of such Act is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 209. SUBSTANCE ABUSE TESTING.

''(a) TESTING PROGRAM.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations pursuant to section 101(a) to require the operator of each mine to institute a program to conduct mandatory, random substance abuse testing of mine employees. Such regulations shall be no less restrictive than regulations issued by other Federal and State agencies which impose mandatory substance abuse testing and shall provide for—

''(1) mandatory substance abuse testing procedures;

''(2) a process for the random selection of those employees to be tested;

''(3) the protection of individuals' rights and privacy;

''(4) the establishment of an Employee Assistance Program; and

''(5) for purposes of subsection (b), a process for mine operators to notify the Administration of the names of individuals who test positive for substance abuse.

''(b) REGISTRY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations creating a registry of those found to have tested positive for substance abuse for the sole purpose of sharing, on a confidential basis, with State authorities responsible for issuance of licenses, certification, permits, or other documents required to seek employment in the mining industry.''.

SEC. 4. IMPROVING MINE SAFETY.

(a) COORDINATION WITH BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT.—The Mine Safety and Health Administration shall regularly consult with the Bureau of Land Management concerning the safety status of mines in order for the Administration to maintain an awareness of any safety concerns observed by Bureau of Land Management personnel.

(b) STUDY OF DEEP MINE CONDITIONS BY TECHNICAL STUDY PANEL.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF TECHNICAL STUDY PANEL.—There is established a Technical Study Panel (hereafter referred to as ''the Panel'') which shall provide independent scientific and engineering review and provide recommendations to the Mine Safety and Health Administration to evaluate the risk assessment procedures of deep mine conditions.

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Panel shall be composed of—

(i) two individuals to be appointed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in

consultation with the Director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and the Associate Director of the Office of Mine Safety;

(ii) two individuals to be appointed by the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Assistant Secretary for Mine Safety and Health;

(iii) one individual appointed jointly by the majority leaders of the Senate and House of Representatives; and

(iv) one individual to be appointed jointly by the minority leader of the Senate and House of Representatives.

(B) QUALIFICATIONS.—Four of the 6 individuals appointed to the Panel under paragraph (A) shall possess a masters or doctoral level degree in mining engineering or another scientific field demonstrably related to the subject of the report. No individual appointed to the Panel shall be an employee of any coal or other mine, or of any labor organization, or of any State or Federal agency primarily responsible for regulating the mining industry.

(3) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which all members of the Panel are appointed under paragraph (2), the Panel shall prepare and submit a report concerning deep mine conditions to the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.

(B) RESPONSE BY THE SECRETARY.—Not later than 180 days after the receipt of the report, the Secretary of Labor shall provide a response to the report and submit such response to the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate. Such response shall contain a description of the actions, if any, that the Secretary intends to take based upon the report, including proposing regulatory changes, and the reasons for such actions.

(4) COMPENSATION.—Members appointed to the Panel, while carrying out the duties of the Panel, shall be entitled to receive compensation, per diem in lieu of subsistence, and travel expenses in the same manner and under the same conditions as that prescribed under section 208(c) of the Public Health Service Act.

(c) STUDY OF RETREAT MINING AND PILLARING.—

(1) STUDY.—The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health shall conduct a study of the recovery of coal pillars through retreat room and pillar mining practices in underground coal mines at depths greater than 1,500 feet. The study shall examine the safety implications of retreat room and pillar mining practices, with emphasis on the impact of full or partial pillar extraction mining. The study shall consider, among other things—

(A) seam thickness;

(B) depth of cover;

(C) strength of the mine roof, pillars, and floor;

(D) the susceptibility of the mine to seismic activity; and

(E) a sensitivity analysis on input parameters such as strength of the coal, the size the pillar core, the strength of roof and floor rock members, abutment pressure from caved areas, and the horizontal stress; and

(F) the procedures used to ensure miner safety during retreat mining.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health shall submit a report containing the results of the study to the Secretary of Labor and Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.

(3) REPORT BY THE SECRETARY OF LABOR.—Not later than 180 days after receipt of the report required under paragraph 2, the Secretary of Labor shall report to the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate what actions, if any, that the Secretary intends to take based on the report.

(d) DISSEMINATION OF ACCIDENT INFORMATION.—Section 103 of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 813) amended by adding at the end the following:

''(l)(1) All information concerning the accident or incident obtained by any person or organization participating in an investigation under this section shall be transmitted to the representative of the Administration coordinating the rescue effort or subsequent accident investigation. Parties to the investigation may relay to respective organizations information necessary for purposes of prevention or remedial action. No information concerning the accident or incident may be released to any person not a party to the investigation or representative of such party prior to the release of such information by the Administration without the prior consultation with and approval of the Administration.

''(2) For purposes of this subsection, parties to the investigation include the mine owner, mine operator, employees of that mine, first responders, mine rescue team members, or others participating in the rescue and recovery effort.''.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 918, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) and a Member opposed each will control 15 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. I yield myself such time as I may consume. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of mine safety and in opposition to this bill.

The Wilson/Kline amendment combines the key elements of the Wilson amendment offered in committee with the important safety teams amendment also considered during markup. There is much that we do not know about the tragedy of Crandall Canyon. It would be premature to legislate on many of these issues until the Crandall Canyon investigation is complete. Once the investigation is complete, we can determine if any further initiatives are necessary. It also should be noted that few, if any, of the provisions in the underlying legislation would have had any impact in preventing the accident in Utah this summer.

Our amendment would require the Department of Labor to more regularly communicate with the Bureau of Land Management, BLM, regarding safety concerns. Given that personnel from the BLM inspect mines daily, the Mine Safety Health Administration, MSHA, should have the benefit of knowing what BLM is observing and what concerns the agency has regarding safety.

Our amendment would also require two studies: one to address deep mine safety, and another to address pillar removal. Regarding deep mining, it is no secret that the mining industry is mining deeper underground. In order to assure that they have the most sophisticated science available to them, a study about the elements of deep mining should be undertaken. It is also important to recognize that deep mining and pillar removal are two separate issues, and our amendment was crafted accordingly to give each issue thorough consideration.

Finally, there is great concern about how information during a mine rescue and recovery effort is communicated to the public. Our amendment would create a public relations protocol similar to that used by the National Transportation Safety Board. In this way, all parties to the rescue and recovery effort must clear any information through MSHA before releasing it to the public.

This amendment takes the NTSB's well-regarded approach to communications. Before anyone associated with the rescue and recovery effort can make public comments, they must be approved by MSHA. In this way, we can ensure that the families have been fully briefed, that any information given to the media is factual, and that it does not interfere with the ongoing efforts of any future investigation.

The S–MINER Act may address some of these issues, but ultimately the underlying bill is not narrowly crafted to focus on the Crandall Canyon tragedy. Instead, it provides for a complete rewrite of a successful law. In addition to these four specific policy opportunities that respond to the tragedy that occurred at the Crandall Canyon mine, our substitute builds on the MINER Act by actively engaging miners in safety teams and implementing substance abuse testing. It is important to note that the MINER Act was the most significant piece of mining legislation passed in 30 years, which was signed into law in 2006.

The Wilson/Kline substitute ensures that the MINER Act is not derailed by excessive new regulations. The MINER Act has put in motion regulations, studies, and industry improvements that will be negatively impacted by H.R. 2768. I oppose the S–MINER Act and urge you to vote in favor of the Wilson/Kline substitute.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from California is recognized for 15 minutes.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. What this amendment would do would be to strike many of the very important provisions in the underlying bill that are there to protect the lives and the safety of those who mine coal in this country's coal mines. They would change the retreat mining where we just saw a disaster of a mine accident in Utah this last August. They would provide a provision of a study. Rather

than changing the regulations by which that happened, they would provide a study. A study was not going to save those miners.

They would also take out the provision that we have that miners should have 96 hours of air available to them in the mines until such time as we have the refuge chambers. They take that out. Those miners need that air today. The fact that a refuge chamber is on order, may not be delivered for six months, a year, a year and a half, does nothing for the miner who goes to work today and tomorrow, and that is why we did it. We did it so that we could provide that margin of safety for those individuals.

We also look at conveyor belts, a major ignition point of fires in the mine, and if not properly installed, if not properly taken care of, can take the fire and the gases directly to where the miners are working. So they take that provision out.

We say that MSHA cannot investigate itself. It cannot investigate itself. These must be independent investigations, because you have to look at whether or not MSHA properly did its job, properly enforced the requirements of the law, properly inspected the mines and all that that entails, and to have them redo that themselves is a disservice to the miners and to the families. It's the single most provided complaint to this committee by the families, that they just don't understand how the watch dog can investigate themselves when their family members died in these mines. They want somebody else to take a look at it. They want somebody else to see whether or not it was done properly or not, and that is out in this provision.

It also limits the family participation. Why is it that the victims aren't able to testify and to participate and understand the design of the investigation? They are excluded from this process today. These are family members, these are victims of the disaster, these are taxpayers, and they're told, Just stand on the side, we'll tell you what happened. In many instances, they know more about what happens because when their spouses come home from work, they talk to them about what is wrong in the mines, what's dangerous, about their fear of going to work. So we provided an ombudsman so that that could happen. They should also be part of that investigation.

We think it's very important that this amendment be defeated because it wipes out, it guts those provisions of the law that we envision in this legislation that are so important to those miners and to their families. We cannot do what we have done in the past and assume that we can just leave this to the Mine Safety Health Administration. They essentially did nothing for 8 years.

Now, tragically, year after year those mining families are paying the price for that. That must come to an end. That is what this legislation does. This amendment destroys the ability of this legislation to provide that margin of safety to the miners and to their families, and I urge a ''no'' vote on the Wilson amendment.

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE), a ranking and valued member of the Education and Labor Committee.

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota. I thank the gentleman for yielding the time.

Mr. Chairman, like my colleague from South Carolina, I rise today in strong support of mine safety and in opposition to the base bill. Rather than supporting this flawed bill, I would ask Members to support the Wilson/Kline amendment. This amendment is a sensible alternative that will enhance mine safety without undoing the significant reforms already underway. During the numerous hearings we have held in the Education and Labor Committee on mining issues, one thing we have heard frequently from miners themselves and from their family members and from their representatives is that when it comes to mines and mine safety, it is the men and women who go into the mines every day that know best.

I would like to focus my comments today, first, on one particular aspect of our amendment, and that is to engage miners in their own safety. Our amendment recognizes that miners themselves do know best and seeks to ensure that mine owners and operators are allowed to avail themselves of the knowledge, experience, and talents of their employees. To that end, this amendment would allow mine operators to incorporate meaningful employee involvement in safety committees, which include representatives of workers and mine operators, and work together to ensure that the safest workplace conditions are possible.

Although cooperation between miners and mine operators seems obvious, if not imperative, it is, unfortunately, not always a reality. Under archaic provisions of Federal labor law, too often employer-employee safety committees that actually do something have been found to run afoul of Depression-era mandates.

Mr. Chairman, we are no longer living in the 1930s, and neither should our laws. Nearly 2 years ago, we began to bring the mining industry into the 21st century by considering and enacting the MINER Act. Though it is not yet fully implemented, that law is already working. Today, my colleague Mr. WILSON and I are offering an amendment that builds on the MINER Act, rather than tearing it down.

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A key element of our plan is to ensure that antiquated laws don't get in the way of mine worker safety. In fact, our amendment is based on the eminently sensible TEAM Act which was considered by this Congress some years ago and would have provided for safer workplaces for all employees, not just miners.

I don't know that anyone can argue that safety committees in mines should not make full use of their workers' wisdom and experience. For that reason, I urge my colleagues to support the Wilson/Kline amendment as a commonsense, pro-miner alternative. Use of miner-involved safety committees is just one element of our substitute, but I believe it accurately captures our goal of enhancing safety while maintaining momentum of the MINER Act.

I have been interested today to listen to the proponents of the bill and the opponents of our amendment talk about the importance of breathable air and getting these containers into the mines, but I don't understand if the chamber is not available, what is the mine supposed to do while we are waiting what is admittedly 6 months or 12 months for the chamber to arrive? The base bill is so prescriptive, it prevents any alternative to the prescribed chamber, and those chambers are simply not available. I really wish we had the answer to that question.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time I may consume.

Just in response to the question that was asked, the whole point is the chambers are not available. We are asking that they put 96 hours of air available in canisters until such time as the refuge chambers are available. Currently now, apparently if you order a chamber, you are considered to be in compliance. No new air has come into that mine. No new resources of air are available. Nothing is available to the miner, but you are in compliance with the law.

We saw miners lose their lives because they simply ran out of air. They weren't killed in the explosion. They weren't killed in a slide. They weren't killed in a roof collapse. They ran out of air.

So what we are saying is we appreciate that you have gone ahead and you have ordered the chambers because you have made the decision to put the chambers in. Until such time as they are there, we ought to provide that kind of margin of safety. One is not inconsistent with the other.

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota. If the gentleman will yield for just a minute, I think that they are. I don't understand where that air is supposed to come from. The SCSRs are not available. Those are on back order. Refuge chambers are not available. They are on back order. What are these miners supposed to do?

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. These are air cylinders that are readily available. These are not the individual-sized packs that we deal with here in terms of inspections that didn't work in the Sago Mine. Canisters of air are readily available all throughout American society. We just say you should

put some in the mines so people can use them.

Then let me just say the question that is raised here, currently the law allows for employer and employee involvement in safety issues. Many, many organizations and businesses have these committees. But we want those committees to remain independent.

This suggests that somehow the employer should select those employees to engage in those discussions. We think that the workers ought to be able to do that and do it independently so that, in fact, they can have a true discussion about the conditions and the safety of the mines and not be establishing unilateral committees to make those determinations.

The fact of the matter is, where people have these employer-employee safety committees, very often the efficiency of the mines improves, the productivity of the mines improves and the safety improves, and we think that that is the model that ought to be continued.

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON), the distinguished ranking member of the Education and Labor Committee.

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I rise in strong support of the Wilson/Kline amendment to preserve bipartisan mine safety reforms.

The S-MINER Act is based on a flawed premise. It begins by abandoning the widely supported mine safety reforms enacted in 2006. Rather than building on the progress that has been made, the S-MINER Act brings those bipartisan reforms to a screeching halt.

Republicans have a better way. The Wilson/Kline amendment strikes the appropriate balance between strengthening mine safety and maintaining the widely supported reforms enacted less than 2 years ago.

First and foremost, the substitute underscores the importance of the MINER Act reforms and restates our commitment to seeing them implemented fully and forcefully. Our substitute builds on those reforms rather than tearing them down.

Among the most important steps taken in the Republican substitute is the effort to fully, more fully engage the miners in mine safety. During the Education and Labor Committee's consideration of this bill, Representative KLINE offered an amendment that, like our substitute, would empower miners by directly involving them in the development of safety policies and procedures through the formation of safety teams. Currently, nonunionized miners may be prohibited from working with management to promote safety through teams.

Mine safety is too important an issue to fall victim to the politics of unionization. Every miner should have the opportunity to work cooperatively with the mine operator to promote their own safety and the safety of those with them in the mines.

To further protect miners, the Republican substitute calls for a strong program of drug testing. In fact, the Republican plan is the only proposal that offers drug testing. Representative BOUCHER is proposing drug rehabilitation, an important first step, but one that will be incomplete without testing. Indeed, Representative BOUCHER's own State of Virginia has taken a leadership role on requiring drug testing in the mines, something the Federal Government should require as well.

Sadly, the proposal offered in the manager's package would do even less, calling for just a study of drug abuse among miners. No one here seems to object to drug testing for professional baseball players. An entire hearing was devoted to the topic of drug use in Major League Baseball just yesterday, yet not a single hearing has been held to explore the problem of drug abuse among miners. And when our friend, the late Representative Charlie Norwood, had the courage to call for drug testing in miners in years past, he was rebuked for daring to draw attention to this pervasive problem.

I am pleased we are finally acknowledging this problem among miners, but I want to be clear; anything short of the Republican plan for drug testing fails to fully protect miners.

Finally, our substitute recognizes some of the very specific issues brought to light with the tragic collapse of the Crandall Canyon Mine in August of 2007. To address those issues, it would improve communication between MSHA and the Bureau of Land Management, study the conditions the next generation of miners will face with deep mine conditions and retreat mining using pillar removal, and clarify how information is to be disseminated in the event of a tragedy.

I urge my colleagues to preserve bipartisan mine safety reforms by supporting the Wilson/Kline amendment.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from West Virginia, Mr. RAHALL.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Chairman, I thank the distinguished chairman for yielding, and I rise in opposition to this Republican substitute.

Pure and simple, the substitute kills the bill. It guts all of the bill's health and safety protections that the committee has worked so long and hard on and upon which the committee has heard expert testimony and heard testimony from our Nation's coal miners. So the fact that this legislation has been developed as it has shows that the committee has utmost in its consideration the protection of the health, safety and well-being of our Nation's coal miners.

This Republican substitute requires a one-size-fits-all mandatory drug testing program, for example, with a national blacklist of miners. It creates company dominated safety committees to stifle miners' voices; whereas, the committee bill, crafted as well as it has been, does allow for all sides to be represented in these safety committee deliberations. That is most important, because it is important that these committees have the involvement of coal miners that are on the job working, those who know the mines and the particular features of each mine, because, as we all know, not all coal mines are structured in the same fashion.

It is worthy to note as well that all of those that work in our Nation's mines, the United Mine Workers of America, the AFL, the Food and Commercial Workers, all of our Nation's unions that are concerned with the health and safety of our coal miners, oppose this Republican substitute amendment.

So, as I conclude, I say to my colleagues, just remember, this is an effort to gut the bill, pure and simple, and we all know that this bill still has a process through which it has to travel, including the other body. And if the administration cannot see in its wisdom and compassion to sign the bill, then certainly we have a basis upon which to proceed for further safety measures in the next Congress. I would urge rejection of this Republican substitute.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, in conclusion, I urge the strongest consideration of the Wilson/Kline amendment. I would like to point out that it would provide for full implementation of the MINER Act of June 2006. Additionally, it has the provisions, as well explained by Congressman MCKEON of California, the provisions and concerns of the late Congressman Charlie Norwood of Georgia, providing for drug testing are included.

As I conclude today, I would like to read and summarize an op-ed which was in the Lexington Herald Leader, a McClatchy newspaper. This op-ed was printed on November 26, 2007: ''New mining bill premature.'' The author is Rick Honaker. Professor Honaker is the Mining Foundation's distinguished professor and chairman of the University of Kentucky Department of Mining Engineering.

Professor Honaker says, ''Eliminating coal mine accidents is an achievable goal. In recent years we have seen a dramatic decline in fatalities at the Nation's 550 underground mines, though the tragic accident earlier this year at a mine in Utah underscores some of the serious problems we face.

''But Congress has gotten ahead of itself. However well-intentioned, it is considering new legislation before the industry has been able to implement and assess the effectiveness of a major mine safety law passed last year.

''It seems very strange, almost incomprehensible, that a move is afoot in

Congress to impose an entirely new set of requirements on coal mine operators and mine inspectors, even before there has been an opportunity to comply with the far-reaching provisions of the MINER Act. It threatens to disrupt the all-important emergency rescue provisions of the law.

''That process will require more work from the coal community, not more laws from Congress. Rather than leap into an abyss with new legislation, let's give mine safety and health experts an opportunity to implement the existing law.''

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise to reiterate my strong opposition to this legislation. I believe that it does eliminate most of the very important provisions in the underlying bill and the manager's amendment to ensure that we increase the margins of safety for miners and for their families. We should not give up that opportunity to this substitute, and I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on the Wilson/Kline amendment.

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

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON).

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIRMAN

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in House Report 110–508 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order: Amendment No. 1 by Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California;

Amendment No. 2 by Mr. BOUCHER of Virginia;

Amendment No. 3 by Mr. ELLSWORTH of Indiana;

Amendment No. 4 by Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. GEORGE MILLER OF CALIFORNIA

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 234, noes 183, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 5]

AYES—234

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bordallo
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Castor
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Lincoln
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Frank (MA)
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E.B.
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
Klein (FL)
Kucinich
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Melancon
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Norton
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Space
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tauscher
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Wexler
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth

NOES—183

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachmann
Bachus
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Crenshaw
Cubin
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Fallin
Feeney
Ferguson
Flake
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Hall (TX)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hulshof
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Keller
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McHugh
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moran (KS)
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Pearce
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Porter
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Sali
Saxton
Schmidt
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Tancredo
Terry
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Westmoreland
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—18

Baca
Baker
Berkley
Christensen
Culberson
Faleomavaega
Forbes
Fortuño
Fossella
Honda
Hunter
Jefferson
Lantos
Meeks (NY)
Miller, Gary
Paul
Shimkus
Tanner

□ 1455

Messrs. SOUDER, SENSENBRENNER, and CANTOR changed their vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

Messrs. LIPINSKI and JONES of North Carolina changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. BOUCHER

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BOUCHER) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 364, noes 53, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 6]

AYES—364

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Alexander
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Bordallo
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carter
Castle
Castor
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Edwards
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Ferguson
Filner
Fortenberry
Frank (MA)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Hooley
Hoyer
Hulshof
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (NY)
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Norton
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pearce
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Space
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Weller
Wexler
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOES—53

Akin
Barrett (SC)
Bilbray
Bonner
Broun (GA)
Burton (IN)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Chabot
Coble
Conaway
Deal (GA)
Duncan
Everett
Feeney
Flake
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Garrett (NJ)
Gingrey
Hall (TX)
Hensarling
Herger
Hoekstra
Issa
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jordan
King (IA)
Kingston
Lamborn
Linder
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Marchant
McHenry
Miller (FL)
Musgrave
Pence
Poe
Price (GA)
Radanovich
Rohrabacher
Royce
Sali
Sensenbrenner
Shadegg
Stearns
Tancredo
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Weldon (FL)
Westmoreland

NOT VOTING—18

Baca
Baker
Berkley
Christensen
Culberson
Faleomavaega
Forbes
Fortuño
Fossella
Honda
Hunter
Jefferson
Lantos
Meeks (NY)
Miller, Gary
Paul
Shimkus
Tanner

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIRMAN

The Acting CHAIRMAN (during the vote). Members are advised 2 minutes remain.

□ 1502

Mr. HALL of Texas and Mr. WELDON of Florida changed their vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. ELLSWORTH

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ELLSWORTH) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 416, noes 0, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 7]

AYES—416

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Bordallo
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carter
Castle
Castor
Chabot
Chandler
Christensen
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Fortenberry
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Hooley
Hoyer
Hulshof
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha

Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Norton
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Space
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tancredo
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—19

Baca
Baker
Berkley
Culberson
Faleomavaega
Forbes
Fortuño
Fossella
Honda
Hunter
Jefferson
Lantos
Lewis (CA)
Meeks (NY)
Miller, Gary
Paul
Reichert
Shimkus
Tanner

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIRMAN

The Acting CHAIRMAN (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1508

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. WILSON OF SOUTH CAROLINA

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 188, noes 229, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 8]

AYES—188

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachmann
Bachus
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Crenshaw
Cubin
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Fallin
Feeney
Ferguson
Flake
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Hall (TX)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hulshof
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Keller
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McHugh
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moran (KS)
Murphy, Tim
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Pearce
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Porter
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Sali
Saxton
Schmidt
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shays
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Stearns
Sullivan
Tancredo
Terry
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOES—229

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bordallo
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Castor
Chandler
Christensen
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Lincoln
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Frank (MA)
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Klein (FL)
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Melancon
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Norton
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Snyder
Solis
Space
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tauscher
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Wexler
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—18

Baca
Baker
Berkley
Culberson
Faleomavaega
Forbes
Fortuño
Fossella
Honda
Hunter
Jefferson
Lantos
Meeks (NY)
Miller, Gary
Paul
Shimkus
Souder
Tanner

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIRMAN

The Acting CHAIRMAN (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1516

Mr. MORAN of Virginia and Mr. GILCHREST changed their vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Chairman, on rollcall No. 8, had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CAPUANO) having assumed the chair, Mr. PASTOR, Acting Chairman 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. 2768) to establish improved mandatory standards to protect minders during emergencies, and

for other purposes, pursuant to House Resolution 918, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment to the amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the question is on the amendment.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT OFFERED BY MR. SOUDER

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. SOUDER. I am.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. SOUDER moves to recommit the bill, H.R. 2768, to the Committee on Education and Labor with instructions to report the bill back to the House promptly with the following amendment:

Page 22, after line 22, insert the following:

(n) SUBSTANCE ABUSE TESTING.—Title II is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 208. SUBSTANCE ABUSE TESTING.

''(a) TESTING PROGRAM.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the S-MINER Act, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations pursuant to section 101(a) to require the operator of each mine to institute a program to conduct mandatory, random substance abuse testing of mine employees. Such regulations shall be no less restrictive than regulations issued by other Federal and State agencies which impose mandatory substance abuse testing and shall provide for—

''(1) mandatory substance abuse testing procedures;

''(2) a process for the random selection of those employees to be tested;

''(3) the protection of individuals' rights and privacy;

''(4) the establishment of an Employee Assistance Program; and

''(5) for purposes of subsection (b), a process for mine operators to notify the Administration of the names of individuals who test positive for substance abuse.

''(b) REGISTRY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the S-MINER Act, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations creating a registry of those found to have tested positive for substance abuse for the sole purpose of sharing, on a confidential basis, with State authorities responsible for issuance of licenses, certification, permits, or other documents required to seek employment in the mining industry.''.

Mr. SOUDER (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to suspend with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, in our discussion about how to achieve safety in our Nation's mines, there's one issue that, until today, has been conspicuously absent: drug testing. Our late colleague from Georgia, Charlie Norwood, had the courage to introduce mine safety legislation with a drug testing requirement, only to be criticized for ''blaming the victim.'' I would argue that drug testing prevents victims.

Now, claims have been made that the Federal Government is not moving fast enough to implement safety changes, that the States are more nimble. In this instance, the other side may have a point. On the issue of drug testing, I believe the Federal Government ought to be following the States' lead.

The Commonwealth of Virginia initiated a drug testing requirement in April 2006. Since then, there have been no mining fatalities in Virginia last year, and just in southwest Virginia they had 278 the previous year, more than they've had homicides, not in coal mining but in drug overdoses.

The State of Kentucky passed a drug testing law last year, and coal mining deaths in that State are now at an all-time low. Some 433 miners were suspended for positive drug test results. It's just been possible that a disaster has been averted because of the new drug testing law.

Yet inexplicably, the same Democrats who champion this misguided legislation because they want to move more quickly on some reforms are proposing that we stall action on drug testing until we can do a study. We don't need a study. The evidence is right here, a front page article in The Washington Post detailing what has happened in Virginia and the problems in mining. The devastating impact of drug abuse was brought into sharp focus in that story.

Some may also claim in the response here that this would kill the bill. This obviously would not kill the bill. It would go back to committee. The committee would then pass an amendment, and it could be back on the floor later this week. It's not like we're busy. We're adjourning again in mid-afternoon. This could easily go back to committee and come back later this week.

Drug and alcohol testing is a commonsense safety measure that protects both abusers of these substances and those around them. It has the noted benefits of reducing accidents, cutting sick leave, improving attendance, and increasing productivity.

The testing program in this motion to recommit is based on the Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991, which I helped draft when I was a staffer in the Senate, which requires drug and alcohol testing of safety-sensitive transportation employees in aviation, trucking, railroads, mass transit, pipelines, and other transportation industries.

Our Nation's laws do not allow the people driving the trucks filled with coal away from the mine to abuse drugs or alcohol. Why would we not ensure that the men driving heavy machinery in the mine are not impaired?

If this body has spent valuable time investigating Major League Baseball and its drug testing policy, and I serve on that committee and I support Congressman WAXMAN's efforts to requiring testing of Major League Baseball players, why wouldn't we do that in mining?

I helped draft the first legislation for drug testing in high school athletes. It's been upheld by the courts, and we've passed that numerous times in this House and the Senate. Why wouldn't we do it for mine safety if we do it for high school athletes?

I worked on the Small Business Committee with then-Chairman Jim Talent, where we passed the Drug Workplace Act and heard testimony over and over from unions and management about how this can help people who have drug abuse to get addiction treatment. And I voted for the amendment that put more money in for addiction treatment, which is very important, but you have to have drug testing. It's part of getting people treated and to do prevention.

This will be a very clear vote. We have plenty of studies. We have mountains of studies. We have evidence that when we do this in schools it keeps people from falling victim to drug abuse and from having accidents. When we do it in the workplace, when we do it in transportation, drug testing works.

This is a clean vote. There aren't any excuses. We can bring this back to the floor yet this week. We can pass this, and this will be as clean a vote as you can get on this motion to recommit.

I urge you to support drug testing, to support safety, to get people into treatment, to keep mine disasters from occurring, and I urge my colleagues to vote with me ''yes'' on the motion to recommit to ensure strong safety protections and mandatory drug testing.

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, over this weekend we were treated to a very sad and disturbing story in the Washington Post about drug use in the mining community in Virginia and other States, about miners who have been crushed by equipment in the mines, who have been crushed in roof falls in the mine, who had been run over by other equipment in the mine, whose bodies were wracked with pain, who got addicted to painkillers, to OxyContin, to other drugs such as that, prescription drugs, and then were struggling with their addiction.

There was also the story of a miner who got up every night at midnight,

fixed himself a quick meal, and drove 135 miles round trip before he went to work so he could get his methadone treatment at the clinic and get on his job, and do that with the knowledge of his employer, struggling with his addiction, struggling to stay employed.

In this bill, we had the opportunity to address this situation. RICK BOUCHER, our colleague, addressed it by authorizing with almost unanimous support $10 million for treatment and to work with these miners, that the Secretary can use.

We have suggested an amendment in the manager's amendment, which you voted for, which says that the Secretary will spend 6 months to work with the industry, to work with the miners, to work with the States. Virginia has a program. Kentucky has a program. West Virginia does not. Pennsylvania apparently does not. Indiana does not. Illinois does not. The Secretary will work with them to see how they're doing it, the best way to do it, and at the end of that 6 months, after those consultations, after her study, to impose a drug program with drug testing and treatment and rehabilitation.

How is that different than what is being offered here by my colleagues on the other side? They impose drug testing, and then they impose a blacklist for those who test positive. You want to talk about baseball? You're being a hell of a lot harder on hardworking miners in this country than you are on the baseball stars because they use drugs, and they go to work every day and nobody says anything.

But a miner who's been crushed on the job, who's trying to provide for their families, tests positive, we don't know if it's a false positive. They don't make allowances for false positives. He gets on the blacklist and he may never work again.

RICK BOUCHER had a better idea. Our committee had a better idea. Have the Secretary work with the States and the companies and the mining industries and the miners and the unions and say how can we best do this because I'm going to do it. So what's the best way for us to do this.

So many of you from both sides of the aisle during the consideration of this bill have said to me one thing over and over again: Will you work with the companies? Will you work with the companies? Now, along comes drug testing, nobody says work with the companies. Nobody says work with the unions. Nobody says work with the community health facilities. They just say test them and list them.

What the hell kind of thing is that to do to hardworking people in one of the most dangerous industries? We've had spouses come to this committee and talk about the fear in their spouses at night when they come home from work and before they leave, the fear that these miners have of going into that workplace.

In that article, one of the miners said he takes drugs and he used to drink because he's fighting, he hates the job. Some of them love the job in that article. They said, This is my life, mining. Digging coal is what I do best, but my legs have been crushed, my arm has been crushed.

Let's give them testing. Let's give them treatment, and let's give them some understanding of the kind of industry that they're in. We benefit, we burn the coal, we run the economy, and these families live in fear.

□ 1530

This is a very good bill. This is a very good bill. We should not suggest for a moment that because there is no link between the tragedies of the mining accidents last year and the year before, that drugs were involved at all. We have a nutty owner in Utah, but we're not going to test him. We're not going to test that owner, who is running around giving all these false reasons to these poor victims and their families as to what happened.

So yes, you can talk about baseball. But at the end of the day, those baseball players, just as they did last season and next season, they'll be playing. And they'll get a warning, and they'll get treatment. And they'll get a second warning, and they'll get treatment. These guys get a test and a list. It's unfair. It's outrageous. And you should not support it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of passage.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 197, noes 217, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 9]

AYES—197

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Bachmann
Bachus
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boustany
Boyda (KS)
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Carney
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Crenshaw
Cubin
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Donnelly
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Fallin
Feeney
Ferguson
Flake
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gilchrest
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Hall (TX)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hulshof
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jordan
Keller
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kirk
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Marshall
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McHugh
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moran (KS)
Murphy, Tim
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Pearce
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Porter
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Sali
Saxton
Schmidt
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shays
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Taylor
Terry
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOES—217

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Arcuri
Baird
Baldwin
Bean
Becerra
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd (FL)
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Castor
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Lincoln
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Frank (MA)
Giffords
Gillibrand
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
Klein (FL)
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Melancon
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes

Richardson
Rodriguez
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Space
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tancredo
Tauscher
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Wexler
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—16

Baca
Baker
Berkley
Culberson
Forbes
Fossella
Honda
Hunter
Jefferson
Kingston
Lantos
Meeks (NY)
Miller, Gary
Paul
Shimkus
Tanner

□ 1548

Mr. RANGEL and Mrs. LOWEY changed their vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

Mr. TAYLOR changed his vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 214, nays 199, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 10]

YEAS—214

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Bean
Becerra
Berman
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boswell
Boucher
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Castor
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Frank (MA)
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gonzalez
Gordon
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
Klein (FL)
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Space
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tauscher
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Wexler
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth

NAYS—199

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachmann
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Cramer
Crenshaw
Cubin
Cuellar
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Fallin
Feeney
Ferguson
Flake
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Hall (TX)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hulshof
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jordan
Keller
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kirk
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McHugh
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Melancon
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moran (KS)
Murphy, Tim
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Porter
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Saxton
Schmidt
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Tancredo
Terry
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Udall (CO)
Upton
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—17

Baca
Baker
Berkley
Culberson
Forbes
Fossella
Honda
Hunter
Jefferson
Kingston
Lantos
Meeks (NY)
Miller, Gary
Olver
Paul
Shimkus
Tanner

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DEGETTE) (during the vote). Members are advised that there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1556

Mr. MCCOTTER changed his vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, on rollcall vote 10, the S–MINER Act, I voted ''yea'' when I intended to vote ''nay.'' I apologize for any confusion and ask that the RECORD reflect my true intention.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 2768, SUPPLEMENTAL MINE IMPROVEMENT AND NEW EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACT OF 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections in the engrossment of H.R. 2768, to include corrections in spelling, the table of contents, punctuation, section numbering and cross-referencing, and the insertion of appropriate headings.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4986) to provide for the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, as previously enrolled, with certain modifications to address the foreign sovereign immunities provisions of title 28, United States Code, with respect to the attachment of property in certain judgments against Iraq, the lapse of statutory authorities for the payment of bonuses, special pays, and similar

benefits for members of the uniformed services, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4986

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TREATMENT OF EXPLANATORY STATEMENT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008''.

(b) EXPLANATORY STATEMENT.—The Joint Explanatory Statement submitted by the Committee of Conference for the conference report to accompany H.R. 1585 of the 110th Congress (Report 110–477) shall be deemed to be part of the legislative history of this Act and shall have the same effect with respect to the implementation of this Act as it would have had with respect to the implementation of H.R. 1585, if such bill had been enacted.

SEC. 2. ORGANIZATION OF ACT INTO DIVISIONS; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) DIVISIONS.—This Act is organized into three divisions as follows:

(1) Division A—Department of Defense Authorizations.

(2) Division B—Military Construction Authorizations.

(3) Division C—Department of Energy National Security Authorizations and Other Authorizations.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; treatment of explanatory statement.
Sec. 2. Organization of Act into divisions; table of contents.
Sec. 3. Congressional defense committees.

DIVISION A—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AUTHORIZATIONS

TITLE I—PROCUREMENT

Subtitle A—Authorization of Appropriations

Sec. 101. Army.
Sec. 102. Navy and Marine Corps.
Sec. 103. Air Force.
Sec. 104. Defense-wide activities.
Sec. 105. National Guard and Reserve equipment.

Subtitle B—Army Programs

Sec. 111. Multiyear procurement authority for M1A2 Abrams System Enhancement Package upgrades.
Sec. 112. Multiyear procurement authority for M2A3/M3A3 Bradley fighting vehicle upgrades.
Sec. 113. Multiyear procurement authority for conversion of CH–47D helicopters to CH–47F configuration.
Sec. 114. Multiyear procurement authority for CH–47F helicopters.
Sec. 115. Limitation on use of funds for Increment 1 of the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical program pending certification to Congress.
Sec. 116. Prohibition on closure of Army Tactical Missile System production line pending report.
Sec. 117. Stryker Mobile Gun System.

Subtitle C—Navy Programs

Sec. 121. Multiyear procurement authority for Virginia-class submarine program.
Sec. 122. Report on shipbuilding investment strategy.
Sec. 123. Sense of Congress on the preservation of a skilled United States shipyard workforce.
Sec. 124. Assessments required prior to start of construction on first ship of a shipbuilding program.
Sec. 125. Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) program.

Subtitle D—Air Force Programs

Sec. 131. Limitation on Joint Cargo Aircraft.
Sec. 132. Clarification of limitation on retirement of U–2 aircraft.
Sec. 133. Repeal of requirement to maintain retired C–130E tactical aircraft.
Sec. 134. Limitation on retirement of C–130E/H tactical airlift aircraft.
Sec. 135. Limitation on retirement of KC–135E aerial refueling aircraft.
Sec. 136. Transfer to Government of Iraq of three C–130E tactical airlift aircraft.
Sec. 137. Modification of limitations on retirement of B–52 bomber aircraft.

TITLE II—RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION

Subtitle A—Authorization of Appropriations

Sec. 201. Authorization of appropriations.
Sec. 202. Amount for defense science and technology.

Subtitle B—Program Requirements, Restrictions, and Limitations

Sec. 211. Operational test and evaluation of Future Combat Systems network.
Sec. 212. Limitation on use of funds for systems development and demonstration of Joint Light Tactical Vehicle program.
Sec. 213. Requirement to obligate and expend funds for development and procurement of a competitive propulsion system for the Joint Strike Fighter.
Sec. 214. Limitation on use of funds for defense-wide manufacturing science and technology program.
Sec. 215. Advanced Sensor Applications Program.
Sec. 216. Active protection systems.

Subtitle C—Ballistic Missile Defense

Sec. 221. Participation of Director, Operational Test and Evaluation, in missile defense test and evaluation activities.
Sec. 222. Study on future roles and missions of the Missile Defense Agency.
Sec. 223. Budget and acquisition requirements for Missile Defense Agency activities.
Sec. 224. Limitation on use of funds for replacing warhead on SM–3 Block IIA missile.
Sec. 225. Extension of Comptroller General assessments of ballistic missile defense programs.
Sec. 226. Limitation on availability of funds for procurement, construction, and deployment of missile defenses in Europe.
Sec. 227. Sense of Congress on missile defense cooperation with Israel.
Sec. 228. Limitation on availability of funds for deployment of missile defense interceptors in Alaska.
Sec. 229. Policy of the United States on protection of the United States and its allies against Iranian ballistic missiles.

Subtitle D—Other Matters

Sec. 231. Coordination of human systems integration activities related to acquisition programs.
Sec. 232. Expansion of authority for provision of laboratory facilities, services, and equipment.
Sec. 233. Modification of cost-sharing requirement for Technology Transition Initiative.
Sec. 234. Report on implementation of Manufacturing Technology Program.
Sec. 235. Assessment of sufficiency of test and evaluation personnel.
Sec. 236. Repeal of requirement for separate reports on technology area review and assessment summaries.
Sec. 237. Modification of notice and wait requirement for obligation of funds for foreign comparative test program.
Sec. 238. Strategic Plan for the Manufacturing Technology Program.
Sec. 239. Modification of authorities on coordination of Defense Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research with similar Federal programs.
Sec. 240. Enhancement of defense nanotechnology research and development program.
Sec. 241. Federally funded research and development center assessment of the Defense Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research.
Sec. 242. Cost-benefit analysis of proposed funding reduction for High Energy Laser Systems Test Facility.
Sec. 243. Prompt global strike.

TITLE III—OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Subtitle A—Authorization of Appropriations

Sec. 301. Operation and maintenance funding.

Subtitle B—Environmental Provisions

Sec. 311. Reimbursement of Environmental Protection Agency for certain costs in connection with Moses Lake Wellfield Superfund Site, Moses Lake, Washington.
Sec. 312. Reimbursement of Environmental Protection Agency for certain costs in connection with the Arctic Surplus Superfund Site, Fairbanks, Alaska.
Sec. 313. Payment to Environmental Protection Agency of stipulated penalties in connection with Jackson Park Housing Complex, Washington.
Sec. 314. Report on control of the brown tree snake.
Sec. 315. Notification of certain residents and civilian employees at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, of exposure to drinking water contamination.

Subtitle C—Workplace and Depot Issues

Sec. 321. Availability of funds in Defense Information Systems Agency Working Capital Fund for technology upgrades to Defense Information Systems Network.
Sec. 322. Modification to public-private competition requirements before conversion to contractor performance.
Sec. 323. Public-private competition at end of period specified in performance agreement not required.
Sec. 324. Guidelines on insourcing new and contracted out functions.
Sec. 325. Restriction on Office of Management and Budget influence over Department of Defense public-private competitions.
Sec. 326. Bid protests by Federal employees in actions under Office of Management and Budget Circular A–76.
Sec. 327. Public-private competition required before conversion to contractor performance.

Sec. 328. Extension of authority for Army industrial facilities to engage in cooperative activities with non-Army entities.
Sec. 329. Reauthorization and modification of multi-trades demonstration project.
Sec. 330. Pilot program for availability of working-capital funds to Army for certain product improvements.

Subtitle D—Extension of Program Authorities

Sec. 341. Extension of Arsenal Support Program Initiative.
Sec. 342. Extension of period for reimbursement for helmet pads purchased by members of the Armed Forces deployed in contingency operations.
Sec. 343. Extension of temporary authority for contract performance of security guard functions.

Subtitle E—Reports

Sec. 351. Reports on National Guard readiness for emergencies and major disasters.
Sec. 352. Annual report on prepositioned materiel and equipment.
Sec. 353. Report on incremental cost of early 2007 enhanced deployment.
Sec. 354. Modification of requirements of Comptroller General report on the readiness of Army and Marine Corps ground forces.
Sec. 355. Plan to improve readiness of ground forces of active and reserve components.
Sec. 356. Independent assessment of Civil Reserve Air Fleet viability.
Sec. 357. Department of Defense Inspector General report on physical security of Department of Defense installations.
Sec. 358. Review of high-altitude aviation training.
Sec. 359. Reports on safety measures and encroachment issues and master plan for Warren Grove Gunnery Range, New Jersey.
Sec. 360. Report on search and rescue capabilities of the Air Force in the northwestern United States.
Sec. 361. Report and master infrastructure recapitalization plan for Cheyenne Mountain Air Station, Colorado.

Subtitle F—Other Matters

Sec. 371. Enhancement of corrosion control and prevention functions within Department of Defense.
Sec. 372. Authority for Department of Defense to provide support for certain sporting events.
Sec. 373. Authority to impose reasonable restrictions on payment of full replacement value for lost or damaged personal property transported at Government expense.
Sec. 374. Priority transportation on Department of Defense aircraft of retired members residing in Commonwealths and possessions of the United States for certain health care services.
Sec. 375. Recovery of missing military property.
Sec. 376. Retention of combat uniforms by members of the Armed Forces deployed in support of contingency operations.
Sec. 377. Issue of serviceable material of the Navy other than to Armed Forces.
Sec. 378. Reauthorization of Aviation Insurance Program.

TITLE IV—MILITARY PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATIONS

Subtitle A—Active Forces

Sec. 401. End strengths for active forces.
Sec. 402. Revision in permanent active duty end strength minimum levels.
Sec. 403. Additional authority for increases of Army and Marine Corps active duty end strengths for fiscal years 2009 and 2010.
Sec. 404. Increase in authorized strengths for Army officers on active duty in the grade of major.
Sec. 405. Increase in authorized strengths for Navy officers on active duty in the grades of lieutenant commander, commander, and captain.
Sec. 406. Increase in authorized daily average of number of members in pay grade E–9.

Subtitle B—Reserve Forces

Sec. 411. End strengths for Selected Reserve.
Sec. 412. End strengths for Reserves on active duty in support of the Reserves.
Sec. 413. End strengths for military technicians (dual status).
Sec. 414. Fiscal year 2008 limitation on number of non-dual status technicians.
Sec. 415. Maximum number of reserve personnel authorized to be on active duty for operational support.
Sec. 416. Future authorizations and accounting for certain reserve component personnel authorized to be on active duty or full-time National Guard duty to provide operational support.
Sec. 417. Revision of variances authorized for Selected Reserve end strengths.

Subtitle C—Authorization of Appropriations

Sec. 421. Military personnel.

TITLE V—MILITARY PERSONNEL POLICY

Subtitle A—Officer Personnel Policy

Sec. 501. Assignment of officers to designated positions of importance and responsibility.
Sec. 502. Enhanced authority for Reserve general and flag officers to serve on active duty.
Sec. 503. Increase in years of commissioned service threshold for discharge of probationary officers and for use of force shaping authority.
Sec. 504. Mandatory retirement age for active-duty general and flag officers continued on active duty.
Sec. 505. Authority for reduced mandatory service obligation for initial appointments of officers in critically short health professional specialties.
Sec. 506. Expansion of authority for reenlistment of officers in their former enlisted grade.
Sec. 507. Increase in authorized number of permanent professors at the United States Military Academy.
Sec. 508. Promotion of career military professors of the Navy.

Subtitle B—Reserve Component Management

Sec. 511. Retention of military technicians who lose dual status in the Selected Reserve due to combat-related disability.
Sec. 512. Constructive service credit upon original appointment of Reserve officers in certain health care professions.
Sec. 513. Mandatory separation of Reserve officers in the grade of lieutenant general or vice admiral after completion of 38 years of commissioned service.
Sec. 514. Maximum period of temporary Federal recognition of person as Army National Guard officer or Air National Guard officer.
Sec. 515. Advance notice to members of reserve components of deployment in support of contingency operations.
Sec. 516. Report on relief from professional licensure and certification requirements for reserve component members on long-term active duty.

Subtitle C—Education and Training

Sec. 521. Revisions to authority to pay tuition for off-duty training or education.
Sec. 522. Reduction or elimination of service obligation in an Army Reserve or Army National Guard troop program unit for certain persons selected as medical students at Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.
Sec. 523. Repeal of annual limit on number of ROTC scholarships under Army Reserve and Army National Guard financial assistance program.
Sec. 524. Treatment of prior active service of members in uniformed medical accession programs.
Sec. 525. Repeal of post-2007–2008 academic year prohibition on phased increase in cadet strength limit at the United States Military Academy.
Sec. 526. National Defense University master's degree programs.
Sec. 527. Authority of the Air University to confer degree of master of science in flight test engineering.
Sec. 528. Enhancement of education benefits for certain members of reserve components.
Sec. 529. Extension of period of entitlement to educational assistance for certain members of the Selected Reserve affected by force shaping initiatives.
Sec. 530. Time limit for use of educational assistance benefit for certain members of reserve components and resumption of benefit.
Sec. 531. Secretary of Defense evaluation of the adequacy of the degree-granting authorities of certain military universities and educational institutions.
Sec. 532. Report on success of Army National Guard and Reserve Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps financial assistance program.
Sec. 533. Report on utilization of tuition assistance by members of the Armed Forces.
Sec. 534. Navy Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps unit for Southold, Mattituck, and Greenport High Schools.
Sec. 535. Report on transfer of administration of certain educational assistance programs for members of the reserve components.

Subtitle D—Military Justice and Legal Assistance Matters
Sec. 541. Authority to designate civilian employees of the Federal Government and dependents of deceased members as eligible for legal assistance from Department of Defense legal staff resources.
Sec. 542. Authority of judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces to administer oaths.
Sec. 543. Modification of authorities on senior members of the Judge Advocate Generals' Corps.
Sec. 544. Prohibition against members of the Armed Forces participating in criminal street gangs.
Subtitle E—Military Leave
Sec. 551. Temporary enhancement of carryover of accumulated leave for members of the Armed Forces.
Sec. 552. Enhancement of rest and recuperation leave.
Subtitle F—Decorations and Awards
Sec. 561. Authorization and request for award of Medal of Honor to Leslie H. Sabo, Jr., for acts of valor during the Vietnam War.
Sec. 562. Authorization and request for award of Medal of Honor to Henry Svehla for acts of valor during the Korean War.
Sec. 563. Authorization and request for award of Medal of Honor to Woodrow W. Keeble for acts of valor during the Korean War.
Sec. 564. Authorization and request for award of Medal of Honor to Private Philip G. Shadrach for acts of valor as one of Andrews' Raiders during the Civil War.
Sec. 565. Authorization and request for award of Medal of Honor to Private George D. Wilson for acts of valor as one of Andrews' Raiders during the Civil War.
Subtitle G—Impact Aid and Defense Dependents Education System
Sec. 571. Continuation of authority to assist local educational agencies that benefit dependents of members of the Armed Forces and Department of Defense civilian employees.
Sec. 572. Impact aid for children with severe disabilities.
Sec. 573. Inclusion of dependents of non-Department of Defense employees employed on Federal property in plan relating to force structure changes, relocation of military units, or base closures and realignments.
Sec. 574. Payment of private boarding school tuition for military dependents in overseas areas not served by defense dependents' education system schools.
Subtitle H—Military Families
Sec. 581. Department of Defense Military Family Readiness Council and policy and plans for military family readiness.
Sec. 582. Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program.
Sec. 583. Study to enhance and improve support services and programs for families of members of regular and reserve components undergoing deployment.
Sec. 584. Protection of child custody arrangements for parents who are members of the Armed Forces deployed in support of a contingency operation.
Sec. 585. Family leave in connection with injured members of the Armed Forces.
Sec. 586. Family care plans and deferment of deployment of single parent or dual military couples with minor dependents.
Sec. 587. Education and treatment services for military dependent children with autism.
Sec. 588. Commendation of efforts of Project Compassion in paying tribute to members of the Armed Forces who have fallen in the service of the United States.
Subtitle I—Other Matters
Sec. 590. Uniform performance policies for military bands and other musical units.
Sec. 591. Transportation of remains of deceased members of the Armed Forces and certain other persons.
Sec. 592. Expansion of number of academies supportable in any State under STARBASE program.
Sec. 593. Gift acceptance authority.
Sec. 594. Conduct by members of the Armed Forces and veterans out of uniform during hoisting, lowering, or passing of United States flag.
Sec. 595. Annual report on cases reviewed by National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.
Sec. 596. Modification of Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214).
Sec. 597. Reports on administrative separations of members of the Armed Forces for personality disorder.
Sec. 598. Program to commemorate 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.
Sec. 599. Recognition of members of the Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives program of the Civil Affairs and Military Government Sections of the Armed Forces during and following World War II.
TITLE VI—COMPENSATION AND OTHER PERSONNEL BENEFITS
Subtitle A—Pay and Allowances
Sec. 601. Fiscal year 2008 increase in military basic pay.
Sec. 602. Basic allowance for housing for reserve component members without dependents who attend accession training while maintaining a primary residence.
Sec. 603. Extension and enhancement of authority for temporary lodging expenses for members of the Armed Forces in areas subject to major disaster declaration or for installations experiencing sudden increase in personnel levels.
Sec. 604. Income replacement payments for reserve component members experiencing extended and frequent mobilization for active duty service.
Sec. 605. Midmonth payment of basic pay for contributions of members of the uniformed services participating in Thrift Savings Plan.
Subtitle B—Bonuses and Special and Incentive Pays
Sec. 610. Correction of lapsed authorities for payment of bonuses, special pays, and similar benefits for members of the uniformed services.
Sec. 611. Extension of certain bonus and special pay authorities for Reserve forces.
Sec. 612. Extension of certain bonus and special pay authorities for health care professionals.
Sec. 613. Extension of special pay and bonus authorities for nuclear officers.
Sec. 614. Extension of authorities relating to payment of other bonuses and special pays.
Sec. 615. Increase in incentive special pay and multiyear retention bonus for medical officers.
Sec. 616. Increase in dental officer additional special pay.
Sec. 617. Increase in maximum monthly rate of hardship duty pay and authority to provide hardship duty pay in a lump sum.
Sec. 618. Definition of sea duty for career sea pay to include service as off-cycle crewmembers of multi-crew ships.
Sec. 619. Reenlistment bonus for members of the Selected Reserve.
Sec. 620. Availability of Selected Reserve accession bonus for persons who previously served in the Armed Forces for a short period.
Sec. 621. Availability of nuclear officer continuation pay for officers with more than 26 years of commissioned service.
Sec. 622. Waiver of years-of-service limitation on receipt of critical skills retention bonus.
Sec. 623. Accession bonus for participants in the Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship and Financial Assistance Program.
Sec. 624. Payment of assignment incentive pay for Reserve members serving in combat zone for more than 22 months.
Subtitle C—Travel and Transportation Allowances
Sec. 631. Payment of inactive duty training travel costs for certain Selected Reserve members.
Sec. 632. Survivors of deceased members eligible for transportation to attend burial ceremonies.
Sec. 633. Allowance for participation of Reserves in electronic screening.
Sec. 634. Allowance for civilian clothing for members of the Armed Forces traveling in connection with medical evacuation.
Sec. 635. Payment of moving expenses for Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps instructors in hard-to-fill positions.
Subtitle D—Retired Pay and Survivor Benefits
Sec. 641. Expansion of combat-related special compensation eligibility.
Sec. 642. Inclusion of veterans with service-connected disabilities rated as total by reason of unemployability under termination of phase-in of concurrent receipt of retired pay and veterans' disability compensation.
Sec. 643. Recoupment of annuity amounts previously paid, but subject to offset for dependency and indemnity compensation.
Sec. 644. Special survivor indemnity allowance for persons affected by required Survivor Benefit Plan annuity offset for dependency and indemnity compensation.
Sec. 645. Modification of authority of members of the Armed Forces to designate recipients for payment of death gratuity.

Sec. 646. Clarification of application of retired pay multiplier percentage to members of the uniformed services with over 30 years of service.
Sec. 647. Commencement of receipt of nonregular service retired pay by members of the Ready Reserve on active Federal status or active duty for significant periods.
Sec. 648. Computation of years of service for purposes of retired pay for nonregular service.
Subtitle E—Commissary and Nonappropriated Fund Instrumentality Benefits
Sec. 651. Authority to continue commissary and exchange benefits for certain involuntarily separated members of the Armed Forces.
Sec. 652. Authorization of installment deductions from pay of employees of nonappropriated fund instrumentalities to collect indebtedness to the United States.
Subtitle F—Consolidation of Special Pay, Incentive Pay, and Bonus Authorities
Sec. 661. Consolidation of special pay, incentive pay, and bonus authorities of the uniformed services.
Sec. 662. Transitional provisions.
Subtitle G—Other Matters
Sec. 671. Referral bonus authorities.
Sec. 672. Expansion of education loan repayment program for members of the Selected Reserve.
Sec. 673. Ensuring entry into United States after time abroad for permanent resident alien military spouses and children.
Sec. 674. Overseas naturalization for military spouses and children.
Sec. 675. Modification of amount of back pay for members of Navy and Marine Corps selected for promotion while interned as prisoners of war during World War II to take into account changes in Consumer Price Index.
TITLE VII—HEALTH CARE PROVISIONS
Subtitle A—Improvements to Military Health Benefits
Sec. 701. One-year extension of prohibition on increases in certain health care costs for members of the uniformed services.
Sec. 702. Temporary prohibition on increase in copayments under retail pharmacy system of pharmacy benefits program.
Sec. 703. Inclusion of TRICARE retail pharmacy program in Federal procurement of pharmaceuticals.
Sec. 704. Stipend for members of reserve components for health care for certain dependents.
Sec. 705. Authority for expansion of persons eligible for continued health benefits coverage.
Sec. 706. Continuation of eligibility for TRICARE Standard coverage for certain members of the Selected Reserve.
Sec. 707. Extension of pilot program for health care delivery.
Sec. 708. Inclusion of mental health care in definition of health care and report on mental health care services.
Subtitle B—Studies and Reports
Sec. 711. Surveys on continued viability of TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra.
Sec. 712. Report on training in preservation of remains under combat or combat-related conditions.
Sec. 713. Report on patient satisfaction surveys.
Sec. 714. Report on medical physical examinations of members of the Armed Forces before their deployment.
Sec. 715. Report and study on multiple vaccinations of members of the Armed Forces.
Sec. 716. Review of gender- and ethnic group-specific mental health services and treatment for members of the Armed Forces.
Sec. 717. Licensed mental health counselors and the TRICARE program.
Sec. 718. Report on funding of the Department of Defense for health care.
Subtitle C—Other Matters
Sec. 721. Prohibition on conversion of military medical and dental positions to civilian medical and dental positions.
Sec. 722. Establishment of Joint Pathology Center.
TITLE VIII—ACQUISITION POLICY, ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT, AND RELATED MATTERS
Sec. 800. Short title.
Subtitle A—Acquisition Policy and Management
Sec. 801. Internal controls for procurements on behalf of the Department of Defense by certain non-Defense agencies.
Sec. 802. Lead systems integrators.
Sec. 803. Reinvestment in domestic sources of strategic materials.
Sec. 804. Clarification of the protection of strategic materials critical to national security.
Sec. 805. Procurement of commercial services.
Sec. 806. Specification of amounts requested for procurement of contract services.
Sec. 807. Inventories and reviews of contracts for services.
Sec. 808. Independent management reviews of contracts for services.
Sec. 809. Implementation and enforcement of requirements applicable to undefinitized contractual actions.
Sec. 810. Clarification of limited acquisition authority for Special Operations Command.
Subtitle B—Provisions Relating to Major Defense Acquisition Programs
Sec. 811. Requirements applicable to multiyear contracts for the procurement of major systems of the Department of Defense.
Sec. 812. Changes to Milestone B certifications.
Sec. 813. Comptroller General report on Department of Defense organization and structure for major defense acquisition programs.
Sec. 814. Clarification of submission of cost or pricing data on noncommercial modifications of commercial items.
Sec. 815. Clarification of rules regarding the procurement of commercial items.
Sec. 816. Review of systemic deficiencies on major defense acquisition programs.
Sec. 817. Investment strategy for major defense acquisition programs.
Sec. 818. Report on implementation of recommendations on total ownership cost for major weapon systems.
Subtitle C—Amendments to General Contracting Authorities, Procedures, and Limitations
Sec. 821. Plan for restricting Government-unique contract clauses on commercial contracts.
Sec. 822. Extension of authority for use of simplified acquisition procedures for certain commercial items.
Sec. 823. Five-year extension of authority to carry out certain prototype projects.
Sec. 824. Exemption of Special Operations Command from certain requirements for certain contracts relating to vessels, aircraft, and combat vehicles.
Sec. 825. Provision of authority to maintain equipment to unified combatant command for joint warfighting.
Sec. 826. Market research.
Sec. 827. Modification of competition requirements for purchases from Federal Prison Industries.
Sec. 828. Multiyear contract authority for electricity from renewable energy sources.
Sec. 829. Procurement of fire resistant rayon fiber for the production of uniforms from foreign sources.
Sec. 830. Comptroller General review of noncompetitive awards of congressional and executive branch interest items.
Subtitle D—Accountability in Contracting
Sec. 841. Commission on Wartime Contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan.
Sec. 842. Investigation of waste, fraud, and abuse in wartime contracts and contracting processes in Iraq and Afghanistan.
Sec. 843. Enhanced competition requirements for task and delivery order contracts.
Sec. 844. Public disclosure of justification and approval documents for noncompetitive contracts.
Sec. 845. Disclosure of Government contractor audit findings.
Sec. 846. Protection for contractor employees from reprisal for disclosure of certain information.
Sec. 847. Requirements for senior Department of Defense officials seeking employment with defense contractors.
Sec. 848. Report on contractor ethics programs of Major Defense contractors.
Sec. 849. Contingency contracting training for personnel outside the acquisition workforce and evaluations of Army Commission recommendations.
Subtitle E—Acquisition Workforce Provisions
Sec. 851. Requirement for section on defense acquisition workforce in strategic human capital plan.
Sec. 852. Department of Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Fund.
Sec. 853. Extension of authority to fill shortage category positions for certain Federal acquisition positions.
Sec. 854. Repeal of sunset of acquisition workforce training fund.
Sec. 855. Federal acquisition workforce improvements.
Subtitle F—Contracts in Iraq and Afghanistan
Sec. 861. Memorandum of understanding on matters relating to contracting.

Sec. 862. Contractors performing private security functions in areas of combat operations.
Sec. 863. Comptroller General reviews and reports on contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan.
Sec. 864. Definitions and other general provisions.

Subtitle G—Defense Materiel Readiness Board

Sec. 871. Establishment of Defense Materiel Readiness Board.
Sec. 872. Critical materiel readiness shortfalls.

Subtitle H—Other Matters

Sec. 881. Clearinghouse for rapid identification and dissemination of commercial information technologies.
Sec. 882. Authority to license certain military designations and likenesses of weapons systems to toy and hobby manufacturers.
Sec. 883. Modifications to limitation on contracts to acquire military flight simulator.
Sec. 884. Requirements relating to waivers of certain domestic source limitations relating to specialty metals.
Sec. 885. Telephone services for military personnel serving in combat zones.
Sec. 886. Enhanced authority to acquire products and services produced in Iraq and Afghanistan.
Sec. 887. Defense Science Board review of Department of Defense policies and procedures for the acquisition of information technology.
Sec. 888. Green procurement policy.
Sec. 889. Comptroller General review of use of authority under the Defense Production Act of 1950.
Sec. 890. Prevention of export control violations.
Sec. 891. Procurement goal for Native Hawaiian-serving institutions and Alaska Native-serving institutions.
Sec. 892. Competition for procurement of small arms supplied to Iraq and Afghanistan.

TITLE IX—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

Subtitle A—Department of Defense Management

Sec. 901. Repeal of limitation on major Department of Defense headquarters activities personnel and related report.
Sec. 902. Flexibility to adjust the number of deputy chiefs and assistant chiefs.
Sec. 903. Change in eligibility requirements for appointment to Department of Defense leadership positions.
Sec. 904. Management of the Department of Defense.
Sec. 905. Revision in guidance relating to combatant command acquisition authority.
Sec. 906. Department of Defense Board of Actuaries.
Sec. 907. Modification of background requirement of individuals appointed as Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics.
Sec. 908. Assistant Secretaries of the military departments for acquisition matters; principal military deputies.
Sec. 909. Sense of Congress on term of Office of the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation.

Subtitle B—Space Activities

Sec. 911. Space protection strategy.
Sec. 912. Biennial report on management of space cadre within the Department of Defense.
Sec. 913. Additional report on oversight of acquisition for defense space programs.

Subtitle C—Chemical Demilitarization Program

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Sec. 3113. Modification of reporting requirement.
Sec. 3114. Limitation on availability of funds for Fissile Materials Disposition program.
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Sec. 3122. Report on retirement and dismantlement of nuclear warheads.
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TITLE XXXIII—DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD
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Sec. 3402. Remedial action at Moab uranium milling site.
TITLE XXXV—MARITIME ADMINISTRATION
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Sec. 3501. Authorization of appropriations for fiscal year 2008.
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Sec. 3522. Amendments to Chapter 537 based on Public Law 109–163.
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Sec. 3525. Amendments based on Public Law 109–241.
Sec. 3526. Amendments based on Public Law 109–364.
Sec. 3527. Miscellaneous amendments.
Sec. 3528. Application of sunset provision to codified provision.
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SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEES.

For purposes of this Act, the term ''congressional defense committees'' has the meaning given that term in section 101(a)(16) of title 10, United States Code.

DIVISION A—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AUTHORIZATIONS
TITLE I—PROCUREMENT
Subtitle A—Authorization of Appropriations
Sec. 101. Army.
Sec. 102. Navy and Marine Corps.
Sec. 103. Air Force.
Sec. 104. Defense-wide activities.
Sec. 105. National Guard and Reserve equipment.
Subtitle B—Army Programs
Sec. 111. Multiyear procurement authority for M1A2 Abrams System Enhancement Package upgrades.
Sec. 112. Multiyear procurement authority for M2A3/M3A3 Bradley fighting vehicle upgrades.
Sec. 113. Multiyear procurement authority for conversion of CH-47D helicopters to CH-47F configuration.
Sec. 114. Multiyear procurement authority for CH-47F helicopters.
Sec. 115. Limitation on use of funds for Increment 1 of the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical program pending certification to Congress.
Sec. 116. Prohibition on closure of Army Tactical Missile System production line pending report.
Sec. 117. Stryker Mobile Gun System.
Subtitle C—Navy Programs
Sec. 121. Multiyear procurement authority for Virginia-class submarine program.
Sec. 122. Report on shipbuilding investment strategy.
Sec. 123. Sense of Congress on the preservation of a skilled United States shipyard workforce.
Sec. 124. Assessments required prior to start of construction on first ship of a shipbuilding program.
Sec. 125. Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) program.
Subtitle D—Air Force Programs
Sec. 131. Limitation on Joint Cargo Aircraft.
Sec. 132. Clarification of limitation on retirement of U–2 aircraft.
Sec. 133. Repeal of requirement to maintain retired C–130E tactical aircraft.
Sec. 134. Limitation on retirement of C–130E/H tactical airlift aircraft.
Sec. 135. Limitation on retirement of KC–135E aerial refueling aircraft.
Sec. 136. Transfer to Government of Iraq of three C–130E tactical airlift aircraft.
Sec. 137. Modification of limitations on retirement of B–52 bomber aircraft.

Subtitle A—Authorization of Appropriations

SEC. 101. ARMY.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2008 for procurement for the Army as follows:

(1) For aircraft, $4,168,798,000.

(2) For missiles, $1,911,979,000.

(3) For weapons and tracked combat vehicles, $3,007,489,000.

(4) For ammunition, $2,214,576,000.

(5) For other procurement, $12,451,312,000.

(6) For the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund, $228,000,000.

SEC. 102. NAVY AND MARINE CORPS.

(a) NAVY.—Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2008 for procurement for the Navy as follows:

(1) For aircraft, $12,432,644,000.

(2) For weapons, including missiles and torpedoes, $3,068,187,000.

(3) For shipbuilding and conversion, $13,596,120,000.

(4) For other procurement, $5,209,330,000.

(b) MARINE CORPS.—Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2008 for procurement for the Marine Corps in the amount of $2,299,419,000.

(c) NAVY AND MARINE CORPS AMMUNITION.—Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2008 for procurement of ammunition for the Navy and the Marine Corps in the amount of $1,058,832,000.

SEC. 103. AIR FORCE.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2008 for procurement for the Air Force as follows:

(1) For aircraft, $12,117,800,000.

(2) For ammunition, $854,167,000.

(3) For missiles, $4,984,102,000.

(4) For other procurement, $15,405,832,000.

SEC. 104. DEFENSE-WIDE ACTIVITIES.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2008 for Defense-wide procurement in the amount of $3,280,435,000.

SEC. 105. NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE EQUIPMENT.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2008 for the procurement of aircraft, missiles, wheeled and tracked combat vehicles, tactical wheeled vehicles, ammunition, other weapons, and other procurement for the reserve components of the Armed Forces in the amount of $980,000,000.

Subtitle B—Army Programs

SEC. 111. MULTIYEAR PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY FOR M1A2 ABRAMS SYSTEM ENHANCEMENT PACKAGE UPGRADES.

The Secretary of the Army, in accordance with section 2306b of title 10, United States Code, may enter into a multiyear contract, beginning with the fiscal year 2008 program year, for procurement of M1A2 Abrams System Enhancement Package upgrades.

SEC. 112. MULTIYEAR PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY FOR M2A3/M3A3 BRADLEY FIGHTING VEHICLE UPGRADES.

The Secretary of the Army, in accordance with section 2306b of title 10, United States Code, may enter into a multiyear contract, beginning with the fiscal year 2008 program year, for procurement of M2A3/M3A3 Bradley fighting vehicle upgrades.

SEC. 113. MULTIYEAR PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY FOR CONVERSION OF CH-47D HELICOPTERS TO CH-47F CONFIGURATION.

The Secretary of the Army may, in accordance with section 2306b of title 10, United States Code, enter into a multiyear contract, beginning with the fiscal year 2008 program year, for conversion of CH-47D helicopters to the CH-47F configuration.

SEC. 114. MULTIYEAR PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY FOR CH-47F HELICOPTERS.

The Secretary of the Army may, in accordance with section 2306b of title 10, United States Code, enter into a multiyear contract, beginning with the fiscal year 2008 program year, for procurement of CH-47F helicopters.

SEC. 115. LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR INCREMENT 1 OF THE WARFIGHTER INFORMATION NETWORK-TACTICAL PROGRAM PENDING CERTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.

(a) FUNDING RESTRICTED.—Of the amounts appropriated pursuant to an authorization of appropriations for fiscal year 2008 or otherwise made available for Other Procurement, Army, that are available for Increment 1 of

the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical program, not more than 50 percent may be obligated or expended until the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation submits to the congressional defense committees a certification, in writing, that the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation has approved a Test and Evaluation Master Plan and Initial Operational Test Plan for Increment 1 of the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical program.

(b) INCREMENT 1 DEFINED.—For the purposes of this section, Increment 1 of the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical program includes all program elements described as constituting ''Increment 1'' in the memorandum titled ''Warfighter Information Network-Tactical (WIN-T) Program Acquisition Decision Memorandum'', dated June 5, 2007, and signed by the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics.

SEC. 116. PROHIBITION ON CLOSURE OF ARMY TACTICAL MISSILE SYSTEM PRODUCTION LINE PENDING REPORT.

(a) PROHIBITION.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 101(2) for missiles, Army, and in section 1502(4) for missile procurement, Army, and any other appropriated funds available to the Secretary of the Army may not be used to close the production line for the Army Tactical Missile System program until after the date on which the Secretary of the Army submits to the congressional defense committees a report that contains—

(1) the certification of the Secretary that the long range surface-to-surface strike and counter battery mission of the Army can be adequately performed by other Army weapons systems or by other elements of the Armed Forces; and

(2) a plan to mitigate any shortfalls in the industrial base that would be created by the closure of the production line.

(b) SUBMISSION OF REPORT.—The report referred to in subsection (a) is required not later than April 1, 2008.

SEC. 117. STRYKER MOBILE GUN SYSTEM.

(a) LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—None of the amounts authorized to be appropriated by sections 101(3) and 1501(3) for procurement of weapons and tracked combat vehicles for the Army may be obligated or expended for purposes of the procurement of the Stryker Mobile Gun System until 30 days after the date on which the Secretary of the Army certifies to Congress that the Stryker Mobile Gun System is operationally effective, suitable, and survivable for its anticipated deployment missions.

(b) WAIVER.—The Secretary of Defense may waive the limitation in subsection (a) if the Secretary—

(1) determines that further procurement of the Stryker Mobile Gun System utilizing amounts referred to in subsection (a) is in the national security interest of the United States notwithstanding the inability of the Secretary of the Army to make the certification required by that subsection; and

(2) submits to the Congress, in writing, a notification of the waiver together with a discussion of—

(A) the reasons for the determination described in paragraph (1); and

(B) the actions that will be taken to mitigate any deficiencies that cause the Stryker Mobile Gun System not to be operationally effective, suitable, or survivable, as that case may be, as described in subsection (a).

Subtitle C—Navy Programs

SEC. 121. MULTIYEAR PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY FOR VIRGINIA-CLASS SUBMARINE PROGRAM.

(a) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of the Navy may, in accordance with section 2306b of title 10, United States Code, enter into multiyear contracts, beginning with the fiscal year 2009 program year, for the procurement of Virginia-class submarines and Government-furnished equipment associated with the Virginia-class submarine program.

(b) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may not enter into a contract authorized by subsection (a) until—

(1) the Secretary submits to the congressional defense committees a certification that the Secretary has made, with respect to that contract, each of the findings required by subsection (a) of section 2306b of title 10, United States Code; and

(2) a period of 30 days has elapsed after the date of the transmission of such certification.

SEC. 122. REPORT ON SHIPBUILDING INVESTMENT STRATEGY.

(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Secretary of the Navy shall provide for a study to determine the effectiveness of current financing mechanisms for providing incentives for contractors to make shipbuilding capital expenditures, and to assess potential capital expenditure incentives that would lead to ship construction or life-cycle cost savings to the Federal Government. The study shall examine—

(1) potential improvements in design tools and techniques, material management, technology insertion, systems integration and testing, and other key processes and functions that would lead to reduced construction costs;

(2) construction process improvements that would reduce procurement and life-cycle costs of the vessels under construction at the contractor's facilities; and

(3) incentives for investment in shipyard infrastructure that support construction process improvements.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than October 1, 2008, the Secretary of the Navy shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report providing the results of the study under subsection (a). The report shall include each of the following:

(1) An assessment of the shipbuilding industrial base, as measured by a 10-year history for major shipbuilders with respect to—

(A) estimated value of shipbuilding facilities;

(B) critical shipbuilding capabilities;

(C) capital expenditures;

(D) major investments in process improvements; and

(E) costs for related Navy shipbuilding projects.

(2) A description of mechanisms available to the Government and industry to finance facilities and process improvements, including—

(A) contract incentive and award fees;

(B) facilities capital cost of money;

(C) facilities depreciation;

(D) progress payment provisions;

(E) other contract terms and conditions;

(F) State and Federal tax provisions and tax incentives;

(G) the National Shipbuilding Research Program; and

(H) any other mechanisms available.

(3) A summary of potential shipbuilding investments that offer greatest reduction to shipbuilding costs, including, for each such investment—

(A) a project description;

(B) an estimate of required investment;

(C) the estimated return on investment; and

(D) alternatives for financing the investment.

(4) The Navy's strategy for providing incentives for contractors' capital expenditures that would lead to ship construction or life-cycle savings to the Federal Government, including identification of any specific changes in legislative authority that would be required for the Secretary to execute this strategy.

(c) UTILIZATION OF OTHER STUDIES AND OUTSIDE EXPERTS.—The study shall build upon the results of the 2005 and 2006 Global Shipbuilding Industrial Base Benchmarking studies. Financial analysis associated with the report shall be conducted in consultation with financial experts independent of the Department of Defense.

SEC. 123. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE PRESERVATION OF A SKILLED UNITED STATES SHIPYARD WORKFORCE.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the preservation of a robust domestic skilled workforce is required for the national shipbuilding infrastructure and particularly essential to the construction of ships for the United States Navy.

(b) STUDY REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Navy shall determine, on a one-time, non-recurring basis, and in consultation with the Department of Labor, the average number of H2B visa workers employed by the major shipbuilders in the construction of United States Navy ships during the calendar year ending December 31, 2007. The study shall also identify the number of workers petitioned by the major shipbuilders for use in calendar year 2008, as of the first quarter of calendar year 2008.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than April 1, 2008, the Secretary of the Navy shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report containing the results of the study required by subsection (b).

(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph—

(A) the term ''major shipbuilder'' means a prime contractor or a first-tier subcontractor responsible for delivery of combatant and support vessels required for the naval vessel force, as reported within the annual naval vessel construction plan required by section 231 of title 10, United States Code; and

(B) the term ''H2B visa'' means a non-immigrant visa program that permits employers to hire foreign workers to come temporarily to the United States and perform temporary non-agricultural services or labor on a one-time, seasonal, peakload, or intermittent basis.

SEC. 124. ASSESSMENTS REQUIRED PRIOR TO START OF CONSTRUCTION ON FIRST SHIP OF A SHIPBUILDING PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Concurrent with approving the start of construction of the first ship for any major shipbuilding program, the Secretary of the Navy shall—

(1) submit a report to the congressional defense committees on the results of any production readiness review; and

(2) certify to the congressional defense committees that the findings of any such review support commencement of construction.

(b) REPORT.—The report required by subsection (a)(1) shall include, at a minimum, an assessment of each of the following:

(1) The maturity of the ship's design, as measured by stability of the ship contract specifications and the degree of completion of detail design and production design drawings.

(2) The maturity of developmental command and control systems, weapon and sensor systems, and hull, mechanical and electrical systems.

(3) The readiness of the shipyard facilities and workforce to begin construction.

(4) The Navy's estimated cost at completion and the adequacy of the budget to support the estimate.

(5) The Navy's estimated delivery date and description of any variance to the contract delivery date.

(6) The extent to which adequate processes and metrics are in place to measure and manage program risks.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—This section applies to each major shipbuilding program beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of subsection (a):

(1) START OF CONSTRUCTION.—The term ''start of construction'' means the beginning of fabrication of the hull and superstructure of the ship.

(2) FIRST SHIP.—The term ''first ship'' applies to a ship if—

(A) the ship is the first ship to be constructed under that shipbuilding program; or

(B) the shipyard at which the ship is to be constructed has not previously started construction on a ship under that shipbuilding program.

(3) MAJOR SHIPBUILDING PROGRAM.—The term ''major shipbuilding program'' means a program for the construction of combatant and support vessels required for the naval vessel force, as reported within the annual naval vessel construction plan required by section 231 of title 10, United States Code.

(4) PRODUCTION READINESS REVIEW.—The term ''production readiness review'' means a formal examination of a program prior to the start of construction to determine if the design is ready for production, production engineering problems have been resolved, and the producer has accomplished adequate planning for the production phase.

SEC. 125. LITTORAL COMBAT SHIP (LCS) PROGRAM.

Section 124 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109–163; 119 Stat. 3157) is amended by striking subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d) and inserting the following:

''(a) LIMITATION OF COSTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The total amount obligated or expended for the procurement costs of post-2007 LCS vessels shall not exceed $460,000,000 per vessel.

''(2) PROCUREMENT COSTS.—For purposes of this section, procurement costs shall include all costs for plans, basic construction, change orders, electronics, ordnance, contractor support, and other costs associated with completion of production drawings, ship construction, test, and delivery, including work performed post-delivery that is required to meet original contract requirements.

''(3) POST-2007 LCS VESSELS.—For purposes of this section, the term 'post-2007 LCS vessel' means a vessel in the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) class of vessels, the procurement of which is funded from amounts appropriated pursuant to an authorization of appropriations or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2008 or any fiscal year thereafter.

''(b) CONTRACT TYPE.—The Secretary of the Navy shall employ a fixed-price type contract for construction of post-2007 LCS vessels.

''(c) LIMITATION OF GOVERNMENT LIABILITY.—The Secretary of the Navy shall not enter into a contract, or modify a contract, for construction or final delivery of post-2007 LCS vessels if the limitation of the Government's cost liability, when added to the sum of other budgeted procurement costs, would exceed $460,000,000 per vessel.

''(d) ADJUSTMENT OF LIMITATION AMOUNT.—The Secretary of the Navy may adjust the amount set forth in subsections (a)(1) and (c) for vessels referred to in such subsections by the following:

''(1) The amounts of increases or decreases in costs attributable to compliance with changes in Federal, State, or local laws enacted after September 30, 2007.

''(2) The amounts of outfitting costs and costs required to complete post-delivery test and trials.''.

Subtitle D—Air Force Programs

SEC. 131. LIMITATION ON JOINT CARGO AIRCRAFT.

No funds appropriated pursuant to an authorization of appropriations or otherwise made available for procurement, or for research, development, test, and evaluation, may be obligated or expended for the Joint Cargo Aircraft until 30 days after the Secretary of Defense submits to the congressional defense committees each of the following:

(1) The Air Force Air Mobility Command's Airlift Mobility Roadmap.

(2) The Department of Defense Intra-Theater Airlift Capabilities Study.

(3) The Department of Defense Joint Intra-Theater Distribution Assessment.

(4) The Joint Cargo Aircraft Functional Area Series Analysis.

(5) The Joint Cargo Aircraft Analysis of Alternatives.

(6) The Joint Intra-Theater Airlift Fleet Mix Analysis.

(7) The Secretary's certification that—

(A) there is, within the Department of the Army, Department of the Air Force, Army National Guard, or Air National Guard, a capability gap or shortfall with respect to intra-theater airlift; and

(B) validated requirements exist to fill that gap or shortfall through procurement of the Joint Cargo Aircraft.

SEC. 132. CLARIFICATION OF LIMITATION ON RETIREMENT OF U–2 AIRCRAFT.

Section 133(b) of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2112) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''After fiscal year 2007'' and inserting ''For each fiscal year after fiscal year 2007''; and

(B) by inserting after ''Secretary of Defense'' the following: '', in that fiscal year,''; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by inserting after ''Department of Defense'' the following: ''in a fiscal year''; and

(B) by inserting after ''Congress'' the following: ''in that fiscal year''.

SEC. 133. REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT TO MAINTAIN RETIRED C–130E TACTICAL AIRCRAFT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Effective as of the date specified in subsection (b), section 137(b) of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2114) is repealed.

(b) SPECIFIED DATE.—The date specified in this subsection is the date that is 30 days after the date on which the Secretary of the Air Force submits to the congressional defense committees the Fleet Mix Analysis Study.

SEC. 134. LIMITATION ON RETIREMENT OF C–130E/H TACTICAL AIRLIFT AIRCRAFT.

(a) GENERAL PROHIBITION.—The Secretary of the Air Force may not retire C–130E/H tactical airlift aircraft during fiscal year 2008, except as provided in subsection (b).

(b) CONTINGENT AUTHORITY TO RETIRE CERTAIN C–130E AIRCRAFT.—Effective as of the date specified in subsection (d), subsection (a) shall not apply to C–130E tactical airlift aircraft, and the number of such aircraft retired by the Secretary of the Air Force during fiscal year 2008 may not exceed 24.

(c) TREATMENT OF RETIRED AIRCRAFT.—The Secretary of the Air Force shall maintain each C–130E tactical airlift aircraft that is retired during fiscal year 2008 in a condition that would allow recall of that aircraft to future service.

(d) SPECIFIED DATE.—The date specified in this subsection is the date that is 30 days after the date on which the Secretary of the Air Force submits to the congressional defense committees the Fleet Mix Analysis Study.

SEC. 135. LIMITATION ON RETIREMENT OF KC–135E AERIAL REFUELING AIRCRAFT.

(a) LIMITATION ON RETIREMENT OF MORE THAN 48 AIRCRAFT.—The Secretary of the Air Force may not retire more than 48 KC–135E aerial refueling aircraft of the Air Force during fiscal year 2008, except as provided in subsection (b).

(b) CONTINGENT AUTHORITY TO RETIRE 37 ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT.—Effective as of the date specified in subsection (c), the number of such aircraft retired by the Secretary of the Air Force during fiscal year 2008 may not exceed 85.

(c) SPECIFIED DATE.—The date specified in this subsection is the date that is 15 days after the date on which the Secretary of the Air Force submits to the congressional defense committees the Secretary's certification that—

(1) the system design and development contract for the KC-X program has been awarded; and

(2) if a protest is submitted pursuant to subchapter 5 of title 31, United States Code—

(A) the protest has been resolved in favor of the Federal agency; or

(B) the Secretary has authorized performance of the contract (notwithstanding the protest).

SEC. 136. TRANSFER TO GOVERNMENT OF IRAQ OF THREE C–130E TACTICAL AIRLIFT AIRCRAFT.

The Secretary of the Air Force may transfer not more than 3 C–130E tactical airlift aircraft, allowed to be retired under the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364), to the Government of Iraq.

SEC. 137. MODIFICATION OF LIMITATIONS ON RETIREMENT OF B–52 BOMBER AIRCRAFT.

(a) MAINTENANCE OF PRIMARY, BACKUP, AND ATTRITION RESERVE INVENTORY OF AIRCRAFT.—Subsection (a) of section 131 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2111) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) shall maintain in a common capability configuration a primary aircraft inventory of not less than 63 such aircraft, a backup aircraft inventory of not less than 11 such aircraft, and an attrition reserve aircraft inventory of not less than 2 such aircraft; and

''(D) shall not keep any such aircraft referred to in subparagraph (C) in a status considered excess to the requirements of the possessing command and awaiting disposition instructions.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of paragraph (1):

''(A) The term 'primary aircraft inventory' means aircraft assigned to meet the primary aircraft authorization to—

''(i) a unit for the performance of its wartime mission;

''(ii) a training unit primarily for technical and specialized training for crew personnel or leading to aircrew qualification;

''(iii) a test unit for testing of the aircraft or its components for purposes of research, development, test and evaluation, operational test and evaluation, or to support testing programs; or

''(iv) meet requirements for special missions not elsewhere classified.

''(B) The term 'backup aircraft inventory' means aircraft above the primary aircraft inventory to permit scheduled and unscheduled depot level maintenance, modifications, inspections, and repairs, and certain other mitigating circumstances without reduction of aircraft available for the assigned mission.

''(C) The term 'attrition reserve aircraft inventory' means aircraft required to replace anticipated losses of primary aircraft inventory due to peacetime accidents or wartime attrition.

''(4) TREATMENT OF RETIRED AIRCRAFT.—Of the aircraft retired in accordance with paragraph (1)(A), the Secretary of the Air Force may use not more than 2 such aircraft for maintenance ground training.''.

(b) NOTICE OF RETIREMENT.—Subsection (b)(1) of such section is amended by striking ''45 days'' and inserting ''60 days''.

TITLE II—RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION

Subtitle A—Authorization of Appropriations

Sec. 201. Authorization of appropriations.
Sec. 202. Amount for defense science and technology.

Subtitle B—Program Requirements, Restrictions, and Limitations

Sec. 211. Operational test and evaluation of Future Combat Systems network.
Sec. 212. Limitation on use of funds for systems development and demonstration of Joint Light Tactical Vehicle Program.
Sec. 213. Requirement to obligate and expend funds for development and procurement of a competitive propulsion system for the Joint Strike Fighter.
Sec. 214. Limitation on use of funds for defense-wide manufacturing science and technology program.
Sec. 215. Advanced Sensor Applications Program.
Sec. 216. Active protection systems.

Subtitle C—Ballistic Missile Defense

Sec. 221. Participation of Director, Operational Test and Evaluation, in missile defense test and evaluation activities.
Sec. 222. Study on future roles and missions of the Missile Defense Agency.
Sec. 223. Budget and acquisition requirements for Missile Defense Agency activities.
Sec. 224. Limitation on use of funds for replacing warhead on SM–3 Block IIA missile.
Sec. 225. Extension of Comptroller General assessments of ballistic missile defense programs.
Sec. 226. Limitation on availability of funds for procurement, construction, and deployment of missile defenses in Europe.
Sec. 227. Sense of Congress on missile defense cooperation with Israel.
Sec. 228. Limitation on availability of funds for deployment of missile defense interceptors in Alaska.
Sec. 229. Policy of the United States on protection of the United States and its allies against Iranian ballistic missiles.

Subtitle D—Other Matters

Sec. 231. Coordination of human systems integration activities related to acquisition programs.
Sec. 232. Expansion of authority for provision of laboratory facilities, services, and equipment.
Sec. 233. Modification of cost sharing requirement for Technology Transition Initiative.
Sec. 234. Report on implementation of Manufacturing Technology Program.
Sec. 235. Assessment of sufficiency of test and evaluation personnel.
Sec. 236. Repeal of requirement for separate reports on technology area review and assessment summaries.
Sec. 237. Modification of notice and wait requirement for obligation of funds for foreign comparative test program.
Sec. 238. Strategic Plan for the Manufacturing Technology Program.
Sec. 239. Modification of authorities on coordination of Defense Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research with similar Federal programs.
Sec. 240. Enhancement of defense nanotechnology research and development program.
Sec. 241. Federally funded research and development center assessment of the Defense Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research.
Sec. 242. Cost-benefit analysis of proposed funding reduction for High Energy Laser Systems Test Facility.
Sec. 243. Prompt global strike.

Subtitle A—Authorization of Appropriations

SEC. 201. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2008 for the use of the Department of Defense for research, development, test, and evaluation as follows:

(1) For the Army, $10,840,392,000.

(2) For the Navy, $16,980,732,000.

(3) For the Air Force, $25,692,521,000.

(4) For Defense-wide activities, $20,213,900,000, of which $180,264,000 is authorized for the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation.

SEC. 202. AMOUNT FOR DEFENSE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

(a) FISCAL YEAR 2008.—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated by section 201, $10,913,944,000 shall be available for the Defense Science and Technology Program, including basic research, applied research, and advanced technology development projects.

(b) BASIC RESEARCH, APPLIED RESEARCH, AND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, the term ''basic research, applied research, and advanced technology development'' means work funded in program elements for defense research and development under Department of Defense budget activity 1, 2, or 3.

Subtitle B—Program Requirements, Restrictions, and Limitations

SEC. 211. OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION OF FUTURE COMBAT SYSTEMS NETWORK.

(a) OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION REQUIRED.—The Secretary of the Army, in cooperation with the Director, Operational Test and Evaluation, shall complete an operational test and evaluation (as defined in section 139(a)(2)(A) of title 10, United States Code), of the FCS network in a realistic environment simulating operational conditions. The operational test and evaluation shall—

(1) be conducted in accordance with a Future Combat Systems Test and Evaluation Master Plan approved by the Director, Operational Test and Evaluation;

(2) be conducted using prototype equipment, sensors, and software for the FCS network;

(3) be conducted in a manner that simulates a full Future Combat Systems brigade;

(4) be conducted, to the maximum extent possible, using actual communications equipment instead of computer simulations;

(5) be conducted in a realistic operational electronic warfare environment, including enemy electronic warfare and network attacks; and

(6) include, to the maximum extent possible, all sensor information feeds the FCS network is designed to incorporate.

(b) FCS NETWORK DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''FCS network'' includes all sensors, information systems, computers, and communications systems necessary to support Future Combat Systems brigade operations.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after completing the operational test and evaluation required by subsection (a), the Director, Operational Test and Evaluation shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the outcome of the operational test and evaluation. The report shall include, at a minimum—

(1) an evaluation of the overall operational effectiveness of the FCS network, including—

(A) an evaluation of the FCS network's capability to transmit the volume and classes of data required by Future Combat Systems approved requirements; and

(B) an evaluation of the FCS network's performance in a degraded condition due to enemy network attack, sophisticated enemy electronic warfare, adverse weather conditions, and terrain variability;

(2) an evaluation of the FCS network's ability to improve friendly force knowledge of the location and capability of enemy forces and combat systems; and

(3) an evaluation of the overall operational suitability of the FCS network.

(d) LIMITATION PENDING SUBMISSION OF REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—No funds, with the exception of funds for advanced procurement, appropriated pursuant to an authorization of appropriations or otherwise made available to the Department of the Army for any fiscal year may be obligated for low-rate initial production or full-rate production of Future Combat Systems manned ground vehicles until 60 days after the date on which the report is submitted under subsection (c).

(2) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Defense may waive the limitation in paragraph (1) if the Secretary determines that such a waiver is critical for national security. Such a waiver shall not become effective until 45 days after the date on which the Secretary submits to the congressional defense committees a written notice of the waiver.

(3) INAPPLICABILITY TO THE NON LINE OF SIGHT CANNON VEHICLE.—The limitation in paragraph (1) does not apply to the Non Line of Sight Cannon vehicle.

SEC. 212. LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT AND DEMONSTRATION OF JOINT LIGHT TACTICAL VEHICLE PROGRAM.

Of the amounts appropriated pursuant to an authorization of appropriations or otherwise made available for the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle Program for the acquisition program phase of systems development and demonstration for fiscal year 2008 or any fiscal year thereafter, no more than 50 percent of those amounts may be obligated or expended until after—

(1) the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, or the appropriate milestone decision authority, makes the certification required by section 2366a of title 10, United States Code, with respect to the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle Program; and

(2) the certification has been received by the congressional defense committees.

SEC. 213. REQUIREMENT TO OBLIGATE AND EXPEND FUNDS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PROCUREMENT OF A COMPETITIVE PROPULSION SYSTEM FOR THE JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER.

Of the funds appropriated pursuant to an authorization of appropriations or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2008 or any year thereafter, for research, development, test, and evaluation and procurement for the Joint Strike Fighter Program, the Secretary of Defense shall ensure the obligation and expenditure in each such fiscal year of sufficient annual amounts for the continued development and procurement of 2 options for the propulsion system for the Joint Strike Fighter in order to ensure the development and competitive production for the propulsion system for the Joint Strike Fighter.

SEC. 214. LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR DEFENSE-WIDE MANUFACTURING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.

No funds available to the Office of the Secretary of Defense for any fiscal year may be obligated or expended for the defense-wide manufacturing science and technology program unless the Director, Defense Research and Engineering, ensures each of the following:

(1) A component of the Department of Defense has requested and evaluated—

(A) competitive proposals, for each project under the program that is not a project covered by subparagraph (B); and

(B) proposals from as many sources as is practicable under the circumstances, for a project under the program if the disclosure of the needs of the Department of Defense with respect to that project would compromise the national security.

(2) Each project under the program is carried out—

(A) in accordance with the statutory requirements of the Manufacturing Technology Program established by section 2521 of title 10, United States Code; and

(B) in compliance with all requirements of any directive that applies to manufacturing technology.

(3) An implementation plan has been developed.

SEC. 215. ADVANCED SENSOR APPLICATIONS PROGRAM.

(a) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—(1) Of the amount authorized to be appropriated by section 201(3) for research, development, test, and evaluation, Air Force activities, and made available for the activities of the Intelligence Systems Support Office, an aggregate of $13,000,000 shall be transferred to the Advanced Sensor Applications Program not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) Of the amount authorized to be appropriated by section 301(2) for operation and maintenance, Navy activities, and made available for the activities of the Office of Naval Intelligence, an aggregate of $5,000,000 shall be transferred to the Advanced Sensor Applications Program not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) ASSIGNMENT OF PROGRAM.—Management of the program shall reside within the office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence until certain conditions specified in the classified annex to the statement of managers accompanying this Act are met. The program shall be executed by the Commander, Naval Air Systems Command in consultation with the Program Executive Officer for Aviation for the Navy.

SEC. 216. ACTIVE PROTECTION SYSTEMS.

(a) LIVE-FIRE TESTS REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall undertake live-fire tests, of appropriate foreign and domestic active protection systems with size, weight, and power characteristics suitable for protecting wheeled tactical vehicles, especially light wheeled tactical vehicles, in order—

(A) to determine the effectiveness of such systems for protecting wheeled tactical vehicles; and

(B) to develop information useful in the consideration of the adoption of such systems in defense acquisition programs.

(2) REPORTS.—Not later than March 1 of each of 2008 and 2009, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the results of the tests undertaken under paragraph (1) as of the date of such report.

(3) FUNDING.—The live-fire tests required by paragraph (1) shall be conducted using funds authorized and appropriated for the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund.

(b) COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall undertake a comprehensive assessment of active protection systems in order to develop information useful in the development of joint active protection systems and other defense programs.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The assessment under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) an identification of the potential merits and operational costs of the use of active protection systems by United States military forces;

(B) a characterization of the threats that use of active protection systems by potential adversaries would pose to United States military forces and weapons;

(C) an identification and assessment of countermeasures to active protection systems;

(D) an analysis of collateral damage potential of active protection systems;

(E) an identification and assessment of emerging direct-fire and top-attack threats to defense systems that could potentially deploy active protection systems; and

(F) an identification and assessment of critical technology elements of active protection systems.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than December 31, 2008, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the assessment under paragraph (1).

Subtitle C—Ballistic Missile Defense

SEC. 221. PARTICIPATION OF DIRECTOR, OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION, IN MISSILE DEFENSE TEST AND EVALUATION ACTIVITIES.

Section 139 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (f) through (j) as subsections (g) through (k), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (e) the following new subsection (f):

''(f)(1) The Director of the Missile Defense Agency shall make available to the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation the results of all tests and evaluations conducted by the Missile Defense Agency and of all studies conducted by the Missile Defense Agency in connection with tests and evaluations in the Missile Defense Agency.

''(2) The Director of Operational Test and Evaluation may require that such observers as the Director designates be present during the preparation for and the conducting of any test and evaluation conducted by the Missile Defense Agency.

''(3) The Director of Operational Test and Evaluation shall have access to all records and data in the Department of Defense (including the records and data of the Missile Defense Agency) that the Director considers necessary to review in order to carry out his duties under this subsection.''.

SEC. 222. STUDY ON FUTURE ROLES AND MISSIONS OF THE MISSILE DEFENSE AGENCY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall enter into an agreement with 1 of the Federally Funded Research and Development Centers under which the Center shall carry out an independent study to examine, and make recommendations with respect to, the long-term structure, roles, and missions of the Missile Defense Agency.

(b) MATTERS INCLUDED.—

(1) REVIEW.—The study shall include a full review of the structure, roles, and missions of the Missile Defense Agency.

(2) ASSESSMENTS.—The study shall include an examination and assessment of the current and future—

(A) structure, roles, and missions of the Missile Defense Agency;

(B) relationship of the Missile Defense Agency with—

(i) the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics;

(ii) the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy;

(iii) the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation;

(iv) the Commander of the United States Strategic Command and other combatant commanders;

(v) the Joint Requirements Oversight Council; and

(vi) the military departments;

(C) operations and sustainment of missile defenses;

(D) acquisition process for missile defense;

(E) requirements process for missile defense; and

(F) transition and transfer of missile defense capabilities to the military departments.

(3) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The study shall include recommendations as to how the Missile Defense Agency can be made more effective to support the needs of the warfighter, especially with regard to near-term missile defense capabilities. The study shall also examine the full range of options for the future of the Missile Defense Agency and shall include, but not be limited to, specific recommendations as to whether—

(A) the Missile Defense Agency should be maintained in its current configuration;

(B) the scope and nature of the Missile Defense Agency should be changed from an organization focused on research and development to an organization focused on combat support;

(C) any functions and responsibilities should be added to the Missile Defense Agency, in part or in whole, from other entities such as the United States Strategic Command and the military departments; and

(D) any functions and responsibilities of the Missile Defense Agency should be transferred, in part or in whole, to other entities such as the United States Strategic Command and the military departments.

(c) COOPERATION FROM GOVERNMENT.—In carrying out the study, the Federally Funded Research and Development Center shall receive the full and timely cooperation of the Secretary of Defense and any other United States Government official in providing the Center with analyses, briefings, and other information necessary for the fulfillment of its responsibilities.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than September 1, 2008, the Federally Funded Research and Development Center shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a report on its findings, conclusions, and recommendations.

(e) FUNDING.—Funds for the study shall be provided from amounts appropriated for the Department of Defense.

SEC. 223. BUDGET AND ACQUISITION REQUIREMENTS FOR MISSILE DEFENSE AGENCY ACTIVITIES.

(a) REVISED BUDGET STRUCTURE.—The budget justification materials submitted to Congress in support of the Department of Defense budget for any fiscal year after fiscal year 2009 (as submitted with the budget of the President under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code) shall set forth separately amounts requested for the Missile Defense Agency for each of the following:

(1) Research, development, test, and evaluation.

(2) Procurement.

(3) Operation and maintenance.

(4) Military construction.

(b) REVISED BUDGET STRUCTURE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009.—The budget justification materials submitted to Congress in support of the Department of Defense budget for fiscal year 2009 (as submitted with the budget of the President under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code) shall—

(1) identify all known and estimated operation and support costs; and

(2) set forth separately amounts requested for the Missile Defense Agency for each of the following:

(A) Research, development, test, and evaluation.

(B) Procurement or advance procurement of long lead items, including for Terminal High Altitude Area Defense firing units 3 and 4, and for Standard Missile-3 Block 1A interceptors.

(C) Military construction.

(c) AVAILABILITY OF RDT&E FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009.—Upon approval by the Secretary of Defense, and consistent with the plan submitted under subsection (f), funds appropriated pursuant to an authorization of appropriations or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2009 for research, development, test, and evaluation for the Missile Defense Agency—

(1) may be used for the fielding of ballistic missile defense capabilities approved previously by Congress; and

(2) may not be used for—

(A) military construction activities; or

(B) procurement or advance procurement of long lead items, including for Terminal High Altitude Area Defense firing units 3 and 4, and for Standard Missile-3 Block 1A interceptors.

(d) FULL FUNDING REQUIREMENT NOT APPLICABLE TO USE OF PROCUREMENT FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2009 AND 2010.—In any case in which funds appropriated pursuant to an authorization of appropriations or otherwise made available for procurement for the Missile Defense Agency for fiscal years 2009 and 2010 are used for the fielding of ballistic missile defense capabilities, the funds may be used for the fielding of those capabilities on an ''incremental'' basis, notwithstanding any law or policy of the Department of Defense that would otherwise require a ''full funding'' basis.

(e) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAW.—Nothing in this provision shall be construed to alter or otherwise affect in any way the applicability of the requirements and other provisions of section 234(a) through (d) of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (Public Law 108–375; 118 Stat. 1837; 10 U.S.C. 2431 note).

(f) PLAN REQUIRED.—Not later than March 1, 2008, the Director of the Missile Defense Agency shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a plan for transitioning the Missile Defense Agency from using exclusively research, development, test, and evaluation funds to using procurement, military construction, operations and maintenance, and research, development, test, and evaluation funds for the appropriate budget activities, and for transitioning from incremental funding to full funding for fiscal years after fiscal year 2010.

(g) OBJECTIVES FOR ACQUISITION ACTIVITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Commencing as soon as practicable, but not later than the submittal to Congress of the budget for the President for fiscal year 2009 under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, the Missile Defense Agency shall take appropriate actions to achieve the following objectives in its acquisition activities:

(A) Improved transparency.

(B) Improved accountability.

(C) Enhanced oversight.

(2) REQUIRED ACTIONS.—In order to achieve the objectives specified in paragraph (1), the Missile Defense Agency shall, at a minimum, take actions as follows:

(A) Establish acquisition cost, schedule, and performance baselines for each ballistic missile defense system element that—

(i) has entered the equivalent of the systems development and demonstration phase of acquisition; or

(ii) is being produced and acquired for operational fielding.

(B) Provide unit cost reporting data for each ballistic missile defense system element covered by subparagraph (A), and secure independent estimation and verification of such cost reporting data.

(C) Include, in the budget justification materials described in subsection (a), a description of actions being taken in the fiscal year in which such materials are submitted, and the actions to be taken in the fiscal year covered by such materials, to achieve such objectives.

(3) SPECIFICATION OF BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM ELEMENTS.—The ballistic missile defense system elements that, as of October 2007, are ballistic missile defense system elements covered by paragraph (2)(A) are the following elements:

(A) Ground-based Midcourse Defense.

(B) Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense.

(C) Terminal High Altitude Area Defense.

(D) Forward-Based X-band radar-Transportable (AN/TPY–2).

(E) Command, Control, Battle Management, and Communications.

(F) Sea-Based X-band radar.

(G) Upgraded Early Warning radars.

SEC. 224. LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR REPLACING WARHEAD ON SM–3 BLOCK IIA MISSILE.

None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available pursuant to an authorization of appropriations in this Act may be obligated or expended to replace the unitary warhead on the SM–3 Block IIA missile with the Multiple Kill Vehicle until after the Secretary of Defense certifies to Congress that—

(1) the United States and Japan have reached an agreement to replace the unitary warhead on the SM–3 Block IIA missile; and

(2) replacing the unitary warhead on the SM–3 Block IIA missile with the Multiple Kill Vehicle will not delay the expected deployment date of 2014–2015 for that missile.

SEC. 225. EXTENSION OF COMPTROLLER GENERAL ASSESSMENTS OF BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE PROGRAMS.

Section 232(g) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (10 U.S.C. 2431 note) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''through 2008'' and inserting ''through 2013''; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''through 2009'' and inserting ''through 2014''.

SEC. 226. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR PROCUREMENT, CONSTRUCTION, AND DEPLOYMENT OF MISSILE DEFENSES IN EUROPE.

(a) GENERAL LIMITATION.—No funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act may be obligated or expended for procurement, site activation, construction, preparation of equipment for, or deployment of a long-range missile defense system in Europe until the following conditions have been met:

(1) The governments of the countries in which major components of such missile defense system (including interceptors and associated radars) are proposed to be deployed have each given final approval to any missile defense agreements negotiated between such governments and the United States Government concerning the proposed deployment of such components in their countries.

(2) Forty-five days have elapsed following the receipt by Congress of the report required under subsection (c)(6).

(b) ADDITIONAL LIMITATION.—In addition to the limitation in subsection (a), no funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act may be obligated or expended for the acquisition or deployment of operational missiles of a long-range missile defense system in Europe until the Secretary of Defense, after receiving the views of the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation, submits to Congress a report certifying that the proposed interceptor to be deployed as part of such missile defense system has demonstrated, through successful, operationally realistic flight testing, a high probability of working in an operationally effective manner.

(c) REPORT ON INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT FOR BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE IN EUROPE.—

(1) INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall select a federally funded research and development center to conduct an independent assessment of options for ballistic missile defense for forward deployed forces of the United States and its allies in Europe and for the United States homeland.

(2) ANALYSIS OF ADMINISTRATION PROPOSAL.—The study shall provide a full analysis of the Administration's proposal to protect forward-deployed forces of the United States and its allies in Europe, forward-deployed radars in Europe, and the United States by deploying, in Europe, interceptors and radars of the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense (GMD) system. In providing the analysis, the study shall examine each of the following matters:

(A) The threat to Europe and the United States of ballistic missiles (including short-range, medium-range, intermediate-range, and long-range ballistic missiles) from Iran, including the likelihood and timing of such threats.

(B) The technical capabilities of the system, as so deployed, to effectively protect forward-deployed forces of the United States and its allies in Europe, forward-deployed radars in Europe, and the United States against the threat specified in subparagraph (A).

(C) The degree of coverage of the European territory of members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

(D) The political implications of such a deployment on the United States, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and other interested parties.

(E) Integration and interoperability with North Atlantic Treaty Organization missile defenses.

(F) The operational issues associated with such a deployment, including operational effectiveness.

(G) The force structure implications of such a deployment, including a comparative analysis of alternative deployment options.

(H) The budgetary implications of such a deployment, including possible allied cost sharing, and the cost-effectiveness of such a deployment.

(I) Command and control arrangements, including any command and control roles for the United States European Command and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

(J) Potential opportunities for participation by the Government of Russia.

(3) ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES.—The study shall also provide a full analysis of alternative systems that could be deployed to fulfill, in whole or in part, the protective purposes of the Administration's proposal. The alternative systems shall include a range of feasible combinations of other missile defense systems that are available or are expected to be available as of 2015 and 2020. These should include, but not be limited to, the following:

(A) The Patriot PAC–3 system.

(B) The Medium Extended Air Defense System.

(C) The Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense system, with all variants of the Standard Missile–3 interceptor.

(D) The Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system.

(E) Forward-Based X-band Transportable (FBX–T) radars.

(F) The Kinetic Energy Interceptor (KEI).

(G) Other non-United States, North Atlantic Treaty Organization missile defense systems or components.

(4) MATTERS EXAMINED.—In providing the analysis, the study shall examine, for each alternative system included, each of the matters specified in paragraph (2).

(5) COOPERATION OF OTHER AGENCIES.—The Secretary of Defense shall provide the federally funded research and development center selected under paragraph (1) data, analyses, briefings, and other information as the center considers necessary to carry out the assessment described in that paragraph. Furthermore, the Director of National Intelligence and the heads of other departments and agencies of the United States Government shall also provide the center the appropriate data, analyses, briefings, and other information necessary for the purpose of carrying out the assessment described in that paragraph.

(6) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the federally funded research and development center shall submit to the congressional defense committees and the Secretary of Defense a report on the results of the study. The report shall be in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(7) FUNDING.—Of the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 201(4), $1,000,000 is available to carry out the study required by this subsection.

(d) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit continuing obligation and expenditure of funds for missile defense, including for research and development and for other activities not otherwise limited by subsection (a) or (b), including, but not limited to, site surveys, studies, analysis, and planning and design for the proposed missile defense deployment in Europe.

SEC. 227. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON MISSILE DEFENSE COOPERATION WITH ISRAEL.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the United States should have an active program of ballistic missile defense cooperation with Israel, and should take steps to improve the coordination, interoperability, and integration of United States and Israeli missile defense capabilities, and to enhance the capability of both nations to defend against ballistic missile threats present in the Middle East region.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the status of missile defense cooperation between the United States and Israel.

(2) CONTENT.—The report submitted under this subsection shall include each of the following:

(A) A description of the current program of ballistic missile defense cooperation between the United States and Israel, including its objectives and results to date.

(B) A description of steps taken within the previous five years to improve the interoperability and coordination of the missile defense capabilities of the United States and Israel.

(C) A description of steps planned to be taken by the governments of the United States and Israel in the future to improve the coordination, interoperability, and integration of their missile defense capabilities.

(D) A description of joint efforts of the United States and Israel to develop ballistic missile defense technologies.

(E) A description of joint missile defense exercises and training that have been conducted by the United States and Israel, and the lessons learned from those exercises.

(F) A description of the joint missile defense testing activities of the United States and Israel, past and planned, and the benefits of such joint testing activities.

(G) A description of how the United States and Israel share threat assessments regarding the ballistic missile threat.

(H) Any other matters that the Secretary considers appropriate.

SEC. 228. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR DEPLOYMENT OF MISSILE DEFENSE INTERCEPTORS IN ALASKA.

None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act may be obligated or expended to deploy more than 40 Ground-Based Interceptors at Fort Greely, Alaska, until the Secretary of Defense, after receiving the views of the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation, submits to Congress a certification that the Block 2006 Ground-based Midcourse Defense element of the Ballistic Missile Defense System has demonstrated, through operationally realistic end-to-end flight testing, that it has a high probability of working in an operationally effective manner.

SEC. 229. POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES ON PROTECTION OF THE UNITED STATES AND ITS ALLIES AGAINST IRANIAN BALLISTIC MISSILES.

(a) FINDING.—Congress finds that Iran maintains a nuclear program in continued defiance of the international community while developing ballistic missiles of increasing sophistication and range that—

(1) pose a threat to—

(A) the forward-deployed forces of the United States;

(B) North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies in Europe; and

(C) other allies and friendly foreign countries in the region; and

(2) eventually could pose a threat to the United States homeland.

(b) POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES.—It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to develop, test, and deploy, as soon as technologically feasible, in conjunction with allies and friendly foreign countries whenever possible, an effective defense against the threat from Iran described in subsection (a) that will provide protection—

(A) for the forward-deployed forces of the United States, NATO allies, and other allies and friendly foreign countries in the region; and

(B) for the United States homeland;

(2) to encourage the NATO alliance to accelerate its efforts to—

(A) protect NATO territory in Europe against the existing threat of Iranian short- and medium-range ballistic missiles; and

(B) facilitate the ability of NATO allies to acquire the missile defense systems needed to provide a wide-area defense capability against short- and medium-range ballistic missiles; and

(3) to proceed with the activities specified in paragraphs (1) and (2) in a manner such that any missile defense systems fielded by the United States in Europe are integrated with or complementary to missile defense systems fielded by NATO in Europe.

Subtitle D—Other Matters

SEC. 231. COORDINATION OF HUMAN SYSTEMS INTEGRATION ACTIVITIES RELATED TO ACQUISITION PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, acting through the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, shall coordinate and manage human systems integration activities throughout the acquisition programs of the Department of Defense.

(b) ADMINISTRATION.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall designate a senior official to be responsible for the effort.

(c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—In carrying out this section, the senior official designated in subsection (b) shall—

(1) coordinate the planning, management, and execution of such activities; and

(2) identify and recommend, as appropriate, resource requirements for human systems integration activities.

(d) DESIGNATION.—The designation required by subsection (b) shall be made not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 232. EXPANSION OF AUTHORITY FOR PROVISION OF LABORATORY FACILITIES, SERVICES, AND EQUIPMENT.

Section 2539b of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2) by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (3) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) make available to any person or entity, through leases, contracts, or other appropriate arrangements, facilities, services, and equipment of any government laboratory, research center, or range, if the facilities, services, and equipment provided will not be in direct competition with the domestic private sector.'';

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking ''for services''; and

(B) by striking ''subsection (a)(3)'' and inserting ''subsections (a)(3) and (a)(4)''; and

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) by striking ''for services made available''; and

(B) by striking ''subsection (a)(3)'' and inserting ''subsections (a)(3) and (a)(4)''.

SEC. 233. MODIFICATION OF COST SHARING REQUIREMENT FOR TECHNOLOGY TRANSITION INITIATIVE.

Paragraph (2) of section 2359a(f) of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(2) The amount of funds provided to a project under paragraph (1) by the military department or Defense Agency concerned shall be the appropriate share of the military department or Defense Agency, as the case may be, of the cost of the project, as determined by the Manager.''.

SEC. 234. REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than September 1, 2008, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a report on the implementation of the technologies and processes developed under the Manufacturing Technology Program required by section 2521 of title 10, United States Code.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report shall identify each technology or process implemented and, for each such technology or process, shall identify—

(1) the project of the Manufacturing Technology Program through which the technology or process was developed, the Federal and non-Federal participants in that project, and the duration of the project;

(2) the organization or program implementing the technology or process, and a description of the implementation;

(3) the funding required to implement the technology or process, including—

(A) funds provided by military departments and Defense Agencies under the Manufacturing Technology Program;

(B) funds provided by the Department of Defense, or any element of the Department, to co-develop the technology or process;

(C) to the maximum extent practicable, funds provided by the Department of Defense, or any element of the Department, to—

(i) mature the technology or process prior to transition to the Manufacturing Technology Program; and

(ii) provide for the implementation of the technology or process;

(4) the total value of industry cost share, if applicable;

(5) if applicable, the total value of cost avoidance or cost savings directly attributable to the implementation of the technology or process; and

(6) a description of any system performance enhancements, technology performance enhancements, or improvements in a manufacturing readiness level of a system or a technology.

(c) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term ''implementation'' refers to—

(1) the use of a technology or process in the manufacture of defense materiel;

(2) the inclusion of a technology or process in the systems engineering plan for a program of record; or

(3) the use of a technology or process for the manufacture of commercial items.

(d) SCOPE.—The report shall include technologies or processes developed with funds appropriated or otherwise made available for the Manufacturing Technology programs of the military departments and Defense Agencies for fiscal years 2003 through 2005.

SEC. 235. ASSESSMENT OF SUFFICIENCY OF TEST AND EVALUATION PERSONNEL.

(a) ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.—The Director of Operational Test and Evaluation shall assess whether the Director's professional staff meets the requirement of section 139(j) of title 10, United States Code, that the staff be sufficient to carry out the Director's duties and responsibilities.

(b) INCLUSION IN REPORT.—The Director shall include the results of the assessment in the report, required by section 139(g) of title 10, United States Code, summarizing the operational test and evaluation activities during fiscal year 2007.

SEC. 236. REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT FOR SEPARATE REPORTS ON TECHNOLOGY AREA REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT SUMMARIES.

Subsection (c) of section 253 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109–163; 119 Stat. 3179; 10 U.S.C. 2501 note) is repealed.

SEC. 237. MODIFICATION OF NOTICE AND WAIT REQUIREMENT FOR OBLIGATION OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN COMPARATIVE TEST PROGRAM.

Paragraph (3) of section 2350a(g) of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(3) The Director of Defense Research and Engineering shall notify the congressional defense committees of the intent to obligate funds made available to carry out this subsection not less than 7 days before such funds are obligated.''.

SEC. 238. STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2521 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(e) FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN.—(1) The Secretary shall develop a plan for the program that includes the following:

''(A) The overall manufacturing technology goals, milestones, priorities, and investment strategy for the program.

''(B) The objectives of, and funding for, the program for each military department and each Defense Agency that shall participate in the program during the period of the plan.

''(2) The Secretary shall include in the plan mechanisms for assessing the effectiveness of the program under the plan.

''(3) The Secretary shall update the plan on a biennial basis.

''(4) Each plan, and each update to the plan, shall cover a period of five fiscal years.''.

(b) INITIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SUBMISSION OF PLAN.—

(1) DEVELOPMENT.—The Secretary of Defense shall develop the strategic plan required by subsection (e) of section 2521 of title 10, United States Code (as added by subsection (a) of this section), so that the plan goes into effect at the beginning of fiscal year 2009.

(2) SUBMISSION.—Not later than the date on which the budget of the President for fiscal year 2010 is submitted to Congress under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives the plan specified in paragraph (1).

SEC. 239. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITIES ON COORDINATION OF DEFENSE EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM TO STIMULATE COMPETITIVE RESEARCH WITH SIMILAR FEDERAL PROGRAMS.

Section 257(e)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1995 (10 U.S.C. 2358 note) is amended by striking ''shall'' each place it appears and inserting ''may''.

SEC. 240. ENHANCEMENT OF DEFENSE NANOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

(a) PROGRAM PURPOSES.—Subsection (b) of section 246 of the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107–314; 116 Stat. 2500; 10 U.S.C. 2358 note) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking ''in nanoscale research and development'' and inserting ''in the National Nanotechnology Initiative and with the National Nanotechnology Coordination Office under section 3 of the 21st Century Nanotechnology Research and Development Act (15 U.S.C. 7502)''; and

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking ''portfolio of fundamental and applied nanoscience and engineering research initiatives'' and inserting ''portfolio of nanotechnology research and development initiatives''.

(b) PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) ADMINISTRATION THROUGH UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR ACQUISITION, TECHNOLOGY, AND LOGISTICS.—Subsection (c) of such section is amended—

(A) by striking ''the Director of Defense Research and Engineering'' and inserting ''the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics''; and

(B) by striking ''The Director'' and inserting ''The Under Secretary''.

(2) OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.—Such subsection is further amended—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking ''the Department's increased investment in nanotechnology research and development and the National Nanotechnology Initiative; and'' and inserting ''investments by the Department and other departments and agencies participating in the National Nanotechnology Initiative in nanotechnology research and development;'';

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(4) oversee Department of Defense participation in interagency coordination of the program with other departments and agencies participating in the National Nanotechnology Initiative.''.

(c) PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.—Such section is further amended—

(1) by striking subsection (d); and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection (d):

''(d) STRATEGIC PLAN.—The Under Secretary shall develop and maintain a strategic plan for defense nanotechnology research and development that—

''(1) is integrated with the strategic plan for the National Nanotechnology Initiative and the strategic plans of the Director of Defense Research and Engineering, the military departments, and the Defense Agencies; and

''(2) includes a clear strategy for transitioning the research into products needed by the Department.''.

(d) REPORTS.—Such section is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(e) REPORTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 1 of each of 2009, 2011, and 2013, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the program.

''(2) MATTERS INCLUDED.—Each report under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

''(A) A review of—

''(i) the long-term challenges and specific technical goals of the program; and

''(ii) the progress made toward meeting such challenges and achieving such goals.

''(B) An assessment of current and proposed funding levels for the program, including an assessment of the adequacy of such funding levels to support program activities.

''(C) A review of the coordination of activities under the program within the Department of Defense, with other departments and agencies of the United States, and with the National Nanotechnology Initiative.

''(D) A review and analysis of the findings and recommendations relating to the Department of Defense of the most recent triennial external review of the National Nanotechnology Program under section 5 of the 21st Century Nanotechnology Research and Development Act (15 U.S.C. 1704), and a description of initiatives of the Department to implement such recommendations.

''(E) An assessment of technology transition from nanotechnology research and development to enhanced warfighting capabilities, including contributions from the Department of Defense Small Business Innovative Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Research programs, and the Department of Defense Manufacturing Technology program, and an identification of acquisition programs and deployed defense systems that are incorporating nanotechnologies.

''(F) An assessment of global nanotechnology research and development in areas of interest to the Department, including an identification of the use of nanotechnologies in any foreign defense systems.

''(G) An assessment of the defense nanotechnology manufacturing and industrial base and its capability to meet the near and far term requirements of the Department.

''(H) Such recommendations for additional activities under the program to meet emerging national security requirements as the Under Secretary considers appropriate.

''(3) CLASSIFICATION.—Each report under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.''.

SEC. 241. FEDERALLY FUNDED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER ASSESSMENT OF THE DEFENSE EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM TO STIMULATE COMPETITIVE RESEARCH.

(a) ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense shall—

(1) utilize a defense federally funded research and development center to carry out an assessment of the effectiveness of the Defense Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research; and

(2) not later than nine months after the date of the enactment of this Act, submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on that assessment.

(b) MATTERS ASSESSED.—The report under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A description and assessment of the tangible results and progress toward the objectives of the program, including—

(A) an identification of any past program activities that led to, or were fundamental to, applications used by, or supportive of, operational users; and

(B) an assessment of whether the program has expanded the national research infrastructure.

(2) An assessment whether the activities undertaken under the program are consistent with the statute authorizing the program.

(3) An assessment whether the various elements of the program, such as structure, funding, staffing, project solicitation and selection, and administration, are working effectively and efficiently to support the effective execution of the program.

(4) A description and assessment of past and ongoing activities of State planning committees under the program in supporting the achievement of the objectives of the program.

(5) An analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of having an institution-based formula for qualification to participate in the program when compared with the advantages and disadvantages of having a State-based formula for qualification to participate in supporting defense missions and the objective of expanding the Nation's defense research infrastructure.

(6) An identification of mechanisms for improving the management and implementation of the program, including modification of the statute authorizing the program, Department regulations, program structure, funding levels, funding strategy, or the activities of the State committees.

(7) Any other matters the Secretary considers appropriate.

SEC. 242. COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS OF PROPOSED FUNDING REDUCTION FOR HIGH ENERGY LASER SYSTEMS TEST FACILITY.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report containing a cost-benefit analysis of the proposed reduction in Army research, development, test, and evaluation funding for the High Energy Laser Systems Test Facility.

(b) EVALUATION OF IMPACT ON OTHER MILITARY DEPARTMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include an evaluation of the impact of the proposed reduction in funding on each Department of Defense organization or activity that utilizes the High Energy Laser Systems Test Facility.

SEC. 243. PROMPT GLOBAL STRIKE.

(a) RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND TESTING PLAN.—The Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a research, development, and testing plan for prompt global strike program objectives for fiscal years 2008 through 2013.

(b) PLAN FOR OBLIGATION AND EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics shall submit to the congressional defense committees a plan for obligation and expenditure of funds available for prompt global strike for fiscal year 2008. The plan shall include correlations between each technology application being developed in fiscal year 2008 and the prompt global strike alternative or alternatives toward which the technology application applies.

(2) LIMITATION.—The Under Secretary shall not implement the plan required by paragraph (1) until at least 10 days after the plan is submitted as required by that paragraph.

TITLE III—OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Subtitle A—Authorization of Appropriations

Sec. 301. Operation and maintenance funding.

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Sec. 311. Reimbursement of Environmental Protection Agency for certain costs in connection with Moses Lake Wellfield Superfund Site, Moses Lake, Washington.

Sec. 312. Reimbursement of Environmental Protection Agency for certain costs in connection with the Arctic Surplus Superfund Site, Fairbanks, Alaska.

Sec. 313. Payment to Environmental Protection Agency of stipulated penalties in connection with Jackson Park Housing Complex, Washington.

Sec. 314. Report on control of the brown tree snake.

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Subtitle D—Extension of Program Authorities

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Sec. 358. Review of high-altitude aviation training.

Sec. 359. Reports on safety measures and encroachment issues and master plan for Warren Grove Gunnery Range, New Jersey.

Sec. 360. Report on search and rescue capabilities of the Air Force in the northwestern United States.

Sec. 361. Report and master infrastructure recapitalization plan for Cheyenne Mountain Air Station, Colorado.

Subtitle F—Other Matters

Sec. 371. Enhancement of corrosion control and prevention functions within Department of Defense.

Sec. 372. Authority for Department of Defense to provide support for certain sporting events.

Sec. 373. Authority to impose reasonable restrictions on payment of full replacement value for lost or damaged personal property transported at Government expense.

Sec. 374. Priority transportation on Department of Defense aircraft of retired members residing in Commonwealths and possessions of the United States for certain health care services.
Sec. 375. Recovery of missing military property.
Sec. 376. Retention of combat uniforms by members of the Armed Forces deployed in support of contingency operations.
Sec. 377. Issue of serviceable material of the Navy other than to Armed Forces.
Sec. 378. Reauthorization of Aviation Insurance Program.

Subtitle A—Authorization of Appropriations

SEC. 301. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FUNDING.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2008 for the use of the Armed Forces and other activities and agencies of the Department of Defense for expenses, not otherwise provided for, for operation and maintenance, in amounts as follows:

(1) For the Army, $28,787,219,000.
(2) For the Navy, $33,355,683,000.
(3) For the Marine Corps, $4,967,193,000.
(4) For the Air Force, $33,118,462,000.
(5) For Defense-wide activities, $22,500,253,000.
(6) For the Army Reserve, $2,509,862,000.
(7) For the Navy Reserve, $1,186,883,000.
(8) For the Marine Corps Reserve, $208,637,000.
(9) For the Air Force Reserve, $2,821,817,000.
(10) For the Army National Guard, $5,857,409,000.
(11) For the Air National Guard, $5,456,668,000.
(12) For the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, $11,971,000.
(13) For Environmental Restoration, Army, $434,879,000.
(14) For Environmental Restoration, Navy, $300,591,000.
(15) For Environmental Restoration, Air Force, $458,428,000.
(16) For Environmental Restoration, Defense-wide, $12,751,000.
(17) For Environmental Restoration, Formerly Used Defense Sites, $270,249,000.
(18) For Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster, and Civic Aid programs, $103,300,000.
(19) For Former Soviet Union Threat Reduction programs, $428,048,000.
(20) For the Overseas Contingency Operations Transfer Fund, $5,000,000.

Subtitle B—Environmental Provisions

SEC. 311. REIMBURSEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY FOR CERTAIN COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH MOSES LAKE WELLFIELD SUPERFUND SITE, MOSES LAKE, WASHINGTON.

(a) AUTHORITY TO REIMBURSE.—

(1) TRANSFER AMOUNT.—Using funds described in subsection (b), the Secretary of Defense may, notwithstanding section 2215 of title 10, United States Code, transfer not more than $91,588.51 to the Moses Lake Wellfield Superfund Site 10–6J Special Account.

(2) PURPOSE OF REIMBURSEMENT.—The payment under paragraph (1) is to reimburse the Environmental Protection Agency for its costs incurred in overseeing a remedial investigation/feasibility study performed by the Department of the Army under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program at the former Larson Air Force Base, Moses Lake Superfund Site, Moses Lake, Washington.

(3) INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT.—The reimbursement described in paragraph (2) is provided for in the interagency agreement entered into by the Department of the Army and the Environmental Protection Agency for the Moses Lake Wellfield Superfund Site in March 1999.

(b) SOURCE OF FUNDS.—Any payment under subsection (a) shall be made using funds authorized to be appropriated by section 301(16) for operation and maintenance for Environmental Restoration, Defense-wide.

(c) USE OF FUNDS.—The Environmental Protection Agency shall use the amount transferred under subsection (a) to pay costs incurred by the Agency at the Moses Lake Wellfield Superfund Site.

SEC. 312. REIMBURSEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY FOR CERTAIN COSTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE ARCTIC SURPLUS SUPERFUND SITE, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA.

(a) AUTHORITY TO REIMBURSE.—

(1) TRANSFER AMOUNT.—Using funds described in subsection (b), the Secretary of Defense may, notwithstanding section 2215 of title 10, United States Code, transfer not more than $186,625.38 to the Hazardous Substance Superfund.

(2) PURPOSE OF REIMBURSEMENT.—The payment under paragraph (1) is to reimburse the Environmental Protection Agency for costs incurred pursuant to the agreement known as ''In the Matter of Arctic Surplus Superfund Site, U.S. EPA Docket Number CERCLA–10–2003–0114: Administrative Order on Consent for Remedial Design and Remedial Action'', entered into by the Department of Defense and the Environmental Protection Agency on December 11, 2003.

(b) SOURCE OF FUNDS.—Any payment under subsection (a) shall be made using funds authorized to be appropriated by section 301(16) for operation and maintenance for Environmental Restoration, Defense-wide.

(c) USE OF FUNDS.—The Environmental Protection Agency shall use the amount transferred under subsection (a) to pay costs incurred by the Agency pursuant to the agreement described in paragraph (2) of such subsection.

SEC. 313. PAYMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY OF STIPULATED PENALTIES IN CONNECTION WITH JACKSON PARK HOUSING COMPLEX, WASHINGTON.

(a) AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER FUNDS.—

(1) TRANSFER AMOUNT.—Using funds described in subsection (b), the Secretary of the Navy may, notwithstanding section 2215 of title 10, United States Code, transfer not more than $40,000.00 to the Hazardous Substance Superfund.

(2) PURPOSE OF TRANSFER.—The payment under paragraph (1) is to pay a stipulated penalty assessed by the Environmental Protection Agency on October 25, 2005, against the Jackson Park Housing Complex, Washington, for the failure by the Navy to timely submit a draft final Phase II Remedial Investigation Work Plan for the Jackson Park Housing Complex Operable Unit (OU–3T–JPHC) pursuant to a schedule included in an Interagency Agreement (Administrative Docket No. CERCLA–10–2005–0023).

(b) SOURCE OF FUNDS.—Any payment under subsection (a) shall be made using funds authorized to be appropriated by section 301(14) for operation and maintenance for Environmental Restoration, Navy.

(c) USE OF FUNDS.—The amount transferred under subsection (a) shall be used by the Environmental Protection Agency to pay the penalty described under paragraph (2) of such subsection.

SEC. 314. REPORT ON CONTROL OF THE BROWN TREE SNAKE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The brown tree snake (*Boiga irregularis*), an invasive species, is found in significant numbers on military installations and in other areas on Guam, and constitutes a serious threat to the ecology of Guam.

(2) If introduced into Hawaii, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or the continental United States, the brown tree snake would pose an immediate and serious economic and ecological threat.

(3) The most probable vector for the introduction of the brown tree snake into Hawaii, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or the continental United States is the movement from Guam of military aircraft, personnel, and cargo, including the household goods of military personnel and other military assets.

(4) It is probable that the movement of military aircraft, personnel, and cargo, including the household goods of military personnel, from Guam to Hawaii, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or the continental United States will increase significantly coincident with the increase in the number of military units and personnel stationed on Guam.

(5) Current policies, programs, procedures, and dedicated resources of the Department of Defense and of other departments and agencies of the United States may not be sufficient to adequately address the management, control, and eradication of the brown tree snake on Guam and the increasing threat of the introduction of the brown tree snake from Guam into Hawaii, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the continental United States, or other non-native environments.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the following:

(1) The actions currently being taken (including the resources being made available) by the Department of Defense to control, and to develop new or existing techniques to control, the brown tree snake on Guam and to prevent the introduction of the brown tree snake into Hawaii, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island, the continental United States, or any other non-native environment as a result of the movement from Guam of military aircraft, personnel, and cargo, including the household goods of military personnel and other military assets. Such actions shall include any actions taken by the Department of Defense to implement the recommendations of the Brown Tree Snake Review Panel commissioned by the Department of the Interior, as contained in the Review Panel's final report entitled ''Review of Brown Tree Snake Problems and Control Programs'' published in March 2005.

(2) Current plans for enhanced future actions, policies, and procedures and increased levels of resources in order to ensure that the projected increase of military personnel stationed on Guam does not increase the threat of introduction of the brown tree snake from Guam into Hawaii, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the continental United States, or other non-native environments.

(3) The results of management, control, and eradication carried out by the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, before the date on which the report is submitted with respect to brown tree snakes through the integrated natural resource management plans prepared for military installations in Guam under the pilot program authorized by section 101(g) of the Sikes Act (16 U.S.C. 670a(g)).

SEC. 315. NOTIFICATION OF CERTAIN RESIDENTS AND CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES AT CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA, OF EXPOSURE TO DRINKING WATER CONTAMINATION.

(a) NOTIFICATION OF INDIVIDUALS SERVED BY TARAWA TERRACE WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM, INCLUDING KNOX TRAILER PARK.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Navy shall make reasonable efforts to identify and notify directly individuals who were served by the Tarawa Terrace Water Distribution System, including Knox Trailer Park, at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, during the years 1958 through 1987 that they may have been exposed to drinking water contaminated with tetrachloroethylene (PCE).

(b) NOTIFICATION OF INDIVIDUALS SERVED BY HADNOT POINT WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM.—Not later than 1 year after the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) completes its water modeling study of the Hadnot Point water distribution system, the Secretary of the Navy shall make reasonable efforts to identify and notify directly individuals who were served by the system during the period identified in the study of the drinking water contamination to which they may have been exposed.

(c) NOTIFICATION OF FORMER CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES AT CAMP LEJEUNE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Navy shall make reasonable efforts to identify and notify directly civilian employees who worked at Camp Lejeune during the period identified in the ATSDR drinking water study of the drinking water contamination to which they may have been exposed.

(d) CIRCULATION OF HEALTH SURVEY.—

(1) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(A) Notification and survey efforts related to the drinking water contamination described in this section are necessary due to the potential negative health impacts of these contaminants.

(B) The Secretary of the Navy will not be able to identify or contact all former residents and former employees due to the condition, non-existence, or accessibility of records.

(C) It is the intent of Congress that the Secretary of the Navy contact as many former residents and former employees as quickly as possible.

(2) ATSDR HEALTH SURVEY.—

(A) DEVELOPMENT.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the ATSDR, in consultation with a well-qualified contractor selected by the ATSDR, shall develop a health survey that would voluntarily request of individuals described in subsections (a), (b), and (c) personal health information that may lead to scientifically useful health information associated with exposure to trichloroethylene (TCE), PCE, vinyl chloride, and the other contaminants identified in the ATSDR studies that may provide a basis for further reliable scientific studies of potentially adverse health impacts of exposure to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune.

(ii) FUNDING.—The Secretary of the Navy is authorized to provide from available funds the necessary funding for the ATSDR to develop the health survey.

(B) INCLUSION WITH NOTIFICATION.—The survey developed under subparagraph (A) shall be distributed by the Secretary of the Navy concurrently with the direct notification required under subsections (a), (b), and (c).

(e) USE OF MEDIA TO SUPPLEMENT NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary of the Navy may use media notification as a supplement to direct notification of individuals described under subsections (a), (b), and (c). Media notification may reach those individuals not identifiable via remaining records. Once individuals respond to media notifications, the Secretary will add them to the contact list to be included in future information updates.

Subtitle C—Workplace and Depot Issues

SEC. 321. AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS IN DEFENSE INFORMATION SYSTEMS AGENCY WORKING CAPITAL FUND FOR TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES TO DEFENSE INFORMATION SYSTEMS NETWORK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 2208 of title 10, United States Code, funds in the Defense Information Systems Agency Working Capital Fund may be used for expenses directly related to technology upgrades to the Defense Information Systems Network.

(b) LIMITATION ON CERTAIN PROJECTS.—Funds may not be used under subsection (a) for—

(1) any technology insertion to the Defense Information Systems Network that significantly changes the performance envelope of an end item; or

(2) any component with an estimated total cost in excess of $500,000.

(c) LIMITATION IN FISCAL YEAR PENDING TIMELY REPORT.—If in any fiscal year the report required by paragraph (1) of subsection (d) is not submitted by the date specified in paragraph (2) of subsection (d), funds may not be used under subsection (a) in such fiscal year during the period—

(1) beginning on the date specified in paragraph (2) of subsection (d); and

(2) ending on the date of the submittal of the report under paragraph (1) of subsection (d).

(d) ANNUAL REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Defense Information Systems Agency shall submit to the congressional defense committees each fiscal year a report on the use of the authority in subsection (a) during the preceding fiscal year.

(2) DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTAL.—The report required by paragraph (1) in a fiscal year shall be submitted not later than 60 days after the date of the submittal to Congress of the budget of the President for the succeeding fiscal year pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code.

(e) SUNSET.—The authority in subsection (a) shall expire on October 1, 2011.

SEC. 322. MODIFICATION TO PUBLIC-PRIVATE COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS BEFORE CONVERSION TO CONTRACTOR PERFORMANCE.

(a) COMPARISON OF RETIREMENT SYSTEM COSTS.—Section 2461(a)(1) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (F), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (G) as subparagraph (H); and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (F) the following new subparagraph (G):

''(G) requires that the contractor shall not receive an advantage for a proposal that would reduce costs for the Department of Defense by—

''(i) not making an employer-sponsored health insurance plan (or payment that could be used in lieu of such a plan), health savings account, or medical savings account available to the workers who are to be employed to perform the function under the contract;

''(ii) offering to such workers an employer-sponsored health benefits plan that requires the employer to contribute less towards the premium or subscription share than the amount that is paid by the Department of Defense for health benefits for civilian employees of the Department under chapter 89 of title 5; or

''(iii) offering to such workers a retirement benefit that, in any year, costs less than the annual retirement cost factor applicable to civilian employees of the Department of Defense under chapter 84 of title 5; and''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such title is further amended—

(1) by striking section 2467; and

(2) in section 2461—

(A) by redesignating subsections (b) through (d) as subsections (c) through (e), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subsection (a) the following new subsection (b):

''(b) REQUIREMENT TO CONSULT DOD EMPLOYEES.—(1) Each officer or employee of the Department of Defense responsible for determining under Office of Management and Budget Circular A–76 whether to convert to contractor performance any function of the Department of Defense—

''(A) shall, at least monthly during the development and preparation of the performance work statement and the management efficiency study used in making that determination, consult with civilian employees who will be affected by that determination and consider the views of such employees on the development and preparation of that statement and that study; and

''(B) may consult with such employees on other matters relating to that determination.

''(2)(A) In the case of employees represented by a labor organization accorded exclusive recognition under section 7111 of title 5, consultation with representatives of that labor organization shall satisfy the consultation requirement in paragraph (1).

''(B) In the case of employees other than employees referred to in subparagraph (A), consultation with appropriate representatives of those employees shall satisfy the consultation requirement in paragraph (1).

''(C) The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regulations to carry out this subsection. The regulations shall include provisions for the selection or designation of appropriate representatives of employees referred to in subparagraph (B) for purposes of the consultation required by paragraph (1).''.

(c) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—Section 2461 of such title, as amended by this section, is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by inserting after ''2003'' the following: '', or any successor circular''; and

(B) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''and reliability'' and inserting '', reliability, and timeliness''; and

(2) in subsection (c)(2), as redesignated by subsection (b)(2), by inserting ''of'' after ''examination''.

(d) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 146 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 2467.

SEC. 323. PUBLIC-PRIVATE COMPETITION AT END OF PERIOD SPECIFIED IN PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT NOT REQUIRED.

Section 2461(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(4) A military department or Defense Agency may not be required to conduct a public-private competition under Office of Management and Budget Circular A–76 or any other provision of law at the end of the performance period specified in a letter of obligation or other agreement entered into with Department of Defense civilian employees pursuant to a public-private competition for any function of the Department of Defense performed by Department of Defense civilian employees.''.

SEC. 324. GUIDELINES ON INSOURCING NEW AND CONTRACTED OUT FUNCTIONS.

(a) CODIFICATION AND REVISION OF REQUIREMENT FOR GUIDELINES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 146 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 2462 the following new section:

"§ 2463. Guidelines and procedures for use of civilian employees to perform Department of Defense functions

''(a) GUIDELINES REQUIRED.—(1) The Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness shall devise and implement guidelines and procedures to ensure that consideration is given to using, on a regular basis, Department of Defense civilian employees to perform new functions and functions that are performed by contractors and could be performed by Department of Defense civilian employees. The Secretary of a military department may prescribe supplemental regulations, if the Secretary determines such regulations are necessary for implementing such guidelines within that military department.

''(2) The guidelines and procedures required under paragraph (1) may not include any specific limitation or restriction on the number of functions or activities that may be converted to performance by Department of Defense civilian employees.

''(b) SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR CERTAIN FUNCTIONS.—The guidelines and procedures required under subsection (a) shall provide for special consideration to be given to using Department of Defense civilian employees to perform any function that—

''(1) is performed by a contractor and—

''(A) has been performed by Department of Defense civilian employees at any time during the previous 10 years;

''(B) is a function closely associated with the performance of an inherently governmental function;

''(C) has been performed pursuant to a contract awarded on a non-competitive basis; or

''(D) has been performed poorly, as determined by a contracting officer during the 5-year period preceding the date of such determination, because of excessive costs or inferior quality; or

''(2) is a new requirement, with particular emphasis given to a new requirement that is similar to a function previously performed by Department of Defense civilian employees or is a function closely associated with the performance of an inherently governmental function.

''(c) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN FUNCTIONS FROM COMPETITIONS.—The Secretary of Defense may not conduct a public-private competition under this chapter, Office of Management and Budget Circular A–76, or any other provision of law or regulation before—

''(1) in the case of a new Department of Defense function, assigning the performance of the function to Department of Defense civilian employees;

''(2) in the case of any Department of Defense function described in subsection (b), converting the function to performance by Department of Defense civilian employees; or

''(3) in the case of a Department of Defense function performed by Department of Defense civilian employees, expanding the scope of the function.

''(d) USE OF FLEXIBLE HIRING AUTHORITY.—(1) The Secretary of Defense may use the flexible hiring authority available to the Secretary under the National Security Personnel System, as established pursuant to section 9902 of title 5, to facilitate the performance by Department of Defense civilian employees of functions described in subsection (b).

''(2) The Secretary shall make use of the inventory required by section 2330a(c) of this title for the purpose of identifying functions that should be considered for performance by Department of Defense civilian employees pursuant to subsection (b).

''(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section the term 'functions closely associated with inherently governmental functions' has the meaning given that term in section 2383(b)(3) of this title.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2462 the following new item:

''2463. Guidelines and procedures for use of civilian employees to perform Department of Defense functions.''.

(3) DEADLINE FOR ISSUANCE OF GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES.—The Secretary of Defense shall implement the guidelines and procedures required under section 2463 of title 10, United States Code, as added by paragraph (1), by not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Department of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the implementation of this section and the amendments made by this section.

(c) CONFORMING REPEAL.—The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109–163) is amended by striking section 343.

SEC. 325. RESTRICTION ON OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET INFLUENCE OVER DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PUBLIC-PRIVATE COMPETITIONS.

(a) RESTRICTION ON OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.—The Office of Management and Budget may not direct or require the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of a military department to prepare for, undertake, continue, or complete a public-private competition or direct conversion of a Department of Defense function to performance by a contractor under Office of Management and Budget Circular A–76, or any other successor regulation, directive, or policy.

(b) RESTRICTION ON SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.—The Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of a military department may not prepare for, undertake, continue, or complete a public-private competition or direct conversion of a Department of Defense function to performance by a contractor under Office of Management and Budget Circular A–76, or any other successor regulation, directive, or policy by reason of any direction or requirement provided by the Office of Management and Budget.

(c) INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW.—

(1) COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW REQUIRED.—The Inspector General of the Department of Defense shall conduct a comprehensive review of the compliance of the Secretary of Defense and the Secretaries of the military departments with the requirements of this section during calendar year 2008. The Inspector General shall submit to the congressional defense committees the following reports on the comprehensive review:

(A) An interim report, to be submitted by not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(B) A final report, to be submitted by not later than December 31, 2008.

(2) INSPECTOR GENERAL ACCESS.—For the purpose of determining compliance with the requirements of this section, the Secretary of Defense shall ensure that the Inspector General has access to all Department records of relevant communications between Department officials and officials of other departments and agencies of the Federal Government, whether such communications occurred inside or outside of the Department.

SEC. 326. BID PROTESTS BY FEDERAL EMPLOYEES IN ACTIONS UNDER OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET CIRCULAR A–76.

(a) ELIGIBILITY TO PROTEST PUBLIC-PRIVATE COMPETITIONS.—Section 3551(2) of title 31, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(2) The term 'interested party'—

''(A) with respect to a contract or a solicitation or other request for offers described in paragraph (1), means an actual or prospective bidder or offeror whose direct economic interest would be affected by the award of the contract or by failure to award the contract; and

''(B) with respect to a public-private competition conducted under Office of Management and Budget Circular A–76 with respect to the performance of an activity or function of a Federal agency, or a decision to convert a function performed by Federal employees to private sector performance without a competition under Office of Management and Budget Circular A–76, includes—

''(i) any official who submitted the agency tender in such competition; and

''(ii) any one individual who, for the purpose of representing the Federal employees engaged in the performance of the activity or function for which the public-private competition is conducted in a protest under this subchapter that relates to such public-private competition, has been designated as the agent of the Federal employees by a majority of such employees.''.

(b) EXPEDITED ACTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter V of chapter 35 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"§ 3557. Expedited action in protests of Public-Private competitions

''For any protest of a public-private competition conducted under Office of Management and Budget Circular A–76 with respect to the performance of an activity or function of a Federal agency, the Comptroller General shall administer the provisions of this subchapter in the manner best suited for expediting the final resolution of the protest and the final action in the public-private competition.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The chapter analysis at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3556 the following new item:

''3557. Expedited action in protests of public-private competitions.''.

(c) RIGHT TO INTERVENE IN CIVIL ACTION.—Section 1491(b) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(5) If an interested party who is a member of the private sector commences an action described in paragraph (1) with respect to a public-private competition conducted under Office of Management and Budget Circular A–76 regarding the performance of an activity or function of a Federal agency, or a decision to convert a function performed by Federal employees to private sector performance without a competition under Office of Management and Budget Circular A–76, then an interested party described in section 3551(2)(B) of title 31 shall be entitled to intervene in that action.''.

(d) APPLICABILITY.—Subparagraph (B) of section 3551(2) of title 31, United States Code (as added by subsection (a)), and paragraph (5) of section 1491(b) of title 28, United States Code (as added by subsection (c)), shall apply to—

(1) a protest or civil action that challenges final selection of the source of performance of an activity or function of a Federal agency that is made pursuant to a study initiated under Office of Management and Budget Circular A–76 on or after January 1, 2004; and

(2) any other protest or civil action that relates to a public-private competition initiated under Office of Management and Budget Circular A–76, or to a decision to convert a function performed by Federal employees to private sector performance without a competition under Office of Management and Budget Circular A–76, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 327. PUBLIC-PRIVATE COMPETITION REQUIRED BEFORE CONVERSION TO CONTRACTOR PERFORMANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 403 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 43. PUBLIC-PRIVATE COMPETITION REQUIRED BEFORE CONVERSION TO CONTRACTOR PERFORMANCE.

''(a) PUBLIC-PRIVATE COMPETITION.—(1) A function of an executive agency performed by 10 or more agency civilian employees may not be converted, in whole or in part, to performance by a contractor unless the conversion is based on the results of a public-private competition that—

''(A) formally compares the cost of performance of the function by agency civilian employees with the cost of performance by a contractor;

''(B) creates an agency tender, including a most efficient organization plan, in accordance with Office of Management and Budget Circular A–76, as implemented on May 29, 2003, or any successor circular;

''(C) includes the issuance of a solicitation;

''(D) determines whether the submitted offers meet the needs of the executive agency with respect to factors other than cost, including quality, reliability, and timeliness;

''(E) examines the cost of performance of the function by agency civilian employees and the cost of performance of the function by one or more contractors to demonstrate whether converting to performance by a contractor will result in savings to the Government over the life of the contract, including—

''(i) the estimated cost to the Government (based on offers received) for performance of the function by a contractor;

''(ii) the estimated cost to the Government for performance of the function by agency civilian employees; and

''(iii) an estimate of all other costs and expenditures that the Government would incur because of the award of such a contract;

''(F) requires continued performance of the function by agency civilian employees unless the difference in the cost of performance of the function by a contractor compared to the cost of performance of the function by agency civilian employees would, over all performance periods required by the solicitation, be equal to or exceed the lesser of—

''(i) 10 percent of the personnel-related costs for performance of that function in the agency tender; or

''(ii) $10,000,000; and

''(G) examines the effect of performance of the function by a contractor on the agency mission associated with the performance of the function.

''(2) A function that is performed by the executive agency and is reengineered, reorganized, modernized, upgraded, expanded, or changed to become more efficient, but still essentially provides the same service, shall not be considered a new requirement.

''(3) In no case may a function being performed by executive agency personnel be—

''(A) modified, reorganized, divided, or in any way changed for the purpose of exempting the conversion of the function from the requirements of this section; or

''(B) converted to performance by a contractor to circumvent a civilian personnel ceiling.

''(b) REQUIREMENT TO CONSULT EMPLOYEES.—(1) Each civilian employee of an executive agency responsible for determining under Office of Management and Budget Circular A–76 whether to convert to contractor performance any function of the executive agency—

''(A) shall, at least monthly during the development and preparation of the performance work statement and the management efficiency study used in making that determination, consult with civilian employees who will be affected by that determination and consider the views of such employees on the development and preparation of that statement and that study; and

''(B) may consult with such employees on other matters relating to that determination.

''(2)(A) In the case of employees represented by a labor organization accorded exclusive recognition under section 7111 of title 5, United States Code, consultation with representatives of that labor organization shall satisfy the consultation requirement in paragraph (1).

''(B) In the case of employees other than employees referred to in subparagraph (A), consultation with appropriate representatives of those employees shall satisfy the consultation requirement in paragraph (1).

''(C) The head of each executive agency shall prescribe regulations to carry out this subsection. The regulations shall include provisions for the selection or designation of appropriate representatives of employees referred to in paragraph (2)(B) for purposes of consultation required by paragraph (1).

''(c) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—(1) Before commencing a public-private competition under subsection (a), the head of an executive agency shall submit to Congress a report containing the following:

''(A) The function for which such public-private competition is to be conducted.

''(B) The location at which the function is performed by agency civilian employees.

''(C) The number of agency civilian employee positions potentially affected.

''(D) The anticipated length and cost of the public-private competition, and a specific identification of the budgetary line item from which funds will be used to cover the cost of the public-private competition.

''(E) A certification that a proposed performance of the function by a contractor is not a result of a decision by an official of an executive agency to impose predetermined constraints or limitations on such employees in terms of man years, end strengths, full-time equivalent positions, or maximum number of employees.

''(2) The report required under paragraph (1) shall include an examination of the potential economic effect of performance of the function by a contractor on—

''(A) agency civilian employees who would be affected by such a conversion in performance; and

''(B) the local community and the Government, if more than 50 agency civilian employees perform the function.

''(3)(A) A representative individual or entity at a facility where a public-private competition is conducted may submit to the head of the executive agency an objection to the public-private competition on the grounds that the report required by paragraph (1) has not been submitted or that the certification required by paragraph (1)(E) is not included in the report submitted as a condition for the public-private competition. The objection shall be in writing and shall be submitted within 90 days after the following date:

''(i) In the case of a failure to submit the report when required, the date on which the representative individual or an official of the representative entity authorized to pose the objection first knew or should have known of that failure.

''(ii) In the case of a failure to include the certification in a submitted report, the date on which the report was submitted to Congress.

''(B) If the head of the executive agency determines that the report required by paragraph (1) was not submitted or that the required certification was not included in the submitted report, the function for which the public-private competition was conducted for which the objection was submitted may not be the subject of a solicitation of offers for, or award of, a contract until, respectively, the report is submitted or a report containing the certification in full compliance with the certification requirement is submitted.

''(d) EXEMPTION FOR THE PURCHASE OF PRODUCTS AND SERVICES OF THE BLIND AND OTHER SEVERELY HANDICAPPED PERSONS.—This section shall not apply to a commercial or industrial type function of an executive agency that—

''(1) is included on the procurement list established pursuant to section 2 of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. 47); or

''(2) is planned to be changed to performance by a qualified nonprofit agency for the blind or by a qualified nonprofit agency for other severely handicapped persons in accordance with that Act.

''(e) INAPPLICABILITY DURING WAR OR EMERGENCY.—The provisions of this section shall not apply during war or during a period of national emergency declared by the President or Congress.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections in section 1(b) of such Act is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''Sec. 43. Public-private competition required before conversion to contractor performance.''.

SEC. 328. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR ARMY INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES TO ENGAGE IN COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES WITH NON-ARMY ENTITIES.

(a) EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY.—Section 4544 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following: ''This authority may be used to enter into not more than eight contracts or cooperative agreements.''; and

(2) in subsection (k), by striking ''2009'' and inserting ''2014''.

(b) REPORTS.—

(1) ANNUAL REPORT ON USE OF AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of the Army shall submit to Congress at the same time the budget of the President is submitted to Congress for fiscal years 2009 through 2016 under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, a report on the use of the authority provided under section 4544 of title 10, United States Code.

(2) ANALYSIS OF USE OF AUTHORITY.—Not later than September 30, 2012, the Secretary of the Army shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report assessing the advisability of making such authority permanent and eliminating the limitation on the number of contracts or cooperative arrangements that may be entered into pursuant to such authority.

SEC. 329. REAUTHORIZATION AND MODIFICATION OF MULTI-TRADES DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.

(a) REAUTHORIZATION AND EXPANSION.—Section 338 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (Public Law 108–136; 10 U.S.C. 5013 note) is amended—

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

''(a) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT AUTHORIZED.—In accordance with section 4703 of title 5, United States Code, the Secretary of

a military department may carry out a demonstration project under which workers who are certified at the journey level as able to perform multiple trades may be promoted by one grade level. A demonstration project under this subsection may be carried out as follows:

''(1) In the case of the Secretary of the Army, at one Army depot.

''(2) In the case of the Secretary of the Navy, at one Navy Fleet Readiness Center.

''(3) In the case of the Secretary of the Air Force, at one Air Force Logistics Center.'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking ''a Naval Aviation Depot'' and inserting ''an Air Force Air Logistics Center, Navy Fleet Readiness Center, or Army depot''; and

(B) by striking ''Secretary'' and inserting ''Secretary of the military department concerned'';

(3) by striking subsection (d) and redesignating subsections (e) through (g) as subsections (d) through (f), respectively;

(4) in subsection (d), as so redesignated, by striking ''2004 through 2006'' and inserting ''2008 through 2013'';

(5) in subsection (e), as so redesignated—

(A) by striking ''2007'' and inserting ''2014'';

(B) by inserting after ''Secretary'' the following ''of each military department that carried out a demonstration project under this section''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new sentence: ''Each such report shall include the Secretary's recommendation on whether permanent multi-trade authority should be authorized.''; and

(6) in subsection (f), as so redesignated—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking ''The Secretary'' and inserting ''Each Secretary who submits a report under subsection (e)''; and

(B) in the second sentence—

(i) by striking ''receiving the report'' and inserting ''receiving a report''; and

(ii) by striking ''evaluation of the report'' and inserting ''evaluation of that report''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The heading for such section is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 338. MULTI-TRADES DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.''.

SEC. 330. PILOT PROGRAM FOR AVAILABILITY OF WORKING-CAPITAL FUNDS TO ARMY FOR CERTAIN PRODUCT IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 2208 of title 10, United States Code, the Secretary of the Army may use a working-capital fund established pursuant to that section for expenses directly related to conducting a pilot program for a product improvement described in subsection (b).

(b) PRODUCT IMPROVEMENT.—A product improvement covered by the pilot program is the procurement and installation of a component or subsystem of a weapon system platform or major end item that would improve the reliability and maintainability, extend the useful life, enhance safety, lower maintenance costs, or provide performance enhancement of the weapon system platform or major end item.

(c) LIMITATION ON CERTAIN PROJECTS.—Funds may not be used under subsection (a) for—

(1) any product improvement that significantly changes the performance envelope of an end item; or

(2) any component with an estimated total cost in excess of $1,000,000.

(d) LIMITATION IN FISCAL YEAR PENDING TIMELY REPORT.—If during any fiscal year the report required by paragraph (1) of subsection (e) is not submitted by the date specified in paragraph (3) of that subsection, funds may not be used under subsection (a) in such fiscal year during the period—

(1) beginning on the date specified in paragraph (3) of subsection (e); and

(2) ending on the date of the submittal of the report under paragraph (1) of subsection (e).

(e) ANNUAL REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each fiscal year, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology, in consultation with the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management and Comptroller, shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the use of the authority in subsection (a) during the preceding fiscal year.

(2) RECOMMENDATION.—In the case of the report required to be submitted under paragraph (1) during fiscal year 2012, the report shall include the recommendation of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology regarding whether the authority under subsection (a) should be made permanent.

(3) DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTAL.—The report required by paragraph (1) in a fiscal year shall be submitted not later than 60 days after the date of the submittal to Congress of the budget of the President for the succeeding fiscal year pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code.

(f) SUNSET.—The authority under subsection (a) shall expire on October 1, 2013.

Subtitle D—Extension of Program Authorities

SEC. 341. EXTENSION OF ARSENAL SUPPORT PROGRAM INITIATIVE.

Section 343 of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (10 U.S.C. 4551 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''2008'' and inserting ''2010''; and

(2) in subsection (g)(1), by striking ''2008'' and inserting ''2010''.

SEC. 342. EXTENSION OF PERIOD FOR REIMBURSEMENT FOR HELMET PADS PURCHASED BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES DEPLOYED IN CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS.

(a) EXTENSION.—Section 351 of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (Public Law 108–375; 118 Stat. 1857) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3), by inserting before the period at the end the following: '', or in the case of protective helmet pads purchased by a member from a qualified vendor for that member's personal use, ending on September 30, 2007'';

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by inserting after ''Armed Forces'' the following: ''shall comply with regular Department of Defense procedures for the submission of claims and''; and

(B) by inserting before the period at the end the following: ''or one year after the date on which the purchase of the protective, safety, or health equipment was made, whichever occurs last''; and

(3) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the following new sentence: ''Subsection (a)(1) shall not apply in the case of the purchase of protective helmet pads on behalf of a member.''.

(b) FUNDING.—Amounts for reimbursements made under section 351 of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 after the date of the enactment of this Act shall be derived from supplemental appropriations for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2008, contingent upon such appropriations being enacted.

SEC. 343. EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY AUTHORITY FOR CONTRACT PERFORMANCE OF SECURITY GUARD FUNCTIONS.

(a) EXTENSION.—Subsection (c) of section 332 of the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107–314) is amended by striking ''September 30, 2009'' both places it appears and inserting ''September 30, 2012''.

(b) LIMITATION FOR FISCAL YEARS 2010 THROUGH 2012.—Subsection (d) of such section is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

''(4) for fiscal year 2010, the number equal to 70 percent of the total number of such personnel employed under such contracts on October 1, 2006;

''(5) for fiscal year 2011, the number equal to 60 percent of the total number of such personnel employed under such contracts on October 1, 2006; and

''(6) for fiscal year 2012, the number equal to 50 percent of the total number of such personnel employed under such contracts on October 1, 2006.''.

Subtitle E—Reports

SEC. 351. REPORTS ON NATIONAL GUARD READINESS FOR EMERGENCIES AND MAJOR DISASTERS.

(a) ANNUAL REPORTS ON EQUIPMENT.—Section 10541(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(9) An assessment of the extent to which the National Guard possesses the equipment required to perform the responsibilities of the National Guard pursuant to sections 331, 332, 333, 12304(b), and 12406 of this title in response to an emergency or major disaster (as such terms are defined in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122)). Such assessment shall—

''(A) identify any shortfall in equipment provided to the National Guard by the Department of Defense throughout the United States and the territories and possessions of the United States that is likely to affect the ability of the National Guard to perform such responsibilities;

''(B) evaluate the effect of any such shortfall on the capacity of the National Guard to perform such responsibilities in response to an emergency or major disaster that occurs in the United States or a territory or possession of the United States; and

''(C) identify the requirements and investment strategies for equipment provided to the National Guard by the Department of Defense that are necessary to plan for a reduction or elimination of any such shortfall.''.

(b) INCLUSION OF ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL GUARD READINESS IN QUARTERLY PERSONNEL AND UNIT READINESS REPORT.—Section 482 of such title is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''and (e)'' and inserting ''(e), and (f)'';

(2) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (e) the following new subsection (f):

''(f) READINESS OF NATIONAL GUARD TO PERFORM CIVIL SUPPORT MISSIONS.—(1) Each report shall also include an assessment of the readiness of the National Guard to perform tasks required to support the National Response Plan for support to civil authorities.

''(2) Any information in an assessment under this subsection that is relevant to the National Guard of a particular State shall also be made available to the Governor of that State.

''(3) The Secretary shall ensure that each State Governor has an opportunity to provide to the Secretary an independent evaluation of that State's National Guard, which

the Secretary shall include with each assessment submitted under this subsection.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) ANNUAL REPORT ON NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE COMPONENT EQUIPMENT.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to reports submitted after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) QUARTERLY REPORTS ON PERSONNEL AND UNIT READINESS.—The amendment made by subsection (b) shall apply with respect to the quarterly report required under section 482 of title 10, United States Code, for the second quarter of fiscal year 2009 and each subsequent report required under that section.

(d) REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As part of the budget justification materials submitted to Congress in support of the budget of the President for each of fiscal years 2009 and 2010 (as submitted under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code), the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on actions taken by the Secretary to implement the amendments made by this section.

(2) ELEMENTS.—Each report required under paragraph (1) shall include a description of the mechanisms to be utilized by the Secretary for assessing the personnel, equipment, and training readiness of the National Guard, including the standards and measures that will be applied and mechanisms for sharing information on such matters with the Governors of the States.

SEC. 352. ANNUAL REPORT ON PREPOSITIONED MATERIEL AND EQUIPMENT.

(a) ANNUAL REPORT REQUIRED.—Chapter 131 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 2229a. Annual report on prepositioned materiel and equipment

''(a) ANNUAL REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than the date of the submission of the President's budget request for a fiscal year under section 1105 of title 31, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the status of the materiel in the prepositioned stocks as of the end of the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year during which the report is submitted. Each report shall be unclassified and may contain a classified annex. Each report shall include the following information:

''(1) The level of fill for major end items of equipment and spare parts in each prepositioned set as of the end of the fiscal year covered by the report.

''(2) The material condition of equipment in the prepositioned stocks as of the end of such fiscal year, grouped by category or major end item.

''(3) A list of major end items of equipment drawn from the prepositioned stocks during such fiscal year and a description of how that equipment was used and whether it was returned to the stocks after being used.

''(4) A timeline for completely reconstituting any shortfall in the prepositioned stocks.

''(5) An estimate of the amount of funds required to completely reconstitute any shortfall in the prepositioned stocks and a description of the Secretary's plan for carrying out such complete reconstitution.

''(6) A list of any operations plan affected by any shortfall in the prepositioned stocks and a description of any action taken to mitigate any risk that such a shortfall may create.

''(b) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW.—(1) By not later than 120 days after the date on which a report is submitted under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall review the report and, as the Comptroller General determines appropriate, submit to the congressional defense committees any additional information that the Comptroller General determines will further inform such committees on issues relating to the status of the materiel in the prepositioned stocks.

''(2) The Secretary of Defense shall ensure the full cooperation of the Department of Defense with the Comptroller General for purposes of the conduct of the review required by this subsection, both before and after each report is submitted under subsection (a). The Secretary shall conduct periodic briefings for the Comptroller General on the information covered by each report required under subsection (a) and provide to the Comptroller General access to the data and preliminary results to be used by the Secretary in preparing each such report before the Secretary submits the report to enable the Comptroller General to conduct each review required under paragraph (1) in a timely manner.

''(3) The requirement to conduct a review under this subsection shall terminate on September 30, 2015.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''2229a. Annual report on prepositioned materiel and equipment.''.

SEC. 353. REPORT ON INCREMENTAL COST OF EARLY 2007 ENHANCED DEPLOYMENT.

Section 323(b)(2) of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2146; 10 U.S.C. 229 note) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(C) each of the military departments for the incremental changes in reset costs resulting from the deployment and redeployment of forces to Iraq and Afghanistan above the levels deployed to such countries on January 1, 2007.''.

SEC. 354. MODIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS OF COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT ON THE READINESS OF ARMY AND MARINE CORPS GROUND FORCES.

(a) SUBMITTAL DATE.—Subsection (a)(1) of section 345 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2156) is amended by striking ''June 1, 2007'' and inserting ''June 1, 2008''.

(b) ELEMENTS.—Subsection (b) of such section is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (2);

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (7) as paragraphs (4) through (8), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraphs:

''(2) An assessment of the ability of the Army and Marine Corps to provide trained and ready forces to meet the requirements of increased force levels in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom above such force levels in effect on January 1, 2007, and to meet the requirements of other ongoing operations simultaneously with such increased force levels.

''(3) An assessment of the strategic depth of the Army and Marine Corps and their ability to provide trained and ready forces to meet the requirements of the high-priority contingency war plans of the regional combatant commands, including an identification and evaluation for each such plan of—

''(A) the strategic and operational risks associated with current and projected forces of current and projected readiness;

''(B) the time required to make forces available and prepare them for deployment; and

''(C) likely strategic tradeoffs necessary to meet the requirements of each such plan.''.

(c) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE COOPERATION.—Such section is further amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection (c):

''(c) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE COOPERATION.—The Secretary of Defense shall ensure the full cooperation of the Department of Defense with the Comptroller General for purposes of the preparation of the report required by this section.''.

SEC. 355. PLAN TO IMPROVE READINESS OF GROUND FORCES OF ACTIVE AND RESERVE COMPONENTS.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—At the same time that the budget is submitted under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, for a fiscal year, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on improving the readiness of the ground forces of active and reserve components of the Armed Forces. Each such report shall include—

(1) a summary of the readiness of each reporting unit of the ground forces of the active and reserve components and a summary of the readiness of each major combat unit of each Armed Force by readiness level;

(2) an identification of the extent to which the actual readiness ratings of the active and reserve components of the Armed Forces have been upgraded based on the judgment of commanders and any efforts of the Secretary of Defense to analyze the trends and implications of such upgrades;

(3) the goals of the Secretary of Defense for managing the readiness of the ground forces of the active and reserve components, expressed in terms of the number of units or percentage of the force that the Secretary plans to maintain at each level of readiness, and the Secretary's projected timeframe for achieving each such goal;

(4) a prioritized list of items and actions to be accomplished during the fiscal year during which the report is submitted, and during the fiscal years covered by the future-years defense program, that the Secretary of Defense believes are necessary to significantly improve the readiness of the ground forces of the active and reserve components and achieve the goals and timeframes described in paragraph (3); and

(5) a detailed investment strategy and plan for each fiscal year covered by the future-years defense program under section 221 of title 10, United States Code, that is submitted during the fiscal year in which the report is submitted, that outlines the resources required to improve the readiness of the ground forces of the active and reserve components, including a description of how each resource identified in such plan relates to funding requested by the Secretary in the Secretary's annual budget, and how each such resource will specifically enable the Secretary to achieve the readiness goals described in paragraph (3) within the projected timeframes.

(b) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW.—By not later than 60 days after the date on which a report is submitted under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall review the report and, as the Comptroller General determines appropriate, submit to the congressional defense committees any additional information that the Comptroller General determines will further inform the congressional defense committees on issues relating to the readiness of the ground forces of the active and reserve components of the Armed Forces.

(c) TERMINATION.—The requirement to submit a report under subsection (a) shall terminate on the date the Secretary of Defense

submits the fifth report required under that subsection.

SEC. 356. INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF CIVIL RESERVE AIR FLEET VIABILITY.

(a) INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense shall provide for an independent assessment of the viability of the Civil Reserve Air Fleet to be conducted by a federally-funded research and development center selected by the Secretary.

(b) CONTENTS OF ASSESSMENT.—The assessment required by subsection (a) shall include each of the following:

(1) An assessment of the Civil Reserve Air Fleet as of the date of the enactment of this Act, including an assessment of—

(A) the level of increased use of commercial assets to fulfill Department of Defense transportation requirements as a result of the increased global mobility requirements in response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001;

(B) the extent of charter air carrier participation in fulfilling increased Department of Defense transportation requirements as a result of the increased global mobility requirements in response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001;

(C) any policy of the Secretary of Defense to limit the percentage of income a single air carrier participating in the Civil Reserve Air Fleet may earn under contracts with the Secretary during any calendar year and the effects of such policy on the air carrier industry in peacetime and during periods during which the Armed Forces are deployed in support of a contingency operation for which the Civil Reserve Air Fleet is not activated; and

(D) any risks to the charter air carrier industry as a result of the expansion of the industry in response to contingency operations resulting in increased demand by the Department of Defense.

(2) A strategic assessment of the viability of the Civil Reserve Air Fleet that compares such viability as of the date of the enactment of this Act with the projected viability of the Civil Reserve Air Fleet 5, 10, and 15 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, including for activations at each of stages 1, 2, and 3—

(A) an examination of the requirements of the Department of Defense for the Civil Reserve Air Fleet for the support of operational and contingency plans, including any anticipated changes in the Department's organic airlift capacity, logistics concepts, and personnel and training requirements;

(B) an assessment of air carrier participation in the Civil Reserve Air Fleet; and

(C) a comparison between the requirements of the Department described in subparagraph (A) and air carrier participation described in subparagraph (B).

(3) An examination of any perceived barriers to Civil Reserve Air Fleet viability, including—

(A) the operational planning system of the Civil Reserve Air Fleet;

(B) the reward system of the Civil Reserve Air Fleet;

(C) the long-term affordability of the Aviation War Risk Insurance Program;

(D) the effect on United States air carriers operating overseas routes during periods of Civil Reserve Air Fleet activation;

(E) increased foreign ownership of United States air carriers;

(F) increased operational costs during activation as a result of hazardous duty pay, routing delays, and inefficiencies in cargo handling by the Department of Defense;

(G) the effect of policy initiatives by the Secretary of Transportation to encourage international code sharing and alliances; and

(H) the effect of limitations imposed by the Secretary of Defense to limit commercial shipping options for certain routes and package sizes.

(4) Recommendations for improving the Civil Reserve Air Fleet program, including an assessment of potential incentives for increasing participation in the Civil Reserve Air Fleet program, including establishing a minimum annual purchase amount during peacetime.

(c) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Upon the completion of the assessment required under subsection (a) and by not later than April 1, 2008, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the assessment.

(d) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the report is submitted under subsection (c), the Comptroller General shall conduct a review of the assessment required under subsection (a).

SEC. 357. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT ON PHYSICAL SECURITY OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Department of Defense shall submit to Congress a report on the physical security of Department of Defense installations and resources.

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

(1) An analysis of the progress in implementing requirements under the Physical Security Program as set forth in the Department of Defense Instruction 5200.08–R, Chapter 2 (C.2) and Chapter 3, Section 3: Installation Access (C3.3), which mandates the policies and minimum standards for the physical security of Department of Defense installations and resources.

(2) Recommendations based on the findings of the Comptroller General of the United States in the report required by section 344 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–366; 120 Stat. 2155).

(3) Recommendations based on the lessons learned from the thwarted plot to attack Fort Dix, New Jersey, in 2007.

SEC. 358. REVIEW OF HIGH-ALTITUDE AVIATION TRAINING.

(a) REVIEW REQUIRED.—The Secretary of the Defense shall conduct a review of the training requirements of the Department of Defense for helicopter operations in high-altitude or power-limited conditions.

(b) CONTENT.—The review required under subsection (a) shall include an examination of—

(1) power-management and high-altitude training requirements by military department, helicopter, and crew position;

(2) training methods and locations currently used by each of the military departments to fulfill those training requirements;

(3) department or service regulations that prohibit or inhibit joint-service or interservice high-altitude aviation training;

(4) costs for each of the previous 5 years associated with transporting aircraft to and from the High-Altitude Aviation Training Site, Gypsum, Colorado, for training purposes;

(5) potential risk avoidance and reductions in accident rates due to power management if training of the type offered at the High-Altitude Aviation Training Site was required training, rather than optional training; and

(6) potential cost savings and operational benefits, if any, of permanently stationing no less than 4 UH–60, 2 CH–47, and 2 LUH–72 aircraft at the High-Altitude Aviation Training Site, Gypsum, Colorado.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the conduct and findings of the review required under subsection (a) along with a summary of changes to policy, regulation, or asset allocation necessary to ensure that Department of Defense helicopter aircrews are adequately trained in high-altitude or power-limited flying conditions prior to being exposed to such conditions operationally.

SEC. 359. REPORTS ON SAFETY MEASURES AND ENCROACHMENT ISSUES AND MASTER PLAN FOR WARREN GROVE GUNNERY RANGE, NEW JERSEY.

(a) ANNUAL REPORT ON SAFETY MEASURES.—Not later than March 1, 2008, and annually thereafter for 2 additional years, the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on efforts made by all of the military departments utilizing the Warren Grove Gunnery Range, New Jersey, to provide the highest level of safety.

(b) MASTER PLAN FOR WARREN GROVE GUNNERY RANGE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to the congressional defense committees a master plan for Warren Grove Gunnery Range.

(2) CONTENT.—The master plan required under paragraph (1) shall include measures to mitigate encroachment of the Warren Grove Gunnery Range, taking into consideration military mission requirements, land use plans, the surrounding community, the economy of the region, and protection of the environment and public health, safety, and welfare.

(3) INPUT.—In establishing the master plan required under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall seek input from relevant stakeholders at the Federal, State, and local level.

SEC. 360. REPORT ON SEARCH AND RESCUE CAPABILITIES OF THE AIR FORCE IN THE NORTHWESTERN UNITED STATES.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than April 1, 2008, the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the search and rescue capabilities of the Air Force in the northwestern United States.

(b) CONTENT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the search and rescue capabilities required to support Air Force operations and training.

(2) A description of the compliance of the Air Force with the 1999 United States National Search and Rescue Plan (referred to hereinafter in this section as the ''NSRP'') for Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana.

(3) An inventory and description of the search and rescue assets of the Air Force that are available to meet the requirements of the NSRP.

(4) A description of the use of such search and rescue assets during the 3-year period preceding the date when the report is submitted.

(5) The plans of the Air Force to meet current and future search and rescue requirements in the northwestern United States, including plans that take into consideration requirements related to support for both Air Force operations and training and compliance with the NSRP.

(6) An inventory of other search and rescue capabilities equivalent to such capabilities provided by the Air Force that may be provided by other Federal, State, or local agencies in the northwestern United States.

(c) USE OF REPORT FOR PURPOSES OF CERTIFICATION REGARDING SEARCH AND RESCUE CAPABILITIES.—Section 1085 of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (Public Law 108–375; 118

Stat. 2065; 10 U.S.C. 113 note) is amended by striking ''unless the Secretary first certifies'' and inserting ''unless the Secretary, after reviewing the search and rescue capabilities report prepared by the Secretary of the Air Force under subsection (a), first certifies''.

(d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on Natural Resources, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 361. REPORT AND MASTER INFRASTRUCTURE RECAPITALIZATION PLAN FOR CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN AIR STATION, COLORADO.

(a) REPORT ON RELOCATION OF NORTH AMERICAN AEROSPACE DEFENSE COMMAND CENTER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 1, 2008, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report on the relocation of the North American Aerospace Defense Command center and related functions from Cheyenne Mountain Air Station, Colorado, to Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado.

(2) CONTENT.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) an analysis comparing the total costs associated with the relocation, including costs determined as part of ongoing security-related studies of the relocation, to anticipated operational benefits from the relocation;

(B) a detailed explanation of the backup functions that will remain located at Cheyenne Mountain Air Station, and how such functions planned to be transferred out of Cheyenne Mountain Air Station, including the Space Operations Center, will maintain operational connectivity with their related commands and relevant communications centers;

(C) the final plans for the relocation of the North American Aerospace Defense Command center and related functions; and

(D) the findings and recommendations of an independent security and vulnerability assessment of Peterson Air Force Base carried out by Sandia National Laboratory for the United States Air Force Space Command and the Secretary's plans for mitigating any security and vulnerability risks identified as part of that assessment and associated cost and schedule estimates.

(b) LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS PENDING RECEIPT OF REPORT.—Of the funds appropriated pursuant to an authorization of appropriations or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2008 for operation and maintenance for the Air Force that are available for the Cheyenne Mountain Transformation project, $5,000,000 may not be obligated or expended until Congress receives the report required under subsection (a).

(c) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW.—Not later than 120 days after the date on which the Secretary of Defense submits the report required under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a review of the report and the final plans of the Secretary for the relocation of the North American Aerospace Defense Command center and related functions.

(d) MASTER INFRASTRUCTURE RECAPITALIZATION PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 16, 2008, the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to Congress a master infrastructure recapitalization plan for Cheyenne Mountain Air Station.

(2) CONTENT.—The plan required under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a description of the projects that are needed to improve the infrastructure required for supporting missions associated with Cheyenne Mountain Air Station; and

(B) a funding plan explaining the expected timetable for the Air Force to support such projects.

Subtitle F—Other Matters

SEC. 371. ENHANCEMENT OF CORROSION CONTROL AND PREVENTION FUNCTIONS WITHIN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) OFFICE OF CORROSION POLICY AND OVERSIGHT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2228 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking the section heading and subsection (a) and inserting the following:

''§ 2228. Office of Corrosion Policy and Oversight

''(a) OFFICE AND DIRECTOR.—(1) There is an Office of Corrosion Policy and Oversight within the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics.

''(2) The Office shall be headed by a Director of Corrosion Policy and Oversight, who shall be assigned to such position by the Under Secretary from among civilian employees of the Department of Defense with the qualifications described in paragraph (3). The Director is responsible in the Department of Defense to the Secretary of Defense (after the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics) for the prevention and mitigation of corrosion of the military equipment and infrastructure of the Department of Defense. The Director shall report directly to the Under Secretary.

''(3) In order to qualify to be assigned to the position of Director, an individual shall—

''(A) have management expertise in, and professional experience with, corrosion project and policy implementation, including an understanding of the effects of corrosion policies on infrastructure; research, development, test, and evaluation; and maintenance; and

''(B) have an understanding of Department of Defense budget formulation and execution, policy formulation, and planning and program requirements.

''(4) The Secretary of Defense shall designate the position of Director as a critical acquisition position under section 1733(b)(1)(C) of this title.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 2228(b) of such title is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''official or organization designated under subsection (a)'' and inserting ''Director of Corrosion Policy and Oversight (in this section referred to as the 'Director')''; and

(B) in paragraphs (2), (3), (4), and (5), by striking ''designated official or organization'' and inserting ''Director''.

(b) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY FOR DIRECTOR OF OFFICE.—Section 2228 of such title is further amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (d) and (f), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection:

''(c) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITIES FOR DIRECTOR.—The Director is authorized to—

''(1) develop, update, and coordinate corrosion training with the Defense Acquisition University;

''(2) participate in the process within the Department of Defense for the development of relevant directives and instructions; and

''(3) interact directly with the corrosion prevention industry, trade associations, other government corrosion prevention agencies, academic research and educational institutions, and scientific organizations engaged in corrosion prevention, including the National Academy of Sciences.''.

(c) INCLUSION OF COOPERATIVE RESEARCH AGREEMENTS AS PART OF CORROSION REDUCTION STRATEGY.—Subsection (d)(2)(D) of section 2228 of such title, as redesignated by subsection (b), is amended by inserting after ''operational strategies'' the following: '', including through the establishment of memoranda of agreement, joint funding agreements, public-private partnerships, university research and education centers, and other cooperative research agreements''.

(d) REPORT REQUIREMENT.—Section 2228 of such title is further amended by inserting after subsection (d) (as redesignated by subsection (b)) the following new subsection:

''(e) REPORT.—(1) For each budget for a fiscal year, beginning with the budget for fiscal year 2009, the Secretary of Defense shall submit, with the defense budget materials, a report on the following:

''(A) Funding requirements for the long-term strategy developed under subsection (d).

''(B) The return on investment that would be achieved by implementing the strategy.

''(C) The funds requested in the budget compared to the funding requirements.

''(D) An explanation if the funding requirements are not fully funded in the budget.

''(2) Within 60 days after submission of the budget for a fiscal year, the Comptroller General shall provide to the congressional defense committees—

''(A) an analysis of the budget submission for corrosion control and prevention by the Department of Defense; and

''(B) an analysis of the report required under paragraph (1).''.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—Subsection (f) of section 2228 of such title, as redesignated by subsection (b), is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

''(4) The term 'budget', with respect to a fiscal year, means the budget for that fiscal year that is submitted to Congress by the President under section 1105(a) of title 31.

''(5) The term 'defense budget materials', with respect to a fiscal year, means the materials submitted to Congress by the Secretary of Defense in support of the budget for that fiscal year.''.

(f) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 131 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 2228 and inserting the following new item:

''2228. Office of Corrosion Policy and Oversight.''.

SEC. 372. AUTHORITY FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR CERTAIN SPORTING EVENTS.

(a) PROVISION OF SUPPORT.—Section 2564 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

''(4) A sporting event sanctioned by the United States Olympic Committee through the Paralympic Military Program.

''(5) Any national or international paralympic sporting event (other than a sporting event described in paragraphs (1) through (4))—

''(A) that—

''(i) is held in the United States or any of its territories or commonwealths;

''(ii) is governed by the International Paralympic Committee; and

''(iii) is sanctioned by the United States Olympic Committee;

''(B) for which participation exceeds 100 amateur athletes; and

''(C) in which at least 10 percent of the athletes participating in the sporting event are members or former members of the armed forces who are participating in the sporting event based upon an injury or wound incurred in the line of duty in the armed force and veterans who are participating in the sporting event based upon a service-connected disability.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(g) FUNDING FOR SUPPORT OF CERTAIN EVENTS.—(1) Amounts for the provision of support for a sporting event described in paragraph (4) or (5) of subsection (c) may be derived from the Support for International Sporting Competitions, Defense account established by section 5802 of the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act, 1997 (Public Law 104–208; 10 U.S.C. 2564 note), notwithstanding any limitation under that section relating to the availability of funds in such account for the provision of support for international sporting competitions.

''(2) The total amount expended for any fiscal year to provide support for sporting events described in subsection (c)(5) may not exceed $1,000,000.''.

(b) SOURCE OF FUNDS.—Section 5802 of the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act, 1997 (Public Law 104–208; 10 U.S.C. 2564 note) is amended—

(1) by inserting after ''international sporting competitions'' the following: ''and for support of sporting competitions authorized under section 2564(c)(4) and (5), of title 10, United States Code,''; and

(2) by striking ''45 days'' and inserting ''15 days''.

SEC. 373. AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE REASONABLE RESTRICTIONS ON PAYMENT OF FULL REPLACEMENT VALUE FOR LOST OR DAMAGED PERSONAL PROPERTY TRANSPORTED AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE.

Section 2636a(d) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: ''The regulations may include a requirement that a member of the armed forces or civilian employee of the Department of Defense comply with reasonable restrictions or conditions prescribed by the Secretary in order to receive the full amount deducted under subsection (b).''.

SEC. 374. PRIORITY TRANSPORTATION ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AIRCRAFT OF RETIRED MEMBERS RESIDING IN COMMONWEALTHS AND POSSESSIONS OF THE UNITED STATES FOR CERTAIN HEALTH CARE SERVICES.

(a) AVAILABILITY OF TRANSPORTATION.—Chapter 157 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 2641a the following new section:

''§ 2641b. Space-available travel on Department of Defense aircraft: retired members residing in Commonwealths and possessions of the United States for certain health care services

''(a) PRIORITY TRANSPORTATION.—The Secretary of Defense shall provide transportation on Department of Defense aircraft on a space-available basis for any member or former member of the uniformed services described in subsection (b), and a single dependent of the member if needed to accompany the member, at a priority level in the same category as the priority level for an unaccompanied dependent over the age of 18 traveling on environmental and morale leave.

''(b) ELIGIBLE MEMBERS AND FORMER MEMBERS.—A member or former member eligible for priority transport under subsection (a) is a covered beneficiary under chapter 55 of this title who—

''(1) is entitled to retired or retainer pay;

''(2) resides in or is located in a Commonwealth or possession of the United States; and

''(3) is referred by a military or civilian primary care provider located in that Commonwealth or possession to a specialty care provider for services to be provided outside of that Commonwealth or possession.

''(c) SCOPE OF PRIORITY.—The increased priority for space-available transportation required by subsection (a) applies with respect to both—

''(1) the travel from the Commonwealth or possession of the United States to receive the specialty care services; and

''(2) the return travel.

''(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms 'primary care provider' and 'specialty care provider' refer to a medical or dental professional who provides health care services under chapter 55 of this title.

''(e) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regulations to implement this section.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2641a the following new item:

''2641b. Space-available travel on Department of Defense aircraft: retired members residing in Commonwealths and possessions of the United States for certain health care services.''.

SEC. 375. RECOVERY OF MISSING MILITARY PROPERTY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 165 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new sections:

''§ 2788. Property accountability: regulations

''The Secretary of a military department may prescribe regulations for the accounting for the property of that department and the fixing of responsibility for that property.

''§ 2789. Individual equipment: unauthorized disposition

''(a) PROHIBITION.—No member of the armed forces may sell, lend, pledge, barter, or give any clothing, arms, or equipment furnished to such member by the United States to any person other than a member of the armed forces or an officer of the United States who is authorized to receive it.

''(b) SEIZURE OF IMPROPERLY DISPOSED PROPERTY.—If a member of the armed forces has disposed of property in violation of subsection (a) and the property is in the possession of a person who is neither a member of the armed forces nor an officer of the United States who is authorized to receive it, that person has no right to or interest in the property, and any civil or military officer of the United States may seize the property, wherever found, subject to applicable regulations. Possession of such property furnished by the United States to a member of the armed forces by a person who is neither a member of the armed forces, nor an officer of the United States, is prima facie evidence that the property has been disposed of in violation of subsection (a).

''(c) DELIVERY OF SEIZED PROPERTY.—If an officer who seizes property under subsection (b) is not authorized to retain it for the United States, the officer shall deliver the property to a person who is authorized to retain it.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new items:

''2788. Property accountability: regulations.

''2789. Individual equipment: unauthorized disposition.''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Such title is further amended by striking the following sections:

(A) Section 4832.

(B) Section 4836.

(C) Section 9832.

(D) Section 9836.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(A) CHAPTER 453.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 453 of such title is amended by striking the items relating to sections 4832 and 4836.

(B) CHAPTER 953.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 953 of such title is amended by striking the items relating to sections 9832 and 9836.

SEC. 376. RETENTION OF COMBAT UNIFORMS BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES DEPLOYED IN SUPPORT OF CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS.

(a) RETENTION OF COMBAT UNIFORMS.—Chapter 152 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 2568. Retention of combat uniforms by members deployed in support of contingency operations

''The Secretary of a military department may authorize a member of the armed forces under the jurisdiction of the Secretary who has been deployed in support of a contingency operation for at least 30 days to retain, after that member is no longer so deployed, the combat uniform issued to that member as organizational clothing and individual equipment.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''2568. Retention of combat uniforms by members deployed in support of contingency operations.''.

SEC. 377. ISSUE OF SERVICEABLE MATERIAL OF THE NAVY OTHER THAN TO ARMED FORCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part IV of subtitle C of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new chapter:

''CHAPTER 667—ISSUE OF SERVICEABLE MATERIAL OTHER THAN TO ARMED FORCES

''Sec.

''7911. Arms, tentage, and equipment: educational institutions not maintaining units of R.O.T.C.

''7912. Rifles and ammunition for target practice: educational institutions having corps of midshipmen.

''7913. Supplies: military instruction camps.

''§ 7911. Arms, tentage, and equipment: educational institutions not maintaining units of R.O.T.C.

''Under such conditions as he may prescribe, the Secretary of the Navy may issue arms, tentage, and equipment that the Secretary considers necessary for proper military training, to any educational institution at which no unit of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps is maintained, but which has a course in military training prescribed by the Secretary and which has at least 50 physically fit students over 14 years of age.

''§ 7912. Rifles and ammunition for target practice: educational institutions having corps of midshipmen

''(a) AUTHORITY TO LEND.—The Secretary of the Navy may lend, without expense to the United States, magazine rifles and appendages that are not of the existing service models in use at the time and that are not necessary for a proper reserve supply, to any educational institution having a uniformed corps of midshipmen of sufficient number for target practice. The Secretary may also issue 40 rounds of ball cartridges for each midshipman for each range at which target practice is held, but not more than 120 rounds each year for each midshipman participating in target practice.

''(b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF INSTITUTIONS.—The institutions to which property is lent under subsection (a) shall—

''(1) use the property for target practice;

''(2) take proper care of the property; and

''(3) return the property when required.

''(c) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of the Navy shall prescribe regulations to carry out this section, containing such other requirements as he considers necessary to safeguard the interests of the United States.

''§ 7913. Supplies: military instruction camps

''Under such conditions as he may prescribe, the Secretary of the Navy may issue, to any educational institution at which an officer of the naval service is detailed as professor of naval science, such supplies as are necessary to establish and maintain a camp for the military instruction of its students. The Secretary shall require a bond in the value of the property issued under this section, for the care and safekeeping of that property and except for property properly expended, for its return when required.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of chapters at the beginning of subtitle C of such title, and the table of chapters at the beginning of part IV of such subtitle, are each amended by inserting after the item relating to chapter 665 the following new item:

''667. Issue of serviceable material other than to Armed Forces ..... 7911.''.

SEC. 378. REAUTHORIZATION OF AVIATION INSURANCE PROGRAM.

Section 44310 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''March 30, 2008'' and inserting ''December 31, 2013''.

TITLE IV—MILITARY PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATIONS

Subtitle A—Active Forces

Sec. 401. End strengths for active forces.
Sec. 402. Revision in permanent active duty end strength minimum levels.
Sec. 403. Additional authority for increases of Army and Marine Corps active duty end strengths for fiscal years 2009 and 2010.
Sec. 404. Increase in authorized strengths for Army officers on active duty in the grade of major.
Sec. 405. Increase in authorized strengths for Navy officers on active duty in the grades of lieutenant commander, commander, and captain.
Sec. 406. Increase in authorized daily average of number of members in pay grade E–9.

Subtitle B—Reserve Forces

Sec. 411. End strengths for Selected Reserve.
Sec. 412. End strengths for Reserves on active duty in support of the Reserves.
Sec. 413. End strengths for military technicians (dual status).
Sec. 414. Fiscal year 2008 limitation on number of non-dual status technicians.
Sec. 415. Maximum number of reserve personnel authorized to be on active duty for operational support.
Sec. 416. Future authorizations and accounting for certain reserve component personnel authorized to be on active duty or full-time National Guard duty to provide operational support.
Sec. 417. Revision of variances authorized for Selected Reserve end strengths.

Subtitle C—Authorization of Appropriations

Sec. 421. Military personnel.

Subtitle A—Active Forces

SEC. 401. END STRENGTHS FOR ACTIVE FORCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Armed Forces are authorized strengths for active duty personnel as of September 30, 2008, as follows:

(1) The Army, 525,400.

(2) The Navy, 329,098.

(3) The Marine Corps, 189,000.

(4) The Air Force, 329,563.

(b) LIMITATION.—

(1) ARMY.—The authorized strength for the Army provided in paragraph (1) of subsection (a) for active duty personnel for fiscal year 2008 is subject to the condition that costs of active duty personnel of the Army for that fiscal year in excess of 489,400 shall be paid out of funds authorized to be appropriated for that fiscal year by section 1514.

(2) MARINE CORPS.—The authorized strength for the Marine Corps provided in paragraph (3) of subsection (a) for active duty personnel for fiscal year 2008 is subject to the condition that costs of active duty personnel of the Marine Corps for that fiscal year in excess of 180,000 shall be paid out of funds authorized to be appropriated for that fiscal year by section 1514.

SEC. 402. REVISION IN PERMANENT ACTIVE DUTY END STRENGTH MINIMUM LEVELS.

Section 691(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraphs (1) through (4) and inserting the following new paragraphs:

''(1) For the Army, 525,400.

''(2) For the Navy, 328,400.

''(3) For the Marine Corps, 189,000.

''(4) For the Air Force, 328,600.''.

SEC. 403. ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY FOR INCREASES OF ARMY AND MARINE CORPS ACTIVE DUTY END STRENGTHS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2009 AND 2010.

(a) AUTHORITY TO INCREASE ARMY ACTIVE DUTY END STRENGTHS.—For each of fiscal years 2009 and 2010, the Secretary of Defense may, as the Secretary determines necessary for the purposes described in subsection (c), establish the active-duty end strength for the Army at a number greater than the number otherwise authorized by law up to the number equal to the fiscal-year 2008 baseline plus 22,000.

(b) MARINE CORPS.—For each of fiscal years 2009 and 2010, the Secretary of Defense may, as the Secretary determines necessary for the purposes described in subsection (c), establish the active-duty end strength for the Marine Corps at a number greater than the number otherwise authorized by law up to the number equal to the fiscal-year 2008 baseline plus 13,000.

(c) PURPOSE OF INCREASES.—The purposes for which increases may be made in Army and Marine Corps active duty end strengths under this section are—

(1) to support operational missions; and

(2) to achieve transformational reorganization objectives, including objectives for increased numbers of combat brigades and battalions, increased unit manning, force stabilization and shaping, and rebalancing of the active and reserve component forces.

(d) RELATIONSHIP TO PRESIDENTIAL WAIVER AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the President's authority under section 123a of title 10, United States Code, to waive any statutory end strength in a time of war or national emergency.

(e) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER VARIANCE AUTHORITY.—The authority under this section is in addition to the authority to vary authorized end strengths that is provided in subsections (e) and (f) of section 115 of title 10, United States Code.

(f) BUDGET TREATMENT.—

(1) FISCAL YEARS 2009 AND 2010 BUDGETS.—The budget for the Department of Defense for fiscal years 2009 and 2010 as submitted to Congress shall comply, with respect to funding, with subsections (c) and (d) of section 691 of title 10, United States Code.

(2) OTHER INCREASES.—If the Secretary of Defense plans to increase the Army or Marine Corps active duty end strength for a fiscal year under this section, then the budget for the Department of Defense for that fiscal year as submitted to Congress shall include the amounts necessary for funding that active duty end strength in excess of the fiscal year 2008 active duty end strength authorized for that service under section 401.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) FISCAL-YEAR 2008 BASELINE.—The term ''fiscal-year 2008 baseline'', with respect to the Army and Marine Corps, means the active-duty end strength authorized for those services in section 401.

(2) ACTIVE-DUTY END STRENGTH.—In this subsection, the term ''active-duty end strength'' means the strength for active-duty personnel of one of the Armed Forces as of the last day of a fiscal year.

(h) REPEAL OF OTHER DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY TO TEMPORARILY INCREASE ARMY AND MARINE CORPS ACTIVE DUTY END STRENGTHS.—Section 403 of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (Public Law 108–375; 10 U.S.C. 115 note), as amended by section 403 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2169), is repealed.

SEC. 404. INCREASE IN AUTHORIZED STRENGTHS FOR ARMY OFFICERS ON ACTIVE DUTY IN THE GRADE OF MAJOR.

The portion of the table in section 523(a)(1) of title 10, United States Code, relating to the Army is amended to read as follows:

''Total number of commissioned officers (excluding officers in categories specified in subsection (b)) on active duty:	Number of officers who may be serving on active duty in grade of:		
	Major	Lieutenant Colonel	Colonel
Army:			
20,000	7,768	5,253	1,613
25,000	8,689	5,642	1,796
30,000	9,611	6,030	1,980
35,000	10,532	6,419	2,163
40,000	11,454	6,807	2,347
45,000	12,375	7,196	2,530

''Total number of commissioned officers (excluding officers in categories specified in subsection (b)) on active duty:	Number of officers who may be serving on active duty in grade of:		
	Major	Lieutenant Colonel	Colonel
50,000	13,297	7,584	2,713
55,000	14,218	7,973	2,897
60,000	15,140	8,361	3,080
65,000	16,061	8,750	3,264
70,000	16,983	9,138	3,447
75,000	17,903	9,527	3,631
80,000	18,825	9,915	3,814
85,000	19,746	10,304	3,997
90,000	20,668	10,692	4,181
95,000	21,589	11,081	4,364
100,000	22,511	11,469	4,548
110,000	24,354	12,246	4,915
120,000	26,197	13,023	5,281
130,000	28,040	13,800	5,648
170,000	35,412	16,908	7,116''.

SEC. 405. INCREASE IN AUTHORIZED STRENGTHS FOR NAVY OFFICERS ON ACTIVE DUTY IN THE GRADES OF LIEUTENANT COMMANDER, COMMANDER, AND CAPTAIN.

The table in section 523(a)(2) of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''Total number of commissioned officers (excluding officers in categories specified in subsection (b)) on active duty:	Number of officers who may be serving on active duty in grade of:		
	Lieutenant Commander	Commander	Captain
Navy:			
30,000	7,698	5,269	2,222
33,000	8,189	5,501	2,334
36,000	8,680	5,733	2,447
39,000	9,172	5,965	2,559
42,000	9,663	6,197	2,671
45,000	10,155	6,429	2,784
48,000	10,646	6,660	2,896
51,000	11,136	6,889	3,007
54,000	11,628	7,121	3,120
57,000	12,118	7,352	3,232
60,000	12,609	7,583	3,344
63,000	13,100	7,813	3,457
66,000	13,591	8,044	3,568
70,000	14,245	8,352	3,718
90,000	17,517	9,890	4,467''.

SEC. 406. INCREASE IN AUTHORIZED DAILY AVERAGE OF NUMBER OF MEMBERS IN PAY GRADE E–9.

Section 517(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''1 percent'' and inserting ''1.25 percent''.

Subtitle B—Reserve Forces

SEC. 411. END STRENGTHS FOR SELECTED RESERVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Armed Forces are authorized strengths for Selected Reserve personnel of the reserve components as of September 30, 2008, as follows:

(1) The Army National Guard of the United States, 351,300.

(2) The Army Reserve, 205,000.

(3) The Navy Reserve, 67,800.

(4) The Marine Corps Reserve, 39,600.

(5) The Air National Guard of the United States, 106,700.

(6) The Air Force Reserve, 67,500.

(7) The Coast Guard Reserve, 10,000.

(b) END STRENGTH REDUCTIONS.—The end strengths prescribed by subsection (a) for the Selected Reserve of any reserve component shall be proportionately reduced by—

(1) the total authorized strength of units organized to serve as units of the Selected Reserve of such component which are on active duty (other than for training) at the end of the fiscal year; and

(2) the total number of individual members not in units organized to serve as units of the Selected Reserve of such component who are on active duty (other than for training or for unsatisfactory participation in training) without their consent at the end of the fiscal year.

(c) END STRENGTH INCREASES.—Whenever units or individual members of the Selected Reserve of any reserve component are released from active duty during any fiscal year, the end strength prescribed for such fiscal year for the Selected Reserve of such reserve component shall be increased proportionately by the total authorized strengths of such units and by the total number of such individual members.

SEC. 412. END STRENGTHS FOR RESERVES ON ACTIVE DUTY IN SUPPORT OF THE RESERVES.

Within the end strengths prescribed in section 411(a), the reserve components of the Armed Forces are authorized, as of September 30, 2008, the following number of Reserves to be serving on full-time active duty or full-time duty, in the case of members of the National Guard, for the purpose of organizing, administering, recruiting, instructing, or training the reserve components:

(1) The Army National Guard of the United States, 29,204.

(2) The Army Reserve, 15,870.

(3) The Navy Reserve, 11,579.

(4) The Marine Corps Reserve, 2,261.

(5) The Air National Guard of the United States, 13,936.

(6) The Air Force Reserve, 2,721.

SEC. 413. END STRENGTHS FOR MILITARY TECHNICIANS (DUAL STATUS).

The minimum number of military technicians (dual status) as of the last day of fiscal year 2008 for the reserve components of the Army and the Air Force (notwithstanding section 129 of title 10, United States Code) shall be the following:

(1) For the Army Reserve, 8,249.

(2) For the Army National Guard of the United States, 26,502.

(3) For the Air Force Reserve, 9,909.

(4) For the Air National Guard of the United States, 22,553.

SEC. 414. FISCAL YEAR 2008 LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF NON-DUAL STATUS TECHNICIANS.

(a) LIMITATIONS.—

(1) NATIONAL GUARD.—Within the limitation provided in section 10217(c)(2) of title 10, United States Code, the number of non-dual status technicians employed by the National Guard as of September 30, 2008, may not exceed the following:

(A) For the Army National Guard of the United States, 1,600.

(B) For the Air National Guard of the United States, 350.

(2) ARMY RESERVE.—The number of non-dual status technicians employed by the Army Reserve as of September 30, 2008, may not exceed 595.

(3) AIR FORCE RESERVE.—The number of non-dual status technicians employed by the Air Force Reserve as of September 30, 2008, may not exceed 90.

(b) NON-DUAL STATUS TECHNICIANS DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''non-dual status technician'' has the meaning given that term in section 10217(a) of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 415. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF RESERVE PERSONNEL AUTHORIZED TO BE ON ACTIVE DUTY FOR OPERATIONAL SUPPORT.

During fiscal year 2008, the maximum number of members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who may be serving at any time on full-time operational support duty under section 115(b) of title 10, United States Code, is the following:

(1) The Army National Guard of the United States, 17,000.

(2) The Army Reserve, 13,000.

(3) The Navy Reserve, 6,200.

(4) The Marine Corps Reserve, 3,000.

(5) The Air National Guard of the United States, 16,000.

(6) The Air Force Reserve, 14,000.

SEC. 416. FUTURE AUTHORIZATIONS AND ACCOUNTING FOR CERTAIN RESERVE COMPONENT PERSONNEL AUTHORIZED TO BE ON ACTIVE DUTY OR FULL-TIME NATIONAL GUARD DUTY TO PROVIDE OPERATIONAL SUPPORT.

(a) REVIEW OF OPERATIONAL SUPPORT MISSIONS PERFORMED BY CERTAIN RESERVE COMPONENT PERSONNEL.—

(1) REVIEW REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense shall conduct a review of the long-term operational support missions performed by members of the reserve components authorized under section 115(b) of title 10, United States Code, to be on active duty or full-time National Guard duty for the purpose of providing operational support, with the objectives of such review being—

(A) minimizing the number of reserve component members who perform such service for a period greater than 1,095 consecutive days, or cumulatively for 1,095 days out of the previous 1,460 days; and

(B) determining which long-term operational support missions being performed by such members would more appropriately be performed by members of the Armed Forces on active duty under other provisions of title 10, United States Code, or by full-time support personnel of reserve components.

(2) SUBMISSION OF RESULTS.—Not later than March 1, 2008, the Secretary shall submit to Congress the results of the review, including a description of the adjustments in Department of Defense policy to be implemented as a result of the review and such recommendations for changes in statute, as the Secretary considers to be appropriate.

(b) IMPROVED ACCOUNTING FOR RESERVE COMPONENT PERSONNEL PROVIDING OPERATIONAL SUPPORT.—Section 115(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(4) As part of the budget justification materials submitted by the Secretary of Defense to Congress in support of the end strength authorizations required under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (a)(1) for fiscal year 2009 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary shall provide the following:

''(A) The number of members, specified by reserve component, authorized under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) who were serving on active duty or full-time National Guard duty for operational support beyond each of the limits specified under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2) at the end of the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for which the budget justification materials are submitted.

''(B) The number of members, specified by reserve component, on active duty for operational support who, at the end of the fiscal year for which the budget justification materials are submitted, are projected to be serving on active duty or full-time National Guard duty for operational support beyond such limits.

''(C) The number of members, specified by reserve component, on active duty or full-time National Guard duty for operational support who are included in, and counted against, the end strength authorizations requested under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (a)(1).

''(D) A summary of the missions being performed by members identified under subparagraphs (A) and (B).''.

SEC. 417. REVISION OF VARIANCES AUTHORIZED FOR SELECTED RESERVE END STRENGTHS.

Section 115(f)(3) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''2 percent'' and inserting ''3 percent''.

Subtitle C—Authorization of Appropriations

SEC. 421. MILITARY PERSONNEL.

There is hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Defense for military personnel for fiscal year 2008 a total of $117,091,420,000. The authorization in the preceding sentence supersedes any other authorization of appropriations (definite or indefinite) for such purpose for fiscal year 2008.

TITLE V—MILITARY PERSONNEL POLICY

Subtitle A—Officer Personnel Policy

Sec. 501. Assignment of officers to designated positions of importance and responsibility.

Sec. 502. Enhanced authority for Reserve general and flag officers to serve on active duty.

Sec. 503. Increase in years of commissioned service threshold for discharge of probationary officers and for use of force shaping authority.

Sec. 504. Mandatory retirement age for active-duty general and flag officers continued on active duty.

Sec. 505. Authority for reduced mandatory service obligation for initial appointments of officers in critically short health professional specialties.

Sec. 506. Expansion of authority for reenlistment of officers in their former enlisted grade.

Sec. 507. Increase in authorized number of permanent professors at the United States Military Academy.

Sec. 508. Promotion of career military professors of the Navy.

Subtitle B—Reserve Component Management

Sec. 511. Retention of military technicians who lose dual status in the Selected Reserve due to combat-related disability.

Sec. 512. Constructive service credit upon original appointment of Reserve officers in certain health care professions.

Sec. 513. Mandatory separation of Reserve officers in the grade of lieutenant general or vice admiral after completion of 38 years of commissioned service.

Sec. 514. Maximum period of temporary Federal recognition of person as Army National Guard officer or Air National Guard officer.

Sec. 515. Advance notice to members of reserve components of deployment in support of contingency operations.

Sec. 516. Report on relief from professional licensure and certification requirements for reserve component members on long-term active duty.

Subtitle C—Education and Training

Sec. 521. Revisions to authority to pay tuition for off-duty training or education.

Sec. 522. Reduction or elimination of service obligation in an Army Reserve or Army National Guard troop program unit for certain persons selected as medical students at Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

Sec. 523. Repeal of annual limit on number of ROTC scholarships under Army Reserve and Army National Guard financial assistance program.

Sec. 524. Treatment of prior active service of members in uniformed medical accession programs.

Sec. 525. Repeal of post-2007–2008 academic year prohibition on phased increase in cadet strength limit at the United States Military Academy.
Sec. 526. National Defense University master's degree programs.
Sec. 527. Authority of the Air University to confer degree of master of science in flight test engineering.
Sec. 528. Enhancement of education benefits for certain members of reserve components.
Sec. 529. Extension of period of entitlement to educational assistance for certain members of the Selected Reserve affected by force shaping initiatives.
Sec. 530. Time limit for use of educational assistance benefit for certain members of reserve components and resumption of benefit.
Sec. 531. Secretary of Defense evaluation of the adequacy of the degree-granting authorities of certain military universities and educational institutions.
Sec. 532. Report on success of Army National Guard and Reserve Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps financial assistance program.
Sec. 533. Report on utilization of tuition assistance by members of the Armed Forces.
Sec. 534. Navy Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps unit for Southold, Mattituck, and Greenport High Schools.
Sec. 535. Report on transfer of administration of certain educational assistance programs for members of the reserve components.

Subtitle D—Military Justice and Legal Assistance Matters

Sec. 541. Authority to designate civilian employees of the Federal Government and dependents of deceased members as eligible for legal assistance from Department of Defense legal staff resources.
Sec. 542. Authority of judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces to administer oaths.
Sec. 543. Modification of authorities on senior members of the Judge Advocate Generals' Corps.
Sec. 544. Prohibition against members of the Armed Forces participating in criminal street gangs.

Subtitle E—Military Leave

Sec. 551. Temporary enhancement of carry-over of accumulated leave for members of the Armed Forces.
Sec. 552. Enhancement of rest and recuperation leave.

Subtitle F—Decorations and Awards

Sec. 561. Authorization and request for award of Medal of Honor to Leslie H. Sabo, Jr., for acts of valor during the Vietnam War.
Sec. 562. Authorization and request for award of Medal of Honor to Henry Svehla for acts of valor during the Korean War.
Sec. 563. Authorization and request for award of Medal of Honor to Woodrow W. Keeble for acts of valor during the Korean War.
Sec. 564. Authorization and request for award of Medal of Honor to Private Philip G. Shadrach for acts of valor as one of Andrews' Raiders during the Civil War.
Sec. 565. Authorization and request for award of Medal of Honor to Private George D. Wilson for acts of valor as one of Andrews' Raiders during the Civil War.

Subtitle G—Impact Aid and Defense Dependents Education System

Sec. 571. Continuation of authority to assist local educational agencies that benefit dependents of members of the Armed Forces and Department of Defense civilian employees.
Sec. 572. Impact aid for children with severe disabilities.
Sec. 573. Inclusion of dependents of non-department of Defense employees employed on Federal property in plan relating to force structure changes, relocation of military units, or base closures and realignments.
Sec. 574. Payment of private boarding school tuition for military dependents in overseas areas not served by defense dependents' education system schools.

Subtitle H—Military Families

Sec. 581. Department of Defense Military Family Readiness Council and policy and plans for military family readiness.
Sec. 582. Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program.
Sec. 583. Study to enhance and improve support services and programs for families of members of regular and reserve components undergoing deployment.
Sec. 584. Protection of child custody arrangements for parents who are members of the Armed Forces deployed in support of a contingency operation.
Sec. 585. Family leave in connection with injured members of the Armed Forces.
Sec. 586. Family care plans and deferment of deployment of single parent or dual military couples with minor dependents.
Sec. 587. Education and treatment services for military dependent children with autism.
Sec. 588. Commendation of efforts of Project Compassion in paying tribute to members of the Armed Forces who have fallen in the service of the United States.

Subtitle I—Other Matters

Sec. 590. Uniform performance policies for military bands and other musical units.
Sec. 591. Transportation of remains of deceased members of the Armed Forces and certain other persons.
Sec. 592. Expansion of number of academies supportable in any State under STARBASE program.
Sec. 593. Gift acceptance authority.
Sec. 594. Conduct by members of the Armed Forces and veterans out of uniform during hoisting, lowering, or passing of United States flag.
Sec. 595. Annual report on cases reviewed by National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.
Sec. 596. Modification of Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214).
Sec. 597. Reports on administrative separations of members of the Armed Forces for personality disorder.
Sec. 598. Program to commemorate 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.
Sec. 599. Recognition of members of the Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives program of the Civil Affairs and Military Government Sections of the Armed Forces during and following World War II.

Subtitle A—Officer Personnel Policy

SEC. 501. ASSIGNMENT OF OFFICERS TO DESIGNATED POSITIONS OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY.

(a) CONTINUATION IN GRADE WHILE AWAITING ORDERS.—Section 601(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''and'' at the end of paragraph (3);

(2) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

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

''(4) at the discretion of the Secretary of Defense, while the officer is awaiting orders after being relieved from the position designated under subsection (a) or by law to carry one of those grades, but not for more than 60 days beginning on the day the officer is relieved from the position, unless, during such period, the officer is placed under orders to another position designated under subsection (a) or by law to carry one of those grades, in which case paragraph (2) will also apply to the officer; and''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT REGARDING GENERAL AND FLAG OFFICER CEILINGS.—Section 525(e) of such title is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following new paragraph:

''(2) At the discretion of the Secretary of Defense, an officer of that armed force who has been relieved from a position designated under section 601(a) of this title or by law to carry one of the grades specified in such section, but only during the 60-day period beginning on the date on which the assignment of the officer to the first position is terminated or until the officer is assigned to a second such position, whichever occurs first.''.

SEC. 502. ENHANCED AUTHORITY FOR RESERVE GENERAL AND FLAG OFFICERS TO SERVE ON ACTIVE DUTY.

Section 526(d) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(1)'' before ''The limitations''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(2) The limitations of this section also do not apply to a number, as specified by the Secretary of the military department concerned, of reserve component general or flag officers authorized to serve on active duty for a period of not more than 365 days. The number so specified for an armed force may not exceed the number equal to 10 percent of the authorized number of general or flag officers, as the case may be, of that armed force under section 12004 of this title. In determining such number, any fraction shall be rounded down to the next whole number, except that such number shall be at least one.''.

SEC. 503. INCREASE IN YEARS OF COMMISSIONED SERVICE THRESHOLD FOR DISCHARGE OF PROBATIONARY OFFICERS AND FOR USE OF FORCE SHAPING AUTHORITY.

(a) ACTIVE-DUTY LIST OFFICERS.—

(1) EXTENDED PROBATIONARY PERIOD.—Paragraph (1)(A) of section 630 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''five years'' and inserting ''six years''.

(2) SECTION HEADING.—The heading of such section is amended by striking ''**five years**'' and inserting ''**six years**''.

(3) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The item relating to such section in the table of sections at the

beginning of subchapter III of chapter 36 of such title is amended to read as follows:

''630. Discharge of commissioned officers with less than six years of active commissioned service or found not qualified for promotion for first lieutenant or lieutenant (junior grade).''.

(b) OFFICER FORCE SHAPING AUTHORITY.—Section 647(b)(1) of such title is amended by striking ''5 years'' both places it appears and inserting ''six years''.

(c) RESERVE OFFICERS.—

(1) EXTENDED PROBATIONARY PERIOD.—Subsection (a)(1) of section 14503 of such title is amended by striking ''five years'' and inserting ''six years''.

(2) SECTION HEADING.—The heading of such section is amended by striking ''**five years**'' and inserting ''**six years**''.

(3) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The item relating to such section in the table of sections at the beginning of chapter 1407 of such title is amended to read as follows:

''14503. Discharge of officers with less than six years of commissioned service or found not qualified for promotion to first lieutenant or lieutenant (junior grade).''.

SEC. 504. MANDATORY RETIREMENT AGE FOR ACTIVE-DUTY GENERAL AND FLAG OFFICERS CONTINUED ON ACTIVE DUTY.

Section 637(b)(3) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''but such period may not (except as provided under section 1251(b) of this title) extend beyond the date of the officer's sixty-second birthday'' and inserting ''except as provided under section 1251 or 1253 of this title''.

SEC. 505. AUTHORITY FOR REDUCED MANDATORY SERVICE OBLIGATION FOR INITIAL APPOINTMENTS OF OFFICERS IN CRITICALLY SHORT HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SPECIALTIES.

Section 651 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(c)(1) For the armed forces under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary may waive the initial period of required service otherwise established pursuant to subsection (a) in the case of the initial appointment of a commissioned officer in a critically short health professional specialty specified by the Secretary for purposes of this subsection.

''(2) The minimum period of obligated service for an officer under a waiver under this subsection shall be the greater of—

''(A) two years; or

''(B) in the case of an officer who has accepted an accession bonus or executed a contract or agreement for the multiyear receipt of special pay for service in the armed forces, the period of obligated service specified in such contract or agreement.''.

SEC. 506. EXPANSION OF AUTHORITY FOR REENLISTMENT OF OFFICERS IN THEIR FORMER ENLISTED GRADE.

(a) REGULAR ARMY.—Section 3258 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking ''a Reserve officer'' and inserting ''an officer''; and

(B) by striking ''a temporary appointment'' and inserting ''an appointment''; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''a Reserve officer'' and inserting ''an officer''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''the Reserve commission'' and inserting ''the commission''.

(b) REGULAR AIR FORCE.—Section 8258 of such title is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking ''a reserve officer'' and inserting ''an officer''; and

(B) by striking ''a temporary appointment'' and inserting ''an appointment''; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''a Reserve officer'' and inserting ''an officer''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''the Reserve commission'' and inserting ''the commission''.

SEC. 507. INCREASE IN AUTHORIZED NUMBER OF PERMANENT PROFESSORS AT THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY.

Paragraph (4) of section 4331(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(4) Twenty-eight permanent professors.''.

SEC. 508. PROMOTION OF CAREER MILITARY PROFESSORS OF THE NAVY.

(a) PROMOTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 603 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating section 6970 as section 6970a; and

(B) by inserting after section 6969 the following new section 6970:

''§ 6970. Permanent professors: promotion

''(a) PROMOTION.—An officer serving as a permanent professor may be recommended for promotion to the grade of captain or colonel, as the case may be, under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Navy. The regulations shall include a competitive selection board process to identify those permanent professors best qualified for promotion. An officer so recommended shall be promoted by appointment to the higher grade by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

''(b) EFFECTIVE DATE OF PROMOTION.—If made, the promotion of an officer under subsection (a) shall be effective not earlier than three years after the selection of the officer as a permanent professor as described in that subsection.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by striking the item relating to section 6970 and inserting the following new items:

''6970. Permanent professors: promotion.

''6970a. Permanent professors: retirement for years of service; authority for deferral.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 641(2) of such title is amended—

(1) by striking ''and the registrar'' and inserting '', the registrar''; and

(2) by inserting before the period at the end the following: '', and permanent professors of the Navy (as defined in regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Navy)''.

(c) COMPETITIVE SELECTION ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary of Defense shall conduct an assessment of the effectiveness of the promotion system established under section 6970 of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), for permanent professors of the United States Naval Academy, including an evaluation of the extent to which the implementation of the promotion system has resulted in a competitive environment for the selection of permanent professors and an evaluation of whether the goals of the permanent professor program have been achieved, including adequate career progression and promotion opportunities for participating officers. Not later than December 31, 2009, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report containing the results of the assessment.

(d) USE OF EXCLUSIONS FROM AUTHORIZED OFFICER STRENGTHS.—Not later than March 31, 2008, the Secretary of the Navy shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report describing the plans of the Secretary for utilization of authorized exemptions under section 523(b)(8) of title 10, United States Code, and a discussion of the Navy's requirement, if any, and projections for use of additional exemptions by grade.

Subtitle B—Reserve Component Management

SEC. 511. RETENTION OF MILITARY TECHNICIANS WHO LOSE DUAL STATUS IN THE SELECTED RESERVE DUE TO COMBAT-RELATED DISABILITY.

Section 10216 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after subsection (f) the following new subsection:

''(g) RETENTION OF MILITARY TECHNICIANS WHO LOSE DUAL STATUS DUE TO COMBAT-RELATED DISABILITY.—(1) Notwithstanding subsection (d) of this section or subsections (a)(3) and (b) of section 10218 of this title, if a military technician (dual status) loses such dual status as the result of a combat-related disability (as defined in section 1413a of this title), the person may be retained as a non-dual status technician so long as—

''(A) the combat-related disability does not prevent the person from performing the non-dual status functions or position; and

''(B) the person, while a non-dual status technician, is not disqualified from performing the non-dual status functions or position because of performance, medical, or other reasons.

''(2) A person so retained shall be removed not later than 30 days after becoming eligible for an unreduced annuity and becoming 60 years of age.

''(3) Persons retained under the authority of this subsection do not count against the limitations of section 10217(c) of this title.''.

SEC. 512. CONSTRUCTIVE SERVICE CREDIT UPON ORIGINAL APPOINTMENT OF RESERVE OFFICERS IN CERTAIN HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS.

(a) INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS.—Paragraph (2) of section 12207(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(2)(A) If the Secretary of Defense determines that the number of officers in a health profession described in subparagraph (B) who are serving in an active status in a reserve component of the Army, Navy, or Air Force in grades below major or lieutenant commander is critically below the number needed in such health profession by such reserve component in such grades, the Secretary of Defense may authorize the Secretary of the military department concerned to credit any person who is receiving an original appointment as an officer for service in such health profession with a period of constructive credit in such amount (in addition to any amount credited such person under paragraph (1)) as will result in the grade of such person being that of captain or, in the case of the Navy Reserve, lieutenant.

''(B) The types of health professions referred to in subparagraph (A) include the following:

''(i) Any health profession performed by officers in the Medical Corps of the Army or the Navy or by officers of the Air Force designated as a medical officer.

''(ii) Any health profession performed by officers in the Dental Corps of the Army or the Navy or by officers of the Air Force designated as a dental officer.

''(iii) Any health profession performed by officers in the Medical Service Corps of the Army or the Navy or by officers of the Air Force designated as a medical service officer or biomedical sciences officer.

''(iv) Any health profession performed by officers in the Army Medical Specialist Corps.

''(v) Any health profession performed by officers of the Nurse Corps of the Army or the Navy or by officers of the Air Force designated as a nurse.

''(vi) Any health profession performed by officers in the Veterinary Corps of the Army or by officers designated as a veterinary officer.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (3) of such section is amended by striking ''a medical or dental officer'' and inserting ''officers covered by paragraph (2)''.

SEC. 513. MANDATORY SEPARATION OF RESERVE OFFICERS IN THE GRADE OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL OR VICE ADMIRAL AFTER COMPLETION OF 38 YEARS OF COMMISSIONED SERVICE.

(a) MANDATORY SEPARATION.—Section 14508 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (c), (d), and (e) as subsections (e), (f), and (g), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection (c):

''(c) THIRTY-EIGHT YEARS OF SERVICE FOR LIEUTENANT GENERALS AND VICE ADMIRALS.—Unless retired, transferred to the Retired Reserve, or discharged at an earlier date, each reserve officer of the Army, Air Force, or Marine Corps in the grade of lieutenant general and each reserve officer of the Navy in the grade of vice admiral shall be separated in accordance with section 14514 of this title on the later of the following:

''(1) 30 days after completion of 38 years of commissioned service.

''(2) The fifth anniversary of the date of the officer's appointment in the grade of lieutenant general or vice admiral.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—Such section is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting ''FOR BRIGADIER GENERALS AND REAR ADMIRALS (LOWER HALF)'' after ''GRADE'' in the subsection heading; and

(2) in subsection (b), by inserting ''FOR MAJOR GENERALS AND REAR ADMIRALS'' after ''GRADE'' in the subsection heading.

SEC. 514. MAXIMUM PERIOD OF TEMPORARY FEDERAL RECOGNITION OF PERSON AS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OFFICER OR AIR NATIONAL GUARD OFFICER.

Section 308(a) of title 32, United States Code, is amended in the last sentence by striking ''six months'' and inserting ''one year''.

SEC. 515. ADVANCE NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF RESERVE COMPONENTS OF DEPLOYMENT IN SUPPORT OF CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS.

(a) ADVANCE NOTICE REQUIRED.—The Secretary of a military department shall ensure that a member of a reserve component under the jurisdiction of that Secretary who will be called or ordered to active duty for a period of more than 30 days in support of a contingency operation (as defined in section 101(a)(13) of title 10, United States Code) receives notice in advance of the mobilization date. In so far as is practicable, the notice shall be provided not less than 30 days before the mobilization date, but with a goal of 90 days before the mobilization date.

(b) REDUCTION OR WAIVER OF NOTICE REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of Defense may waive the requirement of subsection (a), or authorize shorter notice than the minimum specified in such subsection, during a war or national emergency declared by the President or Congress or to meet mission requirements. If the waiver or reduction is made on account of mission requirements, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report detailing the reasons for the waiver or reduction and the mission requirements at issue.

SEC. 516. REPORT ON RELIEF FROM PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR RESERVE COMPONENT MEMBERS ON LONG-TERM ACTIVE DUTY.

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study of the requirements to maintain licensure or certification by members of the National Guard or other reserve components of the Armed Forces while on active duty for an extended period of time.

(b) ELEMENTS OF STUDY.—In the study, the Comptroller General shall—

(1) identify the number and type of professional or other licensure or certification requirements that may be adversely impacted by extended periods of active duty; and

(2) determine mechanisms that would provide relief from professional or other licensure or certification requirements for members of the reserve components while on active duty for an extended period of time.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives a report containing the results of the study and such recommendations as the Comptroller General considers appropriate to provide further relief for members of the reserve components from professional or other licensure or certification requirements while on active duty for an extended period of time.

Subtitle C—Education and Training

SEC. 521. REVISIONS TO AUTHORITY TO PAY TUITION FOR OFF-DUTY TRAINING OR EDUCATION.

(a) INCLUSION OF COAST GUARD.—Subsection (a) of section 2007 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''Subject to subsection (b), the Secretary of a military department'' and inserting ''Subject to subsections (b) and (c), the Secretary concerned''.

(b) COMMISSIONED OFFICERS ON ACTIVE DUTY.—Subsection (b) of such section is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by inserting after ''commissioned officer on active duty'' the following: ''(other than a member of the Ready Reserve)'';

(B) by striking ''the Secretary of the military department concerned'' and inserting ''the Secretary concerned''; and

(C) by striking ''or full-time National Guard duty'' both places it appears; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''the Secretary of the military department'' and inserting ''the Secretary concerned'';

(B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting after ''active duty service'' the following: ''for which the officer was ordered to active duty''; and

(C) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''Secretary'' and inserting ''Secretary concerned''.

(c) AUTHORITY TO PAY TUITION ASSISTANCE TO MEMBERS OF THE READY RESERVE.—

(1) AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.—Subsection (c) of such section is amended to read as follows:

''(c)(1) Subject to paragraphs (3) and (5), the Secretary concerned may pay the charges of an educational institution for the tuition or expenses described in subsection (a) of a member of the Selected Reserve.

''(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), the Secretary concerned may pay the charges of an educational institution for the tuition or expenses described in subsection (a) of a member of the Individual Ready Reserve who has a military occupational specialty designated by the Secretary concerned for purposes of this subsection.

''(3) The Secretary concerned may not pay charges under paragraph (1) for tuition or expenses of an officer of the Selected Reserve unless the officer enters into an agreement to remain a member of the Selected Reserve for at least 4 years after completion of the education or training for which the charges are paid.

''(4) The Secretary concerned may not pay charges under paragraph (2) for tuition or expenses of an officer of the Individual Ready Reserve unless the officer enters into an agreement to remain in the Selected Reserve or Individual Ready Reserve for at least 4 years after completion of the education or training for which the charges are paid.

''(5) The Secretary of a military department may require an enlisted member of the Selected Reserve or Individual Ready Reserve to enter into an agreement to serve for up to 4 years in the Selected Reserve or Individual Ready Reserve, as the case may be, after completion of the education or training for which tuition or expenses are paid under paragraph (1) or (2), as applicable.''.

(2) REPEAL OF SUPERSEDED PROVISION.—Such section is further amended—

(A) by striking subsection (d); and

(B) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively.

(3) REPAYMENT OF UNEARNED BENEFIT.—Subsection (e) of such section, as redesignated by paragraph (2) of this subsection, is amended—

(A) by inserting ''(1)'' after ''(e)''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(2) If a member of the Ready Reserve who enters into an agreement under subsection (c) does not complete the period of service specified in the agreement, the member shall be subject to the repayment provisions of section 303a(e) of title 37.''.

(d) REGULATIONS.—Such section is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(f) This section shall be administered under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense or, with respect to the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service in the Navy, the Secretary of Homeland Security.''.

(e) STUDY.—

(1) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense shall carry out a study on the tuition assistance program carried out under section 2007 of title 10, United States Code. The study shall—

(A) identify the number of members of the Armed Forces eligible for assistance under the program, and the number who actually receive the assistance;

(B) assess the extent to which the program affects retention rates; and

(C) assess the extent to which State tuition assistance programs affect retention rates in those States.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 9 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a report containing the results of the study.

SEC. 522. REDUCTION OR ELIMINATION OF SERVICE OBLIGATION IN AN ARMY RESERVE OR ARMY NATIONAL GUARD TROOP PROGRAM UNIT FOR CERTAIN PERSONS SELECTED AS MEDICAL STUDENTS AT UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES.

Paragraph (3) of section 2107a(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(3)(A) Subject to subparagraph (C), in the case of a person described in subparagraph (B), the Secretary may, at any time and with the consent of the person, modify an agreement described in paragraph (1)(F) submitted by the person for the purpose of reducing or eliminating the troop program unit service obligation specified in the agreement and to establish, in lieu of that obligation, an active duty service obligation.

''(B) Subparagraph (A) applies with respect to the following persons:

''(i) A cadet under this section at a military junior college.

''(ii) A cadet or former cadet under this section who is selected under section 2114 of this title to be a medical student at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

''(iii) A cadet or former cadet under this section who signs an agreement under section 2122 of this title for participation in the Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship and Financial Assistance program.

''(C) The modification of an agreement described in paragraph (1)(F) may be made only if the Secretary determines that it is in the best interests of the United States to do so.''.

SEC. 523. REPEAL OF ANNUAL LIMIT ON NUMBER OF ROTC SCHOLARSHIPS UNDER ARMY RESERVE AND ARMY NATIONAL GUARD FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Section 2107a(h) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''not more than 416 cadets each year under this section, to include'' and inserting ''each year under this section''.

SEC. 524. TREATMENT OF PRIOR ACTIVE SERVICE OF MEMBERS IN UNIFORMED MEDICAL ACCESSION PROGRAMS.

(a) MEDICAL STUDENTS OF USUHS.—

(1) TREATMENT OF STUDENTS WITH PRIOR ACTIVE SERVICE.—Section 2114 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsections (c) through (h) as subsections (d) through (i), respectively; and

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) by inserting ''(1)'' after ''(b)''; and

(ii) by inserting after the second sentence the following new paragraph:

''(2) If a member of the uniformed services selected to be a student has prior active service in a pay grade and with years of service credited for pay that would entitle the member, if the member remained in the former grade, to a rate of basic pay in excess of the rate of basic pay for regular officers in the grade of second lieutenant or ensign, the member shall be paid basic pay based on the former grade and years of service credited for pay. The amount of such basic pay for the member shall be increased on January 1 of each year by the percentage by which basic pay is increased on average on that date for that year, and the member shall continue to receive basic pay based on the former grade and years of service until the date, whether occurring before or after graduation, on which the basic pay for the member in the member's actual grade and years of service credited for pay exceeds the amount of basic pay to which the member is entitled based on the member's former grade and years of service.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such section is further amended—

(A) in subsection (b), by striking ''Upon graduation they'' and inserting the following:

''(c) Medical students who graduate''; and

(B) in subsection (i), as redesignated by paragraph (1), by striking ''subsection (b)'' and inserting ''subsection (c)''.

(b) PARTICIPANTS IN HEALTH PROFESSIONS SCHOLARSHIP AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—Section 2121(c) of such title is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(1)'' after ''(c)''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(2) If a member of the uniformed services selected to participate in the program as a medical student has prior active service in a pay grade and with years of service credited for pay that would entitle the member, if the member remained in the former grade, to a rate of basic pay in excess of the rate of basic pay for regular officers in the grade of second lieutenant or ensign, the member shall be paid basic pay based on the former grade and years of service credited for pay. The amount of such basic pay for the member shall be increased on January 1 of each year by the percentage by which basic pay is increased on average on that date for that year, and the member shall continue to receive basic pay based on the former grade and years of service until the date, whether occurring before or after the conclusion of such participation, on which the basic pay for the member in the member's actual grade and years of service credited for pay exceeds the amount of basic pay to which the member is entitled based on the member's former grade and years of service.''.

(c) OFFICERS DETAILED AS STUDENTS AT MEDICAL SCHOOLS.—

(1) APPOINTMENT AND TREATMENT OF PRIOR ACTIVE SERVICE.—Section 2004a of such title is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsections (e) through (h) as subsections (f) through (i), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subsection (d) the following new subsection:

''(e) APPOINTMENT AND TREATMENT OF PRIOR ACTIVE SERVICE.—(1) A commissioned officer detailed as a student at a medical school under subsection (a) shall be appointed as a regular officer in the grade of second lieutenant or ensign and shall serve on active duty in that grade with full pay and allowances of that grade.

''(2) If an officer detailed to be a medical student has prior active service in a pay grade and with years of service credited for pay that would entitle the officer, if the officer remained in the former grade, to a rate of basic pay in excess of the rate of basic pay for regular officers in the grade of second lieutenant or ensign, the officer shall be paid basic pay based on the former grade and years of service credited for pay. The amount of such basic pay for the officer shall be increased on January 1 of each year by the percentage by which basic pay is increased on average on that date for that year, and the officer shall continue to receive basic pay based on the former grade and years of service until the date, whether occurring before or after graduation, on which the basic pay for the officer in the officer's actual grade and years of service credited for pay exceeds the amount of basic pay to which the officer is entitled based on the officer's former grade and years of service.''.

(2) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Subsection (c) of such section is amended by striking ''subsection (c)'' and inserting ''subsection (b)''.

SEC. 525. REPEAL OF POST-2007–2008 ACADEMIC YEAR PROHIBITION ON PHASED INCREASE IN CADET STRENGTH LIMIT AT THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY.

Section 4342(j)(1) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking the last sentence.

SEC. 526. NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMS.

(a) MASTER OF ARTS PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—Section 2163 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting ''or master of arts'' after ''master of science''; and

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

''(4) MASTER OF ARTS IN STRATEGIC SECURITY STUDIES.—The degree of master of arts in strategic security studies, to graduates of the University who fulfill the requirements of the program at the School for National Security Executive Education.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) SECTION HEADING.—The heading of such section is amended to read as follows:

''§ 2163. National Defense University: master's degree programs''.

(2) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 108 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 2163 and inserting the following new item:

''2163. National Defense University: master's degree programs.''.

(c) APPLICABILITY TO 2006–2007 GRADUATES.—Paragraph (4) of section 2163(b) of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a) of this section, applies with respect to any person who becomes a graduate of the National Defense University on or after September 6, 2006, and fulfills the requirements of the program referred to in such paragraph (4).

SEC. 527. AUTHORITY OF THE AIR UNIVERSITY TO CONFER DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN FLIGHT TEST ENGINEERING.

Section 9317(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

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

''(4) The degree of master of science in flight test engineering upon graduates of the Air Force Test Pilot School who fulfill the requirements for that degree in a manner consistent with the recommendations of the Department of Education and the principles of the regional accrediting body for the Air University.''.

SEC. 528. ENHANCEMENT OF EDUCATION BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS OF RESERVE COMPONENTS.

(a) ACCELERATED PAYMENT OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR MEMBERS OF THE SELECTED RESERVE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1606 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 16131 the following new section:

''§ 16131a. Accelerated payment of educational assistance

''(a) The educational assistance allowance payable under section 16131 of this title with respect to an eligible person described in subsection (b) may, upon the election of such eligible person, be paid on an accelerated basis in accordance with this section.

''(b) An eligible person described in this subsection is a person entitled to educational assistance under this chapter who is—

''(1) enrolled in an approved program of education not exceeding two years in duration and not leading to an associate, bachelors, masters, or other degree, subject to subsection (g); and

''(2) charged tuition and fees for the program of education that, when divided by the number of months (and fractions thereof) in the enrollment period, exceeds the amount equal to 200 percent of the monthly rate of educational assistance allowance otherwise payable with respect to the person under section 16131 of this title.

''(c)(1) The amount of the accelerated payment of educational assistance payable with respect to an eligible person making an election under subsection (a) for a program of education shall be the lesser of—

''(A) the amount equal to 60 percent of the established charges for the program of education; or

''(B) the aggregate amount of educational assistance allowance to which the person remains entitled under this chapter at the time of the payment.

''(2)(A) In this subsection, except as provided in subparagraph (B), the term 'established charges', in the case of a program of education, means the actual charges (as determined pursuant to regulations prescribed

by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs) for tuition and fees which similarly circumstanced individuals who are not eligible for benefits under this chapter and who are enrolled in the program of education would be required to pay. Established charges shall be determined on the following basis:

''(i) In the case of an individual enrolled in a program of education offered on a term, quarter, or semester basis, the tuition and fees charged the individual for the term, quarter, or semester.

''(ii) In the case of an individual enrolled in a program of education not offered on a term, quarter, or semester basis, the tuition and fees charged the individual for the entire program of education.

''(B) In this subsection, the term 'established charges' does not include any fees or payments attributable to the purchase of a vehicle.

''(3) The educational institution providing the program of education for which an accelerated payment of educational assistance allowance is elected by an eligible person under subsection (a) shall certify to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs the amount of the established charges for the program of education.

''(d) An accelerated payment of educational assistance allowance made with respect to an eligible person under this section for a program of education shall be made not later than the last day of the month immediately following the month in which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs receives a certification from the educational institution regarding—

''(1) the person's enrollment in and pursuit of the program of education; and

''(2) the amount of the established charges for the program of education.

''(e)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), for each accelerated payment of educational assistance allowance made with respect to an eligible person under this section, the person's entitlement to educational assistance under this chapter shall be charged the number of months (and any fraction thereof) determined by dividing the amount of the accelerated payment by the full-time monthly rate of educational assistance allowance otherwise payable with respect to the person under section 16131 of this title as of the beginning date of the enrollment period for the program of education for which the accelerated payment is made.

''(2) If the monthly rate of educational assistance allowance otherwise payable with respect to an eligible person under section 16131 of this title increases during the enrollment period of a program of education for which an accelerated payment of educational assistance allowance is made under this section, the charge to the person's entitlement to educational assistance under this chapter shall be determined by prorating the entitlement chargeable, in the manner provided for under paragraph (1), for the periods covered by the initial rate and increased rate, respectively, in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

''(f) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall prescribe regulations to carry out this section. The regulations shall include requirements, conditions, and methods for the request, issuance, delivery, certification of receipt and use, and recovery of overpayment of an accelerated payment of educational assistance allowance under this section. The regulations may include such elements of the regulations prescribed under section 3014A of title 38 as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs considers appropriate for purposes of this section.

''(g) The aggregate amount of educational assistance payable under this section in any fiscal year for enrollments covered by subsection (b)(1) may not exceed $4,000,000.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 1606 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 16131 the following new item:

''16131a. Accelerated payment of educational assistance.''.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall take effect on October 1, 2008, and shall only apply to initial enrollments in approved programs of education after such date.

(b) ACCELERATED PAYMENT OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR RESERVE COMPONENT MEMBERS SUPPORTING CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS AND OTHER OPERATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1607 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 16162 the following new section:

''§ 16162a. Accelerated payment of educational assistance

''(a) PAYMENT ON ACCELERATED BASIS.—The educational assistance allowance payable under section 16162 of this title with respect to an eligible member described in subsection (b) may, upon the election of such eligible member, be paid on an accelerated basis in accordance with this section.

''(b) ELIGIBLE MEMBERS.—An eligible member described in this subsection is a member of a reserve component entitled to educational assistance under this chapter who is—

''(1) enrolled in an approved program of education not exceeding two years in duration and not leading to an associate, bachelors, masters, or other degree, subject to subsection (g); and

''(2) charged tuition and fees for the program of education that, when divided by the number of months (and fractions thereof) in the enrollment period, exceeds the amount equal to 200 percent of the monthly rate of educational assistance allowance otherwise payable with respect to the member under section 16162 of this title.

''(c) AMOUNT OF ACCELERATED PAYMENT.—(1) The amount of the accelerated payment of educational assistance payable with respect to an eligible member making an election under subsection (a) for a program of education shall be the lesser of—

''(A) the amount equal to 60 percent of the established charges for the program of education; or

''(B) the aggregate amount of educational assistance allowance to which the member remains entitled under this chapter at the time of the payment.

''(2)(A) In this subsection, except as provided in subparagraph (B), the term 'established charges', in the case of a program of education, means the actual charges (as determined pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs) for tuition and fees which similarly circumstanced individuals who are not eligible for benefits under this chapter and who are enrolled in the program of education would be required to pay. Established charges shall be determined on the following basis:

''(i) In the case of an individual enrolled in a program of education offered on a term, quarter, or semester basis, the tuition and fees charged the individual for the term, quarter, or semester.

''(ii) In the case of an individual enrolled in a program of education not offered on a term, quarter, or semester basis, the tuition and fees charged the individual for the entire program of education.

''(B) In this subsection, the term 'established charges' does not include any fees or payments attributable to the purchase of a vehicle.

''(3) The educational institution providing the program of education for which an accelerated payment of educational assistance allowance is elected by an eligible member under subsection (a) shall certify to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs the amount of the established charges for the program of education.

''(d) TIME OF PAYMENT.—An accelerated payment of educational assistance allowance made with respect to an eligible member under this section for a program of education shall be made not later than the last day of the month immediately following the month in which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs receives a certification from the educational institution regarding—

''(1) the member's enrollment in and pursuit of the program of education; and

''(2) the amount of the established charges for the program of education.

''(e) CHARGE AGAINST ENTITLEMENT.—(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), for each accelerated payment of educational assistance allowance made with respect to an eligible member under this section, the member's entitlement to educational assistance under this chapter shall be charged the number of months (and any fraction thereof) determined by dividing the amount of the accelerated payment by the full-time monthly rate of educational assistance allowance otherwise payable with respect to the member under section 16162 of this title as of the beginning date of the enrollment period for the program of education for which the accelerated payment is made.

''(2) If the monthly rate of educational assistance allowance otherwise payable with respect to an eligible member under section 16162 of this title increases during the enrollment period of a program of education for which an accelerated payment of educational assistance allowance is made under this section, the charge to the member's entitlement to educational assistance under this chapter shall be determined by prorating the entitlement chargeable, in the manner provided for under paragraph (1), for the periods covered by the initial rate and increased rate, respectively, in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

''(f) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall prescribe regulations to carry out this section. The regulations shall include requirements, conditions, and methods for the request, issuance, delivery, certification of receipt and use, and recovery of overpayment of an accelerated payment of educational assistance allowance under this section. The regulations may include such elements of the regulations prescribed under section 3014A of title 38 as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs considers appropriate for purposes of this section.

''(g) LIMITATION.—The aggregate amount of educational assistance payable under this section in any fiscal year for enrollments covered by subsection (b)(1) may not exceed $3,000,000.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 1607 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 16162 the following new item:

''16162a. Accelerated payment of educational assistance.''.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall take effect on October 1, 2008, and shall only apply to initial enrollments in approved programs of education after such date.

(c) ENHANCEMENT OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR RESERVE COMPONENT MEMBERS SUPPORTING CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS AND OTHER OPERATIONS.—

(1) ASSISTANCE FOR THREE YEARS CUMULATIVE SERVICE.—Subsection (c)(4)(C) of section 16162 of title 10, United States Code, is

amended by striking ''for two continuous years or more.'' and inserting ''for—

''(i) two continuous years or more; or

''(ii) an aggregate of three years or more.''.

(2) CONTRIBUTIONS FOR INCREASED AMOUNT OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.—Such section is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(f) CONTRIBUTIONS FOR INCREASED AMOUNT OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.—(1)(A) Any individual eligible for educational assistance under this section may contribute amounts for purposes of receiving an increased amount of educational assistance as provided for in paragraph (2).

''(B) An individual covered by subparagraph (A) may make the contributions authorized by that subparagraph at any time while a member of a reserve component, but not more frequently than monthly.

''(C) The total amount of the contributions made by an individual under subparagraph (A) may not exceed $600. Such contributions shall be made in multiples of $20.

''(D) Contributions under this subsection shall be made to the Secretary concerned. Such Secretary shall deposit any amounts received as contributions under this subsection into the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts.

''(2) Effective as of the first day of the enrollment period following the enrollment period in which an individual makes contributions under paragraph (1), the monthly amount of educational assistance allowance applicable to such individual under this section shall be the monthly rate otherwise provided for under subsection (c) increased by—

''(A) an amount equal to $5 for each $20 contributed by such individual under paragraph (1) for an approved program of education pursued on a full-time basis; or

''(B) an appropriately reduced amount based on the amount so contributed as determined under regulations that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall prescribe, for an approved program of education pursued on less than a full-time basis.''.

SEC. 529. EXTENSION OF PERIOD OF ENTITLEMENT TO EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE SELECTED RESERVE AFFECTED BY FORCE SHAPING INITIATIVES.

Section 16133(b)(1)(B) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''or the period beginning on October 1, 2007, and ending on September 30, 2014,'' after ''December 31, 2001,''.

SEC. 530. TIME LIMIT FOR USE OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE BENEFIT FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS OF RESERVE COMPONENTS AND RESUMPTION OF BENEFIT.

(a) MODIFICATION OF TIME LIMIT FOR USE OF BENEFIT.—

(1) MODIFICATION.—Section 16164(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''this chapter while serving—'' and all that follows and inserting ''this chapter—

''(1) while the member is serving—

''(A) in the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve, in the case of a member called or ordered to active service while serving in the Selected Reserve; or

''(B) in the Ready Reserve, in the case of a member ordered to active duty while serving in the Ready Reserve (other than the Selected Reserve); and

''(2) in the case of a person who separates from the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve after completion of a period of active service described in section 16163 of this title and completion of a service contract under other than dishonorable conditions, during the 10-year period beginning on the date on which the person separates from the Selected Reserve.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (2) of section 16165(a) of such title is amended to read as follows:

''(2) when the member separates from the Ready Reserve as provided in section 16164(a)(1) of this title, or upon completion of the period provided for in section 16164(a)(2) of this title, as applicable.''.

(b) RECLAIMING BENEFIT FOR MEMBERS RE-ENTERING SERVICE.—Section 16165(b) of such title is amended by striking ''of not more than 90 days'' after ''who incurs a break in service in the Selected Reserve''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as of October 28, 2004, as if included in the enactment of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (Public Law 108–375), to which such amendments relate.

SEC. 531. SECRETARY OF DEFENSE EVALUATION OF THE ADEQUACY OF THE DEGREE-GRANTING AUTHORITIES OF CERTAIN MILITARY UNIVERSITIES AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

(a) EVALUATION REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense shall carry out an evaluation of the degree-granting authorities provided by title 10, United States Code, to the academic institutions specified in subsection (b). The evaluation shall assess whether the current process, under which each degree conferred by each institution must have a statutory authorization, remains adequate, appropriate, and responsive enough to meet emerging military service education requirements.

(b) SPECIFIED INSTITUTIONS.—The academic institutions covered by subsection (a) are the following:

(1) The National Defense University.

(2) The Army War College and the United States Army Command and General Staff College.

(3) The United States Naval War College.

(4) The United States Naval Postgraduate School.

(5) Air University and the United States Air Force Institute of Technology.

(6) The Marine Corps University.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than April 1, 2008, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a report on the evaluation. The report shall include the results of the evaluation and any recommendations for changes to policy or law that the Secretary considers appropriate.

SEC. 532. REPORT ON SUCCESS OF ARMY NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE SENIOR RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 150 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Army shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the success of the financial assistance program of the Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps under section 2107a of title 10, United States Code, in securing the appointment of second lieutenants in the Army Reserve and Army National Guard. The report shall include detailed information on the appointment of cadets under the financial assistance program who are enrolled in an educational institution described in subsection (b) and address the efforts of the Secretary to increase awareness of the availability and advantages of appointment in the Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps at these institutions and to increase the number of cadets at these institutions.

(b) COVERED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.—The educational institutions referred to in subsection (a) are the following:

(1) An historically Black college or university that is a part B institution, as defined in section 322(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061(2)).

(2) A minority institution, as defined in section 365(3) of that Act (20 U.S.C. 1067k(3)).

(3) An Hispanic-serving institution, as defined in section 502(a)(5) of that Act (20 U.S.C. 1101a(a)(5)).

SEC. 533. REPORT ON UTILIZATION OF TUITION ASSISTANCE BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) REPORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than April 1, 2008, the Secretary of each military department shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the utilization of tuition assistance by members of the Armed Forces, whether in the regular components of the Armed Forces or the reserve components of the Armed Forces, under the jurisdiction of such military department during fiscal year 2007.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report with respect to a military department under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Information on the policies of such military department for fiscal year 2007 regarding utilization of, and limits on, tuition assistance by members of the Armed Forces under the jurisdiction of such military department, including an estimate of the number of members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces under the jurisdiction of such military department whose requests for tuition assistance during that fiscal year were unfunded.

(2) Information on the policies of such military department for fiscal year 2007 regarding funding of tuition assistance for each of the regular components of the Armed Forces and each of the reserve components of the Armed Forces under the jurisdiction of such military department.

SEC. 534. NAVY JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS UNIT FOR SOUTHOLD, MATTITUCK, AND GREENPORT HIGH SCHOOLS.

For purposes of meeting the requirements of section 2031(b) of title 10, United States Code, the Secretary of the Navy may and, to the extent the schools request, shall treat any two or more of the following schools (all in Southold, Suffolk County, New York) as a single institution:

(1) Southold High School.

(2) Mattituck High School.

(3) Greenport High School.

SEC. 535. REPORT ON TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATION OF CERTAIN EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR MEMBERS OF THE RESERVE COMPONENTS.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than September 1, 2008, the Secretary of Defense, in cooperation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall submit to the congressional defense committees and the Committees on Veterans Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on the feasibility and merits of transferring the administration of the educational assistance programs for members of the reserve components contained in chapters 1606 and 1607 of title 10, United States Code, from the Department of Defense to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(b) ELEMENTS OF REPORT.—The report shall specifically address the following:

(1) A discussion of the history and purpose of the educational assistance benefits under chapters 1606 and 1607 of title 10, United States Code, and the data most recently available, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, relating to the cost of providing such benefits and the projected costs of providing such benefits over the ten-year period beginning on the such date.

(2) The effect of a transfer of administrative jurisdiction on the delivery of educational assistance benefits to members of the reserve components.

(3) The effect of a transfer of administrative jurisdiction on Department of Defense

efforts relating to recruiting, retention, and compensation, including bonuses, special pays, and incentive pays.

(4) The extent to which educational assistance benefits influence the decision of a person to join a reserve component.

(5) The extent to which the educational assistance benefits available under chapter 1606 of title 10, United States Code, affect retention rates, including statistics showing how many members remain in the reserve components in order to continue to receive education benefits under such chapter.

(6) The extent to which the educational assistance benefits available under chapter 1607 of title 10, United States Code, affect retention rates, including statistics showing how many members remain in the reserve components in order to continue to receive education benefits under such chapter.

(7) The practical and budgetary issues involved in a transfer of administrative jurisdiction, including a discussion of the cost of equating the educational assistance benefits for members of the active and reserve components.

(8) Any recommendations of the Secretary for legislation to enhance or improve the delivery of educational assistance benefits for members of the reserve components.

(9) The feasibility and likely effects of transferring the administration of the educational assistance programs for members of the reserve components contained in chapters 1606 and 1607 of title 10, United States Code, from the Department of Defense to the Department of Veterans Affairs through the recodification of such chapters in title 38, United States Code, as proposed in section 525 of H.R. 1585 of the 110th Congress, as passed by the House of Representatives, together with any recommendations of the Secretary for improving that section.

(10) A discussion of the effects and impact of the amendments to chapter 1607 of title 10, United States Code, made by section 530 of this Act, relating to the extension of the time limit for the use of educational assistance benefits under that chapter.

(c) REVIEWS OF REPORT.—Before submission of the report to Congress, the Secretary of Defense shall secure the review of the report by the Defense Business Board, in cooperation with the Reserve Forces Policy Board. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall secure the review of the report by the Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Education. The results of such reviews shall be included as an appendix to the report.

(d) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW.—Not later than November 1, 2008, the Comptroller General shall submit to the congressional committees referred to in subsection (a) an assessment of the report, including a review of the costs inherent in the transfer of administrative jurisdiction and the recruiting and retention data and other assumptions used by the Secretary of Defense in preparing the report. As part of the assessment, the Comptroller General shall solicit responses from the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Subtitle D—Military Justice and Legal Assistance Matters

SEC. 541. AUTHORITY TO DESIGNATE CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND DEPENDENTS OF DECEASED MEMBERS AS ELIGIBLE FOR LEGAL ASSISTANCE FROM DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE LEGAL STAFF RESOURCES.

Section 1044(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

''(6) Survivors of a deceased member or former member described in paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4) who were dependents of the member or former member at the time of the death of the member or former member, except that the eligibility of such survivors shall be determined pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Secretary concerned.

''(7) Civilian employees of the Federal Government serving in locations where legal assistance from non-military legal assistance providers is not reasonably available, except that the eligibility of civilian employees shall be determined pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Secretary concerned.''.

SEC. 542. AUTHORITY OF JUDGES OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE ARMED FORCES TO ADMINISTER OATHS.

Section 936 of title 10, United States Code (article 136 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(c) The judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces may administer the oaths authorized by subsections (a) and (b).''.

SEC. 543. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITIES ON SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERALS' CORPS.

(a) DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY.—

(1) GRADE OF JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 3037 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking the third sentence and inserting the following new sentence: ''The Judge Advocate General, while so serving, has the grade of lieutenant general.''.

(2) REDESIGNATION OF ASSISTANT JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL AS DEPUTY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL.—Such section is further amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking ''Assistant Judge Advocate General'' each place it appears and inserting ''Deputy Judge Advocate General''; and

(B) in subsection (d), by striking ''Assistant Judge Advocate General'' and inserting ''Deputy Judge Advocate General''.

(3) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—(A) The heading of such section is amended to read as follows:

''§ 3037. Judge Advocate General, Deputy Judge Advocate General, and general officers of Judge Advocate General's Corps: appointment; duties''.

(B) The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 305 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 3037 and inserting the following new item:

''3037. Judge Advocate General, Deputy Judge Advocate General, and general officers of Judge Advocate General's Corps: appointment; duties.''.

(b) GRADE OF JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL OF THE NAVY.—Section 5148(b) of such title is amended by striking the last sentence and inserting the following new sentence: ''The Judge Advocate General, while so serving, has the grade of vice admiral or lieutenant general, as appropriate.''.

(c) GRADE OF JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL OF THE AIR FORCE.—Section 8037(a) of such title is amended by striking the last sentence and inserting the following new sentence: ''The Judge Advocate General, while so serving, has the grade of lieutenant general.''.

(d) INCREASE IN NUMBER OF OFFICERS SERVING IN GRADES ABOVE MAJOR GENERAL AND REAR ADMIRAL.—Section 525(b) of such title is amended in paragraphs (1) and (2)(A) by striking ''15.7 percent'' each place it appears and inserting ''16.3 percent''.

(e) LEGAL COUNSEL TO CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 5 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 156. Legal Counsel to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

''(a) IN GENERAL.—There is a Legal Counsel to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

''(b) SELECTION FOR APPOINTMENT.—Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense, the officer selected for appointment to serve as Legal Counsel to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall be recommended by a board of officers convened by the Secretary of Defense that, insofar as practicable, is subject to the procedures applicable to selection boards convened under chapter 36 of this title.

''(c) GRADE.—An officer appointed to serve as Legal Counsel to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall, while so serving, hold the grade of brigadier general or rear admiral (lower half).

''(d) DUTIES.—The Legal Counsel of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall perform such legal duties in support of the responsibilities of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff as the Chairman may prescribe.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 5 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''156. Legal Counsel to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff''.

(f) STRATEGIC PLAN TO LINK GENERAL AND FLAG OFFICER NUMBERS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND DEVELOPMENT TO THE MISSIONS AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—

(1) STRATEGIC PLAN REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense shall develop a strategic plan linking the missions and requirements of the Department of Defense for general and flag officers to the statutory limits on the numbers of general and flag officers, and current assignment, promotion, and joint officer development policies for general and flag officers.

(2) ADVICE OF CHAIRMAN OF JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF.—The Secretary shall develop the strategic plan required under paragraph (1) with the advice of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

(3) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The strategic plan required under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A description of the process for identification of the present and emerging requirements for general and flag officers and recommendations for meeting these requirements.

(B) Identification of the numbers of general and flag officers by service, grade, and qualifications currently available compared with the numbers needed to meet existing statutory requirements in support of the overall missions of the Department of Defense.

(C) An assessment of the problems or issues (and proposed solutions for any such problems or issues) arising from existing numerical limitations on the number and grade distribution of active and reserve component general and flag officers under sections 525, 526, and 12004 of title 10, United States Code.

(D) A discussion of how wartime requirements for additional general or flag officers have been addressed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, including the usage of wartime or national emergency authorities.

(E) An assessment of any problems or issues (and proposed solutions for any such problems or issues) arising from existing statutory provisions regarding general and flag officer assignments and grade requirements and the need, if any, for revision of provisions in title 10, United States Code, specific to individual general and flag officer positions along with recommendations to mitigate the need for routine legislative intervention as positions change to support organizational demands.

(F) An assessment of the use currently being made of reserve component flag and

general officers and discussion of barriers to the qualification, selection, and assignment of National Guard and Reserve officers for the broadest possible range of positions of importance and responsibility.

(4) DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION.—The Secretary shall submit the plan required under paragraph (1) to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives not later than March 1, 2009.

SEC. 544. PROHIBITION AGAINST MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES PARTICIPATING IN CRIMINAL STREET GANGS.

The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regulations to prohibit the active participation by members of the Armed Forces in a criminal street gang.

Subtitle E—Military Leave

SEC. 551. TEMPORARY ENHANCEMENT OF CARRYOVER OF ACCUMULATED LEAVE FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) TEMPORARY INCREASE IN ACCUMULATED LEAVE CARRYOVER AMOUNT.—Section 701 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking ''subsection (f) and subsection (g)'' and inserting ''subsections (d), (f), and (g)''; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection:

''(d) Notwithstanding subsection (b), during the period beginning on October 1, 2008, through December 31, 2010, a member may accumulate up to 75 days of leave.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS RELATED TO HIGH DEPLOYMENT MEMBERS.—Subsection (f) of such section is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking ''any accumulated leave in excess of 60 days at the end of the fiscal year'' and inserting ''at the end of the fiscal year any accumulated leave in excess of the number of days of leave authorized to be accumulated under subsection (b) or (d)'';

(2) in paragraph (1)(C)—

(A) by striking ''60 days'' and inserting ''the days of leave authorized to be accumulated under subsection (b) or (d) that are''; and

(B) by inserting ''(or fourth fiscal year, if accumulated while subsection (d) is in effect)'' after ''third fiscal year''; and

(3) in paragraph (2), by striking ''except for this paragraph—'' and all that follows through the end of the paragraph and inserting ''except for this paragraph, would lose at the end of that fiscal year any accumulated leave in excess of the number of days of leave authorized to be accumulated under subsection (b) or (d), shall be permitted to retain such leave until the end of the second fiscal year after the fiscal year in which such service on active duty is terminated.''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATED TO MEMBERS IN MISSING STATUS.—Subsection (g) of such section is amended by striking ''60-day limitation in subsection (b) and the 90-day limitation in subsection (f)'' and inserting ''limitations in subsections (b), (d), and (f)''.

(d) PAY.—Section 501(b) of title 37, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(6) An enlisted member of the armed forces who would lose accumulated leave in excess of 120 days of leave under section 701(f)(1) of title 10 may elect to be paid in cash or by a check on the Treasurer of the United States for any leave in excess so accumulated for up to 30 days of such leave. A member may make an election under this paragraph only once.''.

SEC. 552. ENHANCEMENT OF REST AND RECUPERATION LEAVE.

Section 705(b)(2) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''for members whose qualifying tour of duty is 12 months or less, or for not more than 20 days for members whose qualifying tour of duty is longer than 12 months,'' after ''for not more than 15 days''.

Subtitle F—Decorations and Awards

SEC. 561. AUTHORIZATION AND REQUEST FOR AWARD OF MEDAL OF HONOR TO LESLIE H. SABO, JR., FOR ACTS OF VALOR DURING THE VIETNAM WAR.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Notwithstanding the time limitations specified in section 3744 of title 10, United States Code, or any other time limitation with respect to the awarding of certain medals to persons who served in the Armed Forces, the President is authorized and requested to award the Medal of Honor under section 3741 of such title to Leslie H. Sabo, Jr., for the acts of valor during the Vietnam War described in subsection (b).

(b) ACTS OF VALOR DESCRIBED.—The acts of valor referred to in subsection (a) are the actions of Leslie H. Sabo, Jr., on May 10, 1970, as a member of the United States Army serving in the grade of Specialist Four in the Republic of Vietnam with Company B of the 3d Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division.

SEC. 562. AUTHORIZATION AND REQUEST FOR AWARD OF MEDAL OF HONOR TO HENRY SVEHLA FOR ACTS OF VALOR DURING THE KOREAN WAR.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Notwithstanding the time limitations specified in section 3744 of title 10, United States Code, or any other time limitation with respect to the awarding of certain medals to persons who served in the Armed Forces, the President is authorized and requested to award the Medal of Honor under section 3741 of such title to Henry Svehla for the acts of valor described in subsection (b).

(b) ACTS OF VALOR DESCRIBED.—The acts of valor referred to in subsection (a) are the actions of Henry Svehla on June 12, 1952, as a member of the United States Army serving in the grade of Private First Class in Korea with Company F of the 32d Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division.

SEC. 563. AUTHORIZATION AND REQUEST FOR AWARD OF MEDAL OF HONOR TO WOODROW W. KEEBLE FOR ACTS OF VALOR DURING THE KOREAN WAR.

(a) WAIVER OF TIME LIMITATIONS.—Notwithstanding the time limitations specified in section 3744 of title 10, United States Code, or any other time limitation with respect to the awarding of certain medals to persons who served in the Armed Forces, the President is authorized and requested to award the Medal of Honor under section 3741 of such title to Woodrow W. Keeble for the acts of valor described in subsection (b).

(b) ACTS OF VALOR DESCRIBED.—The acts of valor referred to in subsection (a) are the actions of Woodrow W. Keeble of the United States Army as an acting platoon leader on October 20, 1950, during the Korean War.

SEC. 564. AUTHORIZATION AND REQUEST FOR AWARD OF MEDAL OF HONOR TO PRIVATE PHILIP G. SHADRACH FOR ACTS OF VALOR AS ONE OF ANDREWS' RAIDERS DURING THE CIVIL WAR.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Notwithstanding the time limitations specified in section 3744 of title 10, United States Code, or any other time limitation with respect to the awarding of certain medals to persons who served in the Armed Forces, the President is authorized and requested to award the Medal of Honor under section 3741 of such title posthumously to Private Philip G. Shadrach of Company K, 2nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment for the acts of valor described in subsection (b).

(b) ACTS OF VALOR DESCRIBED.—The acts of valor referred to in subsection (a) are the actions of Philip G. Shadrach as one of Andrews' Raiders during the Civil War on April 12, 1862.

SEC. 565. AUTHORIZATION AND REQUEST FOR AWARD OF MEDAL OF HONOR TO PRIVATE GEORGE D. WILSON FOR ACTS OF VALOR AS ONE OF ANDREWS' RAIDERS DURING THE CIVIL WAR.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The President is authorized and requested to award the Medal of Honor under section 3741 of title 10, United States Code, posthumously to Private George D. Wilson of Company B, 2nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment for the acts of valor described in subsection (b).

(b) ACTS OF VALOR DESCRIBED.—The acts of valor referred to in subsection (a) are the actions of George D. Wilson as one of Andrews' Raiders during the Civil War on April 12, 1862.

Subtitle G—Impact Aid and Defense Dependents Education System

SEC. 571. CONTINUATION OF AUTHORITY TO ASSIST LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES THAT BENEFIT DEPENDENTS OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES.

(a) ASSISTANCE TO SCHOOLS WITH SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF MILITARY DEPENDENT STUDENTS.—Of the amount authorized to be appropriated pursuant to section 301(5) for operation and maintenance for Defense-wide activities, $30,000,000 shall be available only for the purpose of providing assistance to local educational agencies under subsection (a) of section 572 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109–163; 119 Stat. 3271; 20 U.S.C. 7703b).

(b) ASSISTANCE TO SCHOOLS WITH ENROLLMENT CHANGES DUE TO BASE CLOSURES, FORCE STRUCTURE CHANGES, OR FORCE RELOCATIONS.—Of the amount authorized to be appropriated pursuant to section 301(5) for operation and maintenance for Defense-wide activities, $10,000,000 shall be available only for the purpose of providing assistance to local educational agencies under subsection (b) of such section 572.

(c) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''local educational agency'' has the meaning given that term in section 8013(9) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7713(9)).

SEC. 572. IMPACT AID FOR CHILDREN WITH SEVERE DISABILITIES.

Of the amount authorized to be appropriated pursuant to section 301(5) for operation and maintenance for Defense-wide activities, $5,000,000 shall be available for payments under section 363 of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (as enacted into law by Public Law 106–398; 114 Stat. 1654A–77; 20 U.S.C. 7703a).

SEC. 573. INCLUSION OF DEPENDENTS OF NON-DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EMPLOYEES EMPLOYED ON FEDERAL PROPERTY IN PLAN RELATING TO FORCE STRUCTURE CHANGES, RELOCATION OF MILITARY UNITS, OR BASE CLOSURES AND REALIGNMENTS.

Section 574(e)(3) of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2227; 20 U.S.C. 7703b note) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(C) elementary and secondary school students who are dependents of personnel who are not members of the Armed Forces or civilian employees of the Department of Defense but who are employed on Federal property.''.

SEC. 574. PAYMENT OF PRIVATE BOARDING SCHOOL TUITION FOR MILITARY DEPENDENTS IN OVERSEAS AREAS NOT SERVED BY DEFENSE DEPENDENTS' EDUCATION SYSTEM SCHOOLS.

Section 1407(b)(1) of the Defense Dependents' Education Act of 1978 (20 U.S.C. 926(b)(1)) is amended by inserting after the first sentence the following new sentence: ''Schools to which tuition may be paid under this subsection may include private boarding schools in the United States.''.

Subtitle H—Military Families

SEC. 581. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MILITARY FAMILY READINESS COUNCIL AND POLICY AND PLANS FOR MILITARY FAMILY READINESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 88 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1781 the following new sections:

''§ 1781a. Department of Defense Military Family Readiness Council

''(a) IN GENERAL.—There is in the Department of Defense the Department of Defense Military Family Readiness Council (in this section referred to as the 'Council').

''(b) MEMBERS.—(1) The Council shall consist of the following members:

''(A) The Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, who shall serve as chair of the Council.

''(B) One representative of each of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force, who shall be appointed by the Secretary of Defense.

''(C) Three individuals appointed by the Secretary of Defense from among representatives of military family organizations, including military family organizations of families of members of the regular components and of families of members of the reserve components.

''(D) In addition to the representatives appointed under subparagraph (B), the senior enlisted advisors of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force, or the spouse of a senior enlisted member from each of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force.

''(2) The term on the Council of the members appointed under paragraph (1)(C) shall be three years.

''(c) MEETINGS.—The Council shall meet not less often than twice each year.

''(d) DUTIES.—The duties of the Council shall include the following:

''(1) To review and make recommendations to the Secretary of Defense regarding the policy and plans required under section 1781b of this title.

''(2) To monitor requirements for the support of military family readiness by the Department of Defense.

''(3) To evaluate and assess the effectiveness of the military family readiness programs and activities of the Department of Defense.

''(e) ANNUAL REPORTS.—(1) Not later than February 1 each year, the Council shall submit to the Secretary of Defense and the congressional defense committees a report on military family readiness.

''(2) Each report under this subsection shall include the following:

''(A) An assessment of the adequacy and effectiveness of the military family readiness programs and activities of the Department of Defense during the preceding fiscal year in meeting the needs and requirements of military families.

''(B) Recommendations on actions to be taken to improve the capability of the military family readiness programs and activities of the Department of Defense to meet the needs and requirements of military families, including actions relating to the allocation of funding and other resources to and among such programs and activities.

''§ 1781b. Department of Defense policy and plans for military family readiness

''(a) POLICY AND PLANS REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense shall develop a policy and plans for the Department of Defense for the support of military family readiness.

''(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the policy and plans required under subsection (a) are as follows:

''(1) To ensure that the military family readiness programs and activities of the Department of Defense are comprehensive, effective, and properly supported.

''(2) To ensure that support is continuously available to military families in peacetime and in war, as well as during periods of force structure change and relocation of military units.

''(3) To ensure that the military family readiness programs and activities of the Department of Defense are available to all military families, including military families of members of the regular components and military families of members of the reserve components.

''(4) To make military family readiness an explicit element of applicable Department of Defense plans, programs, and budgeting activities, and that achievement of military family readiness is expressed through Department-wide goals that are identifiable and measurable.

''(5) To ensure that the military family readiness programs and activities of the Department of Defense undergo continuous evaluation in order to ensure that resources are allocated and expended for such programs and activities to achieve Department-wide family readiness goals.

''(c) ELEMENTS OF POLICY.—The policy required under subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

''(1) A list of military family readiness programs and activities.

''(2) Department of Defense-wide goals for military family support, including joint programs, both for military families of members of the regular components and military families of members of the reserve components.

''(3) Policies on access to military family support programs and activities based on military family populations served and geographical location.

''(4) Metrics to measure the performance and effectiveness of the military family readiness programs and activities of the Department of Defense.

''(5) A summary, by fiscal year, of the allocation of funds (including appropriated funds and nonappropriated funds) for major categories of military family readiness programs and activities of the Department of Defense, set forth for each of the military departments and for the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

''(d) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than March 1, 2008, and each year thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the plans required under subsection (a) for the five-fiscal year period beginning with the fiscal year in which the report is submitted. Each report shall include the plans covered by the report and an assessment of the discharge by the Department of Defense of the previous plans submitted under this section.''.

(b) REPORT ON MILITARY FAMILY READINESS POLICY.—Not later than February 1, 2009, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth the policy developed under section 1781b of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

(c) SURVEYS OF MILITARY FAMILIES.—Section 1782 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(d) SURVEY REQUIRED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), during fiscal year 2010, the Secretary of Defense shall conduct a survey otherwise authorized under such subsection. Thereafter, additional surveys may be conducted not less often than once every three fiscal years.''.

(d) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of subchapter I of chapter 88 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1781 the following new items:

''1781a. Department of Defense Military Family Readiness Council.

''1781b. Department of Defense policy and plans for military family readiness.''.

SEC. 582. YELLOW RIBBON REINTEGRATION PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish a national combat veteran reintegration program to provide National Guard and Reserve members and their families with sufficient information, services, referral, and proactive outreach opportunities throughout the entire deployment cycle. This program shall be known as the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program.

(b) PURPOSE OF PROGRAM; DEPLOYMENT CYCLE.—The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program shall consist of informational events and activities for members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, their families, and community members to facilitate access to services supporting their health and well-being through the 4 phases of the deployment cycle:

(1) Pre-Deployment.

(2) Deployment.

(3) Demobilization.

(4) Post-Deployment-Reconstitution.

(c) EXECUTIVE AGENT.—The Secretary shall designate the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness as the Department of Defense executive agent for the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program.

(d) OFFICE FOR REINTEGRATION PROGRAMS.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness shall establish the Office for Reintegration Programs within the Office of the Secretary of Defense. The office shall administer all reintegration programs in coordination with State National Guard organizations. The office shall be responsible for coordination with existing National Guard and Reserve family and support programs. The Directors of the Army National Guard and Air National Guard and the Chiefs of the Army Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Navy Reserve, and Air Force Reserve may appoint liaison officers to coordinate with the permanent office staff. The office may also enter into partnerships with other public entities, including the Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and the Mental Health Services Administration, for access to necessary substance abuse and mental health treatment services from local State-licensed service providers.

(2) CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN REINTEGRATION.—The Office for Reintegration Programs shall establish a Center for Excellence in Reintegration within the office. The Center shall collect and analyze ''lessons learned'' and suggestions from State National Guard and Reserve organizations with existing or developing reintegration programs. The Center shall also assist in developing training aids and briefing materials and training representatives from State National Guard and Reserve organizations.

(e) ADVISORY BOARD.—

(1) APPOINTMENT.—The Secretary of Defense shall appoint an advisory board to analyze the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program and report on areas of success and

areas for necessary improvements. The advisory board shall include the Director of the Army National Guard, the Director of the Air National Guard, Chiefs of the Army Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Navy Reserve, and Air Force Reserve, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, an Adjutant General on a rotational basis as determined by the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, and any other Department of Defense, Federal Government agency, or outside organization as determined by the Secretary of Defense. The members of the advisory board may designate representatives in their stead.

(2) SCHEDULE.—The advisory board shall meet on a schedule determined by the Secretary of Defense.

(3) INITIAL REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—The advisory board shall issue internal reports as necessary and shall submit an initial report to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives not later than 180 days after the end of the 1-year period beginning on the date of the establishment of the Office for Reintegration Programs. The report shall contain—

(A) an evaluation of the implementation of the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program by State National Guard and Reserve organizations;

(B) an assessment of any unmet resource requirements; and

(C) recommendations regarding closer coordination between the Office of Reintegration Programs and State National Guard and Reserve organizations.

(4) ANNUAL REPORTS.—The advisory board shall submit annual reports to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives following the initial report by the first week in March of subsequent years following the initial report.

(f) STATE DEPLOYMENT CYCLE SUPPORT TEAMS.—The Office for Reintegration Programs may employ personnel to administer the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program at the State level. The primary function of team members shall be—

(1) to implement the reintegration curriculum through the deployment cycle described in subsection (g);

(2) to obtain necessary service providers; and

(3) to educate service providers regarding the unique military nature of the reintegration program.

(g) OPERATION OF PROGRAM THROUGH DEPLOYMENT CYCLE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Office for Reintegration Programs shall analyze the demographics, placement of State Family Assistance Centers and their resources before a mobilization alert is issued to affected State National Guard and Reserve organizations. The Office of Reintegration Programs shall consult with affected State National Guard and Reserve organizations following the issuance of a mobilization alert and implement the reintegration events in accordance with the Reintegration Program phase model.

(2) PRE-DEPLOYMENT PHASE.—The Pre-Deployment Phase shall constitute the time from first notification of mobilization until deployment of the mobilized National Guard or Reserve unit. Events and activities shall focus on providing education and ensuring the readiness of members of the unit, their families, and affected communities for the rigors of a combat deployment.

(3) DEPLOYMENT PHASE.—The Deployment Phase shall constitute the period from deployment of the mobilized National Guard or Reserve unit until the unit arrives at a demobilization station inside the continental United States. Events and services provided shall focus on the challenges and stress associated with separation and having a member in a combat zone. Information sessions shall utilize State National Guard and Reserve resources in coordination with the Employer Support of Guard and Reserve Office, Transition Assistance Advisors, and the State Family Programs Director.

(4) DEMOBILIZATION PHASE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Demobilization Phase shall constitute the period from arrival of the National Guard or Reserve unit at the demobilization station until its departure for home station.

(B) INITIAL REINTEGRATION ACTIVITY.—The purpose of this reintegration program is to educate members about the resources that are available to them and to connect members to service providers who can assist them in overcoming the challenges of reintegration.

(5) POST-DEPLOYMENT-RECONSTITUTION PHASE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Post-Deployment-Reconstitution Phase shall constitute the period from arrival at home station until 180 days following demobilization. Activities and services provided shall focus on reconnecting members with their families and communities and providing resources and information necessary for successful reintegration. Reintegration events shall begin with elements of the Initial Reintegration Activity program that were not completed during the Demobilization Phase.

(B) 30-DAY, 60-DAY, AND 90-DAY REINTEGRATION ACTIVITIES.—The State National Guard and Reserve organizations shall hold reintegration activities at the 30-day, 60-day, and 90-day interval following demobilization. These activities shall focus on reconnecting members and their families with the service providers from the Initial Reintegration Activity to ensure that members and their families understand what benefits they are entitled to and what resources are available to help them overcome the challenges of reintegration. The Reintegration Activities shall also provide a forum for members and their families to address negative behaviors related to combat stress and transition.

(C) MEMBER PAY.—Members shall receive appropriate pay for days spent attending the Reintegration Activities at the 30-day, 60-day, and 90-day intervals.

(h) OUTREACH SERVICES.—As part of the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, the Office for Reintegration Programs may develop programs of outreach to members of the Armed Forces and their family members to educate such members and their family members about the assistance and services available to them under the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program. Such assistance and services may include the following:

(1) Marriage counseling.

(2) Services for children.

(3) Suicide prevention.

(4) Substance abuse awareness and treatment.

(5) Mental health awareness and treatment.

(6) Financial counseling.

(7) Anger management counseling.

(8) Domestic violence awareness and prevention.

(9) Employment assistance.

(10) Preparing and updating family care plans.

(11) Development of strategies for living with a member of the Armed Forces with post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury.

(12) Other services that may be appropriate to address the unique needs of members of the Armed Forces and their families who live in rural or remote areas with respect to family readiness and servicemember reintegration.

(13) Assisting members of the Armed Forces and their families find and receive assistance with military family readiness and servicemember reintegration, including referral services.

(14) Development of strategies and programs that recognize the need for long-term follow-up services for reintegrating members of the Armed Forces and their families for extended periods following deployments, including between deployments.

(15) Assisting members of the Armed Forces and their families in receiving services and assistance from the Department of Veterans Affairs, including referral services.

SEC. 583. STUDY TO ENHANCE AND IMPROVE SUPPORT SERVICES AND PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES OF MEMBERS OF REGULAR AND RESERVE COMPONENTS UNDERGOING DEPLOYMENT.

(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense shall conduct a study to determine the most effective means to enhance and improve family support programs for families of deployed members of the regular and reserve components of the Armed Forces before, during, and after deployment. The study shall also take into account the potential to utilize non-governmental and local private sector entities and other Federal agencies having expertise in health and well-being of families, including family members who are children, infants, or toddlers.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The study shall include at a minimum the following:

(1) The assessment of the types of information on health care and mental health benefits and services and other community resources that should be made available to members of the regular and reserve components and their families, including—

(A) crisis services;

(B) marriage and family counseling; and

(C) financial counseling.

(2) An assessment of means to improve support to the parents and caretakers of military dependent children in order to mitigate any adverse effects of the deployment of members on such children, including consideration of the following:

(A) The need to develop materials for parents and other caretakers of children to assist in responding to the effects of such deployment on children, including extended and multiple deployments and reunion (and the death or injury of members during such deployment), and the role that parents and caretakers can play in addressing or mitigating such effects.

(B) The potential best practices that are identified which build psychological and emotional resiliency in children in coping with deployment.

(C) The potential to improve dissemination throughout the Armed Forces of the most effective practices for outreach, training, and building psychological and emotional resiliency in children.

(D) The effectiveness of training materials for education, mental health, health, and family support professionals who provide services to parents and caretakers of military dependent children.

(E) The requirement to develop programs and activities to increase awareness throughout the military and civilian communities of the effects of deployment of a military spouse or guardians for such children and their families and to increase collaboration within such communities to address and mitigate such effects.

(F) The development of training for early child care and education, mental health, health care, and family support professionals to enhance the awareness of such professionals of their role in assisting families in addressing and mitigating the adverse implications of such deployment.

(G) The conduct of research on best practices for building psychological and emotional resiliency in such children in coping with the deployment of such members.

(3) An assessment of the effectiveness of family-to-family support programs—

(A) in providing peer support for families of deployed members of the regular and reserve components;

(B) in identifying and preventing family problems in such families;

(C) in reducing adverse outcomes for children of such families, including poor academic performance, behavioral problems, stress, and anxiety;

(D) in improving family readiness and post-deployment transition for such families; and

(E) in utilizing spouses of members of the Armed Forces as counselors for families of deployed members, in order to assist such families in coping before, during, and after the deployment, and the best practices for training spouses of members of the Armed Forces to act as counselors for families of deployed members.

(4) An assessment of the effectiveness of transition assistance programs and policies for families of members during post-deployment transition from a combat zone back to civilian or military communities—

(A) in identifying signs and symptoms of mental health conditions for both service members and their families; and

(B) in receiving information and resources available within the local communities to ease transition.

(5) An assessment of the impact of multiple overseas deployments of members on their families, particularly in the case of members serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, including financial impacts and emotional impacts.

(6) An assessment of the most effective timing of providing information and support to the families of deployed members before, during, and after deployment, including at least six months after the date of return of deployed members.

(7) An assessment of the need for additional long-term research on the effects of multiple wartime deployments on families, including children, and critical areas of focus that should be addressed by such research.

(c) REPORT ON RESULTS OF STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report containing the results of the study conducted under subsection (a).

SEC. 584. PROTECTION OF CHILD CUSTODY ARRANGEMENTS FOR PARENTS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES DEPLOYED IN SUPPORT OF A CONTINGENCY OPERATION.

(a) PROTECTION OF SERVICEMEMBERS AGAINST DEFAULT JUDGMENTS.—Section 201(a) of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 521(a)) is amended by inserting '', including any child custody proceeding,'' after ''proceeding''.

(b) STAY OF PROCEEDINGS WHEN SERVICEMEMBER HAS NOTICE.—Section 202(a) of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 522(a)) is amended by inserting '', including any child custody proceeding,'' after ''civil action or proceeding''.

SEC. 585. FAMILY LEAVE IN CONNECTION WITH INJURED MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) SERVICEMEMBER FAMILY LEAVE.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—Section 101 of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2611) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

''(14) ACTIVE DUTY.—The term 'active duty' means duty under a call or order to active duty under a provision of law referred to in section 101(a)(13)(B) of title 10, United States Code.

''(15) CONTINGENCY OPERATION.—The term 'contingency operation' has the same meaning given such term in section 101(a)(13) of title 10, United States Code.

''(16) COVERED SERVICEMEMBER.—The term 'covered servicemember' means a member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy, is otherwise in outpatient status, or is otherwise on the temporary disability retired list, for a serious injury or illness.

''(17) OUTPATIENT STATUS.—The term 'outpatient status', with respect to a covered servicemember, means the status of a member of the Armed Forces assigned to—

''(A) a military medical treatment facility as an outpatient; or

''(B) a unit established for the purpose of providing command and control of members of the Armed Forces receiving medical care as outpatients.

''(18) NEXT OF KIN.—The term 'next of kin', used with respect to an individual, means the nearest blood relative of that individual.

''(19) SERIOUS INJURY OR ILLNESS.—The term 'serious injury or illness', in the case of a member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, means an injury or illness incurred by the member in line of duty on active duty in the Armed Forces that may render the member medically unfit to perform the duties of the member's office, grade, rank, or rating.''.

(2) ENTITLEMENT TO LEAVE.—Section 102(a) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2612(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(E) Because of any qualifying exigency (as the Secretary shall, by regulation, determine) arising out of the fact that the spouse, or a son, daughter, or parent of the employee is on active duty (or has been notified of an impending call or order to active duty) in the Armed Forces in support of a contingency operation.''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

''(3) SERVICEMEMBER FAMILY LEAVE.—Subject to section 103, an eligible employee who is the spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin of a covered servicemember shall be entitled to a total of 26 workweeks of leave during a 12-month period to care for the servicemember. The leave described in this paragraph shall only be available during a single 12-month period.

''(4) COMBINED LEAVE TOTAL.—During the single 12-month period described in paragraph (3), an eligible employee shall be entitled to a combined total of 26 workweeks of leave under paragraphs (1) and (3). Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to limit the availability of leave under paragraph (1) during any other 12-month period.''.

(3) REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO LEAVE.—

(A) SCHEDULE.—Section 102(b) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2612(b)) is amended—

(i) in paragraph (1), in the second sentence—

(I) by striking ''section 103(b)(5)'' and inserting ''subsection (b)(5) or (f) (as appropriate) of section 103''; and

(II) by inserting ''or under subsection (a)(3)'' after ''subsection (a)(1)'';

(ii) in paragraph (1), by inserting after the second sentence the following new sentence: ''Subject to subsection (e)(3) and section 103(f), leave under subsection (a)(1)(E) may be taken intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule.''; and

(iii) in paragraph (2), by inserting ''or under subsection (a)(3)'' after ''subsection (a)(1)''.

(B) SUBSTITUTION OF PAID LEAVE.—Section 102(d) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2612(d)) is amended—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) by inserting ''(or 26 workweeks in the case of leave provided under subsection (a)(3))'' after ''12 workweeks'' the first place it appears; and

(II) by inserting ''(or 26 workweeks, as appropriate)'' after ''12 workweeks'' the second place it appears;

(ii) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking ''or (C)'' and inserting ''(C), or (E)''; and

(iii) in paragraph (2)(B), by adding at the end the following: ''An eligible employee may elect, or an employer may require the employee, to substitute any of the accrued paid vacation leave, personal leave, family leave, or medical or sick leave of the employee for leave provided under subsection (a)(3) for any part of the 26-week period of such leave under such subsection, except that nothing in this title requires an employer to provide paid sick leave or paid medical leave in any situation in which the employer would not normally provide any such paid leave.''.

(C) NOTICE.—Section 102(e) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2612(e)) is amended—

(i) in paragraph (2), by inserting ''or under subsection (a)(3)'' after ''subsection (a)(1)''; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) NOTICE FOR LEAVE DUE TO ACTIVE DUTY OF FAMILY MEMBER.—In any case in which the necessity for leave under subsection (a)(1)(E) is foreseeable, whether because the spouse, or a son, daughter, or parent, of the employee is on active duty, or because of notification of an impending call or order to active duty in support of a contingency operation, the employee shall provide such notice to the employer as is reasonable and practicable.''.

(D) SPOUSES EMPLOYED BY SAME EMPLOYER.—Section 102(f) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2612(f)) is amended—

(i) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), and aligning the margins of the subparagraphs with the margins of section 102(e)(2)(A);

(ii) by striking ''In any'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In any''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) SERVICEMEMBER FAMILY LEAVE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The aggregate number of workweeks of leave to which both that husband and wife may be entitled under subsection (a) may be limited to 26 workweeks during the single 12-month period described in subsection (a)(3) if the leave is—

''(i) leave under subsection (a)(3); or

''(ii) a combination of leave under subsection (a)(3) and leave described in paragraph (1).

''(B) BOTH LIMITATIONS APPLICABLE.—If the leave taken by the husband and wife includes leave described in paragraph (1), the limitation in paragraph (1) shall apply to the leave described in paragraph (1).''.

(E) CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—Section 103 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2613) is amended—

(i) in subsection (a)—

(I) by striking ''section 102(a)(1)'' and inserting ''paragraph (1) or paragraph (3) of section 102(a)''; and

(II) by inserting ''or of the next of kin of an individual in the case of leave taken under such paragraph (3),'' after ''parent of the employee,''; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

''(f) CERTIFICATION RELATED TO ACTIVE DUTY OR CALL TO ACTIVE DUTY.—An employer may require that a request for leave under section 102(a)(1)(E) be supported by a certification issued at such time and in such

manner as the Secretary may by regulation prescribe. If the Secretary issues a regulation requiring such certification, the employee shall provide, in a timely manner, a copy of such certification to the employer.''.

(F) FAILURE TO RETURN.—Section 104(c) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2614(c)) is amended—

(i) in paragraph (2)(B)(i), by inserting ''or under section 102(a)(3)'' before the semicolon; and

(ii) in paragraph (3)(A)—

(I) in clause (i), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(II) in clause (ii), by striking the period and inserting ''; or''; and

(III) by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) a certification issued by the health care provider of the servicemember being cared for by the employee, in the case of an employee unable to return to work because of a condition specified in section 102(a)(3).''.

(G) ENFORCEMENT.—Section 107 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2617) is amended, in subsection (a)(1)(A)(i)(II), by inserting ''(or 26 weeks, in a case involving leave under section 102(a)(3))'' after ''12 weeks''.

(H) INSTRUCTIONAL EMPLOYEES.—Section 108 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 2618) is amended, in subsections (c)(1), (d)(2), and (d)(3), by inserting ''or under section 102(a)(3)'' after ''section 102(a)(1)''.

(b) SERVICEMEMBER FAMILY LEAVE FOR CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—Section 6381 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (5), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (6), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(7) the term 'active duty' means duty under a call or order to active duty under a provision of law referred to in section 101(a)(13)(B) of title 10;

''(8) the term 'covered servicemember' means a member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy, is otherwise in an outpatient status, or is otherwise on the temporary disability retired list, for a serious injury or illness;

''(9) the term 'outpatient status', with respect to a covered servicemember, means the status of a member of the Armed Forces assigned to—

''(A) a military medical treatment facility as an outpatient; or

''(B) a unit established for the purpose of providing command and control of members of the Armed Forces receiving medical care as outpatients;

''(10) the term 'next of kin', used with respect to an individual, means the nearest blood relative of that individual; and

''(11) the term 'serious injury or illness', in the case of a member of the Armed Forces, means an injury or illness incurred by the member in line of duty on active duty in the Armed Forces that may render the member medically unfit to perform the duties of the member's office, grade, rank, or rating.''.

(2) ENTITLEMENT TO LEAVE.—Section 6382(a) of such title is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(3) Subject to section 6383, an employee who is the spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin of a covered servicemember shall be entitled to a total of 26 administrative workweeks of leave during a 12-month period to care for the servicemember. The leave described in this paragraph shall only be available during a single 12-month period.

''(4) During the single 12-month period described in paragraph (3), an employee shall be entitled to a combined total of 26 administrative workweeks of leave under paragraphs (1) and (3). Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to limit the availability of leave under paragraph (1) during any other 12-month period.''.

(3) REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO LEAVE.—

(A) SCHEDULE.—Section 6382(b) of such title is amended—

(i) in paragraph (1), in the second sentence—

(I) by striking ''section 6383(b)(5)'' and inserting ''subsection (b)(5) or (f) (as appropriate) of section 6383''; and

(II) by inserting ''or under subsection (a)(3)'' after ''subsection (a)(1)''; and

(ii) in paragraph (2), by inserting ''or under subsection (a)(3)'' after ''subsection (a)(1)''.

(B) SUBSTITUTION OF PAID LEAVE.—Section 6382(d) of such title is amended by adding at the end the following: ''An employee may elect to substitute for leave under subsection (a)(3) any of the employee's accrued or accumulated annual or sick leave under subchapter I for any part of the 26-week period of leave under such subsection.''.

(C) NOTICE.—Section 6382(e) of such title is amended by inserting ''or under subsection (a)(3)'' after ''subsection (a)(1)''.

(D) CERTIFICATION.—Section 6383 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) An employing agency may require that a request for leave under section 6382(a)(3) be supported by a certification issued at such time and in such manner as the Office of Personnel Management may by regulation prescribe.''.

SEC. 586. FAMILY CARE PLANS AND DEFERMENT OF DEPLOYMENT OF SINGLE PARENT OR DUAL MILITARY COUPLES WITH MINOR DEPENDENTS.

The Secretary of Defense shall establish appropriate procedures to ensure that an adequate family care plan is in place for a member of the Armed Forces with minor dependents who is a single parent or whose spouse is also a member of the Armed Forces when the member may be deployed in an area for which imminent danger pay is authorized under section 310 of title 37, United States Code. Such procedures should allow the member to request a deferment of deployment due to unforeseen circumstances, and the request for such a deferment should be considered and responded to promptly.

SEC. 587. EDUCATION AND TREATMENT SERVICES FOR MILITARY DEPENDENT CHILDREN WITH AUTISM.

(a) ASSESSMENT OF AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES.—The Secretary of Defense shall conduct a comprehensive assessment of the availability of Federal, State, and local education and treatment services on and in the vicinity of a covered military installation for children of members of the Armed Forces who are diagnosed with autism. This assessment shall include the following:

(1) The local availability of adequate educational services for children with autism.

(2) The local availability of adequate medical services for children with autism.

(3) The local availability of supplemental services for children with autism.

(4) The ease of access of children with autism to adequate educational services, such as the length of time on waiting lists.

(b) REVIEW OF BEST PRACTICES.—In preparing the assessment under subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense shall conduct a review of best practices in the United States in the provision of covered educational services and treatment services for children with autism, including an assessment of Federal and State education and treatment services for children with autism in each State, with an emphasis on locations where eligible members and eligible dependents reside. The Secretary of Defense shall conduct the review in coordination with the Secretary of Education.

(c) PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) LIMITED STATIONING OPTIONS.—The Secretary of the military department concerned shall ensure that, whenever practicable, eligible members are only assigned to military installations that are identified in the report required by subsection (g)(1).

(2) STABILIZATION POLICY.—The Secretary of the military department concerned shall ensure that, whenever practicable, the families of eligible members residing at a military installation that is identified in such report are permitted to remain at that installation for a period of not less than 4 years.

(d) CASE MANAGERS AND SERVICES.—

(1) CASE MANAGERS.—The Secretary of the military department concerned shall ensure that eligible members are assigned case managers for both medical services and covered educational services for eligible dependents, which shall be required under the Exceptional Family Member Program pursuant to the policy established by the Secretary.

(2) INDIVIDUALIZED SERVICES PLAN.—The Secretary of the military department concerned shall provide for the voluntary development for eligible dependents of individualized autism services plans for use by case managers, caregivers, and families to ensure continuity of services throughout the active military service of eligible members.

(3) AUTISM SUPPORT CENTERS.—The Secretary of the military department concerned may establish local centers on military installations for the purpose of providing and coordinating autism services for eligible dependents.

(4) PARTNERSHIPS AND CONTRACTS.—The Secretary of the military department concerned is encouraged to enter into partnerships or contracts with other appropriate public and private entities to carry out the responsibilities of this section.

(e) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—

(1) PROJECTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of Defense may conduct 1 or more demonstration projects to evaluate improved approaches to the provision of covered educational services and treatment services to eligible dependents for the purpose of evaluating strategies for integrated treatment and case manager services, including early intervention and diagnosis, medical care, parent involvement, special education services, intensive behavioral intervention, and language, communications, and other interventions considered appropriate by the Secretary.

(2) CASE MANAGERS AND SERVICES PLAN.—Each demonstration project shall include the assignment of case managers under paragraph (1) of subsection (d) and utilize the services plans prepared for eligible dependents under paragraph (2) of such subsection.

(3) SUPERVISORY LEVEL PROVIDERS.—The Secretary of Defense may utilize for purposes of the demonstration projects personnel who are professionals with a level (as determined by the Secretary) of post-secondary education that is appropriate for the provision of safe and effective services for autism and who are from an accredited educational facility in the mental health, human development, social work, or education field to act as supervisory level providers of behavioral intervention services for autism. In so acting, such personnel may be authorized—

(A) to develop and monitor intensive behavior intervention plans for eligible dependents who are participating in the demonstration projects; and

(B) to provide appropriate training in the provision of approved services to participating eligible dependents.

(4) SERVICES UNDER CORPORATE SERVICES PROVIDER MODEL.—In carrying out the demonstration projects, the Secretary of Defense may utilize a corporate services provider model. Employees of a provider under such a model shall include personnel who implement special educational and behavioral intervention plans for eligible dependents that are developed, reviewed, and maintained by supervisory level providers approved by the Secretary. In authorizing such a model, the Secretary shall establish—

(A) minimum education, training, and experience criteria required to be met by employees who provide services to eligible dependents;

(B) requirements for supervisory personnel and supervision, including requirements for supervisor credentials and for the frequency and intensity of supervision; and

(C) such other requirements as the Secretary considers appropriate to ensure safety and the protection of the eligible dependents who receive services from such employees under the demonstration projects.

(5) PERIOD.—If the Secretary of Defense determines to conduct demonstration projects under this subsection, the Secretary shall commence such demonstration projects not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act. The demonstration projects shall be conducted for not less than 2 years.

(6) EVALUATION.—The Secretary of Defense shall conduct an evaluation of each demonstration project conducted under this section. The evaluation shall include the following:

(A) An assessment of the extent to which the activities under the demonstration project contributed to positive outcomes for eligible dependents.

(B) An assessment of the extent to which the activities under the demonstration project led to improvements in services and continuity of care for eligible dependents.

(C) An assessment of the extent to which the activities under the demonstration project improved military family readiness and enhanced military retention.

(f) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER BENEFITS.—Nothing in this section precludes the eligibility of members of the Armed Forces and their dependents for extended benefits under section 1079 of title 10, United States Code.

(g) REPORTS.—

(1) REPORT IDENTIFYING COVERED MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.—As a result of the assessment required by subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees, not later than December 31, 2008, a report identifying those covered military installations that have covered educational services and facilities available (on the installation or in the vicinity of the installation) for eligible dependents that provide special education and related services consistent with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.).

(2) REPORTS ON DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—Not later than 30 months after the commencement of any demonstration project under subsection (e), the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the demonstration project. The report shall include a description of the project, the results of the evaluation under subsection (e)(6) with respect to the project, and a description of plans for the further provision of services for eligible dependents under the project.

(h) COVERED EDUCATIONAL SERVICES PLAN.—After completing the assessment required by subsection (a) and the report required by subsection (g)(1), the Secretary of Defense shall develop a plan that would ensure that all eligible dependents are able to obtain covered educational services. In the event that eligible members are assigned to military installations that are not identified in the report required by subsection (g)(1), the plan should ensure that such eligible dependents are still able to obtain covered educational services, including by the use of authority granted to the Secretary under section 2164 of title 10, United States Code. The plan shall also include any legislative actions that the Secretary recommends to implement the plan and describe what funding or funding mechanisms may be needed to ensure eligible dependents obtain covered educational services. The Secretary shall submit the plan to the congressional defense committees not later than July 1, 2009.

(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term ''autism'' refers to the Autism Spectrum Disorders, which are developmental disabilities that cause substantial impairments in the areas of social interaction, emotional regulation, communication, and the integration of higher-order cognitive processes and are often characterized by the presence of unusual behaviors and interests. The term includes autistic disorder, pervasive developmental disorder (not otherwise specified), and Asperger's syndrome.

(2) The term ''child'' has the meaning given that term in section 1072 of title 10, United States Code.

(3) The term ''covered military installation'' means a military installation at which at least 1,000 members of the Armed Forces are assigned who are eligible for an assignment accompanied by dependents.

(4) The term ''eligible member'' means a member of the Armed Forces who—

(A) has a dependent child who is diagnosed with autism; and

(B) is enrolled in an Exceptional Family Member Program of the Department of Defense.

(5) The term ''eligible dependent'' means a child of an eligible member who is diagnosed with autism.

(6) The term ''local educational agency'' has the meaning given that term in section 8013(9) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7713(9)), except that the term includes publicly financed schools in communities, Department of Defense domestic dependent elementary and secondary schools, and schools of the defense dependents' education system.

(7) The term ''covered educational services'' includes behavioral intervention services for autism, such as Applied Behavioral Analysis.

SEC. 588. COMMENDATION OF EFFORTS OF PROJECT COMPASSION IN PAYING TRIBUTE TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WHO HAVE FALLEN IN THE SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) COMMENDATION.—Congress, on the behalf of the people of the United States, commends Kaziah M. Hancock and the 4 other volunteer professional portrait artists of the nonprofit organization known as Project Compassion, as well as the entire Project Compassion organization, for their ongoing efforts to provide, without charge, to the family of each member of the Armed Forces who has died on active duty since September 11, 2001, a museum-quality original oil portrait of the member.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the people of the United States owe the deepest gratitude to Kaziah M. Hancock and the members of Project Compassion.

Subtitle I—Other Matters

SEC. 590. UNIFORM PERFORMANCE POLICIES FOR MILITARY BANDS AND OTHER MUSICAL UNITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) CONSOLIDATION OF SEPARATE AUTHORITIES.—Chapter 49 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 973 the following new section:

''§ 974. Uniform performance policies for military bands and other musical units

''(a) RESTRICTIONS ON COMPETITION AND REMUNERATION.—Bands, ensembles, choruses, or similar musical units of the armed forces, including individual members of such a unit performing in an official capacity, may not—

''(1) engage in the performance of music in competition with local civilian musicians; or

''(2) receive remuneration for official performances.

''(b) MEMBERS PERFORMING IN PERSONAL CAPACITY.—A member of a band, ensemble, chorus, or similar musical unit of the armed forces may engage in the performance of music in the member's personal capacity, as an individual or part of a group, for remuneration or otherwise, if the member—

''(1) does not wear a military uniform for the performance;

''(2) does not identify himself or herself as a member of the armed forces in connection with the performance; and

''(3) complies with all other applicable regulations and standards of conduct.

''(c) RECORDINGS.—(1) When authorized pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense for purposes of this section, bands, ensembles, choruses, or similar musical units of the armed forces may produce recordings for distribution to the public, at a cost not to exceed production and distribution expenses.

''(2) Amounts received in payment for recordings distributed to the public under this subsection shall be credited to the appropriation or account providing the funds for the production of such recordings. Any amounts so credited shall be merged with amounts in the appropriation or account to which credited, and shall be available for the same purposes, and subject to the same conditions and limitations, as amounts in such appropriation or account.

''(d) PERFORMANCE OF MUSIC IN COMPETITION WITH LOCAL CIVILIAN MUSICIANS DEFINED.—(1) In this section, the term 'performance of music in competition with local civilian musicians' includes performances—

''(A) that are more than incidental to events that are not supported solely by appropriated funds and are not free to the public; and

''(B) of background, dinner, dance, or other social music at events, regardless of location, that are not supported solely by appropriated funds.

''(2) The term does not include performances—

''(A) at official Federal Government events that are supported solely by appropriated funds;

''(B) at concerts, parades, and other events that are patriotic events or celebrations of national holidays and are free to the public; or

''(C) that are incidental, such as short performances of military or patriotic music to open or close events, to events that are not supported solely by appropriated funds, in compliance with applicable rules and regulations.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 973 the following new item:

''974. Uniform performance policies for military bands and other musical units.''.

(b) REPEAL OF SEPARATE SERVICE AUTHORITIES.—

(1) REPEAL.—Sections 3634, 6223, and 8634 of such title are repealed.

(2) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—(A) The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 349 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 3634.

(B) The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 565 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 6223.

(C) The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 849 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 8634.

SEC. 591. TRANSPORTATION OF REMAINS OF DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND CERTAIN OTHER PERSONS.

Section 1482(a)(8) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: ''When transportation of the remains includes transportation by aircraft under section 562 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364; 10 U.S.C. 1482 note), the Secretary concerned shall provide, to the maximum extent practicable, for delivery of the remains by air to the commercial, general aviation, or military airport nearest to the place selected by the designee.''.

SEC. 592. EXPANSION OF NUMBER OF ACADEMIES SUPPORTABLE IN ANY STATE UNDER STARBASE PROGRAM.

Section 2193b(c)(3) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''more than two academies'' and inserting ''more than four academies''; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''in excess of two'' both places it appears and inserting ''in excess of four''.

SEC. 593. GIFT ACCEPTANCE AUTHORITY.

(a) PERMANENT AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT GIFTS ON BEHALF OF THE WOUNDED.—Section 2601(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (4).

(b) LIMITATION ON SOLICITATION OF GIFTS.—The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regulations implementing sections 2601 and 2608 of title 10, United States Code, that prohibit the solicitation of any gift under such sections by any employee of the Department of Defense if the nature or circumstances of such solicitation would compromise the integrity or the appearance of integrity of any program of the Department of Defense or of any individual involved in such program.

SEC. 594. CONDUCT BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND VETERANS OUT OF UNIFORM DURING HOISTING, LOWERING, OR PASSING OF UNITED STATES FLAG.

Section 9 of title 4, United States Code, is amended by striking ''all persons present'' and all that follows through the end of the section and inserting the following: ''all persons present in uniform should render the military salute. Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute. All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, or if applicable, remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Citizens of other countries present should stand at attention. All such conduct toward the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes.''.

SEC. 595. ANNUAL REPORT ON CASES REVIEWED BY NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE.

Section 4332 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2), (3), (4), (5), and (6) as paragraphs (3), (4), (5), (6), and (7) respectively;

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph (2):

''(2) The number of cases reviewed by the Secretary of Defense under the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve of the Department of Defense during the fiscal year for which the report is made.''; and

(3) in paragraph (5), as so redesignated, by striking ''(2), or (3)'' and inserting ''(2), (3), or (4)''.

SEC. 596. MODIFICATION OF CERTIFICATE OF RELEASE OR DISCHARGE FROM ACTIVE DUTY (DD FORM 214).

The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall modify the Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214) in order to permit a member of the Armed Forces, upon discharge or release from active duty in the Armed Forces, to elect that the DD–214 issued with regard to the member be forwarded to the following:

(1) The Central Office of the Department of Veterans Affairs in the District of Columbia.

(2) The appropriate office of the Department of Veterans Affairs for the State or other locality in which the member will first reside after such discharge or release.

SEC. 597. REPORTS ON ADMINISTRATIVE SEPARATIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES FOR PERSONALITY DISORDER.

(a) SECRETARY OF DEFENSE REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE SEPARATIONS BASED ON PERSONALITY DISORDER.—

(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than April 1, 2008, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on all cases of administrative separation from the Armed Forces of covered members of the Armed Forces on the basis of a personality disorder.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A statement of the total number of cases, by Armed Force, in which covered members of the Armed Forces have been separated from the Armed Forces on the basis of a personality disorder, and an identification of the various forms of personality disorder forming the basis for such separations.

(B) A statement of the total number of cases, by Armed Force, in which covered members of the Armed Forces who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan since October 2001 have been separated from the Armed Forces on the basis of a personality disorder, and the identification of the various forms of personality disorder forming the basis for such separations.

(C) A summary of the policies, by Armed Force, controlling administrative separations of members of the Armed Forces based on personality disorder, and an evaluation of the adequacy of such policies for ensuring that covered members of the Armed Forces who may be eligible for disability evaluation due to mental health conditions are not separated from the Armed Forces on the basis of a personality disorder.

(D) A discussion of measures being implemented to ensure that members of the Armed Forces who should be evaluated for disability separation or retirement due to mental health conditions are not processed for separation from the Armed Forces on the basis of a personality disorder, and recommendations regarding how members of the Armed Forces who may have been so separated from the Armed Forces should be provided with expedited review by the applicable board for the correction of military records.

(b) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT ON POLICIES ON ADMINISTRATIVE SEPARATION BASED ON PERSONALITY DISORDER.—

(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than June 1, 2008, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report evaluating the policies and procedures of the Department of Defense and of the military departments relating to the separation of members of the Armed Forces based on a personality disorder.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall—

(A) include an audit of a sampling of cases to determine the validity and clinical efficacy of the policies and procedures referred to in paragraph (1) and the extent, if any, of the divergence between the terms of such policies and procedures and the implementation of such policies and procedures; and

(B) include a determination by the Comptroller General of whether, and to what extent, the policies and procedures referred to in paragraph (1)—

(i) deviate from standard clinical diagnostic practices and current clinical standards; and

(ii) provide adequate safeguards aimed at ensuring that members of the Armed Forces who suffer from mental health conditions (including depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, or traumatic brain injury) resulting from service in a combat zone are not separated from the Armed Forces on the basis of a personality disorder.

(3) ALTERNATIVE SUBMISSION METHOD.—In lieu of submitting a separate report under this subsection, the Comptroller may include the evaluation, audit and determination required by this subsection as part of the study of mental health services required by section 723 of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 108–375; 118 Stat. 1989).

(c) COVERED MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''covered member of the Armed Forces'' includes the following:

(1) Any member of a regular component of the Armed Forces who has served in Iraq or Afghanistan since October 2001.

(2) Any member of the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve of the Armed Forces who served on active duty in Iraq or Afghanistan since October 2001.

SEC. 598. PROGRAM TO COMMEMORATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM WAR.

(a) COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of Defense may conduct a program to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. In conducting the commemorative program, the Secretary shall coordinate, support, and facilitate other programs and activities of the Federal Government, State and local governments, and other persons and organizations in commemoration of the Vietnam War.

(b) SCHEDULE.—The Secretary of Defense shall determine the schedule of major events and priority of efforts for the commemorative program in order to ensure achievement of the objectives specified in subsection (c).

(c) COMMEMORATIVE ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES.—The commemorative program may include activities and ceremonies to achieve the following objectives:

(1) To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.

(2) To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of Federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.

(3) To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.

(4) To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.

(5) To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

(d) NAMES AND SYMBOLS.—The Secretary of Defense shall have the sole and exclusive right to use the name ''The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration'', and such seal, emblems, and badges incorporating such name as the Secretary may lawfully adopt. Nothing in this section may be construed to supersede rights that are established or vested before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) COMMEMORATIVE FUND.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION.—If the Secretary establishes the commemorative program under subsection (a), the Secretary the Treasury shall establish in the Treasury of the United States an account to be known as the ''Department of Defense Vietnam War Commemoration Fund'' (in this section referred to as the ''Fund''). The Fund shall be administered by the Secretary of Defense.

(2) USE OF FUND.—The Secretary shall use the assets of the Fund only for the purpose of conducting the commemorative program and shall prescribe such regulations regarding the use of the Fund as the Secretary considers to be necessary.

(3) DEPOSITS.—There shall be deposited into the Fund—

(A) amounts appropriated to the Fund;

(B) proceeds derived from the Secretary's use of the exclusive rights described in subsection (d);

(C) donations made in support of the commemorative program by private and corporate donors; and

(D) funds transferred to the Fund by the Secretary from funds appropriated for fiscal year 2008 and subsequent years for the Department of Defense.

(4) AVAILABILITY.—Subject to subsection (g)(2), amounts deposited under paragraph (3) shall constitute the assets of the Fund and remain available until expended.

(5) BUDGET REQUEST.—The Secretary of Defense may establish a separate budget line for the commemorative program. In the budget justification materials submitted by the Secretary in support of the budget of the President for any fiscal year for which the Secretary establishes the separate budget line, the Secretary shall—

(A) identify and explain any amounts expended for the commemorative program in the fiscal year preceding the budget request;

(B) identify and explain the amounts being requested to support the commemorative program for the fiscal year of the budget request; and

(C) present a summary of the fiscal status of the Fund.

(f) ACCEPTANCE OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES.—

(1) AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT SERVICES.—Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary of Defense may accept from any person voluntary services to be provided in furtherance of the commemorative program. The Secretary of Defense shall prohibit the solicitation of any voluntary services if the nature or circumstances of such solicitation would compromise the integrity or the appearance of integrity of any program of the Department of Defense or of any individual involved in the program.

(2) REIMBURSEMENT OF INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.—The Secretary may provide for reimbursement of incidental expenses incurred by a person providing voluntary services under this subsection. The Secretary shall determine which expenses are eligible for reimbursement under this paragraph.

(g) FINAL REPORT.—

(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days after the end of the commemorative program, if established by the Secretary of Defense under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report containing an accounting of—

(A) all of the funds deposited into and expended from the Fund;

(B) any other funds expended under this section; and

(C) any unobligated funds remaining in the Fund.

(2) TREATMENT OF UNOBLIGATED FUNDS.—Unobligated amounts remaining in the Fund as of the end of the commemorative period specified in subsection (b) shall be held in the Fund until transferred by law.

(h) LIMITATION ON EXPENDITURES.—Total expenditures from the Fund, using amounts appropriated to the Department of Defense, may not exceed $5,000,000 for fiscal year 2008 or for any subsequent fiscal year to carry out the commemorative program.

(i) FUNDING.—Of the amount authorized to be appropriated pursuant to section 301(5) for Defense-wide activities, $1,000,000 shall be available for deposit in the Fund for fiscal year 2008 if the Fund is established under subsection (e).

SEC. 599. RECOGNITION OF MEMBERS OF THE MONUMENTS, FINE ARTS, AND ARCHIVES PROGRAM OF THE CIVIL AFFAIRS AND MILITARY GOVERNMENT SECTIONS OF THE ARMED FORCES DURING AND FOLLOWING WORLD WAR II.

Congress hereby—

(1) recognizes the men and women who served in the Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives program (MFAA) under the Civil Affairs and Military Government Sections of the United States Armed Forces for their heroic role in the preservation, protection, and restitution of monuments, works of art, and other artifacts of inestimable cultural importance in Europe and Asia during and following World War II;

(2) recognizes that without their dedication and service, many more of the world's artistic and historic treasures would have been destroyed or lost forever amidst the chaos and destruction of World War II;

(3) acknowledges that the detailed catalogues, documentation, inventories, and photographs developed and compiled by MFAA personnel during and following World War II, have made, and continue to make, possible the restitution of stolen works of art to their rightful owners; and

(4) commends and extols the members of the MFAA for establishing a precedent for action to protect cultural property in the event of armed conflict, and by their action setting a standard not just for one country, but for people of all nations to acknowledge and uphold.

TITLE VI—COMPENSATION AND OTHER PERSONNEL BENEFITS

Subtitle A—Pay and Allowances

Sec. 601. Fiscal year 2008 increase in military basic pay.
Sec. 602. Basic allowance for housing for reserve component members without dependents who attend accession training while maintaining a primary residence.
Sec. 603. Extension and enhancement of authority for temporary lodging expenses for members of the Armed Forces in areas subject to major disaster declaration or for installations experiencing sudden increase in personnel levels.
Sec. 604. Income replacement payments for reserve component members experiencing extended and frequent mobilization for active duty service.
Sec. 605. Midmonth payment of basic pay for contributions of members of the uniformed services participating in Thrift Savings Plan.

Subtitle B—Bonuses and Special and Incentive Pays

Sec. 610. Correction of lapsed authorities for payment of bonuses, special pays, and similar benefits for members of the uniformed services.
Sec. 611. Extension of certain bonus and special pay authorities for Reserve forces.
Sec. 612. Extension of certain bonus and special pay authorities for health care professionals.
Sec. 613. Extension of special pay and bonus authorities for nuclear officers.
Sec. 614. Extension of authorities relating to payment of other bonuses and special pays.
Sec. 615. Increase in incentive special pay and multiyear retention bonus for medical officers.
Sec. 616. Increase in dental officer additional special pay.
Sec. 617. Increase in maximum monthly rate of hardship duty pay and authority to provide hardship duty pay in a lump sum.
Sec. 618. Definition of sea duty for career sea pay to include service as off-cycle crewmembers of multi-crew ships.
Sec. 619. Reenlistment bonus for members of the Selected Reserve.
Sec. 620. Availability of Selected Reserve accession bonus for persons who previously served in the Armed Forces for a short period.
Sec. 621. Availability of nuclear officer continuation pay for officers with more than 26 years of commissioned service.
Sec. 622. Waiver of years-of-service limitation on receipt of critical skills retention bonus.
Sec. 623. Accession bonus for participants in the Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship and Financial Assistance Program.
Sec. 624. Payment of assignment incentive pay for Reserve members serving in combat zone for more than 22 months.

Subtitle C—Travel and Transportation Allowances

Sec. 631. Payment of inactive duty training travel costs for certain Selected Reserve members.
Sec. 632. Survivors of deceased members eligible for transportation to attend burial ceremonies.
Sec. 633. Allowance for participation of Reserves in electronic screening.
Sec. 634. Allowance for civilian clothing for members of the Armed Forces traveling in connection with medical evacuation.
Sec. 635. Payment of moving expenses for Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps instructors in hard-to-fill positions.

Subtitle D—Retired Pay and Survivor Benefits

Sec. 641. Expansion of combat-related special compensation eligibility.
Sec. 642. Inclusion of veterans with service-connected disabilities rated as total by reason of unemployability under termination of phase-in of concurrent receipt of retired pay and veterans' disability compensation.

Sec. 643. Recoupment of annuity amounts previously paid, but subject to offset for dependency and indemnity compensation.

Sec. 644. Special survivor indemnity allowance for persons affected by required Survivor Benefit Plan annuity offset for dependency and indemnity compensation.

Sec. 645. Modification of authority of members of the Armed Forces to designate recipients for payment of death gratuity.

Sec. 646. Clarification of application of retired pay multiplier percentage to members of the uniformed services with over 30 years of service.

Sec. 647. Commencement of receipt of nonregular service retired pay by members of the Ready Reserve on active Federal status or active duty for significant periods.

Sec. 648. Computation of years of service for purposes of retired pay for nonregular service.

Subtitle E—Commissary and Nonappropriated Fund Instrumentality Benefits

Sec. 651. Authority to continue commissary and exchange benefits for certain involuntarily separated members of the Armed Forces.

Sec. 652. Authorization of installment deductions from pay of employees of nonappropriated fund instrumentalities to collect indebtedness to the United States.

Subtitle F—Consolidation of Special Pay, Incentive Pay, and Bonus Authorities

Sec. 661. Consolidation of special pay, incentive pay, and bonus authorities of the uniformed services.

Sec. 662. Transitional provisions.

Subtitle G—Other Matters

Sec. 671. Referral bonus authorities.

Sec. 672. Expansion of education loan repayment program for members of the Selected Reserve.

Sec. 673. Ensuring entry into United States after time abroad for permanent resident alien military spouses and children.

Sec. 674. Overseas naturalization for military spouses and children.

Sec. 675. Modification of amount of back pay for members of Navy and Marine Corps selected for promotion while interned as prisoners of war during World War II to take into account changes in Consumer Price Index.

Subtitle A—Pay and Allowances

SEC. 601. FISCAL YEAR 2008 INCREASE IN MILITARY BASIC PAY.

(a) RESCISSION OF PRIOR BASIC PAY ADJUSTMENT.—The adjustment made as of January 1, 2008, pursuant to section 4 of Executive Order No. 13454 (issued January 4, 2008), in elements of compensation of members of the uniformed services pursuant to section 1009 of title 37, United States Code, is hereby rescinded in order to permit the 3.5 percent increase in monthly basic pay for members of the uniformed services required by subsection (b) to take effect as intended.

(b) INCREASE IN BASIC PAY.—Effective as of January 1, 2008, the rates of monthly basic pay for members of the uniformed services are increased by 3.5 percent.

SEC. 602. BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING FOR RESERVE COMPONENT MEMBERS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS WHO ATTEND ACCESSION TRAINING WHILE MAINTAINING A PRIMARY RESIDENCE.

(a) AVAILABILITY OF ALLOWANCE.—Section 403(g)(1) of title 37, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''to attend accession training,'' after ''active duty'' the first place it appears; and

(2) by inserting a comma after ''contingency operation'' the first place it appears.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to months beginning on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 603. EXTENSION AND ENHANCEMENT OF AUTHORITY FOR TEMPORARY LODGING EXPENSES FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES IN AREAS SUBJECT TO MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION OR FOR INSTALLATIONS EXPERIENCING SUDDEN INCREASE IN PERSONNEL LEVELS.

(a) MAXIMUM PERIOD OF RECEIPT OF EXPENSES.—Section 404a(c)(3) of title 37, United States Code, is amended by striking ''20 days'' and inserting ''60 days''.

(b) EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR INCREASE IN CERTAIN BAH.—Section 403(b)(7)(E) of such title is amended by striking ''December 31, 2008'' and inserting ''December 31, 2009''.

SEC. 604. INCOME REPLACEMENT PAYMENTS FOR RESERVE COMPONENT MEMBERS EXPERIENCING EXTENDED AND FREQUENT MOBILIZATION FOR ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE.

(a) CLARIFICATION REGARDING WHEN PAYMENTS REQUIRED.—Subsection (a) of section 910 of title 37, United States Code, is amended by inserting before the period at the end of the first sentence the following: '', when the total monthly military compensation of the member is less than the average monthly civilian income of the member''.

(b) ELIGIBILITY.—Subsection (b) of such section is amended to read as follows:

''(b) ELIGIBILITY.—(1) A member of a reserve component is entitled to a payment under this section for any full month of active duty of the member, when the total monthly military compensation of the member is less than the average monthly civilian income of the member, while the member is on active duty under an involuntary mobilization order, following the date on which the member—

''(A) completes 547 continuous days of service on active duty under an involuntary mobilization order;

''(B) completes 730 cumulative days on active duty under an involuntary mobilization order during the previous 1,826 days; or

''(C) is involuntarily mobilized for service on active duty for a period of 180 days or more within 180 days after the date of the member's separation from a previous period of active duty for a period of 180 days or more.

''(2) The entitlement of a member of a reserve component to a payment under this section also shall commence or, if previously commenced under paragraph (1), shall continue if the member—

''(A) satisfies the required number of days on active duty specified in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1) or was involuntarily mobilized as provided in subparagraph (C) of such paragraph; and

''(B) is retained on active duty under subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 12301(h)(1) of title 10 because of an injury or illness incurred or aggravated while the member was assigned to duty in an area for which special pay under section 310 of this title is available.''.

(c) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—Subsection (g) of such section is amended to read as follows:

''(g) TERMINATION.—No payment shall be made to a member under this section for months beginning after December 31, 2008, unless the entitlement of the member to payments under this section commenced on or before that date.''.

SEC. 605. MIDMONTH PAYMENT OF BASIC PAY FOR CONTRIBUTIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES PARTICIPATING IN THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN.

(a) SEMI-MONTHLY DEPOSIT OF MEMBER'S CONTRIBUTIONS.—Section 1014 of title 37, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(c) With respect to a member of the uniformed services who has elected to participate in the Thrift Savings Plan under section 211 of this title, subsection (a) does not preclude the payment of an amount equal to one-half of the monthly deposit to the Thrift Savings Fund otherwise to be made by the member in participating in the Plan, which amount may be deposited in the Thrift Savings Fund at midmonth.''.

(b) SEMI-MONTHLY REPAYMENT OF BORROWED AMOUNTS.—Section 211 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(e) REPAYMENT OF AMOUNTS BORROWED FROM MEMBER ACCOUNT.—If a loan is issued to a member under section 8433(g) of title 5 from funds in the member's account in the Thrift Savings Plan, repayment of the loan may be required on the same semi-monthly basis as authorized for contributions to the Thrift Savings Fund on behalf of the member under section 1014(c) of this title.''.

Subtitle B—Bonuses and Special and Incentive Pays

SEC. 610. CORRECTION OF LAPSED AUTHORITIES FOR PAYMENT OF BONUSES, SPECIAL PAYS, AND SIMILAR BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES.

(a) RETROACTIVE EFFECTIVE DATE FOR PAYMENT AUTHORITIES.—The amendments made by sections 611, 612, 613, and 614 shall take effect as of December 31, 2007.

(b) RATIFICATION OF EXISTING CONTINGENT AGREEMENTS.—In the case of a provision of title 10 or 37, United States Code, amended by section 611, 612, 613, or 614 under which an individual must enter into an agreement with the Secretary concerned for receipt of a bonus, special pay, or similar benefit, the Secretary concerned may treat any agreement entered into under such a provision during the period beginning on January 1, 2008, and ending on the date of the enactment of this Act as having taken effect as of the date on which the agreement was signed by the individual.

(c) TEMPORARY ADDITIONAL AGREEMENT AUTHORITY.—

(1) AUTHORITY.—In the case of a provision of title 10 or 37, United States Code, amended by section 611, 612, 613, or 614 under which an individual must enter into an agreement with the Secretary concerned for receipt of a bonus, special pay, or similar benefit, the Secretary concerned, during the 120-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, may treat any agreement entered into under such a provision by an individual described in paragraph (2) as having been signed by the individual during the period beginning on January 1, 2008, and ending on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) COVERED INDIVIDUALS.—An individual referred to in paragraph (1) is an individual who would have met all of the qualifications for a bonus, special pay, or similar benefit under a provision of title 10 or 37, United States Code, amended by section 611, 612, 613, or 614 at any time during the period beginning on January 1, 2008, and ending on the date of the enactment of this Act, but for the

fact that the statutory authority for the bonus, special pay, or similar benefit lapsed on December 31, 2007.

(d) TAX TREATMENT.—The payment of a bonus, special pay, or similar benefit under a provision of title 10 or 37, United States Code, amended by section 611, 612, 613, or 614 to an individual who would have been entitled to the tax treatment accorded by section 112 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 on the date on which the member would have otherwise earned the bonus, special pay, or similar benefit, but for the fact that the statutory authority for the bonus, special pay, or similar benefit lapsed on December 31, 2007, shall be treated as covered by such section 112.

(e) RETROACTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARMY REFERRAL BONUS.—The Secretary of the Army may pay a bonus under section 3252 of title 10, United States Code, as added by section 671(a)(1), to an individual referred to in subsection (a)(2) of such section 3252 who made a referral, as described in subsection (b) of such section 3252, to an Army recruiter during the period beginning on January 1, 2008, and ending on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(f) SECRETARY CONCERNED DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''Secretary concerned'' has the meaning given that term in section 101(5) of title 37, United States Code.

SEC. 611. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN BONUS AND SPECIAL PAY AUTHORITIES FOR RESERVE FORCES.

(a) SELECTED RESERVE REENLISTMENT BONUS.—Section 308b(g) of title 37, United States Code, is amended by striking ''December 31, 2007'' and inserting ''December 31, 2008''.

(b) SELECTED RESERVE AFFILIATION OR ENLISTMENT BONUS.—Section 308c(i) of such title is amended by striking ''December 31, 2007'' and inserting ''December 31, 2008''.

(c) SPECIAL PAY FOR ENLISTED MEMBERS ASSIGNED TO CERTAIN HIGH PRIORITY UNITS.—Section 308d(c) of such title is amended by striking ''December 31, 2007'' and inserting ''December 31, 2008''.

(d) READY RESERVE ENLISTMENT BONUS FOR PERSONS WITHOUT PRIOR SERVICE.—Section 308g(f)(2) of such title is amended by striking ''December 31, 2007'' and inserting ''December 31, 2008''.

(e) READY RESERVE ENLISTMENT AND REENLISTMENT BONUS FOR PERSONS WITH PRIOR SERVICE.—Section 308h(e) of such title is amended by striking ''December 31, 2007'' and inserting ''December 31, 2008''.

(f) SELECTED RESERVE ENLISTMENT BONUS FOR PERSONS WITH PRIOR SERVICE.—Section 308i(f) of such title is amended by striking ''December 31, 2007'' and inserting ''December 31, 2008''.

SEC. 612. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN BONUS AND SPECIAL PAY AUTHORITIES FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.

(a) NURSE OFFICER CANDIDATE ACCESSION PROGRAM.—Section 2130a(a)(1) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''December 31, 2007'' and inserting ''December 31, 2008''.

(b) REPAYMENT OF EDUCATION LOANS FOR CERTAIN HEALTH PROFESSIONALS WHO SERVE IN THE SELECTED RESERVE.—Section 16302(d) of such title is amended by striking ''January 1, 2008'' and inserting ''January 1, 2009''.

(c) ACCESSION BONUS FOR REGISTERED NURSES.—Section 302d(a)(1) of title 37, United States Code, is amended by striking ''December 31, 2007'' and inserting ''December 31, 2008''.

(d) INCENTIVE SPECIAL PAY FOR NURSE ANESTHETISTS.—Section 302e(a)(1) of such title is amended by striking ''December 31, 2007'' and inserting ''December 31, 2008''.

(e) SPECIAL PAY FOR SELECTED RESERVE HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN CRITICALLY SHORT WARTIME SPECIALTIES.—Section 302g(e) of such title is amended by striking ''December 31, 2007'' and inserting ''December 31, 2008''.

(f) ACCESSION BONUS FOR DENTAL OFFICERS.—Section 302h(a)(1) of such title is amended by striking ''December 31, 2007'' and inserting ''December 31, 2008''.

(g) ACCESSION BONUS FOR PHARMACY OFFICERS.—Section 302j(a) of such title is amended by striking ''December 31, 2007'' and inserting ''December 31, 2008''.

(h) ACCESSION BONUS FOR MEDICAL OFFICERS IN CRITICALLY SHORT WARTIME SPECIALTIES.—Section 302k(f) of such title is amended by striking ''December 31, 2007'' and inserting ''December 31, 2008''.

(i) ACCESSION BONUS FOR DENTAL SPECIALIST OFFICERS IN CRITICALLY SHORT WARTIME SPECIALTIES.—Section 302l(g) of such title is amended by striking ''December 31, 2007'' and inserting ''December 31, 2008''.

SEC. 613. EXTENSION OF SPECIAL PAY AND BONUS AUTHORITIES FOR NUCLEAR OFFICERS.

(a) SPECIAL PAY FOR NUCLEAR-QUALIFIED OFFICERS EXTENDING PERIOD OF ACTIVE SERVICE.—Section 312(f) of title 37, United States Code, is amended by striking ''December 31, 2007'' and inserting ''December 31, 2008''.

(b) NUCLEAR CAREER ACCESSION BONUS.—Section 312b(c) of such title is amended by striking ''December 31, 2007'' and inserting ''December 31, 2008''.

(c) NUCLEAR CAREER ANNUAL INCENTIVE BONUS.—Section 312c(d) of such title is amended by striking ''December 31, 2007'' and inserting ''December 31, 2008''.

SEC. 614. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITIES RELATING TO PAYMENT OF OTHER BONUSES AND SPECIAL PAYS.

(a) AVIATION OFFICER RETENTION BONUS.—Section 301b(a) of title 37, United States Code, is amended by striking ''December 31, 2007'' and inserting ''December 31, 2008''.

(b) REENLISTMENT BONUS FOR ACTIVE MEMBERS.—Section 308(g) of such title is amended by striking ''December 31, 2007'' and inserting ''December 31, 2008''.

(c) ENLISTMENT BONUS.—Section 309(e) of such title is amended by striking ''December 31, 2007'' and inserting ''December 31, 2008''.

(d) RETENTION BONUS FOR MEMBERS WITH CRITICAL MILITARY SKILLS OR ASSIGNED TO HIGH PRIORITY UNITS.—Section 323(i) of such title is amended by striking ''December 31, 2007'' and inserting ''December 31, 2008''.

(e) ACCESSION BONUS FOR NEW OFFICERS IN CRITICAL SKILLS.—Section 324(g) of such title is amended by striking ''December 31, 2007'' and inserting ''December 31, 2008''.

(f) INCENTIVE BONUS FOR CONVERSION TO MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY TO EASE PERSONNEL SHORTAGE.—Section 326(g) of such title is amended by striking ''December 31, 2007'' and inserting ''December 31, 2008''.

(g) ACCESSION BONUS FOR OFFICER CANDIDATES.—Section 330(f) of such title is amended by striking ''December 31, 2007'' and inserting ''December 31, 2008''.

(h) PROHIBITION ON CHARGES FOR MEALS RECEIVED AT MILITARY TREATMENT FACILITIES BY MEMBERS RECEIVING CONTINUOUS CARE.—Section 402(h)(3) of such title is amended by striking ''December 31, 2007'' and inserting ''December 31, 2008''.

SEC. 615. INCREASE IN INCENTIVE SPECIAL PAY AND MULTIYEAR RETENTION BONUS FOR MEDICAL OFFICERS.

(a) INCENTIVE SPECIAL PAY.—Section 302(b)(1) of title 37, United States Code, is amended by striking ''$50,000'' and inserting ''$75,000''.

(b) MULTIYEAR RETENTION BONUS.—Section 301d(a)(2) of title 37, United States Code, is amended by striking ''$50,000'' and inserting ''$75,000''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to agreements entered into under section 301d(a) or 302b(c) of title 37, United States Code, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 616. INCREASE IN DENTAL OFFICER ADDITIONAL SPECIAL PAY.

(a) INCREASE.—Section 302b(a)(4) of title 37, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''at the following rates'' and inserting ''at a rate determined by the Secretary concerned, which rate may not exceed the following'';

(2) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''$4,000'' and inserting ''$10,000''; and

(3) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''$6,000'' and inserting ''$12,000''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to agreements entered into under section 302b(b) of title 37, United States Code, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 617. INCREASE IN MAXIMUM MONTHLY RATE OF HARDSHIP DUTY PAY AND AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE HARDSHIP DUTY PAY IN A LUMP SUM.

Section 305 of title 37, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 305. Special pay: hardship duty pay

''(a) SPECIAL PAY AUTHORIZED.—A member of a uniformed service who is entitled to basic pay may be paid special pay under this section while the member is performing duty that is designated by the Secretary of Defense as hardship duty.

''(b) PAYMENT ON MONTHLY OR LUMP SUM BASIS.—Special pay payable under this section may be paid on a monthly basis or in a lump sum.

''(c) MAXIMUM RATE OR AMOUNT.—(1) The monthly rate of special pay payable to a member under this section may not exceed $1,500.

''(2) The amount of the lump sum payment of special pay payable to a member under this section may not exceed the product of—

''(A) the maximum monthly rate in effect under paragraph (1) at the time the member qualifies for payment of special pay under this section; and

''(B) the number of months during which the member will be performing the designated hardship duty.

''(d) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PAY AND ALLOWANCES.—Special pay paid to a member under this section is in addition to any other pay and allowances to which the member is entitled.

''(e) REPAYMENT.—A member who is paid special pay in a lump sum under this section, but who fails to perform the designated hardship duty during the months included in the calculation of the amount of the lump sum under subsection (c)(2), shall be subject to the repayment provisions of section 303a(e) of this title.

''(f) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regulations for the payment of hardship duty pay under this section, including the specific monthly rates at which the special pay will be available.''.

SEC. 618. DEFINITION OF SEA DUTY FOR CAREER SEA PAY TO INCLUDE SERVICE AS OFF-CYCLE CREWMEMBERS OF MULTI-CREW SHIPS.

Section 305a(e)(1)(A) of title 37, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''or'' at the end of clause (ii); and

(2) by adding at the end the following new clause:

''(iv) while serving as an off-cycle crewmember of a multi-crewed ship; or''.

SEC. 619. REENLISTMENT BONUS FOR MEMBERS OF THE SELECTED RESERVE.

(a) MINIMUM TERM OF REENLISTMENT OR ENLISTMENT EXTENSION.—Subsection (a)(2) of

308b of title 37, United States Code, is amended by striking ''his enlistment for a period of three years or for a period of six years'' and inserting ''an enlistment for a period of at least three years''.

(b) MAXIMUM BONUS AMOUNT.—Subsection (b)(1) of such section is amended by striking ''may not exceed'' and all that follows through the end of the paragraph and inserting ''may not exceed $15,000.''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS REGARDING ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—Subsection (c) of such section is amended—

(1) by striking the subsection heading and all that follows through ''(2) In the case'' and inserting ''WAIVER OF CONDITION ON ELIGIBILITY.—In the case''; and

(2) by striking ''paragraph (1)(B) or''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to reenlistments or extensions of enlistment that occur on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 620. AVAILABILITY OF SELECTED RESERVE ACCESSION BONUS FOR PERSONS WHO PREVIOUSLY SERVED IN THE ARMED FORCES FOR A SHORT PERIOD.

Section 308c(c)(1) of title 37, United States Code, is amended by inserting before the semicolon the following: ''or has served in the armed forces, but was released from such service before completing the basic training requirements of the armed force of which the person was a member and the service was characterized as either honorable or uncharacterized''.

SEC. 621. AVAILABILITY OF NUCLEAR OFFICER CONTINUATION PAY FOR OFFICERS WITH MORE THAN 26 YEARS OF COMMISSIONED SERVICE.

(a) INCREASE.—Section 312 of title 37, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3), by striking ''26 years'' and inserting ''30 years''; and

(2) in subsection (e)(1), by striking ''the end of 26 years of commissioned service'' and inserting ''the maximum number of years of commissioned service authorized by subsection (a)(3)''.

(b) EFFECT ON EXISTING AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary of the Navy and an officer of the naval service who is a party to an agreement under section 312 of title 37, United States Code, that was entered into before the date of the enactment of this Act may revise the agreement to reflect the new limitation on the number of years of commissioned service that the officer may serve while remaining eligible for special pay under such section.

SEC. 622. WAIVER OF YEARS-OF-SERVICE LIMITATION ON RECEIPT OF CRITICAL SKILLS RETENTION BONUS.

Section 323(e) of title 37, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(4) The Secretary of Defense, or the Secretary of Homeland Security with respect to the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service in the Navy, may waive the limitations in paragraph (1) with respect to a member who, during the period of active duty or service in an active status in a reserve component for which the bonus is being offered, is assigned duties in a skill designated as critical under subsection (b)(1). The authority to grant a waiver under this paragraph may not be delegated below the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness or the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security.''.

SEC. 623. ACCESSION BONUS FOR PARTICIPANTS IN THE ARMED FORCES HEALTH PROFESSIONS SCHOLARSHIP AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(a) ACCESSION BONUS AUTHORIZED.—Subchapter I of chapter 105 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 2128. Accession bonus for members of the program

''(a) AVAILABILITY OF BONUS.—The Secretary of Defense may offer a person who enters into an agreement under section 2122(a)(2) of this title an accession bonus of not more than $20,000 as part of the agreement.

''(b) RELATION TO OTHER PAYMENTS.—An accession bonus paid a person under this section is in addition to any other amounts payable to the person under this subchapter.

''(c) REPAYMENT.—A person who receives an accession bonus under this section, but fails to comply with the agreement under section 2122(a)(2) of this title or to commence or complete the active duty obligation imposed by section 2123 of this title, shall be subject to the repayment provisions of section 303a(e) of title 37.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such subchapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''2128. Accession bonus for members of the program.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to agreements entered into under section 2122(a)(2) of title 10, United States Code, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 624. PAYMENT OF ASSIGNMENT INCENTIVE PAY FOR RESERVE MEMBERS SERVING IN COMBAT ZONE FOR MORE THAN 22 MONTHS.

(a) PAYMENT.—The Secretary of a military department may pay assignment incentive pay under section 307a of title 37, United States Code, to a member of a reserve component under the jurisdiction of the Secretary for each month during the eligibility period of the member determined under subsection (b) during which the member served for any portion of the month in a combat zone associated with Operating Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom in excess of 22 months of qualifying service.

(b) ELIGIBILITY PERIOD.—The eligibility period for a member extends from January 1, 2005, through the end of the active duty service of the member in a combat zone associated with Operating Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom if the service on active duty during the member's most recent period of mobilization to active duty began before January 19, 2007.

(c) AMOUNT OF PAYMENT.—The monthly rate of incentive pay payable to a member under this section is $1,000.

(d) QUALIFYING SERVICE.—For purposes of this section, qualifying service includes cumulative mobilized service on active duty under sections 12301(d), 12302, and 12304 of title 10, United States Code, during the period beginning on January 1, 2003, through the end of the member's active duty service during the member's most recent period of mobilization to active duty beginning before January 19, 2007.

Subtitle C—Travel and Transportation Allowances

SEC. 631. PAYMENT OF INACTIVE DUTY TRAINING TRAVEL COSTS FOR CERTAIN SELECTED RESERVE MEMBERS.

(a) PAYMENT OF TRAVEL COSTS AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 7 of title 37, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 408 the following new section:

''§ 408a. Travel and transportation allowances: inactive duty training outside of normal commuting distances

''(a) ALLOWANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary concerned may reimburse an eligible member of the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve for travel expenses for travel to an inactive duty training location to perform inactive duty training when the member is required to commute a distance from the member's permanent residence to the inactive duty training location that is outside the normal commuting distance (as determined under the regulations prescribed under subsection (d)) for that commute.

''(b) ELIGIBLE MEMBERS.—To be eligible for reimbursement under subsection (a), a member of the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve must be—

''(1) qualified in a skill designated as critically short by the Secretary concerned;

''(2) assigned to a unit of the Selected Reserve with a critical manpower shortage or in a pay grade in the member's reserve component with a critical manpower shortage; or

''(3) assigned to a unit or position that is disestablished or relocated as a result of defense base closure or realignment or another force structure reallocation.

''(c) MAXIMUM REIMBURSEMENT AMOUNT.—The amount of reimbursement provided a member under subsection (a) for each round trip to a training location may not exceed $300.

''(d) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary concerned shall prescribe regulations to carry out this section. Regulations prescribed by the Secretary of a military department shall be subject to the approval of the Secretary of Defense.

''(e) TERMINATION.—No reimbursement may be provided under this section for travel that occurs after December 31, 2010.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 7 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 408 the following new item:

''408a. Travel and transportation allowances: inactive duty training outside of normal commuting distances.''.

(b) APPLICATION OF AMENDMENT.—No reimbursement may be provided under section 408a of title 37, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), for travel costs incurred before the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 632. SURVIVORS OF DECEASED MEMBERS ELIGIBLE FOR TRANSPORTATION TO ATTEND BURIAL CEREMONIES.

(a) ELIGIBLE RELATIVES.—Paragraph (1) of section 411f(c) of title 37, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following new subparagraph:

''(B) The child or children of the deceased member (including stepchildren, adopted children, and illegitimate children).''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

''(D) The sibling or siblings of the deceased member.

''(E) The person who directs the disposition of the remains of the deceased member under section 1482(c) of title 10 or, in the case of a deceased member whose remains are commingled and buried in a common grave in a national cemetery, the person who would have been designated under such section to direct the disposition of the remains if individual identification had been made.''.

(b) OTHER PERSONS.—Paragraph (2) of such section is amended to read as follows:

''(2) If no person described in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of paragraph (1) is provided travel and transportation allowances under subsection (a)(1), the travel and transportation allowances may be provided to one or two other persons who are closely related to the deceased member and are selected by the person referred to in paragraph (1)(E). A person provided travel and transportation allowances under this paragraph is in

addition to the person referred to in paragraph (1)(E).''.

SEC. 633. ALLOWANCE FOR PARTICIPATION OF RESERVES IN ELECTRONIC SCREENING.

(a) ALLOWANCE FOR PARTICIPATION IN ELECTRONIC SCREENING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 7 of title 37, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 433 the following new section:

''§ 433a. Allowance for participation in Ready Reserve screening

''(a) ALLOWANCE AUTHORIZED.—(1) Under regulations prescribed by the Secretaries concerned, a member of the Individual Ready Reserve may be paid a stipend for participation in the screening performed pursuant to section 10149 of title 10, in lieu of muster duty performed under section 12319 of title 10, if such participation is conducted through electronic means.

''(2) The stipend paid a member under this section shall constitute the sole monetary allowance authorized for participation in the screening described in paragraph (1), and shall constitute payment in full to the member for participation in such screening, regardless of the grade or rank in which the member is serving.

''(b) MAXIMUM PAYMENT.—The aggregate amount of the stipend paid a member of the Individual Ready Reserve under this section in any calendar year may not exceed $50.

''(c) PAYMENT REQUIREMENTS.—(1) The stipend authorized by this section may not be disbursed in kind.

''(2) Payment of a stipend to a member of the Individual Ready Reserve under this section for participation in screening shall be made on or after the date of participation in such screening, but not later than 30 days after such date.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 7 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 433 the following new item:

''433a. Allowance for participation in Ready Reserve screening.''.

(b) BAR TO DUAL COMPENSATION.—Section 206 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(f) A member of the Individual Ready Reserve is not entitled to compensation under this section for participation in screening for which the member is paid a stipend under section 433a of this title.''.

(c) BAR TO RETIREMENT CREDIT.—Section 12732(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(8) Service in the screening performed pursuant to section 10149 of this title through electronic means, regardless of whether or not a stipend is paid the member concerned for such service under section 433a of title 37.''.

SEC. 634. ALLOWANCE FOR CIVILIAN CLOTHING FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES TRAVELING IN CONNECTION WITH MEDICAL EVACUATION.

Section 1047(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''and luggage'' after ''civilian clothing'' both places it appears.

SEC. 635. PAYMENT OF MOVING EXPENSES FOR JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS INSTRUCTORS IN HARD-TO-FILL POSITIONS.

Section 2031 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(f)(1) When determined by the Secretary of the military department concerned to be in the national interest and agreed upon by the institution concerned, the institution may reimburse a Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps instructor for moving expenses incurred by the instructor to accept employment at the institution in a position that the Secretary concerned determines is hard-to-fill for geographic or economic reasons.

''(2) As a condition on providing reimbursement under paragraph (1), the institution shall require the instructor to execute a written agreement to serve a minimum of two years of employment at the institution in the hard-to-fill position.

''(3) Any reimbursement provided to an instructor under paragraph (1) is in addition to the minimum instructor pay otherwise payable to the instructor.

''(4) The Secretary concerned shall reimburse an institution providing reimbursement to an instructor under paragraph (1) in an amount equal to the amount of the reimbursement paid by the institution under that paragraph. Any reimbursement provided by the Secretary concerned shall be provided from funds appropriated for that purpose.

''(5) The provision of reimbursement under paragraph (1) or (4) shall be subject to regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense for purposes of this subsection.''.

Subtitle D—Retired Pay and Survivor Benefits

SEC. 641. EXPANSION OF COMBAT-RELATED SPECIAL COMPENSATION ELIGIBILITY.

(a) EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY FOR CHAPTER 61 MILITARY RETIREES.—Subsection (c) of section 1413a of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''entitled to retired pay who—'' and all that follows and inserting ''who—

''(1) is entitled to retired pay (other than by reason of section 12731b of this title); and

''(2) has a combat-related disability.''.

(b) COMPUTATION.—Paragraph (3) of subsection (b) of such section is amended—

(1) by striking ''In the case of'' and inserting the following:

''(A) GENERAL RULE.—In the case of''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(B) SPECIAL RULE FOR RETIREES WITH FEWER THAN 20 YEARS OF SERVICE.—In the case of an eligible combat-related disabled uniformed services retiree who is retired under chapter 61 of this title with fewer than 20 years of creditable service, the amount of the payment under paragraph (1) for any month shall be reduced by the amount (if any) by which the amount of the member's retired pay under chapter 61 of this title exceeds the amount equal to 2½ percent of the member's years of creditable service multiplied by the member's retired pay base under section 1406(b)(1) or 1407 of this title, whichever is applicable to the member.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on January 1, 2008, and shall apply to payments for months beginning on or after that date.

SEC. 642. INCLUSION OF VETERANS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES RATED AS TOTAL BY REASON OF UNEMPLOYABILITY UNDER TERMINATION OF PHASE-IN OF CONCURRENT RECEIPT OF RETIRED PAY AND VETERANS' DISABILITY COMPENSATION.

(a) INCLUSION OF VETERANS.—Section 1414(a)(1) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''except that'' and all that follows and inserting ''except that payment of retired pay is subject to subsection (c) only during the period beginning on January 1, 2004, and ending on December 31, 2004, in the case of the following:

''(A) A qualified retiree receiving veterans' disability compensation for a disability rated as 100 percent.

''(B) A qualified retiree receiving veterans' disability compensation at the rate payable for a 100 percent disability by reason of a determination of individual unemployability.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect as of December 31, 2004.

(2) TIMING OF PAYMENT OF RETROACTIVE BENEFITS.—Any amount payable for a period before October 1, 2008, by reason of the amendment made by subsection (a) shall not be paid until after that date.

SEC. 643. RECOUPMENT OF ANNUITY AMOUNTS PREVIOUSLY PAID, BUT SUBJECT TO OFFSET FOR DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.

(a) LIMITATION ON RECOUPMENT; NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—Section 1450(c) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) LIMITATION ON RECOUPMENT OF OFFSET AMOUNT.—Any amount subject to offset under this subsection that was previously paid to the surviving spouse or former spouse shall be recouped only to the extent that the amount paid exceeds any amount to be refunded under subsection (e). In notifying a surviving spouse or former spouse of the recoupment requirement, the Secretary shall provide the spouse or former spouse—

''(A) a single notice of the net amount to be recouped or the net amount to be refunded, as applicable, under this subsection or subsection (e);

''(B) a written explanation of the statutory requirements for recoupment of the offset amount and for refund of any applicable amount deducted from retired pay;

''(C) a detailed accounting of how the offset amount being recouped and retired pay deduction amount being refunded were calculated; and

''(D) contact information for a person who can provide information about the offset recoupment and retired pay deduction refund processes and answer questions the surviving spouse or former spouse may have about the requirements, processes, or amounts.''.

(b) APPLICATION.—Paragraph (3) of subsection (c) of section 1450 of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall apply with respect to the recoupment on or after April 1, 2008, of amounts subject to offset under such subsection.

SEC. 644. SPECIAL SURVIVOR INDEMNITY ALLOWANCE FOR PERSONS AFFECTED BY REQUIRED SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN ANNUITY OFFSET FOR DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.

Section 1450 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(m) SPECIAL SURVIVOR INDEMNITY ALLOWANCE.—

''(1) PROVISION OF ALLOWANCE.—The Secretary concerned shall pay a monthly special survivor indemnity allowance under this subsection to the surviving spouse or former spouse of a member of the uniformed services to whom section 1448 of this title applies if—

''(A) the surviving spouse or former spouse is entitled to dependency and indemnity compensation under section 1311(a) of title 38;

''(B) except for subsection (c) of this section, the surviving spouse or former spouse is eligible for an annuity by reason of a participant in the Plan under section 1448(a)(1) of this title; and

''(C) the eligibility of the surviving spouse or former spouse for an annuity as described in subparagraph (B) is affected by subsection (c) of this section.

''(2) AMOUNT OF PAYMENT.—Subject to paragraph (3), the amount of the allowance paid to an eligible survivor under paragraph (1) for a month shall be equal to—

''(A) for months during fiscal year 2009, $50;
''(B) for months during fiscal year 2010, $60;
''(C) for months during fiscal year 2011, $70;
''(D) for months during fiscal year 2012, $80;
''(E) for months during fiscal year 2013, $90; and
''(F) for months after fiscal year 2013, $100.

''(3) LIMITATION.—The amount of the allowance paid to an eligible survivor under paragraph (1) for any month may not exceed the amount of the annuity for that month that is subject to offset under subsection (c).

''(4) STATUS OF PAYMENTS.—An allowance paid under this subsection does not constitute an annuity, and amounts so paid are not subject to adjustment under any other provision of law.

''(5) SOURCE OF FUNDS.—The special survivor indemnity allowance shall be paid from amounts in the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund established under section 1461 of this title.

''(6) EFFECTIVE DATE AND DURATION.—This subsection shall only apply with respect to the month beginning on October 1, 2008, and subsequent months through the month ending on February 28, 2016. Effective on March 1, 2016, the authority provided by this subsection shall terminate. No special survivor indemnity allowance may be paid to any person by reason of this subsection for any period before October 1, 2008, or beginning on or after March 1, 2016.''.

SEC. 645. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES TO DESIGNATE RECIPIENTS FOR PAYMENT OF DEATH GRATUITY.

(a) AUTHORITY TO DESIGNATE RECIPIENTS.—Section 1477 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (c) and (d);

(2) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (d) and, in such subsection, by striking ''Subsection (a)(2)'' and inserting ''TREATMENT OF CHILDREN.—Subsection (b)(2)''; and

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

''(a) DESIGNATION OF RECIPIENTS.—(1) On and after July 1, 2008, or such earlier date as the Secretary of Defense may prescribe, a person covered by section 1475 or 1476 of this title may designate one or more persons to receive all or a portion of the amount payable under section 1478 of this title. The designation of a person to receive a portion of the amount shall indicate the percentage of the amount, to be specified only in 10 percent increments, that the designated person may receive. The balance of the amount of the death gratuity, if any, shall be paid in accordance with subsection (b).

''(2) If a person covered by section 1475 or 1476 of this title has a spouse, but designates a person other than the spouse to receive all or a portion of the amount payable under section 1478 of this title, the Secretary concerned shall provide notice of the designation to the spouse.

''(b) DISTRIBUTION OF REMAINDER; DISTRIBUTION IN ABSENCE OF DESIGNATED RECIPIENT.—If a person covered by section 1475 or 1476 of this title does not make a designation under subsection (a) or designates only a portion of the amount payable under section 1478 of this title, the amount of the death gratuity not covered by a designation shall be paid as follows:

''(1) To the surviving spouse of the person, if any.

''(2) If there is no surviving spouse, to any surviving children (as prescribed by subsection (d)) of the person and the descendants of any deceased children by representation.

''(3) If there is none of the above, to the surviving parents (as prescribed by subsection (c)) of the person or the survivor of them.

''(4) If there is none of the above, to the duly-appointed executor or administrator of the estate of the person.

''(5) If there is none of the above, to other next of kin of the person entitled under the laws of domicile of the person at the time of the person's death.

''(c) TREATMENT OF PARENTS.—For purposes of subsection (b)(3), parents include fathers and mothers through adoption. However, only one father and one mother may be recognized in any case, and preference shall be given to those who exercised a parental relationship on the date, or most nearly before the date, on which the decedent entered a status described in section 1475 or 1476 of this title.''.

(b) CLERICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Subsection (e) of such section is amended—

(1) by inserting ''EFFECT OF DEATH BEFORE RECEIPT OF GRATUITY.—'' after ''(e)'';

(2) by striking ''subsection (a) or (d)'' and inserting ''subsection (a) or (b)''; and

(3) by striking ''subsection (a).'' and inserting ''subsection (b)''.

(c) EXISTING DESIGNATION AUTHORITY.—The authority provided by subsection (d) of section 1477 of title 10, United States Code, as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, shall remain available to persons covered by section 1475 or 1476 of such title until July 1, 2008, or such earlier date as the Secretary of Defense may prescribe, and any designation under such subsection made before July 1, 2008, or the earlier date prescribed by the Secretary, shall continue in effect until such time as the person who made the designation makes a new designation under such section 1477, as amended by subsection (a) of this section.

(d) REGULATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than April 1, 2008, the Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regulations to implement the amendments to section 1477 of title 10, United States Code, made by subsection (a).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The regulations required by paragraph (1) shall include forms for the making of the designation contemplated by subsection (a) of section 1477 of title 10, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a) of this section, and instructions for members of the Armed Forces in the filling out of such forms.

SEC. 646. CLARIFICATION OF APPLICATION OF RETIRED PAY MULTIPLIER PERCENTAGE TO MEMBERS OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES WITH OVER 30 YEARS OF SERVICE.

(a) COMPUTATION OF RETIRED AND RETAINER PAY FOR MEMBERS OF NAVAL SERVICE.—The table in section 6333(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended in Column 2 of Formula A by striking ''75 percent.'' and inserting ''Retired pay multiplier prescribed under section 1409 for the years of service that may be credited to the member under section 1405.''.

(b) RETIRED PAY FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS RECALLED TO ACTIVE DUTY.—The table in section 1402(a) of such title is amended by striking Column 3.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) shall take effect as of January 1, 2007, and shall apply with respect to retired pay and retainer pay payable on or after that date.

SEC. 647. COMMENCEMENT OF RECEIPT OF NON-REGULAR SERVICE RETIRED PAY BY MEMBERS OF THE READY RESERVE ON ACTIVE FEDERAL STATUS OR ACTIVE DUTY FOR SIGNIFICANT PERIODS.

(a) REDUCED ELIGIBILITY AGE.—Section 12731 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) has attained the eligibility age applicable under subsection (f) to that person;''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(f)(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the eligibility age for purposes of subsection (a)(1) is 60 years of age.

''(2)(A) In the case of a person who as a member of the Ready Reserve serves on active duty or performs active service described in subparagraph (B) after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, the eligibility age for purposes of subsection (a)(1) shall be reduced below 60 years of age by three months for each aggregate of 90 days on which such person so performs in any fiscal year after such date, subject to subparagraph (C). A day of duty may be included in only one aggregate of 90 days for purposes of this subparagraph.

''(B)(i) Service on active duty described in this subparagraph is service on active duty pursuant to a call or order to active duty under a provision of law referred to in section 101(a)(13)(B) or under section 12301(d) of this title. Such service does not include service on active duty pursuant to a call or order to active duty under section 12310 of this title.

''(ii) Active service described in this subparagraph is also service under a call to active service authorized by the President or the Secretary of Defense under section 502(f) of title 32 for purposes of responding to a national emergency declared by the President or supported by Federal funds.

''(C) The eligibility age for purposes of subsection (a)(1) may not be reduced below 50 years of age for any person under subparagraph (A).''.

(b) CONTINUATION OF AGE 60 AS MINIMUM AGE FOR ELIGIBILITY OF NON-REGULAR SERVICE RETIREES FOR HEALTH CARE.—Section 1074(b) of such title is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(1)'' after ''(b)''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(2) Paragraph (1) does not apply to a member or former member entitled to retired pay for non-regular service under chapter 1223 of this title who is under 60 years of age.''.

(c) ADMINISTRATION OF RELATED PROVISIONS OF LAW OR POLICY.—With respect to any provision of law, or of any policy, regulation, or directive of the executive branch that refers to a member or former member of the uniformed services as being eligible for, or entitled to, retired pay under chapter 1223 of title 10, United States Code, but for the fact that the member or former member is under 60 years of age, such provision shall be carried out with respect to that member or former member by substituting for the reference to being 60 years of age a reference to having attained the eligibility age applicable under subsection (f) of section 12731 of title 10, United States Code (as added by subsection (a)), to such member or former member for qualification for such retired pay under subsection (a) of such section.

SEC. 648. COMPUTATION OF YEARS OF SERVICE FOR PURPOSES OF RETIRED PAY FOR NON-REGULAR SERVICE.

Section 12733(3) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period and inserting ''before the year of service that includes October 30, 2007; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(D) 130 days in the year of service that includes October 30, 2007, and in any subsequent year of service.''.

Subtitle E—Commissary and Nonappropriated Fund Instrumentality Benefits

SEC. 651. AUTHORITY TO CONTINUE COMMISSARY AND EXCHANGE BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN INVOLUNTARILY SEPARATED MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) RESUMPTION FOR MEMBERS INVOLUNTARILY SEPARATED FROM ACTIVE DUTY.—Section 1146 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(a) MEMBERS INVOLUNTARILY SEPARATED FROM ACTIVE DUTY.—'' before ''The Secretary of Defense'';

(2) in the first sentence, by striking ''October 1, 1990, and ending on December 31, 2001'' and inserting ''October 1, 2007, and ending on December 31, 2012''; and

(3) in the second sentence, by striking ''the period beginning on October 1, 1994, and ending on December 31, 2001'' and inserting ''the same period''.

(b) EXTENSION TO MEMBERS INVOLUNTARILY SEPARATED FROM SELECTED RESERVE.—Such section is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(b) MEMBERS INVOLUNTARILY SEPARATED FROM SELECTED RESERVE.—The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regulations to allow a member of the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve who is involuntarily separated from the Selected Reserve as a result of the exercise of the force shaping authority of the Secretary concerned under section 647 of this title or other force shaping authority during the period beginning on October 1, 2007, and ending on December 31, 2012, to continue to use commissary and exchange stores during the two-year period beginning on the date of the involuntary separation of the member in the same manner as a member on active duty. The Secretary of Homeland Security shall implement this provision for Coast Guard members involuntarily separated during the same period.''.

SEC. 652. AUTHORIZATION OF INSTALLMENT DEDUCTIONS FROM PAY OF EMPLOYEES OF NONAPPROPRIATED FUND INSTRUMENTALITIES TO COLLECT INDEBTEDNESS TO THE UNITED STATES.

Section 5514 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(5), by inserting ''any nonappropriated fund instrumentality described in section 2105(c) of this title,'' after ''Commission,''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(e) An employee of a nonappropriated fund instrumentality described in section 2105(c) of this title is deemed an employee covered by this section.''.

Subtitle F—Consolidation of Special Pay, Incentive Pay, and Bonus Authorities

SEC. 661. CONSOLIDATION OF SPECIAL PAY, INCENTIVE PAY, AND BONUS AUTHORITIES OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES.

(a) CONSOLIDATION.—Chapter 5 of title 37, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting before section 301 the following subchapter heading:

''SUBCHAPTER I—EXISTING SPECIAL PAY, INCENTIVE PAY, AND BONUS AUTHORITIES'';

and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subchapters:

''SUBCHAPTER II—CONSOLIDATION OF SPECIAL PAY, INCENTIVE PAY, AND BONUS AUTHORITIES

''§ 331. General bonus authority for enlisted members

''(a) AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE BONUS.—The Secretary concerned may pay a bonus under this section to a person, including a member of the armed forces, who—

''(1) enlists in an armed force;

''(2) enlists in or affiliates with a reserve component of an armed force;

''(3) reenlists, voluntarily extends an enlistment, or otherwise agrees to serve—

''(A) for a specified period in a designated career field, skill, or unit of an armed force; or

''(B) under other conditions of service in an armed force;

''(4) transfers from a regular component of an armed force to a reserve component of that same armed force or from a reserve component of an armed force to the regular component of that same armed force; or

''(5) transfers from a regular component or reserve component of an armed force to a regular component or reserve component of another armed force, subject to the approval of the Secretary with jurisdiction over the armed force to which the member is transferring.

''(b) SERVICE ELIGIBILITY.—A bonus authorized by subsection (a) may be paid to a person or member only if the person or member agrees under subsection (d)—

''(1) to serve for a specified period in a designated career field, skill, unit, or grade; or

''(2) to meet some other condition or conditions of service imposed by the Secretary concerned.

''(c) MAXIMUM AMOUNT AND METHOD OF PAYMENT.—

''(1) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The Secretary concerned shall determine the amount of a bonus to be paid under this section, except that—

''(A) a bonus paid under paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a) may not exceed $50,000 for a minimum two-year period of obligated service agreed to under subsection (d);

''(B) a bonus paid under paragraph (3) of subsection (a) may not exceed $30,000 for each year of obligated service in a regular component agreed to under subsection (d);

''(C) a bonus paid under paragraph (3) of subsection (a) may not exceed $15,000 for each year of obligated service in a reserve component agreed to under subsection (d); and

''(D) a bonus paid under paragraph (4) or (5) of subsection (a) may not exceed $10,000.

''(2) LUMP SUM OR INSTALLMENTS.—A bonus under this section may be paid in a lump sum or in periodic installments, as determined by the Secretary concerned.

''(3) FIXING BONUS AMOUNT.—Upon acceptance by the Secretary concerned of the written agreement required by subsection (d), the total amount of the bonus to be paid under the agreement shall be fixed.

''(d) WRITTEN AGREEMENT.—To receive a bonus under this section, a person or member determined to be eligible for the bonus shall enter into a written agreement with the Secretary concerned that specifies—

''(1) the amount of the bonus;

''(2) the method of payment of the bonus under subsection (c)(2);

''(3) the period of obligated service; and

''(4) the type or conditions of the service.

''(e) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PAY AND ALLOWANCES.—A bonus paid to a person or member under this section is in addition to any other pay and allowance to which the person or member is entitled.

''(f) RELATIONSHIP TO PROHIBITION ON BOUNTIES.—A bonus authorized under this section is not a bounty for purposes of section 514(a) of title 10.

''(g) REPAYMENT.—A person or member who receives a bonus under this section and who fails to complete the period of service, or meet the conditions of service, for which the bonus is paid, as specified in the written agreement under subsection (d), shall be subject to the repayment provisions of section 373 of this title.

''(h) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—No agreement may be entered into under this section after December 31, 2009.

''§ 332. General bonus authority for officers

''(a) AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE BONUS.—The Secretary concerned may pay a bonus under this section to a person, including an officer in the uniformed services, who—

''(1) accepts a commission or appointment as an officer in a uniformed service;

''(2) affiliates with a reserve component of a uniformed service;

''(3) agrees to remain on active duty or to serve in an active status for a specific period as an officer in a uniformed service;

''(4) transfers from a regular component of a uniformed service to a reserve component of that same uniformed service or from a reserve component of a uniformed service to the regular component of that same uniformed service; or

''(5) transfers from a regular component or reserve component of a uniformed service to a regular component or reserve component of another uniformed service, subject to the approval of the Secretary with jurisdiction over the uniformed service to which the member is transferring.

''(b) SERVICE ELIGIBILITY.—A bonus authorized by subsection (a) may be paid to a person or officer only if the person or officer agrees under subsection (d)—

''(1) to serve for a specified period in a designated career field, skill, unit, or grade; or

''(2) to meet some other condition or conditions of service imposed by the Secretary concerned.

''(c) MAXIMUM AMOUNT AND METHOD OF PAYMENT.—

''(1) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The Secretary concerned shall determine the amount of a bonus to be paid under this section, except that—

''(A) a bonus paid under paragraph (1) of subsection (a) may not exceed $60,000 for a minimum three-year period of obligated service agreed to under subsection (d);

''(B) a bonus paid under paragraph (2) of subsection (a) may not exceed $12,000 for a minimum three-year period of obligated service agreed to under subsection (d);

''(C) a bonus paid under paragraph (3) of subsection (a) may not exceed $50,000 for each year of obligated service in a regular component agreed to under subsection (d);

''(D) a bonus paid under paragraph (3) of subsection (a) may not exceed $12,000 for each year of obligated service in a reserve component agreed to under subsection (d); and

''(E) a bonus paid under paragraph (4) or (5) of subsection (a) may not exceed $10,000.

''(2) LUMP SUM OR INSTALLMENTS.—A bonus under this section may be paid in a lump sum or in periodic installments, as determined by the Secretary concerned.

''(3) FIXING BONUS AMOUNT.—Upon acceptance by the Secretary concerned of the written agreement required by subsection (d), the total amount of the bonus to be paid under the agreement shall be fixed.

''(d) WRITTEN AGREEMENT.—To receive a bonus under this section, a person or officer determined to be eligible for the bonus shall enter into a written agreement with the Secretary concerned that specifies—

''(1) the amount of the bonus;

''(2) the method of payment of the bonus under subsection (c)(2);

''(3) the period of obligated service; and

''(4) the type or conditions of the service.

''(e) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PAY AND ALLOWANCES.—The bonus paid to a person or officer under this section is in addition to any other pay and allowance to which the person or officer is entitled.

''(f) REPAYMENT.—A person or officer who receives a bonus under this section and who

fails to complete the period of service, or meet the conditions of service, for which the bonus is paid, as specified in the written agreement under subsection (d), shall be subject to the repayment provisions of section 373 of this title.

''(g) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—No agreement may be entered into under this section after December 31, 2009.

''§ 333. Special bonus and incentive pay authorities for nuclear officers

''(a) NUCLEAR OFFICER BONUS.—The Secretary of the Navy may pay a nuclear officer bonus under this section to a person, including an officer in the Navy, who—

''(1) is selected for the officer naval nuclear power training program in connection with the supervision, operation, and maintenance of naval nuclear propulsion plants and agrees to serve, upon completion of such training, on active duty in connection with the supervision, operation, and maintenance of naval nuclear propulsion plants; or

''(2) has the current technical and operational qualification for duty in connection with the supervision, operation, and maintenance of naval nuclear propulsion plants and agrees to remain on active duty in connection with the supervision, operation, and maintenance of naval nuclear propulsion plants.

''(b) NUCLEAR OFFICER INCENTIVE PAY.—The Secretary of the Navy may pay nuclear officer incentive pay under this section to an officer in the Navy who—

''(1) is entitled to basic pay under section 204 of this title; and

''(2) remains on active duty for a specified period while maintaining current technical and operational qualifications, as approved by the Secretary, for duty in connection with the supervision, operation, and maintenance of naval nuclear propulsion plants.

''(c) ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.—The Secretary of the Navy may impose such additional criteria for the receipt of a nuclear officer bonus or nuclear officer incentive pay under this section as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

''(d) MAXIMUM AMOUNT AND METHOD OF PAYMENT.—

''(1) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The Secretary of the Navy shall determine the amounts of a nuclear officer bonus or nuclear officer incentive pay to be paid under this section, except that—

''(A) a nuclear officer bonus paid under subsection (a) may not exceed $35,000 for each 12-month period of the agreement under subsection (e); and

''(B) the amount of nuclear officer incentive paid under subsection (b) may not exceed $25,000 for each 12-month period of qualifying service.

''(2) LUMP SUM OR INSTALLMENTS.—A nuclear officer bonus or nuclear officer incentive pay under this section may be paid in a lump sum or in periodic installments.

''(3) FIXING BONUS AMOUNT.—Upon acceptance by the Secretary concerned of the written agreement required by subsection (e), the total amount of the nuclear officer bonus to be paid under the agreement shall be fixed.

''(e) WRITTEN AGREEMENT FOR BONUS.—

''(1) AGREEMENT REQUIRED.—To receive a nuclear officer bonus under subsection (a), a person or officer determined to be eligible for the bonus shall enter into a written agreement with the Secretary of the Navy that specifies—

''(A) the amount of the bonus;

''(B) the method of payment of the bonus under subsection (d)(2);

''(C) the period of obligated service; and

''(D) the type or conditions of the service.

''(2) REPLACEMENT AGREEMENT.—An officer who is performing obligated service under an agreement for a nuclear officer bonus may execute a new agreement to replace the existing agreement if the amount to be paid under the new agreement will be higher than the amount to be paid under the existing agreement. The period of the new agreement shall be equal to or exceed the remaining term of the period of the officer's existing agreement. If a new agreement is executed under this paragraph, the existing agreement shall be cancelled, effective on the day before an anniversary date of the existing agreement occurring after the date on which the amount to be paid under this paragraph is increased.

''(f) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PAY AND ALLOWANCES.—A nuclear officer bonus or nuclear officer incentive pay paid to a person or officer under this section is in addition to any other pay and allowance to which the person or officer is entitled, except that a person or officer may not receive a payment under this section and section 332 or 353 of this title for the same skill and period of service.

''(g) REPAYMENT.—A person or officer who receives a nuclear officer bonus or nuclear officer incentive pay under this section and who fails to complete the officer naval nuclear power training program, maintain required technical and operational qualifications, complete the period of service, or meet the types or conditions of service for which the bonus or incentive pay is paid, as specified in the written agreement under subsection (e) in the case of a nuclear officer bonus, shall be subject to the repayment provisions of section 373 of this title.

''(h) REGULATIONS.—This section shall be administered under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Navy.

''(i) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—No agreement may be entered into under this section after December 31, 2009.

''§ 334. Special aviation incentive pay and bonus authorities for officers

''(a) AVIATION INCENTIVE PAY.—The Secretary concerned may pay aviation incentive pay under this section to an officer in a regular or reserve component of a uniformed service who—

''(1) is entitled to basic pay under section 204 of this title or compensation under section 206 of this title;

''(2) maintains, or is in training leading to, an aeronautical rating or designation that qualifies the officer to engage in operational flying duty or proficiency flying duty;

''(3) engages in, or is in training leading to, frequent and regular performance of operational flying duty or proficiency flying duty;

''(4) engages in or remains in aviation service for a specified period; and

''(5) meets such other criteria as the Secretary concerned determines appropriate.

''(b) AVIATION BONUS.—The Secretary concerned may pay an aviation bonus under this section to an officer in a regular or reserve component of a uniformed service who—

''(1) is entitled to aviation incentive pay under subsection (a);

''(2) has completed any active duty service commitment incurred for undergraduate aviator training or is within one year of completing such commitment;

''(3) executes a written agreement to remain on active duty in a regular component or to serve in an active status in a reserve component in aviation service for at least one year; and

''(4) meets such other criteria as the Secretary concerned determines appropriate.

''(c) MAXIMUM AMOUNT AND METHOD OF PAYMENT.—

''(1) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The Secretary concerned shall determine the amount of a bonus or incentive pay to be paid under this section, except that—

''(A) aviation incentive pay under subsection (a) shall be paid at a monthly rate, not to exceed $850 per month; and

''(B) an aviation bonus under subsection (b) may not exceed $25,000 for each 12-month period of obligated service agreed to under subsection (d).

''(2) LUMP SUM OR INSTALLMENTS.—A bonus under this section may be paid in a lump sum or in periodic installments, as determined by the Secretary concerned.

''(3) FIXING BONUS AMOUNT.—Upon acceptance by the Secretary concerned of the written agreement required by subsection (d), the total amount of the bonus to be paid under the agreement shall be fixed.

''(d) WRITTEN AGREEMENT FOR BONUS.—To receive an aviation officer bonus under this section, an officer determined to be eligible for the bonus shall enter into a written agreement with the Secretary concerned that specifies—

''(1) the amount of the bonus;

''(2) the method of payment of the bonus under subsection (c)(2);

''(3) the period of obligated service; and

''(4) the type or conditions of the service.

''(e) RESERVE COMPONENT OFFICERS PERFORMING INACTIVE DUTY TRAINING.—A reserve component officer who is entitled to compensation under section 206 of this title and who is authorized aviation incentive pay under this section may be paid an amount of incentive pay that is proportionate to the compensation received under section 206 for inactive-duty training.

''(f) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PAY AND ALLOWANCES.—

''(1) AVIATION INCENTIVE PAY.—Aviation incentive pay paid to an officer under subsection (a) shall be in addition to any other pay and allowance to which the officer is entitled, except that an officer may not receive a payment under such subsection and section 351 or 353 of this title for the same skill and period of service.

''(2) AVIATION BONUS.—An aviation bonus paid to an officer under subsection (b) shall be in addition to any other pay and allowance to which the officer is entitled, except that an officer may not receive a payment under such subsection and section 332 or 353 of this title for the same skill and period of service.

''(g) REPAYMENT.—An officer who receives aviation incentive pay or an aviation bonus under this section and who fails to fulfill the eligibility requirements for the receipt of the incentive pay or bonus or complete the period of service for which the incentive pay or bonus is paid, as specified in the written agreement under subsection (d) in the case of a bonus, shall be subject to the repayment provisions of section 373 of this title.

''(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) The term 'aviation service' means service performed by an officer in a regular or reserve component (except a flight surgeon or other medical officer) while holding an aeronautical rating or designation or while in training to receive an aeronautical rating or designation.

''(2) The term 'operational flying duty' means flying performed under competent orders by rated or designated regular or reserve component officers while serving in assignments in which basic flying skills normally are maintained in the performance of assigned duties as determined by the Secretary concerned, and flying performed by members in training that leads to the award of an aeronautical rating or designation.

''(3) The term 'proficiency flying duty' means flying performed under competent orders by rated or designated regular or reserve component officers while serving in assignments in which such skills would normally not be maintained in the performance of assigned duties.

''(4) The term 'officer' includes an individual enlisted and designated as an aviation cadet under section 6911 of title 10.

''(i) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—No agreement may be entered into under this section after December 31, 2009.

''§ 335. Special bonus and incentive pay authorities for officers in health professions

''(a) HEALTH PROFESSIONS BONUS.—The Secretary concerned may pay a health professions bonus under this section to a person, including an officer in the uniformed services, who is a graduate of an accredited school in a health profession and who—

''(1) accepts a commission or appointment as an officer in a regular or reserve component of a uniformed service, or affiliates with a reserve component of a uniformed service, and agrees to serve on active duty in a regular component or in an active status in a reserve component in a health profession;

''(2) accepts a commission or appointment as an officer and whose health profession specialty is designated by the Secretary of Defense as a critically short wartime specialty; or

''(3) agrees to remain on active duty or continue serving in an active status in a reserve component in a health profession.

''(b) HEALTH PROFESSIONS INCENTIVE PAY.—The Secretary concerned may pay incentive pay under this section to an officer in a regular or reserve component of a uniformed service who—

''(1) is entitled to basic pay under section 204 of this title or compensation under section 206 of this title; and

''(2) is serving on active duty or in an active status in a designated health profession specialty or skill.

''(c) BOARD CERTIFICATION INCENTIVE PAY.—The Secretary concerned may pay board certification incentive pay under this section to an officer in a regular or reserve component of a uniformed service who—

''(1) is entitled to basic pay under section 204 of this title or compensation under section 206 of this title;

''(2) is board certified in a designated health profession specialty or skill; and

''(3) is serving on active duty or in an active status in such designated health profession specialty or skill.

''(d) ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.—The Secretary concerned may impose such additional criteria for the receipt of a bonus or incentive pay under this section as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

''(e) MAXIMUM AMOUNT AND METHOD OF PAYMENT.—

''(1) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The Secretary concerned shall determine the amounts of a bonus or incentive pay to be paid under this section, except that—

''(A) a health professions bonus paid under paragraph (1) of subsection (a) may not exceed $30,000 for each 12-month period of obligated service agreed to under subsection (f);

''(B) a health professions bonus paid under paragraph (2) of subsection (a) may not exceed $100,000 for each 12-month period of obligated service agreed to under subsection (f);

''(C) a health professions bonus paid under paragraph (3) of subsection (a) may not exceed $75,000 for each 12-month period of obligated service agreed to under subsection (f);

''(D) health professions incentive pay under subsection (b) may be paid monthly and may not exceed, in any 12-month period—

''(i) $100,000 for medical officers and dental surgeons; and

''(ii) $15,000 for officers in other health professions; and

''(E) board certification incentive pay under subsection (c) may not exceed $6,000 for each 12-month period an officer remains certified in the designated health profession specialty or skill.

''(2) LUMP SUM OR INSTALLMENTS.—A health professions bonus under subsection (a) may be paid in a lump sum or in periodic installments, as determined by the Secretary concerned. Board certification incentive pay under subsection (c) may be paid monthly, in a lump sum at the beginning of the certification period, or in periodic installments during the certification period, as determined by the Secretary concerned.

''(3) FIXING BONUS AMOUNT.—Upon acceptance by the Secretary concerned of the written agreement required by subsection (f), the total amount of the health professions bonus to be paid under the agreement shall be fixed.

''(f) WRITTEN AGREEMENT FOR BONUS.—To receive a bonus under this section, an officer determined to be eligible for the bonus shall enter into a written agreement with the Secretary concerned that specifies—

''(1) the amount of the bonus;

''(2) the method of payment of the bonus under subsection (e)(2);

''(3) the period of obligated service;

''(4) whether the service will be performed on active duty or in an active status in a reserve component; and

''(5) the type or conditions of the service.

''(g) RESERVE COMPONENT OFFICERS.—An officer in a reserve component authorized incentive pay under subsection (b) or (c) who is not serving on continuous active duty and is entitled to compensation under section 204 of this title or compensation under section 206 of this title may be paid a monthly amount of incentive pay that is proportionate to the basic pay or compensation received under this title.

''(h) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PAY AND ALLOWANCES.—

''(1) HEALTH PROFESSIONS BONUS.—A bonus paid to a person or officer under subsection (a) shall be in addition to any other pay and allowance to which the person or officer is entitled, except that a person or officer may not receive a payment under such subsection and section 332 of this title for the same period of obligated service.

''(2) HEALTH PROFESSIONS INCENTIVE PAY.—Incentive pay paid to an officer under subsection (b) shall be in addition to any other pay and allowance to which an officer is entitled, except that an officer may not receive a payment under such subsection and section 353 of this title for the same skill and period of service.

''(3) BOARD CERTIFICATION INCENTIVE PAY.—Incentive pay paid to an officer under subsection (c) shall be in addition to any other pay and allowance to which an officer is entitled, except that an officer may not receive a payment under such subsection and section 353(b) of this title for the same skill and period of service covered by the certification.

''(i) REPAYMENT.—An officer who receives a bonus or incentive pay under this section and who fails to fulfill the eligibility requirements for the receipt of the bonus or incentive pay or complete the period of service for which the bonus or incentive pay is paid, as specified in the written agreement under subsection (f) in the case of a bonus, shall be subject to the repayment provisions of section 373 of this title.

''(j) HEALTH PROFESSION DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'health profession' means the following:

''(1) Any health profession performed by officers in the Medical Corps of a uniformed service or by officers designated as a medical officer.

''(2) Any health profession performed by officers in the Dental Corps of a uniformed service or by officers designated as a dental officer.

''(3) Any health profession performed by officers in the Medical Service Corps of a uniformed service or by officers designated as a medical service officer or biomedical sciences officer.

''(4) Any health profession performed by officers in the Medical Specialist Corps of a uniformed service or by officers designated as a medical specialist.

''(5) Any health profession performed by officers of the Nurse Corps of a uniformed service or by officers designated as a nurse.

''(6) Any health profession performed by officers in the Veterinary Corps of a uniformed service or by officers designated as a veterinary officer.

''(7) Any health profession performed by officers designated as a physician assistant.

''(8) Any health profession performed by officers in the regular or reserve corps of the Public Health Service.

''(k) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—No agreement may be entered into under this section after December 31, 2009.

''§ 351. Hazardous duty pay

''(a) HAZARDOUS DUTY PAY.—The Secretary concerned may pay hazardous duty pay under this section to a member of a regular or reserve component of the uniformed services entitled to basic pay under section 204 of this title or compensation under section 206 of this title who—

''(1) performs duty in a hostile fire area designated by the Secretary concerned, is exposed to a hostile fire event, explosion of a hostile explosive device, or any other hostile action, or is on duty during a month in an area in which a hostile event occurred which placed the member in grave danger of physical injury;

''(2) performs duty designated by the Secretary concerned as hazardous duty based upon the inherent dangers of that duty and risks of physical injury; or

''(3) performs duty in a foreign area designated by the Secretary concerned as an area in which the member is subject to imminent danger of physical injury due to threat conditions.

''(b) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The amount of hazardous duty pay paid to a member under subsection (a) shall be based on the type of duty and the area in which the duty is performed, as follows:

''(1) In the case of a member who performs duty in a designated hostile fire area, as described in subsection (a)(1), hazardous duty pay may not exceed $450 per month.

''(2) In the case of a member who performs a designated hazardous duty, as described in subsection (a)(2), hazardous duty pay may not exceed $250 per month.

''(3) In the case of a member who performs duty in a foreign area designated as an imminent danger area, as described in subsection (a)(3), hazardous duty pay may not exceed $250 per month.

''(c) METHOD OF PAYMENT.—Hazardous duty pay shall be paid on a monthly basis. A member who is eligible for hazardous duty pay by reason of subsection (a) shall receive the full monthly rate of hazardous duty pay authorized by the Secretary concerned under such paragraph, notwithstanding subsection (d).

''(d) RESERVE COMPONENT MEMBERS PERFORMING INACTIVE DUTY TRAINING.—A member of a reserve component entitled to compensation under section 206 of this title who is authorized hazardous duty pay under this section may be paid an amount of hazardous

duty pay that is proportionate to the compensation received by the member under section 206 of this title for inactive-duty training.

''(e) ADMINISTRATION AND RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS.—The effective date for the designation of a hostile fire area, as described in paragraph (1) of subsection (a), and for the designation of a foreign area as an imminent danger area, as described in paragraph (3) of such subsection, may be a date that occurs before, on, or after the actual date of the designation by the Secretary concerned.

''(f) DETERMINATION OF FACT.—Any determination of fact that is made in administering subsection (a) is conclusive. The determination may not be reviewed by any other officer or agency of the United States unless there has been fraud or gross negligence. However, the Secretary concerned may change the determination on the basis of new evidence or for other good cause. The regulations prescribed to administer this section shall define the activities that are considered hazardous for purposes of subsection (a)(2).

''(g) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PAY AND ALLOWANCES.—

''(1) IN ADDITION TO OTHER PAY AND ALLOWANCES.—A member may be paid hazardous duty pay under this section in addition to any other pay and allowances to which the member is entitled. The regulations prescribed to administer this section shall address dual compensation under this section for multiple circumstances involving performance of a designated hazardous duty, as described in paragraph (2) of subsection (a), or for duty in certain designated areas, as described in paragraph (1) or (3) of such subsection, that is performed by a member during a single month of service.

''(2) LIMITATION.—A member may not receive hazardous duty pay under this section for a month for more than three qualifying instances described in subsection (a)(2).

''(h) PROHIBITION ON VARIABLE RATES.—The regulations prescribed to administer this section may not include varied criteria or rates for payment of hazardous duty for officers and enlisted members.

''(i) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—No hazardous duty pay under this section may be paid after December 31, 2009.

''§ 352. Assignment pay or special duty pay

''(a) ASSIGNMENT OR SPECIAL DUTY PAY AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary concerned may pay assignment or special duty pay under this section to a member of a regular or reserve component of the uniformed services who—

''(1) is entitled to basic pay under section 204 of this title or compensation under section 206 of this title; and

''(2) performs duties in an assignment, location, or unit designated by, and under the conditions of service specified by, the Secretary concerned.

''(b) MAXIMUM AMOUNT AND METHOD OF PAYMENT.—

''(1) LUMP SUM OR INSTALLMENTS.—Assignment or special duty pay under subsection (a) may be paid monthly, in a lump sum, or in periodic installments other than monthly, as determined by the Secretary concerned.

''(2) MAXIMUM MONTHLY AMOUNT.—The maximum monthly amount of assignment or special duty pay may not exceed $5,000.

''(3) MAXIMUM LUMP SUM AMOUNT.—The amount of a lump sum payment of assignment or special duty pay payable to a member may not exceed the amount equal to the product of—

''(A) the maximum monthly rate authorized under paragraph (2) at the time the member enters into a written agreement under subsection (c); and

''(B) the number of continuous months in the period for which assignment or special duty pay will be paid pursuant to the agreement.

''(4) MAXIMUM INSTALLMENT AMOUNT.—The amount of each installment payment of assignment or special duty pay payable to a member on an installment basis may not exceed the amount equal to—

''(A) the product of—

''(i) a monthly rate specified in the written agreement entered into under subsection (c), which monthly rate may not exceed the maximum monthly rate authorized under paragraph (2) at the time the member enters into the agreement; and

''(ii) the number of continuous months in the period for which the assignment or special duty pay will be paid; divided by

''(B) the number of installments over such period.

''(5) EFFECT OF EXTENSION.—If a member extends an assignment or performance of duty specified in an agreement with the Secretary concerned under subsection (c), assignment or special duty pay for the period of the extension may be paid on a monthly basis, in a lump sum, or in installments, consistent with this subsection.

''(c) WRITTEN AGREEMENT.—

''(1) DISCRETIONARY FOR MONTHLY PAYMENTS.—The Secretary concerned may require a member to enter into a written agreement with the Secretary in order to qualify for the payment of assignment or special duty pay on a monthly basis. The written agreement shall specify the period for which the assignment or special duty pay will be paid to the member and the monthly rate of the assignment or special duty pay.

''(2) REQUIRED FOR LUMP SUM OR INSTALLMENT PAYMENTS.—The Secretary concerned shall require a member to enter into a written agreement with the Secretary in order to qualify for payment of assignment or special duty pay on a lump sum or installment basis. The written agreement shall specify the period for which the assignment or special duty pay will be paid to the member and the amount of the lump sum or each periodic installment.

''(d) RESERVE COMPONENT MEMBERS PERFORMING INACTIVE DUTY TRAINING.—A member of a reserve component entitled to compensation under section 206 of this title who is authorized assignment or special duty pay under this section may be paid an amount of assignment or special duty pay that is proportionate to the compensation received by the member under section 206 of this title for inactive-duty training.

''(e) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PAY AND ALLOWANCES.—Assignment or special duty pay paid to a member under this section is in addition to any other pay and allowances to which the member is entitled.

''(f) REPAYMENT.—A member who receives assignment or special duty pay under this section and who fails to fulfill the eligibility requirements under subsection (a) for receipt of such pay shall be subject to the repayment provisions of section 373 of this title.

''(g) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—No agreement may be entered into under this section after December 31, 2009.

''§ 353. Skill incentive pay or proficiency bonus

''(a) SKILL INCENTIVE PAY.—The Secretary concerned may pay a monthly skill incentive pay to a member of a regular or reserve component of the uniformed services who—

''(1) is entitled to basic pay under section 204 of this title or compensation under section 206 of this title; and

''(2) serves in a career field or skill designated as critical by the Secretary concerned.

''(b) SKILL PROFICIENCY BONUS.—The Secretary concerned may pay a proficiency bonus to a member of a regular or reserve component of the uniformed services who—

''(1) is entitled to basic pay under section 204 of this title or compensation under section 206 of this title; and

''(2) is determined to have, and maintains, certified proficiency under subsection (d) in a skill designated as critical by the Secretary concerned.

''(c) MAXIMUM AMOUNTS AND METHODS OF PAYMENT.—

''(1) SKILL INCENTIVE PAY.—Skill incentive pay under subsection (a) shall be paid monthly in an amount not to exceed $1,000 per month.

''(2) PROFICIENCY BONUS.—A proficiency bonus under subsection (b) may be paid in a lump sum at the beginning of the proficiency certification period or in periodic installments during the proficiency certification period. The amount of the bonus may not exceed $12,000 for each 12-month period of certification. The Secretary concerned may not vary the criteria or rates for the proficiency bonus paid for officers and enlisted members.

''(d) CERTIFIED PROFICIENCY FOR PROFICIENCY BONUS.—

''(1) CERTIFICATION REQUIRED.—Proficiency in a designated critical skill for purposes of subsection (b) shall be subject to annual certification by the Secretary concerned.

''(2) DURATION OF CERTIFICATION.—A certification period for purposes of subsection (c)(2) shall expire at the end of the one-year period beginning on the first day of the first month beginning on or after the certification date.

''(3) WAIVER.—Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) and (2), the regulations prescribed to administer this section shall address the circumstances under which the Secretary concerned may waive the certification requirement under paragraph (1) or extend a certification period under paragraph (2).

''(e) WRITTEN AGREEMENT.—

''(1) DISCRETIONARY FOR SKILL INCENTIVE PAY.—The Secretary concerned may require a member to enter into a written agreement with the Secretary in order to qualify for the payment of skill incentive pay under subsection (a). The written agreement shall specify the period for which the skill incentive pay will be paid to the member and the monthly rate of the pay.

''(2) REQUIRED FOR PROFICIENCY BONUS.—The Secretary concerned shall require a member to enter into a written agreement with the Secretary in order to qualify for payment of a proficiency bonus under subsection (b). The written agreement shall specify the amount of the proficiency bonus, the period for which the bonus will be paid, and the initial certification or recertification necessary for payment of the proficiency bonus.

''(f) RESERVE COMPONENT MEMBERS PERFORMING INACTIVE DUTY TRAINING.—

''(1) PRORATION.—A member of a reserve component entitled to compensation under section 206 of this title who is authorized skill incentive pay under subsection (a) or a skill proficiency bonus under subsection (b) may be paid an amount of the pay or bonus, as the case may be, that is proportionate to the compensation received by the member under section 206 of this title for inactive-duty training.

''(2) EXCEPTION FOR FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY.—No reduction in the amount of a skill proficiency bonus may be made under paragraph (1) in the case of a member of a reserve component who is authorized the bonus because of the member's proficiency in a foreign language.

''(g) REPAYMENT.—A member who receives skill incentive pay or a proficiency bonus under this section and who fails to fulfill the

eligibility requirement for receipt of the pay or bonus shall be subject to the repayment provisions of section 373 of this title.

''(h) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PAYS AND ALLOWANCES.—A member may not be paid more than one pay under this section in any month for the same period of service and skill. A member may be paid skill incentive pay or the proficiency bonus under this section in addition to any other pay and allowances to which the member is entitled, except that a member may not be paid skill incentive pay or a proficiency bonus under this section and hazardous duty pay under section 351 of this title for the same period of service in the same career field or skill.

''(i) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—No agreement may be entered into under this section after December 31, 2009.

''SUBCHAPTER III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

''§ 371. Relationship to other incentives and pays

''(a) TREATMENT.—A bonus or incentive pay paid to a member of the uniformed services under subchapter II is in addition to any other pay and allowance to which a member is entitled, unless otherwise provided under this chapter.

''(b) EXCEPTION.—A member may not receive a bonus or incentive pay under both subchapter I and subchapter II for the same activity, skill, or period of service.

''(c) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER COMPUTATIONS.—The amount of a bonus or incentive pay to which a member is entitled under subchapter II may not be included in computing the amount of—

''(1) any increase in pay authorized by any other provision of this title; or

''(2) any retired pay, retainer pay, separation pay, or disability severance pay.

''§ 372. Continuation of pays during hospitalization and rehabilitation resulting from wounds, injury, or illness incurred while on duty in a hostile fire area or exposed to an event of hostile fire or other hostile action

''(a) CONTINUATION OF PAYS.—If a member of a regular or reserve component of a uniformed service incurs a wound, injury, or illness in the line of duty while serving in a combat operation or a combat zone, while serving in a hostile fire area, or while exposed to a hostile fire event, as described under section 351 of this title, and is hospitalized for treatment of the wound, injury, or illness, the Secretary concerned may continue to pay to the member, notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, all pay and allowances (including any bonus, incentive pay, or similar benefit) that were being paid to the member at the time the member incurred the wound, injury, or illness.

''(b) DURATION.—The payment of pay and allowances to a member under subsection (a) may continue until the end of the first month beginning after the earliest of the following dates:

''(1) The date on which the member is returned for assignment to other than a medical or patient unit for duty.

''(2) One year after the date on which the member is first hospitalized for the treatment of the wound, injury, or illness, except that the Secretary concerned may extend the termination date in six-month increments.

''(3) The date on which the member is discharged, separated, or retired (including temporary disability retirement) from the uniformed services.

''(c) BONUS, INCENTIVE PAY, OR SIMILAR BENEFIT DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'bonus, incentive pay, or similar benefit' means a bonus, incentive pay, special pay, or similar payment paid to a member of the uniformed services under this title or title 10.

''§ 373. Repayment of unearned portion of bonus, incentive pay, or similar benefit when conditions of payment not met

''(a) REPAYMENT.—Except as provided in subsection (b), a member of the uniformed services who is paid a bonus, incentive pay, or similar benefit, the receipt of which is contingent upon the member's satisfaction of certain service or eligibility requirements, shall repay to the United States any unearned portion of the bonus, incentive pay, or similar benefit if the member fails to satisfy any such service or eligibility requirement.

''(b) EXCEPTIONS.—The regulations prescribed to administer this section may specify procedures for determining the circumstances under which an exception to the required repayment may be granted.

''(c) EFFECT OF BANKRUPTCY.—An obligation to repay the United States under this section is, for all purposes, a debt owed the United States. A discharge in bankruptcy under title 11 does not discharge a person from such debt if the discharge order is entered less than five years after—

''(1) the date of the termination of the agreement or contract on which the debt is based; or

''(2) in the absence of such an agreement or contract, the date of the termination of the service on which the debt is based.

''(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) The term 'bonus, incentive pay, or similar benefit' means a bonus, incentive pay, special pay, or similar payment, or an educational benefit or stipend, paid to a member of the uniformed services under a provision of law that refers to the repayment requirements of this section or section 303a(e) of this title.

''(2) The term 'service', as used in subsection (c)(2), refers to an obligation willingly undertaken by a member of the uniformed services, in exchange for a bonus, incentive pay, or similar benefit offered by the Secretary concerned—

''(A) to a member in a regular or reserve component who remains on active duty or in an active status;

''(B) to perform duty in a specified skill, with or without a specified qualification or credential;

''(C) to perform duty in a specified assignment, location or unit; or

''(D) to perform duty for a specified period of time.

''§ 374. Regulations

''This subchapter and subchapter II shall be administered under regulations prescribed by—

''(1) the Secretary of Defense, with respect to the armed forces under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Defense;

''(2) the Secretary of Homeland Security, with respect to the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service in the Navy;

''(3) the Secretary of Health and Human Services, with respect to the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service; and

''(4) the Secretary of Commerce, with respect to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.''.

(b) TRANSFER OF 15-YEAR CAREER STATUS BONUS TO SUBCHAPTER II.—

(1) TRANSFER.—Section 322 of title 37, United States Code, is transferred to appear after section 353 of subchapter II of chapter 5 of such title, as added by subsection (a), and is redesignated as section 354.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (f) of such section, as so transferred and redesignated, is amended by striking ''section 303a(e)'' and inserting ''section 373''.

(3) CROSS REFERENCES.—Sections 1401a, 1409(b)(2), and 1410 of title 10, United States Code, are amended by striking ''section 322'' each place it appears and inserting ''section 322 (as in effect before the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008) or section 354''.

(c) TRANSFER OF RETENTION INCENTIVES FOR MEMBERS QUALIFIED IN CRITICAL MILITARY SKILLS OR ASSIGNED TO HIGH PRIORITY UNITS.—

(1) TRANSFER.—Section 323 of title 37, United States Code, as amended by sections 614 and 622, is transferred to appear after section 354 of subchapter II of chapter 5 of such title, as transferred and redesignated by subsection (b)(1), and is redesignated as section 355.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (g) of such section, as so transferred and redesignated, is amended by striking ''section 303a(e)'' and inserting ''section 373''.

(d) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 5 of title 37, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''SUBCHAPTER I—EXISTING SPECIAL PAY, INCENTIVE PAY, AND BONUS AUTHORITIES

''Sec.
''301. Incentive pay: hazardous duty.
''301a. Incentive pay: aviation career.
''301b. Special pay: aviation career officers extending period of active duty.
''301c. Incentive pay: submarine duty.
''301d. Multiyear retention bonus: medical officers of the armed forces.
''301e. Multiyear retention bonus: dental officers of the armed forces.
''302. Special pay: medical officers of the armed forces.
''302a. Special pay: optometrists.
''302b. Special pay: dental officers of the armed forces.
''302c. Special pay: psychologists and nonphysician health care providers.
''302d. Special pay: accession bonus for registered nurses.
''302e. Special pay: nurse anesthetists.
''302f. Special pay: reserve, recalled, or retained health care officers.
''302g. Special pay: Selected Reserve health care professionals in critically short wartime specialties.
''302h. Special pay: accession bonus for dental officers.
''302i. Special pay: pharmacy officers.
''302j. Special pay: accession bonus for pharmacy officers.
''302k. Special pay: accession bonus for medical officers in critically short wartime specialties.
''302l. Special pay: accession bonus for dental specialist officers in critically short wartime specialties.
''303. Special pay: veterinarians.
''303a. Special pay: general provisions.
''303b. Waiver of board certification requirements.
''304. Special pay: diving duty.
''305. Special pay: hardship duty pay.
''305a. Special pay: career sea pay.
''305b. Special pay: service as member of Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team.
''306. Special pay: officers holding positions of unusual responsibility and of critical nature.
''306a. Special pay: members assigned to international military headquarters.
''307. Special pay: special duty assignment pay for enlisted members.
''307a. Special pay: assignment incentive pay.
''308. Special pay: reenlistment bonus.
''308b. Special pay: reenlistment bonus for members of the Selected Reserve.

''308c. Special pay: bonus for affiliation or enlistment in the Selected Reserve.
''308d. Special pay: members of the Selected Reserve assigned to certain high priority units.
''308g. Special pay: bonus for enlistment in elements of the Ready Reserve other than the Selected Reserve.
''308h. Special pay: bonus for reenlistment, enlistment, or voluntary extension of enlistment in elements of the Ready Reserve other than the Selected Reserve.
''308i. Special pay: prior service enlistment bonus.
''308j. Special pay: affiliation bonus for officers in the Selected Reserve.
''309. Special pay: enlistment bonus.
''310. Special pay: duty subject to hostile fire or imminent danger.
''312. Special pay: nuclear-qualified officers extending period of active duty.
''312b. Special pay: nuclear career accession bonus.
''312c. Special pay: nuclear career annual incentive bonus.
''314. Special pay or bonus: qualified members extending duty at designated locations overseas.
''315. Special pay: engineering and scientific career continuation pay.
''316. Special pay: bonus for members with foreign language proficiency.
''317. Special pay: officers in critical acquisition positions extending period of active duty.
''318. Special pay: special warfare officers extending period of active duty.
''319. Special pay: surface warfare officer continuation pay.
''320. Incentive pay: career enlisted flyers.
''321. Special pay: judge advocate continuation pay.
''324. Special pay: accession bonus for new officers in critical skills.
''325. Incentive bonus: savings plan for education expenses and other contingencies.
''326. Incentive bonus: conversion to military occupational specialty to ease personnel shortage.
''327. Incentive bonus: transfer between armed forces.
''328. Combat-related injury rehabilitation pay.
''329. Incentive bonus: retired members and reserve component members volunteering for high-demand, low-density assignments.
''330. Special pay: accession bonus for officer candidates.

''SUBCHAPTER II—CONSOLIDATION OF SPECIAL PAY, INCENTIVE PAY, AND BONUS AUTHORITIES

''331. General bonus authority for enlisted members.
''332. General bonus authority for officers.
''333. Special bonus and incentive pay authorities for nuclear officers.
''334. Special aviation incentive pay and bonus authorities for officers.
''335. Special bonus and incentive pay authorities for officers in health professions.
''351. Hazardous duty pay.
''352. Assignment pay or special duty pay.
''353. Skill incentive pay or proficiency bonus.
''354. Special pay: 15-year career status bonus for members entering service on or after August 1, 1986.
''355. Special pay: retention incentives for members qualified in critical military skills or assigned to high priority units.

''SUBCHAPTER III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

''371. Relationship to other incentives and pays.
''372. Continuation of pays during hospitalization and rehabilitation resulting from wounds, injury, or illness incurred while on duty in a hostile fire area or exposed to an event of hostile fire or other hostile action.
''373. Repayment of unearned portion of bonus, incentive pay, or similar benefit when conditions of payment not met.
''374. Regulations.''.

SEC. 662. TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS.

(a) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—

(1) DEVELOPMENT.—The Secretary of Defense shall develop a plan to implement subchapters II and III of chapter 5 of title 37, United States Code, as added by section 661(a), and to correspondingly transition all of the special and incentive pay programs for members of the uniformed services solely to provisions of such subchapters.

(2) SUBMISSION.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit the implementation plan to the congressional defense committees.

(b) TRANSITION PERIOD.—During a transition period of not more than 10 years beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of a military department, and the Secretaries referred to in subsection (d) may continue to use the authorities in provisions in subchapter I of chapter 5 of title 37, United States Code, as designated by section 661(a), but subject to the terms of such provisions and such modifications as the Secretary of Defense may include in the implementation plan, to provide bonuses and special and incentive pays for members of the uniformed services.

(c) NOTICE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW AUTHORITIES.—Not less than 30 days before the date on which a special pay or bonus authority provided under subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 37, United States Code, as added by section 661(a), is first utilized, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a notice of the implementation of the authority, including whether, as a result of implementation of the authority, a corresponding authority in subchapter I of such chapter, as designated by section 661(a), will no longer be used.

(d) COORDINATION.—The Secretary of Defense shall prepare the implementation plan in coordination with—

(1) the Secretary of Homeland Security, with respect to the Coast Guard;

(2) the Secretary of Health and Human Services, with respect to the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service; and

(3) the Secretary of Commerce, with respect to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(e) NO EFFECT ON FISCAL YEAR 2008 OBLIGATIONS.—During fiscal year 2008, obligations incurred under subchapters I, II, and III of chapter 5 of title 37, United States Code, as amended by section 661, to provide bonuses, incentive pays, special pays, and similar payments to members of the uniformed services under such subchapters may not exceed the obligations that would be incurred in the absence of the amendments made by such section.

Subtitle G—Other Matters

SEC. 671. REFERRAL BONUS AUTHORITIES.

(a) CODIFICATION AND MODIFICATION OF ARMY REFERRAL BONUS AUTHORITY.—

(1) ARMY REFERRAL BONUS.—Chapter 333 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 3251 the following new section:

''§ 3252. Bonus to encourage Army personnel to refer persons for enlistment in the Army

''(a) AUTHORITY TO PAY BONUS.—

''(1) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of the Army may pay a bonus under this section to an individual referred to in paragraph (2) who refers to an Army recruiter a person who has not previously served in an armed force and who, after such referral, enlists in the regular component of the Army or in the Army National Guard or Army Reserve.

''(2) INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE FOR BONUS.—Subject to subsection (c), the following individuals are eligible for a referral bonus under this section:

''(A) A member in the regular component of the Army.

''(B) A member of the Army National Guard.

''(C) A member of the Army Reserve.

''(D) A member of the Army in a retired status, including a member under 60 years of age who, but for age, would be eligible for retired pay.

''(E) A civilian employee of the Department of the Army.

''(b) REFERRAL.—For purposes of this section, a referral for which a bonus may be paid under subsection (a) occurs—

''(1) when the individual concerned contacts an Army recruiter on behalf of a person interested in enlisting in the Army; or

''(2) when a person interested in enlisting in the Army contacts the Army recruiter and informs the recruiter of the role of the individual concerned in initially recruiting the person.

''(c) CERTAIN REFERRALS INELIGIBLE.—

''(1) REFERRAL OF IMMEDIATE FAMILY.—A member of the Army or civilian employee of the Department of the Army may not be paid a bonus under subsection (a) for the referral of an immediate family member.

''(2) MEMBERS IN RECRUITING ROLES.—A member of the Army or civilian employee of the Department of the Army serving in a recruiting or retention assignment, or assigned to other duties regarding which eligibility for a bonus under subsection (a) could (as determined by the Secretary) be perceived as creating a conflict of interest, may not be paid a bonus under subsection (a).

''(3) JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS INSTRUCTORS.—A member of the Army detailed under subsection (c)(1) of section 2031 of this title to serve as an administrator or instructor in the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program or a retired member of the Army employed as an administrator or instructor in the program under subsection (d) of such section may not be paid a bonus under subsection (a).

''(d) AMOUNT OF BONUS.—The amount of the bonus payable for a referral under subsection (a) may not exceed $2,000. The amount shall be payable as provided in subsection (e).

''(e) PAYMENT.—A bonus payable for a referral of a person under subsection (a) shall be paid as follows:

''(1) Not more than $1,000 shall be paid upon the commencement of basic training by the person.

''(2) Not more than $1,000 shall be paid upon the completion of basic training and individual advanced training by the person.

''(f) RELATION TO PROHIBITION ON BOUNTIES.—The referral bonus authorized by this section is not a bounty for purposes of section 514(a) of this title.

''(g) COORDINATION WITH RECEIPT OF RETIRED PAY.—A bonus paid under this section to a member of the Army in a retired status is in addition to any compensation to which the member is entitled under this title, title 37 or 38, or any other provision of law.

''(h) DURATION OF AUTHORITY.—A bonus may not be paid under subsection (a) with respect to any referral that occurs after December 31, 2008.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is

amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3251 the following new item:

''3252. Bonus to encourage Army personnel to refer persons for enlistment in the Army.''.

(b) BONUS FOR REFERRAL OF PERSONS FOR APPOINTMENT AS OFFICERS TO SERVE IN HEALTH PROFESSIONS.—

(1) HEALTH PROFESSIONS REFERRAL BONUS.—Chapter 53 of such title is amended by inserting before section 1031 the following new section:

''§ 1030. Bonus to encourage Department of Defense personnel to refer persons for appointment as officers to serve in health professions

''(a) AUTHORITY TO PAY BONUS.—

''(1) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Defense may authorize the appropriate Secretary to pay a bonus under this section to an individual referred to in paragraph (2) who refers to a military recruiter a person who has not previously served in an armed force and, after such referral, takes an oath of enlistment that leads to appointment as a commissioned officer, or accepts an appointment as a commissioned officer, in an armed force in a health profession designated by the appropriate Secretary for purposes of this section.

''(2) INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE FOR BONUS.—Subject to subsection (c), the following individuals are eligible for a referral bonus under this section:

''(A) A member of the armed forces in a regular component of the armed forces.

''(B) A member of the armed forces in a reserve component of the armed forces.

''(C) A member of the armed forces in a retired status, including a member under 60 years of age who, but for age, would be eligible for retired or retainer pay.

''(D) A civilian employee of a military department or the Department of Defense.

''(b) REFERRAL.—For purposes of this section, a referral for which a bonus may be paid under subsection (a) occurs—

''(1) when the individual concerned contacts a military recruiter on behalf of a person interested in taking an oath of enlistment that leads to appointment as a commissioned officer, or accepting an appointment as a commissioned officer, as applicable, in an armed force in a health profession; or

''(2) when a person interested in taking an oath of enlistment that leads to appointment as a commissioned officer, or accepting an appointment as a commissioned officer, as applicable, in an armed force in a health profession contacts a military recruiter and informs the recruiter of the role of the individual concerned in initially recruiting the person.

''(c) CERTAIN REFERRALS INELIGIBLE.—

''(1) REFERRAL OF IMMEDIATE FAMILY.—A member of the armed forces or civilian employee of a military department or the Department of Defense may not be paid a bonus under subsection (a) for the referral of an immediate family member.

''(2) MEMBERS IN RECRUITING ROLES.—A member of the armed forces or civilian employee of a military department or the Department of Defense serving in a recruiting or retention assignment, or assigned to other duties regarding which eligibility for a bonus under subsection (a) could (as determined by the appropriate Secretary) be perceived as creating a conflict of interest, may not be paid a bonus under subsection (a).

''(3) JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS INSTRUCTORS.—A member of the armed forces detailed under subsection (c)(1) of section 2031 of this title to serve as an administrator or instructor in the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program or a retired member of the armed forces employed as an administrator or instructor in the program under subsection (d) of such section may not be paid a bonus under subsection (a).

''(d) AMOUNT OF BONUS.—The amount of the bonus payable for a referral under subsection (a) may not exceed $2,000. The amount shall be payable as provided in subsection (e).

''(e) PAYMENT.—A bonus payable for a referral of a person under subsection (a) shall be paid as follows:

''(1) Not more than $1,000 shall be paid upon the execution by the person of an agreement to serve as an officer in a health profession in an armed force for not less than 3 years,

''(2) Not more than $1,000 shall be paid upon the completion by the person of the initial period of military training as an officer.

''(f) RELATION TO PROHIBITION ON BOUNTIES.—The referral bonus authorized by this section is not a bounty for purposes of section 514(a) of this title.

''(g) COORDINATION WITH RECEIPT OF RETIRED PAY.—A bonus paid under this section to a member of the armed forces in a retired status is in addition to any compensation to which the member is entitled under this title, title 37 or 38, or any other provision of law.

''(h) APPROPRIATE SECRETARY DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'appropriate Secretary' means—

''(1) the Secretary of the Army, with respect to matters concerning the Army;

''(2) the Secretary of the Navy, with respect to matters concerning the Navy, the Marine Corps, and the Coast Guard when it is operating as a service in the Navy;

''(3) the Secretary of the Air Force, with respect to matters concerning the Air Force; and

''(4) the Secretary of Defense, with respect to personnel of the Department of Defense.

''(i) DURATION OF AUTHORITY.—A bonus may not be paid under subsection (a) with respect to any referral that occurs after December 31, 2008.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting before the item relating to section 1031 the following new item:

''1030. Bonus to encourage Department of Defense personnel to refer persons for appointment as officers to serve in health professions.''.

(c) REPEAL OF SUPERSEDED ARMY REFERRAL BONUS AUTHORITY.—

(1) REPEAL.—Section 645 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109–163) is repealed.

(2) PAYMENT OF BONUSES UNDER SUPERSEDED AUTHORITY.—Any bonus payable under section 645 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006, as in effect before its repeal by paragraph (1), shall remain payable after that date and shall be paid in accordance with the provisions of such section, as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 672. EXPANSION OF EDUCATION LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM FOR MEMBERS OF THE SELECTED RESERVE.

(a) ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL LOANS ELIGIBLE FOR REPAYMENT.—Paragraph (1) of subsection (a) of section 16301 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''or'' at the end of subparagraph (B);

(2) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (C) and inserting ''; or''; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following new subparagraph:

''(D) any loan incurred for educational purposes made by a lender that is—

''(i) an agency or instrumentality of a State;

''(ii) a financial or credit institution (including an insurance company) that is subject to examination and supervision by an agency of the United States or any State;

''(iii) a pension fund approved by the Secretary for purposes of this section; or

''(iv) a nonprofit private entity designated by a State, regulated by that State, and approved by the Secretary for purposes of this section.''.

(b) PARTICIPATION OF OFFICERS IN PROGRAM.—Such subsection is further amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking ''Except as provided in paragraph (3), the Secretary'' and inserting ''The Secretary''; and

(B) by striking ''an enlisted member of the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve of an armed force in a reserve component and military specialty'' and inserting ''a member of the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve of an armed force in a reserve component and in an officer program or military specialty''; and

(2) by striking paragraph (3).

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) SECTION HEADING.—The heading of such section is amended to read as follows:

''§ 16301. Education loan repayment program: members of Selected Reserve''.

(2) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 1609 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 16301 and inserting the following new item:

''16301. Education loan repayment program: members of Selected Reserve.''.

SEC. 673. ENSURING ENTRY INTO UNITED STATES AFTER TIME ABROAD FOR PERMANENT RESIDENT ALIEN MILITARY SPOUSES AND CHILDREN.

Section 284 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1354) is amended—

(1) by striking ''Nothing'' and inserting ''(a) Nothing''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(b) If a person lawfully admitted for permanent residence is the spouse or child of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, is authorized to accompany the member and reside abroad with the member pursuant to the member's official orders, and is so accompanying and residing with the member (in marital union if a spouse), then the residence and physical presence of the person abroad shall not be treated as—

''(1) an abandonment or relinquishment of lawful permanent resident status for purposes of clause (i) of section 101(a)(13)(C); or

''(2) an absence from the United States for purposes of clause (ii) of such section.''.

SEC. 674. OVERSEAS NATURALIZATION FOR MILITARY SPOUSES AND CHILDREN.

(a) SPOUSES.—Section 319 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1430) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(e)(1) In the case of a person lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States who is the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, is authorized to accompany such member and reside abroad with the member pursuant to the member's official orders, and is so accompanying and residing with the member in marital union, such residence and physical presence abroad shall be treated, for purposes of subsection (a) and section 316(a), as residence and physical presence in—

''(A) the United States; and

''(B) any State or district of the Department of Homeland Security in the United States.

''(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a spouse described in paragraph (1) shall be eligible for naturalization proceedings overseas pursuant to section 1701(d)

of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (Public Law 108–136; 8 U.S.C. 1443a).''.

(b) CHILDREN.—Section 322 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1433) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(d) In the case of a child of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States who is authorized to accompany such member and reside abroad with the member pursuant to the member's official orders, and is so accompanying and residing with the member—

''(1) any period of time during which the member of the Armed Forces is residing abroad pursuant to official orders shall be treated, for purposes of subsection (a)(2)(A), as physical presence in the United States;

''(2) subsection (a)(5) shall not apply; and

''(3) the oath of allegiance described in subsection (b) may be subscribed to abroad pursuant to section 1701(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (Public Law 108–136; 8 U.S.C. 1443a).''.

(c) OVERSEAS NATURALIZATION AUTHORITY.—Section 1701(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (Public Law 108–136; 8 U.S.C. 1443a) is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by inserting ''AND THEIR SPOUSES AND CHILDREN'' after ''FORCES''; and

(2) by inserting '', and persons made eligible for naturalization by section 319(e) or 322(d) of such Act,'' after ''Armed Forces''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act and apply to any application for naturalization or issuance of a certificate of citizenship pending on or after such date.

SEC. 675. MODIFICATION OF AMOUNT OF BACK PAY FOR MEMBERS OF NAVY AND MARINE CORPS SELECTED FOR PROMOTION WHILE INTERNED AS PRISONERS OF WAR DURING WORLD WAR II TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CHANGES IN CONSUMER PRICE INDEX.

(a) MODIFICATION.—Section 667(c) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (as enacted into law by Public Law 106–398; 114 Stat. 1654A–170) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) The amount determined for a person under paragraph (1) shall be increased to reflect increases in cost of living since the basic pay referred to in paragraph (1)(B) was paid to or for that person, calculated on the basis of the Consumer Price Index (all items—United States city average) published monthly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.''.

(b) RECALCULATION OF PREVIOUS PAYMENTS.—In the case of any payment of back pay made to or for a person under section 667 of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 before the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Navy shall—

(1) recalculate the amount of back pay to which the person is entitled by reason of the amendment made by subsection (a); and

(2) if the amount of back pay, as so recalculated, exceeds the amount of back pay so paid, pay the person, or the surviving spouse of the person, an amount equal to the excess.

TITLE VII—HEALTH CARE PROVISIONS

Subtitle A—Improvements to Military Health Benefits

Sec. 701. One-year extension of prohibition on increases in certain health care costs for members of the uniformed services.
Sec. 702. Temporary prohibition on increase in copayments under retail pharmacy system of pharmacy benefits program.
Sec. 703. Inclusion of TRICARE retail pharmacy program in Federal procurement of pharmaceuticals.
Sec. 704. Stipend for members of reserve components for health care for certain dependents.
Sec. 705. Authority for expansion of persons eligible for continued health benefits coverage.
Sec. 706. Continuation of eligibility for TRICARE Standard coverage for certain members of the Selected Reserve.
Sec. 707. Extension of pilot program for health care delivery.
Sec. 708. Inclusion of mental health care in definition of health care and report on mental health care services.

Subtitle B—Studies and Reports

Sec. 711. Surveys on continued viability of TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra.
Sec. 712. Report on training in preservation of remains under combat or combat-related conditions.
Sec. 713. Report on patient satisfaction surveys.
Sec. 714. Report on medical physical examinations of members of the Armed Forces before their deployment.
Sec. 715. Report and study on multiple vaccinations of members of the Armed Forces.
Sec. 716. Review of gender- and ethnic group-specific mental health services and treatment for members of the Armed Forces.
Sec. 717. Licensed mental health counselors and the TRICARE program.
Sec. 718. Report on funding of the Department of Defense for health care.

Subtitle C—Other Matters

Sec. 721. Prohibition on conversion of military medical and dental positions to civilian medical and dental positions.
Sec. 722. Establishment of Joint Pathology Center.

Subtitle A—Improvements to Military Health Benefits

SEC. 701. ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF PROHIBITION ON INCREASES IN CERTAIN HEALTH CARE COSTS FOR MEMBERS OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES.

(a) CHARGES UNDER CONTRACTS FOR MEDICAL CARE.—Section 1097(e) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''September 30, 2007'' and inserting ''September 30, 2008''.

(b) CHARGES FOR INPATIENT CARE.—Section 1086(b)(3) of such title is amended by striking ''September 30, 2007.'' and inserting ''September 30, 2008''.

(c) PREMIUMS UNDER TRICARE COVERAGE FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS IN THE SELECTED RESERVE.—Section 1076d(d)(3) of such title is amended by striking ''September 30, 2007'' and inserting ''September 30, 2008''.

SEC. 702. TEMPORARY PROHIBITION ON INCREASE IN COPAYMENTS UNDER RETAIL PHARMACY SYSTEM OF PHARMACY BENEFITS PROGRAM.

During the period beginning on October 1, 2007, and ending on September 30, 2008, the cost sharing requirements established under paragraph (6) of section 1074g(a) of title 10, United States Code, for pharmaceutical agents available through retail pharmacies covered by paragraph (2)(E)(ii) of such section may not exceed amounts as follows:

(1) In the case of generic agents, $3.

(2) In the case of formulary agents, $9.

(3) In the case of nonformulary agents, $22.

SEC. 703. INCLUSION OF TRICARE RETAIL PHARMACY PROGRAM IN FEDERAL PROCUREMENT OF PHARMACEUTICALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1074g of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (f) and (g) as subsections (g) and (h), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (e) the following new subsection (f):

''(f) PROCUREMENT OF PHARMACEUTICALS BY TRICARE RETAIL PHARMACY PROGRAM.—With respect to any prescription filled on or after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, the TRICARE retail pharmacy program shall be treated as an element of the Department of Defense for purposes of the procurement of drugs by Federal agencies under section 8126 of title 38 to the extent necessary to ensure that pharmaceuticals paid for by the Department of Defense that are provided by pharmacies under the program to eligible covered beneficiaries under this section are subject to the pricing standards in such section 8126.''.

(b) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Defense shall, after consultation with the other administering Secretaries under chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code, modify the regulations under subsection (h) of section 1074g of title 10, United States Code (as redesignated by subsection (a)(1) of this section), to implement the requirements of subsection (f) of section 1074g of title 10, United States Code (as amended by subsection (a)(2) of this section). The Secretary shall so modify such regulations not later than December 31, 2007.

SEC. 704. STIPEND FOR MEMBERS OF RESERVE COMPONENTS FOR HEALTH CARE FOR CERTAIN DEPENDENTS.

The Secretary of Defense may, pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Secretary, pay a stipend to a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces who is called or ordered to active duty for a period of more than 30 days for purposes of maintaining civilian health care coverage for a dependant whom the Secretary determines to possess a special health care need that would be best met by remaining in the member's civilian health plan. In making such determination, the Secretary shall consider whether—

(1) the dependent of the member was receiving treatment for the special health care need before the call or order to active duty of the member; and

(2) the call or order to active duty would result in an interruption in treatment or a change in health care provider for such treatment.

SEC. 705. AUTHORITY FOR EXPANSION OF PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR CONTINUED HEALTH BENEFITS COVERAGE.

(a) AUTHORITY TO SPECIFY ADDITIONAL ELIGIBLE PERSONS.—Subsection (b) of section 1078a of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(4) Any other person specified in regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense for purposes of this paragraph who loses entitlement to health care services under this chapter or section 1145 of this title, subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary shall prescribe in the regulations.''.

(b) ELECTION OF COVERAGE.—Subsection (d) of such section is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(4) In the case of a person described in subsection (b)(4), by such date as the Secretary shall prescribe in the regulations required for purposes of that subsection.''.

(c) PERIOD OF COVERAGE.—Subsection (g)(1) of such section is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(D) in the case of a person described in subsection (b)(4), the date that is 36 months after the date on which the person loses entitlement to health care services as described in that subsection.''.

SEC. 706. CONTINUATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR TRICARE STANDARD COVERAGE FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE SELECTED RESERVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 706(f) of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2282; 10 U.S.C. 1076d note) is amended—

(1) by striking ''Enrollments'' and inserting ''(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), enrollments''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(2) The enrollment of a member in TRICARE Standard that is in effect on the day before health care under TRICARE Standard is provided pursuant to the effective date in subsection (g) shall not be terminated by operation of the exclusion of eligibility under subsection (a)(2) of such section 1076d, as so amended, for the duration of the eligibility of the member under TRICARE Standard as in effect on October 16, 2006.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on October 1, 2007.

SEC. 707. EXTENSION OF PILOT PROGRAM FOR HEALTH CARE DELIVERY.

(a) EXTENSION OF DURATION OF PILOT PROGRAM.—Section 721(e) of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (Public Law 108–375; 118 Stat. 1988; 10 U.S.C. 1092 note) is amended by striking ''and 2007'' and inserting '', 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010''.

(b) EXTENSION OF REPORT DEADLINE.—Section 721(f) of such Act is amended by striking ''July 1, 2007'' and inserting ''July 1, 2010''.

(c) REVISION IN SELECTION CRITERIA.—Section 721(d)(2) of such Act is amended by striking ''expected to increase over the next five years'' and inserting ''has increased over the five years preceding 2008''.

(d) ADDITION TO REQUIREMENTS OF PILOT PROGRAM.—Section 721(b) of such Act is amended—

(1) by striking ''and'' at the end of paragraph (3);

(2) by striking the period and inserting ''; and'' at the end of paragraph (4); and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) collaborate with State and local authorities to create an arrangement to share and exchange, between the Department of Defense and non-military health care systems, personal health information and data of military personnel and their families.''.

SEC. 708. INCLUSION OF MENTAL HEALTH CARE IN DEFINITION OF HEALTH CARE AND REPORT ON MENTAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES.

(a) INCLUSION OF MENTAL HEALTH CARE IN DEFINITION OF HEALTH CARE.—Section 1072 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(10) The term 'health care' includes mental health care.''.

(b) REPORT ON ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the adequacy of access to mental health services under the TRICARE program, including in the geographic areas where surveys on the continued viability of TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra are conducted under section 711 of this Act.

Subtitle B—Studies and Reports

SEC. 711. SURVEYS ON CONTINUED VIABILITY OF TRICARE STANDARD AND TRICARE EXTRA.

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR SURVEYS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall conduct surveys of health care providers and beneficiaries who use TRICARE in the United States to determine, utilizing a reconciliation of the responses of providers and beneficiaries to such surveys, each of the following:

(A) How many health care providers in TRICARE Prime service areas selected under paragraph (3)(A) are accepting new patients under each of TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra.

(B) How many health care providers in geographic areas in which TRICARE Prime is not offered are accepting patients under each of TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra.

(C) The availability of mental health care providers in TRICARE Prime service areas selected under paragraph (3)(C) and in geographic areas in which TRICARE Prime is not offered.

(2) BENCHMARKS.—The Secretary shall establish for purposes of the surveys required by paragraph (1) benchmarks for primary care and specialty care providers, including mental health care providers, to be utilized to determine the adequacy of the availability of health care providers to beneficiaries eligible for TRICARE.

(3) SCOPE OF SURVEYS.—The Secretary shall carry out the surveys required by paragraph (1) as follows:

(A) In the case of the surveys required by subparagraph (A) of that paragraph, in at least 20 TRICARE Prime service areas in the United States in each of fiscal years 2008 through 2011.

(B) In the case of the surveys required by subparagraph (B) of that paragraph, in 20 geographic areas in which TRICARE Prime is not offered and in which significant numbers of beneficiaries who are members of the Selected Reserve reside.

(C) In the case of the surveys required by subparagraph (C) of that paragraph, in at least 40 geographic areas.

(4) PRIORITY FOR SURVEYS.—In prioritizing the areas which are to be surveyed under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) consult with representatives of TRICARE beneficiaries and health care and mental health care providers to identify locations where TRICARE Standard beneficiaries are experiencing significant levels of access-to-care problems under TRICARE Standard or TRICARE Extra;

(B) give a high priority to surveying health care and mental health care providers in such areas; and

(C) give a high priority to surveying beneficiaries and providers located in geographic areas with high concentrations of members of the Selected Reserve.

(5) INFORMATION FROM PROVIDERS.—The surveys required by paragraph (1) shall include questions seeking to determine from health care and mental health care providers the following:

(A) Whether the provider is aware of the TRICARE program.

(B) What percentage of the provider's current patient population uses any form of TRICARE.

(C) Whether the provider accepts patients for whom payment is made under the medicare program for health care and mental health care services.

(D) If the provider accepts patients referred to in subparagraph (C), whether the provider would accept additional such patients who are not in the provider's current patient population.

(6) INFORMATION FROM BENEFICIARIES.—The surveys required by paragraph (1) shall include questions seeking information to determine from TRICARE beneficiaries whether they have difficulties in finding health care and mental health care providers willing to provide services under TRICARE Standard or TRICARE Extra.

(b) GAO REVIEW.—

(1) ONGOING REVIEW.—The Comptroller General shall, on an ongoing basis, review—

(A) the processes, procedures, and analysis used by the Department of Defense to determine the adequacy of the number of health care and mental health care providers—

(i) that currently accept TRICARE Standard or TRICARE Extra beneficiaries as patients under TRICARE Standard in each TRICARE area as of the date of completion of the review; and

(ii) that would accept TRICARE Standard or TRICARE Extra beneficiaries as new patients under TRICARE Standard or TRICARE Extra, as applicable, within a reasonable time after the date of completion of the review; and

(B) the actions taken by the Department of Defense to ensure ready access of TRICARE Standard beneficiaries to health care and mental health care under TRICARE Standard in each TRICARE area, including any pending or resolved requests for waiver of payment limits in order to improve access to health care or mental health care in a specific geographic area.

(2) REPORTS.—The Comptroller General shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on a bi-annual basis a report on the results of the review under paragraph (1). Each report shall include the following:

(A) An analysis of the adequacy of the surveys under subsection (a).

(B) An identification of any impediments to achieving adequacy of availability of health care and mental health care under TRICARE Standard or TRICARE Extra.

(C) An assessment of the adequacy of Department of Defense education programs to inform health care and mental health care providers about TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra.

(D) An assessment of the adequacy of Department of Defense initiatives to encourage health care and mental health care providers to accept patients under TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra.

(E) An assessment of the adequacy of information available to TRICARE Standard beneficiaries to facilitate access by such beneficiaries to health care and mental health care under TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra.

(F) An assessment of any need for adjustment of health care and mental health care provider payment rates to attract participation in TRICARE Standard by appropriate numbers of health care and mental health care providers.

(G) An assessment of the adequacy of Department of Defense programs to inform members of the Selected Reserve about the TRICARE Reserve Select program.

(H) An assessment of the ability of TRICARE Reserve Select beneficiaries to receive care in their geographic area.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on October 1, 2007.

(d) REPEAL OF SUPERSEDED REQUIREMENTS AND AUTHORITY.—Section 723 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (10 U.S.C. 1073 note) is repealed, effective as of October 1, 2007.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term ''TRICARE Extra'' means the option of the TRICARE program under which TRICARE Standard beneficiaries may obtain

discounts on cost-sharing as a result of using TRICARE network providers.

(2) The term ''TRICARE Prime'' means the managed care option of the TRICARE program.

(3) The term ''TRICARE Prime service area'' means a geographic area designated by the Department of Defense in which managed care support contractors develop a managed care network under TRICARE Prime.

(4) The term ''TRICARE Standard'' means the option of the TRICARE program that is also known as the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services, as defined in section 1072(4) of title 10, United States Code.

(5) The term ''TRICARE Reserve Select'' means the option of the TRICARE program that allows members of the Selected Reserve to enroll in TRICARE Standard, pursuant to section 1076d of title 10, United States Code.

(6) The term ''member of the Selected Reserve'' means a member of the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve of a reserve component of the Armed Forces.

(7) The term ''United States'' means the United States (as defined in section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code), its possessions (as defined in such section), and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

SEC. 712. REPORT ON TRAINING IN PRESERVATION OF REMAINS UNDER COMBAT OR COMBAT-RELATED CONDITIONS.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the requirements of section 567 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2224; 10 U.S.C. 1481 note).

(b) MATTERS COVERED.—The report shall include a detailed description of the implementation of such section, including—

(1) where the training program is taking place;

(2) who is providing the training;

(3) the number of each type of military health care professional trained to date; and

(4) what the training covers.

(c) DEADLINE.—The report required by this section shall be submitted not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 713. REPORT ON PATIENT SATISFACTION SURVEYS.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than March 1, 2008, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the ongoing patient satisfaction surveys taking place in Department of Defense inpatient and outpatient settings at military treatment facilities.

(b) CONTENT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) The types of survey questions asked.

(2) How frequently the surveying is conducted.

(3) How often the results are analyzed and reported back to the treatment facilities.

(4) To whom survey feedback is made available.

(5) How best practices are incorporated for quality improvement.

(6) An analysis of the effect of inpatient and outpatient surveys on quality improvement and a comparison of patient satisfaction survey programs with patient satisfaction survey programs used by other public and private health care systems and organizations.

(c) USE OF REPORT INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall use information in the report as the basis for a plan for improvements in patient satisfaction surveys used to assess health care at military treatment facilities in order to ensure the provision of high quality health care and hospital services in such facilities.

SEC. 714. REPORT ON MEDICAL PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES BEFORE THEIR DEPLOYMENT.

Not later than April 1, 2008, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report setting forth the following:

(1) A comparison of the policies of the military departments concerning medical physical examinations of members of the Armed Forces before their deployment, including an identification of instances in which a member (including a member of a reserve component) may be required to undergo multiple physical examinations, from the time of notification of an upcoming deployment through the period of preparation for deployment.

(2) An assessment of the current policies related to, as well as the feasibility of, each of the following:

(A) A single predeployment physical examination for members of the Armed Forces before their deployment.

(B) A single system for tracking electronically the results of examinations under subparagraph (A) that can be shared among the military departments and thereby eliminate redundancy of medical physical examinations for members of the Armed Forces before their deployment.

SEC. 715. REPORT AND STUDY ON MULTIPLE VACCINATIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the policies of the Department of Defense for administering and evaluating the vaccination of members of the Armed Forces.

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

(1) An assessment of the Department's policies governing the administration of multiple vaccinations in a 24-hour period, including the procedures providing for a full review of an individual's medical history prior to the administration of multiple vaccinations, and whether such policies and procedures differ for members of the Armed Forces on active duty and members of reserve components.

(2) An assessment of how the Department's policies on multiple vaccinations in a 24-hour period conform to current regulations of the Food and Drug Administration and research performed or being performed by the Centers for Disease Control, other non-military Federal agencies, and non-Federal institutions on multiple vaccinations in a 24-hour period.

(3) An assessment of the Department's procedures for initiating investigations of deaths of members of the Armed Forces in which vaccinations may have played a role, including whether such investigations can be requested by family members of the deceased individuals.

(4) The number of deaths of members of the Armed Forces since May 18, 1998, that the Department has investigated for the potential role of vaccine administration, including both the number of deaths investigated that was alleged to have involved more than one vaccine administered in a given 24-hour period and the number of deaths investigated that was determined to have involved more than one vaccine administered in a given 24-hour period.

(5) An assessment of the procedures for providing the Adjutants General of the various States and territories with up-to-date information on the effectiveness and potential allergic reactions and side effects of vaccines required to be taken by National Guard members.

(6) An assessment of whether procedures are in place to provide that the Adjutants General of the various States and territories retain updated medical records of each National Guard member called up for active duty.

SEC. 716. REVIEW OF GENDER- AND ETHNIC GROUP-SPECIFIC MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AND TREATMENT FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW.—The Secretary of Defense shall conduct a comprehensive review of—

(1) the need for gender- and ethnic group-specific mental health treatment and services for members of the Armed Forces; and

(2) the efficacy and adequacy of existing gender- and ethnic group-specific mental health treatment programs and services for members of the Armed Forces, to include availability of and access to such programs.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The review required by subsection (a) shall include, but not be limited to, an assessment of the following:

(1) The need for gender- and ethnic group-specific mental health outreach, prevention, and treatment services for members of the Armed Forces.

(2) The access to and efficacy of existing gender- and ethnic group-specific mental health outreach, prevention, and treatment services and programs (including substance abuse programs).

(3) The availability of gender- and ethnic group-specific services and treatment for members of the Armed Forces who experienced sexual assault or abuse.

(4) The access to and need for treatment facilities focusing on the gender- and ethnic group-specific mental health care needs of members of the Armed Forces.

(5) The need for further clinical research on the gender- and ethnic group-specific needs of members of the Armed Forces who served in a combat zone.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the review required by subsection (a).

SEC. 717. LICENSED MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS AND THE TRICARE PROGRAM.

(a) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regulations to establish criteria that licensed or certified mental health counselors shall meet in order to be able to independently provide care to TRICARE beneficiaries and receive payment under the TRICARE program for such services. The criteria shall include requirements for education level, licensure, certification, and clinical experience as considered appropriate by the Secretary.

(b) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense shall enter into a contract with the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, or another similarly qualified independent academic medical organization, for the purpose of—

(1) conducting an independent study of the credentials, preparation, and training of individuals practicing as licensed mental health counselors; and

(2) making recommendations for permitting licensed mental health counselors to practice independently under the TRICARE program.

(c) ELEMENTS OF STUDY.—

(1) EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—The study required by subsection (b) shall provide for an assessment of the educational requirements and curricula relevant to mental

health practice for licensed mental health counselors, including types of degrees recognized, certification standards for graduate programs for such profession, and recognition of undergraduate coursework for completion of graduate degree requirements.

(2) LICENSING REQUIREMENTS.—The study required by subsection (b) shall provide for an assessment of State licensing requirements for licensed mental health counselors, including for each level of licensure if a State issues more than one type of license for the profession. The assessment shall examine requirements in the areas of education, training, examination, continuing education, and ethical standards, and shall include an evaluation of the extent to which States authorize members of the licensed mental health counselor profession to diagnose and treat mental illnesses.

(3) CLINICAL EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS.—The study required by subsection (b) shall provide for an analysis of the requirements for clinical experience for a licensed mental health counselor to be recognized under regulations for the TRICARE program, and recommendations, if any, for standardization or adjustment of such requirements.

(4) INDEPENDENT PRACTICE UNDER OTHER FEDERAL PROGRAMS.—The study required by subsection (b) shall provide for an assessment of the extent to which licensed mental health counselors are authorized to practice independently under other Federal programs (such as the Medicare program, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Indian Health Service, and Head Start), and a review of the relationship, if any, between recognition of mental health professions under the Medicare program and independent practice authority for such profession under the TRICARE program.

(5) INDEPENDENT PRACTICE UNDER FEHBP.—The study required by subsection (b) shall provide for an assessment of the extent to which licensed mental health counselors are authorized to practice independently under the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program and private insurance plans. The assessment shall identify the States having laws requiring private insurers to cover, or offer coverage of, the services of members of licensed mental health counselors and shall identify the conditions, if any, that are placed on coverage of practitioners under the profession by insurance plans and how frequently these types of conditions are used by insurers.

(6) HISTORICAL REVIEW OF REGULATIONS.—The study required by subsection (b) shall provide for a review of the history of regulations prescribed by the Department of Defense regarding which members of the mental health profession are recognized as providers under the TRICARE program as independent practitioners, and an examination of the recognition by the Department of third-party certification for members of such profession.

(7) CLINICAL CAPABILITIES STUDIES.—The study required by subsection (b) shall include a review of outcome studies and of the literature regarding the comparative quality and effectiveness of care provided by licensed mental health counselors and provide an independent review of the findings.

(d) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TRICARE INDEPENDENT PRACTICE AUTHORITY.—The recommendations provided under subsection (b)(2) shall include recommendations regarding modifications of current policy for the TRICARE program with respect to allowing licensed mental health counselors to practice independently under the TRICARE program.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than March 1, 2009, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the review required by subsection (b).

SEC. 718. REPORT ON FUNDING OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FOR HEALTH CARE.

(a) REPORT.—If the President submits to Congress the budget for a fiscal year under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, and the aggregate amount included in that budget for the Department of Defense for health care for such fiscal year is less than the aggregate amount provided by Congress for the Department for health care for the preceding fiscal year, and, in the case of the Department, the total allocation from the Defense Health Program to any military department is less than the total of such allocation in the preceding fiscal year, the President shall submit to Congress a report on—

(1) the reasons for the determination that inclusion of a lesser aggregate amount or allocation to any military department is in the national interest; and

(2) the anticipated effects of the inclusion of such lesser aggregate amount or allocation to any military department on the access to and delivery of medical and support services to members of the Armed Forces and their family members.

(b) TERMINATION.—The section shall not be in effect after December 31, 2017.

Subtitle C—Other Matters

SEC. 721. PROHIBITION ON CONVERSION OF MILITARY MEDICAL AND DENTAL POSITIONS TO CIVILIAN MEDICAL AND DENTAL POSITIONS.

(a) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary of a military department may not convert any military medical or dental position to a civilian medical or dental position during the period beginning on October 1, 2007, and ending on September 30, 2012.

(b) RESTORATION OF CERTAIN POSITIONS TO MILITARY POSITIONS.—In the case of any military medical or dental position that is converted to a civilian medical or dental position during the period beginning on October 1, 2004, and ending on September 30, 2008, if the position is not filled by a civilian by September 30, 2008, the Secretary of the military department concerned shall restore the position to a military medical or dental position that can be filled only by a member of the Armed Forces who is a health professional.

(c) REPORT.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on conversions made during fiscal year 2007 not later than 180 days after the enactment of this Act.

(2) MATTERS COVERED.—The report shall include the following:

(A) The number of military medical or dental positions, by grade or band and specialty, converted to civilian medical or dental positions.

(B) The results of a market survey in each affected area of the availability of civilian medical and dental care providers in such area in order to determine whether there were civilian medical and dental care providers available in such area adequate to fill the civilian positions created by the conversion of military medical and dental positions to civilian positions in such area.

(C) An analysis, by affected area, showing the extent to which access to health care and cost of health care was affected in both the direct care and purchased care systems, including an assessment of the effect of any increased shifts in patient load from the direct care to the purchased care system, or any delays in receipt of care in either the direct or purchased care system because of the conversions.

(D) The extent to which military medical and dental positions converted to civilian medical or dental positions affected recruiting and retention of uniformed medical and dental personnel.

(E) A comparison of the full costs for the military medical and dental positions converted with the full costs for civilian medical and dental positions, including expenses such as recruiting, salary, benefits, training, and any other costs the Department identifies.

(F) An assessment showing that the military medical or dental positions converted were in excess of the military medical and dental positions needed to meet medical and dental readiness requirements of the uniformed services, as determined jointly by all the uniformed services.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term ''military medical or dental position'' means a position for the performance of health care functions within the Armed Forces held by a member of the Armed Forces.

(2) The term ''civilian medical or dental position'' means a position for the performance of health care functions within the Department of Defense held by an employee of the Department or of a contractor of the Department.

(3) The term ''uniformed services'' has the meaning given that term in section 1072(1) of title 10, United States Code.

(4) The term ''conversion'', with respect to a military medical or dental position, means a change of the position to a civilian medical or dental position, effective as of the date of the manning authorization document of the military department making the change (through a change in designation from military to civilian in the document, the elimination of the listing of the position as a military position in the document, or through any other means indicating the change in the document or otherwise).

(e) REPEAL.—Section 742 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2306) is repealed.

SEC. 722. ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT PATHOLOGY CENTER.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Secretary of Defense proposed to disestablish all elements of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, except the National Medical Museum and the Tissue Repository, as part of the recommendations of the Secretary for the closure of Walter Reed Army Medical Center in the 2005 round of defense base closure and realignment.

(2) The Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission altered, but did not reject, the proposal of the Secretary of Defense to disestablish the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology.

(3) The Commission's recommendation that the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology's ''capabilities not specified in this recommendation will be absorbed into other DOD, Federal, or civilian facilities'' provides the flexibility to retain a Joint Pathology Center as a Department of Defense or Federal entity.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology has provided important medical benefits to the Armed Forces and to the United States and that the Federal Government should retain a Joint Pathology Center.

(c) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT REQUIRED.—The President shall establish and maintain a Joint Pathology Center that shall function as the reference center in pathology for the Federal Government.

(2) ESTABLISHMENT WITHIN DOD.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), the Joint Pathology Center shall be established in the Department of Defense, consistent with the final recommendations of the 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, as approved by the President.

(3) ESTABLISHMENT IN ANOTHER DEPARTMENT.—If the President makes a determination, within 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, that the Joint Pathology Center cannot be established in the Department of Defense, the Joint Pathology Center shall be established as an element of a Federal agency other than the Department of Defense. The President shall incorporate the selection of such agency into the determination made under this paragraph.

(d) SERVICES.—The Joint Pathology Center shall provide, at a minimum, the following:

(1) Diagnostic pathology consultation services in medicine, dentistry, and veterinary sciences.

(2) Pathology education, to include graduate medical education, including residency and fellowship programs, and continuing medical education.

(3) Diagnostic pathology research.

(4) Maintenance and continued modernization of the Tissue Repository and, as appropriate, utilization of the Repository in conducting the activities described in paragraphs (1) through (3).

TITLE VIII—ACQUISITION POLICY, ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT, AND RELATED MATTERS

Sec. 800. Short title.

Subtitle A—Acquisition Policy and Management

Sec. 801. Internal controls for procurements on behalf of the Department of Defense by certain non-Defense agencies.
Sec. 802. Lead systems integrators.
Sec. 803. Reinvestment in domestic sources of strategic materials.
Sec. 804. Clarification of the protection of strategic materials critical to national security.
Sec. 805. Procurement of commercial services.
Sec. 806. Specification of amounts requested for procurement of contract services.
Sec. 807. Inventories and reviews of contracts for services.
Sec. 808. Independent management reviews of contracts for services.
Sec. 809. Implementation and enforcement of requirements applicable to undefinitized contractual actions.
Sec. 810. Clarification of limited acquisition authority for Special Operations Command.

Subtitle B—Provisions Relating to Major Defense Acquisition Programs

Sec. 811. Requirements applicable to multiyear contracts for the procurement of major systems of the Department of Defense.
Sec. 812. Changes to Milestone B certifications.
Sec. 813. Comptroller General report on Department of Defense organization and structure for major defense acquisition programs.
Sec. 814. Clarification of submission of cost or pricing data on noncommercial modifications of commercial items.
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Sec. 816. Review of systemic deficiencies on major defense acquisition programs.
Sec. 817. Investment strategy for major defense acquisition programs.
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Subtitle C—Amendments to General Contracting Authorities, Procedures, and Limitations

Sec. 821. Plan for restricting Government-unique contract clauses on commercial contracts.
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Sec. 823. Five-year extension of authority to carry out certain prototype projects.
Sec. 824. Exemption of Special Operations Command from certain requirements for certain contracts relating to vessels, aircraft, and combat vehicles.
Sec. 825. Provision of authority to maintain equipment to unified combatant command for joint warfighting.
Sec. 826. Market research.
Sec. 827. Modification of competition requirements for purchases from Federal Prison Industries.
Sec. 828. Multiyear contract authority for electricity from renewable energy sources.
Sec. 829. Procurement of fire resistant rayon fiber for the production of uniforms from foreign sources.
Sec. 830. Comptroller General review of noncompetitive awards of congressional and executive branch interest items.

Subtitle D—Accountability in Contracting

Sec. 841. Commission on Wartime Contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan.
Sec. 842. Investigation of waste, fraud, and abuse in wartime contracts and contracting processes in Iraq and Afghanistan.
Sec. 843. Enhanced competition requirements for task and delivery order contracts.
Sec. 844. Public disclosure of justification and approval documents for noncompetitive contracts.
Sec. 845. Disclosure of government contractor audit findings.
Sec. 846. Protection for contractor employees from reprisal for disclosure of certain information.
Sec. 847. Requirements for senior Department of Defense officials seeking employment with defense contractors.
Sec. 848. Report on contractor ethics programs of Major Defense contractors.
Sec. 849. Contingency contracting training for personnel outside the acquisition workforce and evaluations of Army Commission recommendations.

Subtitle E—Acquisition Workforce Provisions

Sec. 851. Requirement for section on defense acquisition workforce in strategic human capital plan.
Sec. 852. Department of Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Fund.
Sec. 853. Extension of authority to fill shortage category positions for certain Federal acquisition positions.
Sec. 854. Repeal of sunset of acquisition workforce training fund.
Sec. 855. Federal acquisition workforce improvements.

Subtitle F—Contracts in Iraq and Afghanistan

Sec. 861. Memorandum of understanding on matters relating to contracting.
Sec. 862. Contractors performing private security functions in areas of combat operations.
Sec. 863. Comptroller General reviews and reports on contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan.
Sec. 864. Definitions and other general provisions.

Subtitle G—Defense Materiel Readiness Board

Sec. 871. Establishment of Defense Materiel Readiness Board.
Sec. 872. Critical materiel readiness shortfalls.

Subtitle H—Other Matters

Sec. 881. Clearinghouse for rapid identification and dissemination of commercial information technologies.
Sec. 882. Authority to license certain military designations and likenesses of weapons systems to toy and hobby manufacturers.
Sec. 883. Modifications to limitation on contracts to acquire military flight simulator.
Sec. 884. Requirements relating to waivers of certain domestic source limitations relating to specialty metals.
Sec. 885. Telephone services for military personnel serving in combat zones.
Sec. 886. Enhanced authority to acquire products and services produced in Iraq and Afghanistan.
Sec. 887. Defense Science Board review of Department of Defense policies and procedures for the acquisition of information technology.
Sec. 888. Green procurement policy.
Sec. 889. Comptroller General review of use of authority under the Defense Production Act of 1950.
Sec. 890. Prevention of export control violations.
Sec. 891. Procurement goal for Native Hawaiian-serving institutions and Alaska Native-serving institutions.
Sec. 892. Competition for procurement of small arms supplied to Iraq and Afghanistan.

SEC. 800. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Acquisition Improvement and Accountability Act of 2007''.

Subtitle A—Acquisition Policy and Management

SEC. 801. INTERNAL CONTROLS FOR PROCUREMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BY CERTAIN NON-DEFENSE AGENCIES.

(a) INSPECTORS GENERAL REVIEWS AND DETERMINATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For each covered non-defense agency, the Inspector General of the Department of Defense and the Inspector General of such covered non-defense agency shall, not later than the date specified in paragraph (2), jointly—

(A) review—

(i) the procurement policies, procedures, and internal controls of such covered non-defense agency that are applicable to the procurement of property and services on behalf of the Department by such covered non-defense agency; and

(ii) the administration of such policies, procedures, and internal controls; and

(B) determine in writing whether such covered non-defense agency is or is not compliant with defense procurement requirements.

(2) DEADLINE FOR REVIEWS AND DETERMINATIONS.—The reviews and determinations required by paragraph (1) shall take place as follows:

(A) In the case of the General Services Administration, by not later than March 15, 2010.

(B) In the case of each of the Department of the Treasury, the Department of the Interior, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, by not later than March 15, 2011.

(C) In the case of each of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the National Institutes of Health, by not later than March 15, 2012.

(3) SEPARATE REVIEWS AND DETERMINATIONS.—The Inspector General of the Department of Defense and the Inspector General of a covered non-defense agency may by joint agreement conduct separate reviews of the procurement of property and services on behalf of the Department of Defense that are conducted by separate business units, or under separate government-wide acquisition contracts, of the covered non-defense agency. If such separate reviews are conducted, the Inspectors General shall make a separate determination under paragraph (1)(B) with respect to each such separate review.

(4) MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING FOR REVIEWS AND DETERMINATIONS.—Not later than one year before a review and determination is required under this subsection with respect to a covered non-defense agency, the Inspector General of the Department of Defense and the Inspector General of the covered non-defense agency shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with each other to carry out such review and determination.

(5) TERMINATION OF NON-COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION.—If the Inspector General of the Department of Defense and the Inspector General of a covered non-defense agency determine, pursuant to paragraph (1)(B), that a covered non-defense agency is not compliant with defense procurement requirements, the Inspectors General shall terminate such a determination effective on the date on which the Inspectors General jointly—

(A) determine that the non-defense agency is compliant with defense procurement requirements; and

(B) notify the Secretary of Defense of that determination.

(6) RESOLUTION OF DISAGREEMENTS.—If the Inspector General of the Department of Defense and the Inspector General of a covered non-defense agency are unable to agree on a joint determination under this subsection, a determination by the Inspector General of the Department of Defense under this subsection shall be conclusive for the purposes of this section.

(b) LIMITATION ON PROCUREMENTS ON BEHALF OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), an acquisition official of the Department of Defense may place an order, make a purchase, or otherwise procure property or services for the Department of Defense in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold through a non-defense agency only if—

(A) in the case of a procurement by any non-defense agency in any fiscal year, the head of the non-defense agency has certified that the non-defense agency will comply with defense procurement requirements for the fiscal year;

(B) in the case of—

(i) a procurement by a covered non-defense agency in a fiscal year for which a memorandum of understanding is required by subsection (a)(4), the Inspector General of the Department of Defense and the Inspector General of the covered non-defense agency have entered into such a memorandum of understanding; or

(ii) a procurement by a covered non-defense agency in a fiscal year following the Inspectors General review and determination required by subsection (a), the Inspectors General have determined that a covered non-defense agency is compliant with defense procurement requirements or have terminated a prior determination of non-compliance in accordance with subsection (a)(5); and

(C) the procurement is not otherwise prohibited by section 817 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364) or section 811 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109–163).

(2) EXCEPTION FOR PROCUREMENTS OF NECESSARY PROPERTY AND SERVICES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The limitation in paragraph (1) shall not apply to the procurement of property and services on behalf of the Department of Defense by a non-defense agency during any fiscal year for which there is in effect a written determination of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics that it is necessary in the interest of the Department of Defense to procure property and services through the non-defense agency during such fiscal year.

(B) SCOPE OF PARTICULAR EXCEPTION.—A written determination with respect to a non-defense agency under subparagraph (A) shall apply to any category of procurements through the non-defense agency that is specified in the determination.

(c) GUIDANCE ON INTERAGENCY CONTRACTING.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall issue guidance on the use of interagency contracting by the Department of Defense.

(2) MATTERS COVERED.—The guidance required by paragraph (1) shall address the circumstances in which it is appropriate for Department of Defense acquisition officials to procure goods or services through a contract entered into by an agency outside the Department of Defense. At a minimum, the guidance shall address—

(A) the circumstances in which it is appropriate for such acquisition officials to use direct acquisitions;

(B) the circumstances in which it is appropriate for such acquisition officials to use assisted acquisitions;

(C) the circumstances in which it is appropriate for such acquisition officials to use interagency contracting to acquire items unique to the Department of Defense and the procedures for approving such interagency contracting;

(D) the circumstances in which it is appropriate for such acquisition officials to use interagency contracting to acquire items that are already being provided under a contract awarded by the Department of Defense;

(E) tools that should be used by such acquisition officials to determine whether items are already being provided under a contract awarded by the Department of Defense; and

(F) procedures for ensuring that defense procurement requirements are identified and communicated to outside agencies involved in interagency contracting.

(d) COMPLIANCE WITH DEFENSE PROCUREMENT REQUIREMENTS.—For the purposes of this section, a non-defense agency is compliant with defense procurement requirements if the procurement policies, procedures, and internal controls of the non-defense agency applicable to the procurement of products and services on behalf of the Department of Defense, and the manner in which they are administered, are adequate to ensure the compliance of the non-defense agency with the requirements of laws and regulations (including applicable Department of Defense financial management regulations) that apply to procurements of property and services made directly by the Department of Defense.

(e) TREATMENT OF PROCUREMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR PURPOSES.—For the purposes of this section, a procurement shall be treated as being made during a particular fiscal year to the extent that funds are obligated by the Department of Defense for the procurement in that fiscal year.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) NON-DEFENSE AGENCY.—The term ''non-defense agency'' means any department or agency of the Federal Government other than the Department of Defense. Such term includes a covered non-defense agency.

(2) COVERED NON-DEFENSE AGENCY.—The term ''covered non-defense agency'' means each of the following:

(A) The General Services Administration.

(B) The Department of the Treasury.

(C) The Department of the Interior.

(D) The National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(E) The Department of Veterans Affairs.

(F) The National Institutes of Health.

(3) GOVERNMENT-WIDE ACQUISITION CONTRACT.—The term ''government-wide acquisition contract'' means a task or delivery order contract that—

(A) is entered into by a non-defense agency; and

(B) may be used as the contract under which property or services are procured for one or more other departments or agencies of the Federal Government.

(4) SIMPLIFIED ACQUISITION THRESHOLD.—The term ''simplified acquisition threshold'' has the meaning provided by section 2302(7) of title 10, United States Code.

(5) INTERAGENCY CONTRACTING.—The term ''interagency contracting'' means the exercise of the authority under section 1535 of title 31, United States Code, or other statutory authority, for Federal agencies to purchase goods and services under contracts entered into or administered by other agencies.

(6) ACQUISITION OFFICIAL.—The term ''acquisition official'', with respect to the Department of Defense, means—

(A) a contracting officer of the Department of Defense; or

(B) any other Department of Defense official authorized to approve a direct acquisition or an assisted acquisition on behalf of the Department of Defense.

(7) DIRECT ACQUISITION.—The term ''direct acquisition'', with respect to the Department of Defense, means the type of interagency contracting through which the Department of Defense orders an item or service from a government-wide acquisition contract maintained by a non-defense agency.

(8) ASSISTED ACQUISITION.—The term ''assisted acquisition'', with respect to the Department of Defense, means the type of interagency contracting through which acquisition officials of a non-defense agency award a contract or task or delivery order for the procurement of goods or services on behalf of the Department of Defense.

SEC. 802. LEAD SYSTEMS INTEGRATORS.

(a) PROHIBITIONS ON THE USE OF LEAD SYSTEMS INTEGRATORS.—

(1) PROHIBITION ON NEW LEAD SYSTEMS INTEGRATORS.—Effective October 1, 2010, the Department of Defense may not award a new contract for lead systems integrator functions in the acquisition of a major system to any entity that was not performing lead systems integrator functions in the acquisition

of the major system prior to the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) PROHIBITION ON LEAD SYSTEMS INTEGRATORS BEYOND LOW-RATE INITIAL PRODUCTION.—Effective on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Department of Defense may award a new contract for lead systems integrator functions in the acquisition of a major system only if—

(A) the major system has not yet proceeded beyond low-rate initial production; or

(B) the Secretary of Defense determines in writing that it would not be practicable to carry out the acquisition without continuing to use a contractor to perform lead systems integrator functions and that doing so is in the best interest of the Department.

(3) REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO DETERMINATIONS.—A determination under paragraph (2)(B)—

(A) shall specify the reasons why it would not be practicable to carry out the acquisition without continuing to use a contractor to perform lead systems integrator functions (including a discussion of alternatives, such as the use of the Department of Defense workforce, or a system engineering and technical assistance contractor);

(B) shall include a plan for phasing out the use of contracted lead systems integrator functions over the shortest period of time consistent with the interest of the national defense;

(C) may not be delegated below the level of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics; and

(D) shall be provided to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives at least 45 days before the award of a contract pursuant to the determination.

(b) ACQUISITION WORKFORCE.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that the acquisition workforce is of the appropriate size and skill level necessary—

(A) to accomplish inherently governmental functions related to acquisition of major systems; and

(B) to effectuate the purpose of subsection (a) to minimize and eventually eliminate the use of contractors to perform lead systems integrator functions.

(2) REPORT.—The Secretary shall include an update on the progress made in complying with paragraph (1) in the annual report required by section 820 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2330).

(c) EXCEPTION FOR CONTRACTS FOR OTHER MANAGEMENT SERVICES.—The Department of Defense may continue to award contracts for the procurement of services the primary purpose of which is to perform acquisition support functions with respect to the development or production of a major system, if the following conditions are met with respect to each such contract:

(1) The contract prohibits the contractor from performing inherently governmental functions.

(2) The Department of Defense organization responsible for the development or production of the major system ensures that Federal employees are responsible for—

(A) determining courses of action to be taken in the best interest of the government; and

(B) determining best technical performance for the warfighter.

(3) The contract requires that the prime contractor for the contract may not advise or recommend the award of a contract or subcontract for the development or production of the major system to an entity owned in whole or in part by the prime contractor.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) LEAD SYSTEMS INTEGRATOR.—The term ''lead systems integrator'' means—

(A) a prime contractor for the development or production of a major system, if the prime contractor is not expected at the time of award to perform a substantial portion of the work on the system and the major subsystems; or

(B) a prime contractor under a contract for the procurement of services the primary purpose of which is to perform acquisition functions closely associated with inherently governmental functions with respect to the development or production of a major system.

(2) MAJOR SYSTEM.—The term ''major system'' has the meaning given such term in section 2302d of title 10, United States Code.

(3) LOW-RATE INITIAL PRODUCTION.—The term ''low-rate initial production'' has the meaning given such term in section 2400 of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 803. REINVESTMENT IN DOMESTIC SOURCES OF STRATEGIC MATERIALS.

(a) ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Strategic Materials Protection Board established pursuant to section 187 of title 10, United States Code, shall perform an assessment of the extent to which domestic producers of strategic materials are investing and planning to invest on a sustained basis in the processes, infrastructure, workforce training, and facilities required for the continued domestic production of such materials to meet national defense requirements.

(b) COOPERATION OF DOMESTIC PRODUCERS.—The Department of Defense may take into consideration the degree of cooperation of any domestic producer of strategic materials with the assessment conducted under subsection (a) when determining how much weight to accord any comments provided by such domestic producer regarding a proposed waiver of domestic source limitations pursuant to section 2533b of title 10, United States Code.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESSIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEES.—The Board shall include the findings and recommendations of the assessment required by subsection (a) in the first report submitted to Congress pursuant to section 187(d) of title 10, United States Code, after the completion of such assessment.

(d) DEFINITION.—The term ''strategic material'' means—

(1) a material designated as critical to national security by the Strategic Materials Protection Board in accordance with section 187 of title 10, United States Code; or

(2) a specialty metal as defined by section 2533b of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 804. CLARIFICATION OF THE PROTECTION OF STRATEGIC MATERIALS CRITICAL TO NATIONAL SECURITY.

(a) PROHIBITION.—Subsection (a) of section 2533b of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''Except as provided in subsections (b) through (j), funds appropriated or otherwise available to the Department of Defense may not be used for the procurement of—'' and inserting ''Except as provided in subsections (b) through (m), the acquisition by the Department of Defense of the following items is prohibited:'';

(2) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''the following'' and inserting ''The following''; and

(B) by striking ''; or'' and inserting a period; and

(3) in paragraph (2), by striking ''a speciality'' and inserting ''A specialty''.

(b) APPLICABILITY TO ACQUISITION OF COMMERCIAL ITEMS.—Subsection (h) of such section is amended to read as follows:

''(h) APPLICABILITY TO ACQUISITIONS OF COMMERCIAL ITEMS.—(1) Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), this section applies to acquisitions of commercial items, notwithstanding sections 34 and 35 of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 430 and 431).

''(2) This section does not apply to contracts or subcontracts for the acquisition of commercially available off-the-shelf items, as defined in section 35(c) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 431(c)), other than—

''(A) contracts or subcontracts for the acquisition of specialty metals, including mill products, such as bar, billet, slab, wire, plate and sheet, that have not been incorporated into end items, subsystems, assemblies, or components;

''(B) contracts or subcontracts for the acquisition of forgings or castings of specialty metals, unless such forgings or castings are incorporated into commercially available off-the-shelf end items, subsystems, or assemblies;

''(C) contracts or subcontracts for commercially available high performance magnets unless such high performance magnets are incorporated into commercially available off-the-shelf-end items or subsystems; and

''(D) contracts or subcontracts for commercially available off-the-shelf fasteners, unless such fasteners are—

''(i) incorporated into commercially available off-the-shelf end items, subsystems, assemblies, or components; or

''(ii) purchased as provided in paragraph (3).

''(3) This section does not apply to fasteners that are commercial items that are purchased under a contract or subcontract with a manufacturer of such fasteners, if the manufacturer has certified that it will purchase, during the relevant calendar year, an amount of domestically melted specialty metal, in the required form, for use in the production of such fasteners for sale to the Department of Defense and other customers, that is not less than 50 percent of the total amount of the specialty metal that it will purchase to carry out the production of such fasteners.''.

(c) ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS.—Subsection (g) of such section is amended by striking ''commercially available'' and all that follows through the end of the subsection and inserting ''electronic components, unless the Secretary of Defense, upon the recommendation of the Strategic Materials Protection Board pursuant to section 187 of this title, determines that the domestic availability of a particular electronic component is critical to national security.''.

(d) ADDITIONAL EXCEPTIONS.—Section 2533b of title 10, United States Code, as amended by subsections (a), (b), and (c), is further amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (i) and (j) as subsections (l) and (m), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (h) the following new subsections:

''(i) EXCEPTIONS FOR PURCHASES OF SPECIALTY METALS BELOW MINIMUM THRESHOLD.—(1) Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of a military department may accept delivery of an item containing specialty metals that were not melted in the United States if the total amount of noncompliant specialty metals in the item does not exceed 2 percent of the total weight of specialty metals in the item.

''(2) This subsection does not apply to high performance magnets.

''(j) STREAMLINED COMPLIANCE FOR COMMERCIAL DERIVATIVE MILITARY ARTICLES.—(1) Subsection (a) shall not apply to an item acquired under a prime contract if the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of a military department determines that—

''(A) the item is a commercial derivative military article; and

''(B) the contractor certifies that the contractor and its subcontractors have entered into a contractual agreement, or agreements, to purchase an amount of domestically melted specialty metal in the required form, for use during the period of contract performance in the production of the commercial derivative military article and the related commercial article, that is not less than the greater of—

''(i) an amount equivalent to 120 percent of the amount of specialty metal that is required to carry out the production of the commercial derivative military article (including the work performed under each subcontract); or

''(ii) an amount equivalent to 50 percent of the amount of specialty metal that is purchased by the contractor and its subcontractors for use during such period in the production of the commercial derivative military article and the related commercial article.

''(2) For the purposes of this subsection, the amount of specialty metal that is required to carry out the production of the commercial derivative military article includes specialty metal contained in any item, including commercially available off-the-shelf items, incorporated into such commercial derivative military article.

''(k) NATIONAL SECURITY WAIVER.—(1) Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense may accept the delivery of an end item containing noncompliant materials if the Secretary determines in writing that acceptance of such end item is necessary to the national security interests of the United States.

''(2) A written determination under paragraph (1)—

''(A) may not be delegated below the level of the Deputy Secretary of Defense or the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics;

''(B) shall specify the quantity of end items to which the waiver applies and the time period over which the waiver applies; and

''(C) shall be provided to the congressional defense committees prior to making such a determination (except that in the case of an urgent national security requirement, such certification may be provided to the defense committees up to 7 days after it is made).

''(3)(A) In any case in which the Secretary makes a determination under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall determine whether or not the noncompliance was knowing and willful.

''(B) If the Secretary determines that the noncompliance was not knowing or willful, the Secretary shall ensure that the contractor or subcontractor responsible for the noncompliance develops and implements an effective plan to ensure future compliance.

''(C) If the Secretary determines that the noncompliance was knowing or willful, the Secretary shall—

''(i) require the development and implementation of a plan to ensure future compliance; and

''(ii) consider suspending or debarring the contractor or subcontractor until such time as the contractor or subcontractor has effectively addressed the issues that lead to such noncompliance.''.

(e) ADDITIONAL DEFINITIONS.—Subsection (m) of section 2533b of title 10, United States Code, as redesignated by subsection (c), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(3) The term 'acquisition' has the meaning provided in section 4 of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 403).

''(4) The term 'required form' shall not apply to end items or to their components at any tier. The term 'required form' means in the form of mill product, such as bar, billet, wire, slab, plate or sheet, and in the grade appropriate for the production of—

''(A) a finished end item delivered to the Department of Defense; or

''(B) a finished component assembled into an end item delivered to the Department of Defense.

''(5) The term 'commercially available off-the-shelf', has the meaning provided in section 35(c) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 431(c)).

''(6) The term 'assemblies' means items forming a portion of a system or subsystem that can be provisioned and replaced as an entity and which incorporates multiple, replaceable parts.

''(7) The term 'commercial derivative military article' means an item procured by the Department of Defense that is or will be produced using the same production facilities, a common supply chain, and the same or similar production processes that are used for the production of articles predominantly used by the general public or by nongovernmental entities for purposes other than governmental purposes.

''(8) The term 'subsystem' means a functional grouping of items that combine to perform a major function within an end item, such as electrical power, attitude control, and propulsion.

''(9) The term 'end item' means the final production product when assembled or completed, and ready for issue, delivery, or deployment.

''(10) The term 'subcontract' includes a subcontract at any tier.''.

(f) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 2533b of title 10, United States Code, is further amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the heading, by striking ''PROCUREMENTS'' and inserting ''ACQUISITIONS''; and

(B) in paragraphs (1) and (2), by striking ''Procurements'' and inserting ''Acquisitions'';

(2) in subsection (d), by striking ''procurement'' each place it appears and inserting ''acquisition''; and

(3) in subsections (f) and (g), by striking ''procurements'' each place it appears and inserting ''acquisitions''.

(g) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regulations on the implementation of this section and the amendments made by this section, including specific guidance on how thresholds established in subsections (h)(3), (i) and (j) of section 2533b of title 10, United States Code, as amended by this section, should be implemented.

(h) REVISION OF DOMESTIC NONAVAILABILITY DETERMINATIONS AND RULES.—No later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, any domestic nonavailability determination under section 2533b of title 10, United States Code, including a class deviation, or rules made by the Department of Defense between December 6, 2006, and the date of the enactment of this Act, shall be reviewed and amended, as necessary, to comply with the amendments made by this section. This requirement shall not apply to a domestic nonavailability determination that applies to—

(1) an individual contract that was entered into before the date of the enactment of this Act; or

(2) an individual Department of Defense program, except to the extent that such domestic nonavailability determination applies to contracts entered into after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(i) TRANSPARENCY REQUIREMENT FOR COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE OFF-THE-SHELF ITEM EXCEPTION.—The Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives, not later than December 30, 2008, a report on the use of authority provided under subsection (h) of section 2533b of title 10, United States Code, as amended by this section. Such report shall include, at a minimum, a description of types of items being procured as commercially available off-the-shelf items under such subsection and incorporated into noncommercial items. The Secretary shall submit an update of such report to such committees not later than December 30, 2009.

SEC. 805. PROCUREMENT OF COMMERCIAL SERVICES.

(a) REGULATIONS REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act , the Secretary of Defense shall modify the regulations of the Department of Defense for the procurement of commercial services for or on behalf of the Department of Defense.

(b) APPLICABILITY OF COMMERCIAL PROCEDURES.—

(1) SERVICES OF A TYPE SOLD IN MARKETPLACE.—The regulations modified pursuant to subsection (a) shall ensure that services that are not offered and sold competitively in substantial quantities in the commercial marketplace, but are of a type offered and sold competitively in substantial quantities in the commercial marketplace, may be treated as commercial items for purposes of section 2306a of title 10, United States Code (relating to truth in negotiations), only if the contracting officer determines in writing that the offeror has submitted sufficient information to evaluate, through price analysis, the reasonableness of the price for such services.

(2) INFORMATION SUBMITTED.—To the extent necessary to make a determination under paragraph (1), the contracting officer may request the offeror to submit—

(A) prices paid for the same or similar commercial items under comparable terms and conditions by both government and commercial customers; and

(B) if the contracting officer determines that the information described in subparagraph (A) is not sufficient to determine the reasonableness of price, other relevant information regarding the basis for price or cost, including information on labor costs, material costs, and overhead rates.

(c) TIME-AND-MATERIALS CONTRACTS.—

(1) COMMERCIAL ITEM ACQUISITIONS.—The regulations modified pursuant to subsection (a) shall ensure that procedures applicable to time-and-materials contracts and labor-hour contracts for commercial item acquisitions may be used only for the following:

(A) Services procured for support of a commercial item, as described in section 4(12)(E) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 403(12)(E)).

(B) Emergency repair services.

(C) Any other commercial services only to the extent that the head of the agency concerned approves a determination in writing by the contracting officer that—

(i) the services to be acquired are commercial services as defined in section 4(12)(F) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 403(12)(F));

(ii) if the services to be acquired are subject to subsection (b), the offeror of the services has submitted sufficient information in accordance with that subsection;

(iii) such services are commonly sold to the general public through use of time-and-materials or labor-hour contracts; and

(iv) the use of a time-and-materials or labor-hour contract type is in the best interest of the Government.

(2) NON-COMMERCIAL ITEM ACQUISITIONS.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to preclude the use of procedures applicable to time-and-materials contracts and labor-

hour contracts for non-commercial item acquisitions for the acquisition of any category of services.

SEC. 806. SPECIFICATION OF AMOUNTS REQUESTED FOR PROCUREMENT OF CONTRACT SERVICES.

(a) SPECIFICATION OF AMOUNTS REQUESTED.—The budget justification materials submitted to Congress in support of the budget of the Department of Defense for any fiscal year after fiscal year 2009 shall identify clearly and separately the amounts requested in each budget account for the procurement of contract services.

(b) INFORMATION PROVIDED.—For each budget account, the materials submitted shall clearly identify—

(1) the amount requested for each Department of Defense component, installation, or activity; and

(2) the amount requested for each type of service to be provided.

(c) CONTRACT SERVICES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''contract services''—

(1) means services from contractors; but

(2) excludes services relating to research and development and services relating to military construction.

SEC. 807. INVENTORIES AND REVIEWS OF CONTRACTS FOR SERVICES.

(a) INVENTORY REQUIREMENT.—Section 2330a of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (g);

(2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

''(c) INVENTORY.—(1) Not later than the end of the third quarter of each fiscal year, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress an annual inventory of the activities performed during the preceding fiscal year pursuant to contracts for services for or on behalf of the Department of Defense. The entry for an activity on an inventory under this subsection shall include, for the fiscal year covered by such entry, the following:

''(A) The functions and missions performed by the contractor.

''(B) The contracting organization, the component of the Department of Defense administering the contract, and the organization whose requirements are being met through contractor performance of the function.

''(C) The funding source for the contract under which the function is performed by appropriation and operating agency.

''(D) The fiscal year for which the activity first appeared on an inventory under this section.

''(E) The number of full-time contractor employees (or its equivalent) paid for the performance of the activity.

''(F) A determination whether the contract pursuant to which the activity is performed is a personal services contract.

''(G) A summary of the data required to be collected for the activity under subsection (a).

''(2) The inventory required under this subsection shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

''(d) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INVENTORIES.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which an inventory under subsection (c) is required to be submitted to Congress, the Secretary shall—

''(1) make the inventory available to the public; and

''(2) publish in the Federal Register a notice that the inventory is available to the public.

''(e) REVIEW AND PLANNING REQUIREMENTS.—Within 90 days after the date on which an inventory is submitted under subsection (c), the Secretary of the military department or head of the Defense Agency responsible for activities in the inventory shall—

''(1) review the contracts and activities in the inventory for which such Secretary or agency head is responsible;

''(2) ensure that—

''(A) each contract on the list that is a personal services contract has been entered into, and is being performed, in accordance with applicable statutory and regulatory requirements;

''(B) the activities on the list do not include any inherently governmental functions; and

''(C) to the maximum extent practicable, the activities on the list do not include any functions closely associated with inherently governmental functions;

''(3) identify activities that should be considered for conversion—

''(A) to performance by civilian employees of the Department of Defense pursuant to section 2463 of this title; or

''(B) to an acquisition approach that would be more advantageous to the Department of Defense; and

''(4) develop a plan to provide for appropriate consideration of the conversion of activities identified under paragraph (3) within a reasonable period of time.

''(f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize the performance of personal services by a contractor except where expressly authorized by a provision of law other than this section.''; and

(3) by adding at the end of subsection (g) (as so redesignated) the following new paragraphs:

''(3) FUNCTION CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH INHERENTLY GOVERNMENTAL FUNCTIONS.—The term 'function closely associated with inherently governmental functions' has the meaning given that term in section 2383(b)(3) of this title.

''(4) INHERENTLY GOVERNMENTAL FUNCTIONS.—The term 'inherently governmental functions' has the meaning given that term in section 2383(b)(2) of this title.

''(5) PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACT.—The term 'personal services contract' means a contract under which, as a result of its terms or conditions or the manner of its administration during performance, contractor personnel are subject to the relatively continuous supervision and control of one or more Government officers or employees, except that the giving of an order for a specific article or service, with the right to reject the finished product or result, is not the type of supervision or control that makes a contract a personal services contract.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) The amendments made by subsection (a) shall be effective upon the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) The first inventory required by section 2330a(c) of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall be submitted not later than the end of the third quarter of fiscal year 2008.

SEC. 808. INDEPENDENT MANAGEMENT REVIEWS OF CONTRACTS FOR SERVICES.

(a) GUIDANCE AND INSTRUCTIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall issue guidance, with detailed implementation instructions, for the Department of Defense to provide for periodic independent management reviews of contracts for services. The independent management review guidance and instructions issued pursuant to this subsection shall be designed to evaluate, at a minimum—

(1) contract performance in terms of cost, schedule, and requirements;

(2) the use of contracting mechanisms, including the use of competition, the contract structure and type, the definition of contract requirements, cost or pricing methods, the award and negotiation of task orders, and management and oversight mechanisms;

(3) the contractor's use, management, and oversight of subcontractors;

(4) the staffing of contract management and oversight functions; and

(5) the extent of any pass-throughs, and excessive pass-through charges (as defined in section 852 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007), by the contractor.

(b) ADDITIONAL SUBJECT OF REVIEW.—In addition to the matters required by subsection (a), the guidance and instructions issued pursuant to subsection (a) shall provide for procedures for the periodic review of contracts under which one contractor provides oversight for services performed by other contractors. In particular, the procedures shall be designed to evaluate, at a minimum—

(1) the extent of the agency's reliance on the contractor to perform acquisition functions closely associated with inherently governmental functions as defined in section 2383(b)(3) of title 10, United States Code; and

(2) the financial interest of any prime contractor performing acquisition functions described in paragraph (1) in any contract or subcontract with regard to which the contractor provided advice or recommendations to the agency.

(c) ELEMENTS.—The guidance and instructions issued pursuant to subsection (a) shall address, at a minimum—

(1) the contracts subject to independent management reviews, including any applicable thresholds and exceptions;

(2) the frequency with which independent management reviews shall be conducted;

(3) the composition of teams designated to perform independent management reviews;

(4) any phase-in requirements needed to ensure that qualified staff are available to perform independent management reviews;

(5) procedures for tracking the implementation of recommendations made by independent management review teams; and

(6) procedures for developing and disseminating lessons learned from independent management reviews.

(c) REPORTS.—

(1) REPORT ON GUIDANCE AND INSTRUCTION.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth the guidance and instructions issued pursuant to subsection (a).

(2) GAO REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the implementation of the guidance and instructions issued pursuant to subsection (a).

SEC. 809. IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO UNDEFINITIZED CONTRACTUAL ACTIONS.

(a) GUIDANCE AND INSTRUCTIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall issue guidance, with detailed implementation instructions, for the Department of Defense to ensure the implementation and enforcement of requirements applicable to undefinitized contractual actions.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The guidance and instructions issued pursuant to subsection (a) shall address, at a minimum—

(1) the circumstances in which it is, and is not, appropriate for Department of Defense officials to use undefinitized contractual actions;

(2) approval requirements (including thresholds) for the use of undefinitized contractual actions;

(3) procedures for ensuring that timelines for the definitization of undefinitized contractual actions are met;

(4) procedures for ensuring compliance with regulatory limitations on the obligation of funds pursuant to undefinitized contractual actions;

(5) procedures for ensuring compliance with regulatory limitations on profit or fee with respect to costs incurred before the definitization of an undefinitized contractual action; and

(6) reporting requirements for undefinitized contractual actions that fail to meet required timelines for definitization or fail to comply with regulatory limitations on the obligation of funds or on profit or fee.

(c) REPORTS.—

(1) REPORT ON GUIDANCE AND INSTRUCTIONS.—Not later than 210 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth the guidance and instructions issued pursuant to subsection (a).

(2) GAO REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the extent to which the guidance and instructions issued pursuant to subsection (a) have resulted in improvements to—

(A) the level of insight that senior Department of Defense officials have into the use of undefinitized contractual actions;

(B) the appropriate use of undefinitized contractual actions;

(C) the timely definitization of undefinitized contractual actions; and

(D) the negotiation of appropriate profits and fees for undefinitized contractual actions.

SEC. 810. CLARIFICATION OF LIMITED ACQUISITION AUTHORITY FOR SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND.

Section 167(e)(4) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D); and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following new subparagraph:

''(C)(i) The staff of the commander shall include a command acquisition executive, who shall be responsible for the overall supervision of acquisition matters for the special operations command. The command acquisition executive shall have the authority to—

''(I) negotiate memoranda of agreement with the military departments to carry out the acquisition of equipment, material, supplies, and services described in subparagraph (A) on behalf of the command;

''(II) supervise the acquisition of equipment, material, supplies, and services described in subparagraph (A), regardless of whether such acquisition is carried out by the command, or by a military department pursuant to a delegation of authority by the command;

''(III) represent the command in discussions with the military departments regarding acquisition programs for which the command is a customer; and

''(IV) work with the military departments to ensure that the command is appropriately represented in any joint working group or integrated product team regarding acquisition programs for which the command is a customer.

''(ii) The command acquisition executive of the special operations command shall be included on the distribution list for acquisition directives and instructions of the Department of Defense.''.

Subtitle B—Provisions Relating to Major Defense Acquisition Programs

SEC. 811. REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO MULTIYEAR CONTRACTS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF MAJOR SYSTEMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO MULTIYEAR CONTRACTS.—Section 2306b of title 10, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (a) of such section is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(7) In the case of a contract in an amount equal to or greater than $500,000,000, that the conditions required by subparagraphs (C) through (F) of paragraph (1) of subsection (i) will be met, in accordance with the Secretary's certification and determination under such subsection, by such contract.''.

(2) Subsection (i)(1) of such section is amended by inserting after ''unless'' the following: ''the Secretary of Defense certifies in writing by no later than March 1 of the year in which the Secretary requests legislative authority to enter into such contract that''.

(3) Subsection (i)(1) of such section is further amended—

(A) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (G); and

(B) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

''(A) The Secretary has determined that each of the requirements in paragraphs (1) through (6) of subsection (a) will be met by such contract and has provided the basis for such determination to the congressional defense committees.

''(B) The Secretary's determination under subparagraph (A) was made after the completion of a cost analysis performed by the Cost Analysis Improvement Group of the Department of Defense and such analysis supports the findings.

''(C) The system being acquired pursuant to such contract has not been determined to have experienced cost growth in excess of the critical cost growth threshold pursuant to section 2433(d) of this title within 5 years prior to the date the Secretary anticipates such contract (or a contract for advance procurement entered into consistent with the authorization for such contract) will be awarded.

''(D) A sufficient number of end items of the system being acquired under such contract have been delivered at or within the most current estimates of the program acquisition unit cost or procurement unit cost for such system to determine that current estimates of such unit costs are realistic.

''(E) During the fiscal year in which such contract is to be awarded, sufficient funds will be available to perform the contract in such fiscal year, and the future-years defense program for such fiscal year will include the funding required to execute the program without cancellation.

''(F) The contract is a fixed price type contract.''.

(4) Subsection (i) of such section is further amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

''(5) The Secretary may make the certification under paragraph (1) notwithstanding the fact that one or more of the conditions of such certification are not met if the Secretary determines that, due to exceptional circumstances, proceeding with a multiyear contract under this section is in the best interest of the Department of Defense and the Secretary provides the basis for such determination with the certification.

''(6) The Secretary of Defense may not delegate the authority to make the certification under paragraph (1) or the determination under paragraph (5) to an official below the level of Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics.

''(7) The Secretary of Defense shall send a notification containing the findings of the agency head under subsection (a), and the basis for such findings, 30 days prior to the award of a multiyear contract for a defense acquisition program that has been specifically authorized by law.''.

(5) Such section is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(m) INCREASED FUNDING AND REPROGRAMMING REQUESTS.—Any request for increased funding for the procurement of a major system under a multiyear contract authorized under this section shall be accompanied by an explanation of how the request for increased funding affects the determinations made by the Secretary under subsection (i).''.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply with respect to multiyear contracts for the purchase of major systems for which legislative authority is requested on or after that date.

SEC. 812. CHANGES TO MILESTONE B CERTIFICATIONS.

Section 2366a of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

''(a) CERTIFICATION.—A major defense acquisition program may not receive Milestone B approval, or Key Decision Point B approval in the case of a space program, until the milestone decision authority—

''(1) has received a business case analysis and certifies on the basis of the analysis that—

''(A) the program is affordable when considering the ability of the Department of Defense to accomplish the program's mission using alternative systems;

''(B) the program is affordable when considering the per unit cost and the total acquisition cost in the context of the total resources available during the period covered by the future-years defense program submitted during the fiscal year in which the certification is made;

''(C) reasonable cost and schedule estimates have been developed to execute the product development and production plan under the program; and

''(D) funding is available to execute the product development and production plan under the program, through the period covered by the future-years defense program submitted during the fiscal year in which the certification is made, consistent with the estimates described in subparagraph (C) for the program; and

''(2) further certifies that—

''(A) appropriate market research has been conducted prior to technology development to reduce duplication of existing technology and products;

''(B) the Department of Defense has completed an analysis of alternatives with respect to the program;

''(C) the Joint Requirements Oversight Council has accomplished its duties with respect to the program pursuant to section 181(b) of this title, including an analysis of the operational requirements for the program;

''(D) the technology in the program has been demonstrated in a relevant environment;

''(E) the program demonstrates a high likelihood of accomplishing its intended mission; and

''(F) the program complies with all relevant policies, regulations, and directives of the Department of Defense.'';

(2) by redesignating subsections (b), (c), (d), and (e) as subsections (c), (d), (e), and (f), respectively;

(3) by inserting after subsection (a) the following new subsection (b):

''(b) CHANGES TO CERTIFICATION.—(1) The program manager for a major defense acquisition program that has received certification under subsection (a) shall immediately notify the milestone decision authority of any changes to the program that—

''(A) alter the substantive basis for the certification of the milestone decision authority relating to any component of such certification specified in paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a); or

''(B) otherwise cause the program to deviate significantly from the material provided to the milestone decision authority in support of such certification.

''(2) Upon receipt of information under paragraph (1), the milestone decision authority may withdraw the certification concerned or rescind Milestone B approval (or Key Decision Point B approval in the case of a space program) if the milestone decision authority determines that such certification or approval is no longer valid.'';

(4) in subsection (c), as redesignated by paragraph (1)—

(A) by inserting ''(1)'' before ''The certification''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph (2):

''(2) A summary of any information provided to the milestone decision authority pursuant to subsection (b) and a description of the actions taken as a result of such information shall be submitted with the first Selected Acquisition Report submitted under section 2432 of this title after receipt of such information by the milestone decision authority.'';

(5) in subsection (d), as so redesignated—

(A) by striking ''authority may waive'' and inserting the following: ''authority may, at the time of Milestone B approval (or Key Decision Point B approval in the case of a space program) or at the time that such milestone decision authority withdraws a certification or rescinds Milestone B approval (or Key Decision Point B approval in the case of a space program) pursuant to subsection (b)(2), waive''; and

(B) by striking ''paragraph (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), or (9)'' and inserting ''paragraph (1) or (2)''; and

(6) in subsection (e), as so redesignated, by striking ''subsection (c)'' and inserting ''subsection (d)''.

SEC. 813. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE FOR MAJOR DEFENSE ACQUISITION PROGRAMS.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on potential modifications of the organization and structure of the Department of Defense for major defense acquisition programs.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the results of a review, conducted by the Comptroller General for purposes of the report, regarding the feasibility and advisability of, at a minimum, the following:

(1) Revising the acquisition process for major defense acquisition programs by establishing shorter, more frequent acquisition program milestones.

(2) Requiring certifications of program status to the defense acquisition executive and Congress prior to milestone approval for major defense acquisition programs.

(3) Establishing a new office (to be known as the ''Office of Independent Assessment'') to provide independent cost estimates and performance estimates for major defense acquisition programs.

(4) Requiring the milestone decision authority for a major defense acquisition program to specify, at the time of Milestone B approval, or Key Decision Point B approval, as applicable, the period of time that will be required to deliver an initial operational capability to the relevant combatant commanders.

(5) Establishing a materiel solutions process for addressing identified gaps in critical warfighting capabilities, under which process the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics circulates among the military departments and appropriate Defense Agencies a request for proposals for technologies and systems to address such gaps.

(6) Modifying the role played by chiefs of staff of the Armed Forces in the requirements, resource allocation, and acquisition processes.

(7) Establishing a process in which the commanders of combatant commands assess, and provide input on, the capabilities needed to successfully accomplish the missions in the operational and contingency plans of their commands over a long-term planning horizon of 15 years or more, taking into account expected changes in threats, the geopolitical environment, and doctrine, training, and operational concepts.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the review required under subsection (b) for the report required by subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall obtain the views of the following:

(1) Senior acquisition officials currently serving in the Department of Defense.

(2) Senior military officers involved in setting requirements for the joint staff, the Armed Forces, and the combatant commands currently serving in the Department of Defense.

(3) Individuals who formerly served as senior acquisition officials in the Department of Defense.

(4) Participants in previous reviews of the organization and structure of the Department of Defense for the acquisition of major weapon systems, including the President's Blue Ribbon Commission on Defense Management in 1986.

(5) Other experts on the acquisition of major weapon systems.

(6) Appropriate experts in the Government Accountability Office.

SEC. 814. CLARIFICATION OF SUBMISSION OF COST OR PRICING DATA ON NONCOMMERCIAL MODIFICATIONS OF COMMERCIAL ITEMS.

(a) MEASUREMENT OF PERCENTAGE AT CONTRACT AWARD.—Section 2306a(b)(3)(A) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after ''total price of the contract'' the following: ''(at the time of contract award)''.

(b) HARMONIZATION OF THRESHOLDS FOR COST OR PRICING DATA.—Section 2306a(b)(3)(A) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''$500,000'' and inserting ''the amount specified in subsection (a)(1)(A)(i), as adjusted from time to time under subsection (a)(7),''.

SEC. 815. CLARIFICATION OF RULES REGARDING THE PROCUREMENT OF COMMERCIAL ITEMS.

(a) TREATMENT OF SUBSYSTEMS, COMPONENTS, AND SPARE PARTS AS COMMERCIAL ITEMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2379 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3);

(ii) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking ''and'' at the end; and

(iii) by inserting after paragraph (1), the following:

''(2) the offeror has submitted sufficient information to evaluate, through price analysis, the reasonableness of the price for such system; and'';

(B) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following new subsection (b):

''(b) TREATMENT OF SUBSYSTEMS AS COMMERCIAL ITEMS.—A subsystem of a major weapon system (other than a commercially available off-the-shelf item as defined in section 35(c) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 431(c))) shall be treated as a commercial item and purchased under procedures established for the procurement of commercial items only if—

''(1) the subsystem is intended for a major weapon system that is being purchased, or has been purchased, under procedures established for the procurement of commercial items in accordance with the requirements of subsection (a); or

''(2) the contracting officer determines in writing that—

''(A) the subsystem is a commercial item, as defined in section 4(12) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 403(12)); and

''(B) the offeror has submitted sufficient information to evaluate, through price analysis, the reasonableness of the price for such subsystem.'';

(C) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (e) and (f), respectively; and

(D) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsections (c) and (d):

''(c) TREATMENT OF COMPONENTS AND SPARE PARTS AS COMMERCIAL ITEMS.—(1) A component or spare part for a major weapon system (other than a commercially available off-the-shelf item as defined in section 35(c) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 431(c))) may be treated as a commercial item for the purposes of section 2306a of this title only if—

''(A) the component or spare part is intended for—

''(i) a major weapon system that is being purchased, or has been purchased, under procedures established for the procurement of commercial items in accordance with the requirements of subsection (a); or

''(ii) a subsystem of a major weapon system that is being purchased, or has been purchased, under procedures established for the procurement of commercial items in accordance with the requirements of subsection (b); or

''(B) the contracting officer determines in writing that—

''(i) the component or spare part is a commercial item, as defined in section 4(12) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 403(12)); and

''(ii) the offeror has submitted sufficient information to evaluate, through price analysis, the reasonableness of the price for such component or spare part.

''(2) This subsection shall apply only to components and spare parts that are acquired by the Department of Defense through a prime contract or a modification to a prime contract (or through a subcontract under a prime contract or modification to a prime contract on which the prime contractor adds no, or negligible, value).

''(d) INFORMATION SUBMITTED.—To the extent necessary to make a determination under subsection (a)(2), (b)(2), or (c)(1)(B), the contracting officer may request the offeror to submit—

''(1) prices paid for the same or similar commercial items under comparable terms and conditions by both government and commercial customers; and

''(2) if the contracting officer determines that the information described in paragraph

(1) is not sufficient to determine the reasonableness of price, other relevant information regarding the basis for price or cost, including information on labor costs, material costs, and overhead rates.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO TECHNICAL DATA PROVISION.—Section 2321(f)(2) of such title is amended by striking ''(whether or not under a contract for commercial items)'' and inserting ''(other than technical data for a commercially available off-the-shelf item as defined in section 35(c) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 431(c)))''.

(b) SALES OF COMMERCIAL ITEMS TO NONGOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall modify the regulations of the Department of Defense on the procurement of commercial items in order to clarify that the terms ''general public'' and ''nongovernmental entities'' in such regulations do not include the Federal Government or a State, local, or foreign government.

SEC. 816. REVIEW OF SYSTEMIC DEFICIENCIES ON MAJOR DEFENSE ACQUISITION PROGRAMS.

(a) ANNUAL REVIEW.—The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics shall conduct an annual review of systemic deficiencies in the major defense acquisition programs of the Department of Defense for each fiscal year in which three or more major defense acquisition programs—

(1) experience a critical cost growth threshold breach;

(2) have a section 2366a certification withdrawn; or

(3) have a Milestone A approval or Key Decision Point A approval rescinded, by the milestone decision authority under subsection (b) of section 2366b of title 10, United States Code, as added by section 943 of this Act.

(b) CONTENT OF REVIEW.—The review conducted under subsection (a) shall—

(1) identify common factors, including any systemic deficiencies in the budget, requirements, and acquisition policies and practices, that may have contributed to problems with major defense acquisition programs covered by the criteria in subsection (a);

(2) assess the adequacy of corrective actions taken or to be taken to address cost growth or other performance deficiencies in programs covered by the criteria in subsection (a); and

(3) make recommendations for any changes in budget, requirements, and acquisition policies and practices that may be appropriate to avoid similar problems with major defense acquisition programs in the future.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CRITICAL COST GROWTH THRESHOLD BREACH.—The term ''critical cost growth threshold breach'' means a determination under section 2433(d) of title 10, United States Code, by the Secretary of a military department with respect to a major defense acquisition program that the program acquisition unit cost has increased by a percentage equal to or greater than the critical cost growth threshold or that the procurement unit cost has increased by a percentage equal to or greater than the critical cost growth threshold.

(2) SECTION 2366a CERTIFICATION.—The term ''section 2366a certification'' means a certification with respect to a major defense acquisition program under section 2366a(a) of title 10, United States Code, by the milestone decision authority.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than July 15, 2008, and not later than August 15 of each year from 2009 through 2012, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the results of the annual review conducted (if any) for the preceding fiscal year under subsection (a).

(e) SUNSET.—The requirement to conduct an annual review under subsection (a) shall terminate on September 30, 2012.

SEC. 817. INVESTMENT STRATEGY FOR MAJOR DEFENSE ACQUISITION PROGRAMS.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than May 1, 2008, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the strategies of the Department of Defense for balancing the allocation of funds and other resources among major defense acquisition programs.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall address, at a minimum, the ability of the organizations, policies, and procedures of the Department of Defense to provide for—

(1) establishing priorities among needed capabilities under major defense acquisition programs, and assessing the resources (including funds, technologies, time, and personnel) needed to achieve such capabilities;

(2) balancing the cost, schedule, and requirements of major defense acquisition programs, including those within the same functional or mission area, to ensure the most efficient use of resources; and

(3) ensuring that the budget, requirements, and acquisition processes of the Department of Defense work in a complementary manner to achieve desired results.

(c) ROLE OF TRI-CHAIR COMMITTEE IN RESOURCE ALLOCATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The report required by subsection (a) shall also address the role of the committee described in paragraph (2) in the resource allocation process for major defense acquisition programs.

(2) COMMITTEE.—The committee described in this paragraph is a committee (to be known as the ''Tri-Chair Committee'') composed of the following:

(A) The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, who is one of the chairs of the committee.

(B) The Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who is one of the chairs of the committee.

(C) The Director of Program Analysis and Evaluation, who is one of the chairs of the committee.

(D) Any other appropriate officials of the Department of Defense, as jointly agreed upon by the Under Secretary and the Vice Chairman.

(d) CHANGES IN LAW.—The report required by subsection (a) shall, to the maximum extent practicable, include a discussion of any changes in the budget, acquisition, and requirements processes of the Department of Defense undertaken as a result of changes in law pursuant to any section in this Act.

(e) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include any recommendations, including recommendations for legislative action, that the Secretary considers appropriate to improve the organizations, policies, and procedures described in the report.

SEC. 818. REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS ON TOTAL OWNERSHIP COST FOR MAJOR WEAPON SYSTEMS.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the extent of the implementation of the recommendations set forth in the February 2003 report of the Government Accountability Office entitled ''Setting Requirements Differently Could Reduce Weapon Systems' Total Ownership Costs''.

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

(1) For each recommendation described in subsection (a) that has been implemented, or that the Secretary plans to implement—

(A) a summary of all actions that have been taken to implement such recommendation; and

(B) a schedule, with specific milestones, for completing the implementation of such recommendation.

(2) For each recommendation that the Secretary has not implemented and does not plan to implement—

(A) the reasons for the decision not to implement such recommendation; and

(B) a summary of any alternative actions the Secretary plans to take to address the purposes underlying such recommendation.

(3) A summary of any additional actions the Secretary has taken or plans to take to ensure that total ownership cost is appropriately considered in the requirements process for major weapon systems.

Subtitle C—Amendments to General Contracting Authorities, Procedures, and Limitations

SEC. 821. PLAN FOR RESTRICTING GOVERNMENT-UNIQUE CONTRACT CLAUSES ON COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS.

(a) PLAN.—The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics shall develop and implement a plan to minimize the number of government-unique contract clauses used in commercial contracts by restricting the clauses to the following:

(1) Government-unique clauses authorized by law or regulation.

(2) Any additional clauses that are relevant and necessary to a specific contract.

(b) COMMERCIAL CONTRACT.—In this section:

(1) The term ''commercial contract'' means a contract awarded by the Federal Government for the procurement of a commercial item.

(2) The term ''commercial item'' has the meaning provided by section 4(12) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 403(12)).

SEC. 822. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR USE OF SIMPLIFIED ACQUISITION PROCEDURES FOR CERTAIN COMMERCIAL ITEMS.

(a) EXTENSION.—Section 4202(e) of the Clinger-Cohen Act of 1996 (division D of Public Law 104–106; 110 Stat. 652; 10 U.S.C. 2304 note) is amended by striking ''January 1, 2008'' and inserting ''January 1, 2010''.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than March 1, 2008, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the use by the Department of Defense of the authority provided by section 4202(e) of the Clinger-Cohen Act of 1996 (10 U.S.C. 2304 note). The report shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(1) Summary data on the use of the authority.

(2) Specific examples of the use of the authority.

(3) An evaluation of potential benefits and costs of extending the authority after January 1, 2010.

SEC. 823. FIVE-YEAR EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN PROTOTYPE PROJECTS.

Section 845(i) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1994 (10 U.S.C. 2371 note) is amended by striking ''September 30, 2008'' and inserting ''September 30, 2013''.

SEC. 824. EXEMPTION OF SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND FROM CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN CONTRACTS RELATING TO VESSELS, AIRCRAFT, AND COMBAT VEHICLES.

Section 2401(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(5) In the case of a contract described in subsection (a)(1)(B), the commander of the special operations command may make a contract without regard to this subsection if—

''(A) funds are available and obligated for the full cost of the contract (including termination costs) on or before the date the contract is awarded;

''(B) the Secretary of Defense submits to the congressional defense committees a certification that there is no alternative for meeting urgent operational requirements other than making the contract; and

''(C) a period of 30 days of continuous session of Congress has expired following the date on which the certification was received by such committees.''.

SEC. 825. PROVISION OF AUTHORITY TO MAINTAIN EQUIPMENT TO UNIFIED COMBATANT COMMAND FOR JOINT WARFIGHTING.

(a) AUTHORITY.—Section 167a of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''and acquire'' and inserting '', acquire, and maintain'';

(2) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (e) the following new subsection:

''(f) LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY TO MAINTAIN EQUIPMENT.—The authority delegated under subsection (a) to maintain equipment is subject to the availability of funds authorized and appropriated specifically for that purpose.''.

(b) TWO-YEAR EXTENSION.—Subsection (g) of such section, as so redesignated, is amended—

(1) by striking ''through 2008'' and inserting ''through 2010''; and

(2) by striking ''September 30, 2008'' and inserting ''September 30, 2010''.

SEC. 826. MARKET RESEARCH.

(a) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—Subsection (c) of section 2377 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''and'' at the end of subparagraph (A);

(B) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) before awarding a task order or delivery order in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) The head of an agency shall take appropriate steps to ensure that any prime contractor of a contract (or task order or delivery order) in an amount in excess of $5,000,000 for the procurement of items other than commercial items engages in such market research as may be necessary to carry out the requirements of subsection (b)(2) before making purchases for or on behalf of the Department of Defense.''.

(b) REQUIREMENT TO DEVELOP TRAINING AND TOOLS.—The Secretary of Defense shall develop training to assist contracting officers, and market research tools to assist such officers and prime contractors, in performing appropriate market research as required by subsection (c) of section 2377 of title 10, United States Code, as amended by this section.

SEC. 827. MODIFICATION OF COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS FOR PURCHASES FROM FEDERAL PRISON INDUSTRIES.

(a) MODIFICATION OF COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2410n of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking subsections (a) and (b) and inserting the following new subsections (a) and (b):

''(a) PRODUCTS FOR WHICH FEDERAL PRISON INDUSTRIES DOES NOT HAVE SIGNIFICANT MARKET SHARE.—(1) Before purchasing a product listed in the latest edition of the Federal Prison Industries catalog under section 4124(d) of title 18 for which Federal Prison Industries does not have a significant market share, the Secretary of Defense shall conduct market research to determine whether the product is comparable to products available from the private sector that best meet the needs of the Department in terms of price, quality, and time of delivery.

''(2) If the Secretary determines that a Federal Prison Industries product described in paragraph (1) is not comparable in price, quality, or time of delivery to products of the private sector that best meets the needs of the Department in terms of price, quality, and time of delivery, the Secretary shall use competitive procedures for the procurement of the product, or shall make an individual purchase under a multiple award contract in accordance with the competition requirements applicable to such contract. In conducting such a competition, the Secretary shall consider a timely offer from Federal Prison Industries.

''(b) PRODUCTS FOR WHICH FEDERAL PRISON INDUSTRIES HAS SIGNIFICANT MARKET SHARE.—(1) The Secretary of Defense may purchase a product listed in the latest edition of the Federal Prison Industries catalog for which Federal Prison Industries has a significant market share only if the Secretary uses competitive procedures for the procurement of the product or makes an individual purchase under a multiple award contract in accordance with the competition requirements applicable to such contract. In conducting such a competition, the Secretary shall consider a timely offer from Federal Prison Industries.

''(2) For purposes of this subsection, Federal Prison Industries shall be treated as having a significant share of the market for a product if the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of Federal Procurement Policy, determines that the Federal Prison Industries share of the Department of Defense market for the category of products including such product is greater than 5 percent.''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) LIST OF PRODUCTS FOR WHICH FEDERAL PRISON INDUSTRIES HAS SIGNIFICANT MARKET SHARE.—

(1) INITIAL LIST.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall publish a list of product categories for which Federal Prison Industries' share of the Department of Defense market is greater than 5 percent, based on the most recent fiscal year for which data is available.

(2) MODIFICATION.—The Secretary may modify the list published under paragraph (1) at any time if the Secretary determines that new data require adding a product category to the list or omitting a product category from the list.

(3) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall carry out this subsection in consultation with the Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy.

SEC. 828. MULTIYEAR CONTRACT AUTHORITY FOR ELECTRICITY FROM RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES.

(a) MULTIYEAR CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—Chapter 141 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 2410q. Multiyear contracts: purchase of electricity from renewable energy sources

''(a) MULTIYEAR CONTRACTS AUTHORIZED.—Subject to subsection (b), the Secretary of Defense may enter into a contract for a period not to exceed 10 years for the purchase of electricity from sources of renewable energy, as that term is defined in section 203(b)(2) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15852(b)(2)).

''(b) LIMITATIONS ON CONTRACTS FOR PERIODS IN EXCESS OF FIVE YEARS.—The Secretary may exercise the authority in subsection (a) to enter into a contract for a period in excess of five years only if the Secretary determines, on the basis of a business case analysis prepared by the Department of Defense, that—

''(1) the proposed purchase of electricity under such contract is cost effective for the Department of Defense; and

''(2) it would not be possible to purchase electricity from the source in an economical manner without the use of a contract for a period in excess of five years.

''(c) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER MULTIYEAR CONTRACTING AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to preclude the Department of Defense from using other multiyear contracting authority of the Department to purchase renewable energy.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 141 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''2410q. Multiyear contracts: purchase of electricity from renewable energy sources.''.

SEC. 829. PROCUREMENT OF FIRE RESISTANT RAYON FIBER FOR THE PRODUCTION OF UNIFORMS FROM FOREIGN SOURCES.

(a) AUTHORITY TO PROCURE.—The Secretary of Defense may procure fire resistant rayon fiber for the production of uniforms that is manufactured in a foreign country referred to in subsection (d) if the Secretary determines either of the following:

(1) That fire resistant rayon fiber for the production of uniforms is not available from sources within the national technology and industrial base.

(2) That—

(A) procuring fire resistant rayon fiber manufactured from suppliers within the national technology and industrial base would result in sole-source contracts or subcontracts for the supply of fire resistant rayon fiber; and

(B) such sole-source contracts or subcontracts would not be in the best interests of the Government or consistent with the objectives of section 2304 of title 10, United States Code.

(b) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days after making a determination under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a copy of the determination.

(c) APPLICABILITY TO SUBCONTRACTS.—The authority under subsection (a) applies with respect to subcontracts under Department of Defense contracts as well as to such contracts.

(d) FOREIGN COUNTRIES COVERED.—The authority under subsection (a) applies with respect to a foreign country that—

(1) is a party to a defense memorandum of understanding entered into under section 2531 of title 10, United States Code; and

(2) does not discriminate against defense items produced in the United States to a

greater degree than the United States discriminates against defense items produced in that country.

(e) NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRIAL BASE DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''national technology and industrial base'' has the meaning given that term in section 2500 of title 10, United States Code.

(f) SUNSET.—The authority under subsection (a) shall expire on the date that is five years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 830. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW OF NONCOMPETITIVE AWARDS OF CONGRESSIONAL AND EXECUTIVE BRANCH INTEREST ITEMS.

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the use of procedures other than competitive procedures in the award of contracts by the Department of Defense. The report shall compare the procedures used by the Department of Defense for the award of funds for new projects pursuant to congressionally directed spending items, as defined in rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, or congressional earmarks, as defined in rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, with the procedures used by the Department of Defense for the award of funds for new projects of special interest to senior executive branch officials.

Subtitle D—Accountability in Contracting

SEC. 841. COMMISSION ON WARTIME CONTRACTING IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established a commission to be known as the ''Commission on Wartime Contracting'' (in this section referred to as the ''Commission'').

(b) MEMBERSHIP MATTERS.—

(1) MEMBERSHIP.—The Commission shall be composed of 8 members, as follows:

(A) 2 members shall be appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, in consultation with the Chairmen of the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

(B) 2 members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in consultation with the Chairmen of the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(C) 1 member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Members of the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

(D) 1 member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(E) 2 members shall be appointed by the President, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State.

(2) DEADLINE FOR APPOINTMENTS.—All appointments to the Commission shall be made not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) CO-CHAIRMEN.—The Commission shall have two co-chairmen, including—

(A) a co-chairman who shall be a member of the Commission jointly designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the majority leader of the Senate; and

(B) a co-chairman who shall be a member of the Commission jointly designated by the minority leader of the House of Representatives and the minority leader of the Senate.

(4) VACANCY.—In the event of a vacancy in a seat on the Commission, the individual appointed to fill the vacant seat shall be—

(A) appointed by the same officer (or the officer's successor) who made the appointment to the seat when the Commission was first established; and

(B) if the officer in subparagraph (A) is of a party other than the party of the officer who made the appointment to the seat when the Commission was first established, chosen in consultation with the senior officers in the Senate and the House of Representatives of the party which is the party of the officer who made the appointment to the seat when the Commission was first established.

(c) DUTIES.—

(1) GENERAL DUTIES.—The Commission shall study the following matters:

(A) Federal agency contracting for the reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan.

(B) Federal agency contracting for the logistical support of coalition forces operating in Iraq and Afghanistan.

(C) Federal agency contracting for the performance of security functions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

(2) SCOPE OF CONTRACTING COVERED.—The Federal agency contracting covered by this subsection includes contracts entered into both in the United States and abroad for the performance of activities described in paragraph (1).

(3) PARTICULAR DUTIES.—In carrying out the study under this subsection, the Commission shall assess—

(A) the extent of the reliance of the Federal Government on contractors to perform functions (including security functions) in Iraq and Afghanistan and the impact of this reliance on the achievement of the objectives of the United States;

(B) the performance exhibited by Federal contractors for the contracts under review pursuant to paragraph (1), and the mechanisms used to evaluate contractor performance;

(C) the extent of waste, fraud, and abuse under such contracts;

(D) the extent to which those responsible for such waste, fraud, and abuse have been held financially or legally accountable;

(E) the appropriateness of the organizational structure, policies, practices, and resources of the Department of Defense and the Department of State for handling program management and contracting for the programs and contracts under review pursuant to paragraph (1);

(F) the extent to which contractors under such contracts have engaged in the misuse of force or have used force in a manner inconsistent with the objectives of the operational field commander; and

(G) the extent of potential violations of the laws of war, Federal law, or other applicable legal standards by contractors under such contracts.

(d) REPORTS.—

(1) INTERIM REPORT.—On March 1, 2009, the Commission shall submit to Congress an interim report on the study carried out under subsection (c), including the results and findings of the study as of that date.

(2) OTHER REPORTS.—The Commission may from time to time submit to Congress such other reports on the study carried out under subsection (c) as the Commission considers appropriate.

(3) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date of the appointment of all of the members of the Commission under subsection (b), the Commission shall submit to Congress a final report on the study carried out under subsection (c). The report shall—

(A) include the findings of the Commission;

(B) identify lessons learned relating to contingency program management and contingency contracting covered by the study; and

(C) include specific recommendations for improvements to be made in—

(i) the process for defining requirements and developing statements of work for contracts in contingency contracting;

(ii) the process for awarding contracts and task or delivery orders in contingency contracting;

(iii) the process for contingency program management;

(iv) the process for identifying, addressing, and providing accountability for waste, fraud, and abuse in contingency contracting;

(v) the process for determining which functions are inherently governmental and which functions are appropriate for performance by contractors in a contingency operation (including during combat operations), especially whether providing security in an area of combat operations is inherently governmental;

(vi) the organizational structure, resources, policies, and practices of the Department of Defense and the Department of State for performing contingency program management; and

(vii) the process by which roles and responsibilities with respect to management and oversight of contracts in contingency contracting are distributed among the various departments and agencies of the Federal Government, and interagency coordination and communication mechanisms associated with contingency contracting.

(e) OTHER POWERS AND AUTHORITIES.—

(1) HEARINGS AND EVIDENCE.—The Commission or, on the authority of the Commission, any portion thereof, may, for the purpose of carrying out this section—

(A) hold such hearings and sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, receive such evidence, administer such oaths (provided that the quorum for a hearing shall be three members of the Commission); and

(B) provide for the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memoranda, papers, and documents;

as the Commission, or such portion thereof, may determine advisable.

(2) INABILITY TO OBTAIN DOCUMENTS OR TESTIMONY.—In the event the Commission is unable to obtain testimony or documents needed to conduct its work, the Commission shall notify the committees of Congress of jurisdiction and appropriate investigative authorities.

(3) ACCESS TO INFORMATION.—The Commission may secure directly from the Department of Defense and any other department or agency of the Federal Government any information or assistance that the Commission considers necessary to enable the Commission to carry out the requirements of this section. Upon request of the Commission, the head of such department or agency shall furnish such information expeditiously to the Commission. Whenever information or assistance requested by the Commission is unreasonably refused or not provided, the Commission shall report the circumstances to Congress without delay.

(4) PERSONNEL.—The Commission shall have the authorities provided in section 3161 of title 5, United States Code, and shall be subject to the conditions set forth in such section, except to the extent that such conditions would be inconsistent with the requirements of this section.

(5) DETAILEES.—Any employee of the Federal Government may be detailed to the Commission without reimbursement from the Commission, and such detailee shall retain the rights, status, and privileges of his or her regular employment without interruption.

(6) SECURITY CLEARANCES.—The appropriate departments or agencies of the Federal Government shall cooperate with the Commission in expeditiously providing to the Commission members and staff appropriate security clearances to the extent possible pursuant to existing procedures and requirements, except that no person shall be provided with access to classified information under this section without the appropriate security clearances.

(7) VIOLATIONS OF LAW.—

(A) REFERRAL TO ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The Commission may refer to the Attorney General any violation or potential violation of law identified by the Commission in carrying out its duties under this section.

(B) REPORTS ON RESULTS OF REFERRAL.—The Attorney General shall submit to Congress a report on each prosecution, conviction, resolution, or other disposition that results from a referral made under this subparagraph.

(f) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate on the date that is 60 days after the date of the submittal of its final report under subsection (d)(3).

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CONTINGENCY CONTRACTING.—The term ''contingency contracting'' means all stages of the process of acquiring property or services during a contingency operation.

(2) CONTINGENCY OPERATION.—The term ''contingency operation'' has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 10, United States Code.

(3) CONTINGENCY PROGRAM MANAGEMENT.—The term ''contingency program management'' means the process of planning, organizing, staffing, controlling, and leading the combined efforts of participating personnel for the management of a specific acquisition program or programs during contingency operations.

SEC. 842. INVESTIGATION OF WASTE, FRAUD, AND ABUSE IN WARTIME CONTRACTS AND CONTRACTING PROCESSES IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN.

(a) AUDITS REQUIRED.—Thorough audits shall be performed in accordance with this section to identify potential waste, fraud, and abuse in the performance of—

(1) Department of Defense contracts, subcontracts, and task and delivery orders for the logistical support of coalition forces in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

(2) Federal agency contracts, subcontracts, and task and delivery orders for the performance of security and reconstruction functions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

(b) AUDIT PLANS.—

(1) The Department of Defense Inspector General shall develop a comprehensive plan for a series of audits of contracts, subcontracts, and task and delivery orders covered by subsection (a)(1), consistent with the requirements of subsection (g), in consultation with other Inspectors General specified in subsection (c) with regard to any contracts, subcontracts, or task or delivery orders over which such Inspectors General have jurisdiction.

(2) The Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction shall develop a comprehensive plan for a series of audits of contracts, subcontracts, and task and delivery orders covered by subsection (a)(2) relating to Iraq, consistent with the requirements of subsection (h), in consultation with other Inspectors General specified in subsection (c) with regard to any contracts, subcontracts, or task or delivery orders over which such Inspectors General have jurisdiction.

(3) The Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction shall develop a comprehensive plan for a series of audits of contracts, subcontracts, and task and delivery orders covered by subsection (a)(2) relating to Afghanistan, consistent with the requirements of subsection (h), in consultation with other Inspectors General specified in subsection (c) with regard to any contracts, subcontracts, or task or delivery orders over which such Inspectors General have jurisdiction.

(c) PERFORMANCE OF AUDITS BY CERTAIN INSPECTORS GENERAL.—The Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, during such period as such office exists, the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, during such period as such office exists, the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, the Inspector General of the Department of State, and the Inspector General of the United States Agency for International Development shall perform such audits as required by subsection (a) and identified in the audit plans developed pursuant to subsection (b) as fall within the respective scope of their duties as specified in law.

(d) COORDINATION OF AUDITS.—The Inspectors General specified in subsection (c) shall work to coordinate the performance of the audits required by subsection (a) and identified in the audit plans developed under subsection (b) including through councils and working groups composed of such Inspectors General.

(e) JOINT AUDITS.—If one or more audits required by subsection (a) and identified in an audit plan developed under subsection (b) falls within the scope of the duties of more than one of the Inspectors General specified in subsection (c), and such Inspectors General agree that such audit or audits are best pursued jointly, such Inspectors General shall enter into a memorandum of understanding relating to the performance of such audit or audits.

(f) SEPARATE AUDITS.—If one or more audits required by subsection (a) and identified in an audit plan developed under subsection (b) falls within the scope of the duties of more than one of the Inspectors General specified in subsection (c), and such Inspectors General do not agree that such audit or audits are best pursued jointly, such audit or audits shall be separately performed by one or more of the Inspectors General concerned.

(g) SCOPE OF AUDITS OF CONTRACTS.—Audits conducted pursuant to subsection (a)(1) shall examine, at a minimum, one or more of the following issues:

(1) The manner in which contract requirements were developed.

(2) The procedures under which contracts or task or delivery orders were awarded.

(3) The terms and conditions of contracts or task or delivery orders.

(4) The staffing and method of performance of contractors, including cost controls.

(5) The efficacy of Department of Defense management and oversight, including the adequacy of staffing and training of officials responsible for such management and oversight.

(6) The flow of information from contractors to officials responsible for contract management and oversight.

(h) SCOPE OF AUDITS OF OTHER CONTRACTS.—Audits conducted pursuant to subsection (a)(2) shall examine, at a minimum, one or more of the following issues:

(1) The manner in which contract requirements were developed and contracts or task and delivery orders were awarded.

(2) The manner in which the Federal agency exercised control over the performance of contractors.

(3) The extent to which operational field commanders were able to coordinate or direct the performance of contractors in an area of combat operations.

(4) The degree to which contractor employees were properly screened, selected, trained, and equipped for the functions to be performed.

(5) The nature and extent of any incidents of misconduct or unlawful activity by contractor employees.

(6) The nature and extent of any activity by contractor employees that was inconsistent with the objectives of operational field commanders.

(7) The extent to which any incidents of misconduct or unlawful activity were reported, documented, investigated, and (where appropriate) prosecuted.

(i) INDEPENDENT CONDUCT OF AUDIT FUNCTIONS.—All audit functions under this section, including audit planning and coordination, shall be performed by the relevant Inspectors General in an independent manner, without consultation with the Commission established pursuant to section 841 of this Act. All audit reports resulting from such audits shall be available to the Commission.

SEC. 843. ENHANCED COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS FOR TASK AND DELIVERY ORDER CONTRACTS.

(a) DEFENSE CONTRACTS.—

(1) LIMITATION ON SINGLE AWARD CONTRACTS.—Section 2304a(d) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

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

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

''(3)(A) No task or delivery order contract in an amount estimated to exceed $100,000,000 (including all options) may be awarded to a single source unless the head of the agency determines in writing that—

''(i) the task or delivery orders expected under the contract are so integrally related that only a single source can reasonably perform the work;

''(ii) the contract provides only for firm, fixed price task orders or delivery orders for—

''(I) products for which unit prices are established in the contract; or

''(II) services for which prices are established in the contract for the specific tasks to be performed;

''(iii) only one source is qualified and capable of performing the work at a reasonable price to the government; or

''(iv) because of exceptional circumstances, it is necessary in the public interest to award the contract to a single source.

''(B) The head of the agency shall notify Congress within 30 days after any determination under subparagraph (A)(iv).''.

(2) ENHANCED COMPETITION FOR ORDERS IN EXCESS OF $5,000,000.—Section 2304c of such title is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsections (d), (e), and (f) as subsections (e), (f), and (g), respectively;

(B) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection (d):

''(d) ENHANCED COMPETITION FOR ORDERS IN EXCESS OF $5,000,000.—In the case of a task or delivery order in excess of $5,000,000, the requirement to provide all contractors a fair opportunity to be considered under subsection (b) is not met unless all such contractors are provided, at a minimum—

''(1) a notice of the task or delivery order that includes a clear statement of the agency's requirements;

''(2) a reasonable period of time to provide a proposal in response to the notice;

''(3) disclosure of the significant factors and subfactors, including cost or price, that the agency expects to consider in evaluating

such proposals, and their relative importance;

''(4) in the case of an award that is to be made on a best value basis, a written statement documenting the basis for the award and the relative importance of quality and price or cost factors; and

''(5) an opportunity for a post-award debriefing consistent with the requirements of section 2305(b)(5) of this title.''; and

(C) by striking subsection (e), as redesignated by paragraph (1), and inserting the following new subsection (e):

''(e) PROTESTS.—(1) A protest is not authorized in connection with the issuance or proposed issuance of a task or delivery order except for—

''(A) a protest on the ground that the order increases the scope, period, or maximum value of the contract under which the order is issued; or

''(B) a protest of an order valued in excess of $10,000,000.

''(2) Notwithstanding section 3556 of title 31, the Comptroller General of the United States shall have exclusive jurisdiction of a protest authorized under paragraph (1)(B).

''(3) This subsection shall be in effect for three years, beginning on the date that is 120 days after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.''.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(A) SINGLE AWARD CONTRACTS.—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date that is 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and shall apply with respect to any contract awarded on or after such date.

(B) ORDERS IN EXCESS OF $5,000,000.—The amendments made by paragraph (2) shall take effect on the date that is 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and shall apply with respect to any task or delivery order awarded on or after such date.

(b) CIVILIAN AGENCY CONTRACTS.—

(1) LIMITATION ON SINGLE AWARD CONTRACTS.—Section 303H(d) of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (41 U.S.C. 253h(d)) is amended—

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

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

''(3)(A) No task or delivery order contract in an amount estimated to exceed $100,000,000 (including all options) may be awarded to a single source unless the head of the executive agency determines in writing that—

''(i) the task or delivery orders expected under the contract are so integrally related that only a single source can reasonably perform the work;

''(ii) the contract provides only for firm, fixed price task orders or delivery orders for—

''(I) products for which unit prices are established in the contract; or

''(II) services for which prices are established in the contract for the specific tasks to be performed;

''(iii) only one source is qualified and capable of performing the work at a reasonable price to the government; or

''(iv) because of exceptional circumstances, it is necessary in the public interest to award the contract to a single source.

''(B) The head of the executive agency shall notify Congress within 30 days after any determination under subparagraph (A)(iv).''.

(2) ENHANCED COMPETITION FOR ORDERS IN EXCESS OF $5,000,000.—Section 303J of such Act (41 U.S.C. 253j) is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsections (d), (e), and (f) as subsections (e), (f), and (g), respectively;

(B) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection (d):

''(d) ENHANCED COMPETITION FOR ORDERS IN EXCESS OF $5,000,000.—In the case of a task or delivery order in excess of $5,000,000, the requirement to provide all contractors a fair opportunity to be considered under subsection (b) is not met unless all such contractors are provided, at a minimum—

''(1) a notice of the task or delivery order that includes a clear statement of the executive agency's requirements;

''(2) a reasonable period of time to provide a proposal in response to the notice;

''(3) disclosure of the significant factors and subfactors, including cost or price, that the executive agency expects to consider in evaluating such proposals, and their relative importance;

''(4) in the case of an award that is to be made on a best value basis, a written statement documenting the basis for the award and the relative importance of quality and price or cost factors; and

''(5) an opportunity for a post-award debriefing consistent with the requirements of section 303B(e).''; and

(C) by striking subsection (e), as redesignated by paragraph (1), and inserting the following new subsection (e):

''(e) PROTESTS.—(1) A protest is not authorized in connection with the issuance or proposed issuance of a task or delivery order except for—

''(A) a protest on the ground that the order increases the scope, period, or maximum value of the contract under which the order is issued; or

''(B) a protest of an order valued in excess of $10,000,000.

''(2) Notwithstanding section 3556 of title 31, United States Code, the Comptroller General of the United States shall have exclusive jurisdiction of a protest authorized under paragraph (1)(B).

''(3) This subsection shall be in effect for three years, beginning on the date that is 120 days after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.''.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(A) SINGLE AWARD CONTRACTS.—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date that is 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and shall apply with respect to any contract awarded on or after such date.

(B) ORDERS IN EXCESS OF $5,000,000.—The amendments made by paragraph (2) shall take effect on the date that is 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and shall apply with respect to any task or delivery order awarded on or after such date.

SEC. 844. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF JUSTIFICATION AND APPROVAL DOCUMENTS FOR NONCOMPETITIVE CONTRACTS.

(a) CIVILIAN AGENCY CONTRACTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 303 of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (41 U.S.C. 253) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(j)(1)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), in the case of a procurement permitted by subsection (c), the head of an executive agency shall make publicly available, within 14 days after the award of the contract, the documents containing the justification and approval required by subsection (f)(1) with respect to the procurement.

''(B) In the case of a procurement permitted by subsection (c)(2), subparagraph (A) shall be applied by substituting '30 days' for '14 days'.

''(2) The documents shall be made available on the website of the agency and through a government-wide website selected by the Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy.

''(3) This subsection does not require the public availability of information that is exempt from public disclosure under section 552(b) of title 5, United States Code.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 303(f) of such Act is amended—

(A) by striking paragraph (4); and

(B) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (4).

(b) DEFENSE AGENCY CONTRACTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2304 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(l)(1)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), in the case of a procurement permitted by subsection (c), the head of an agency shall make publicly available, within 14 days after the award of the contract, the documents containing the justification and approval required by subsection (f)(1) with respect to the procurement.

''(B) In the case of a procurement permitted by subsection (c)(2), subparagraph (A) shall be applied by substituting '30 days' for '14 days'.

''(2) The documents shall be made available on the website of the agency and through a government-wide website selected by the Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy.

''(3) This subsection does not require the public availability of information that is exempt from public disclosure under section 552(b) of title 5.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 2304(f) of such title is amended—

(A) by striking paragraph (4); and

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (5) and (6) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively.

SEC. 845. DISCLOSURE OF GOVERNMENT CONTRACTOR AUDIT FINDINGS.

(a) REQUIRED ANNEX ON SIGNIFICANT AUDIT FINDINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each Inspector General appointed under the Inspector General Act of 1978 shall submit, as part of the semiannual report submitted to Congress pursuant to section 5 of such Act, an annex on final, completed contract audit reports issued to the contracting activity containing significant audit findings issued during the period covered by the semiannual report concerned.

(2) ELEMENTS.—Such annex shall include—

(A) a list of such contract audit reports;

(B) for each audit report, a brief description of the nature of the significant audit findings in the report; and

(C) for each audit report, the specific amounts of costs identified as unsupported, questioned, or disallowed.

(3) INFORMATION EXEMPT FROM PUBLIC DISCLOSURE.—(A) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require the release of information to the public that is exempt from public disclosure under section 552(b) of title 5, United States Code.

(B) For each element required by paragraph (2), the Inspector General concerned shall note each instance where information has been redacted in accordance with the requirements of section 552(b) of title 5, United States Code, and submit an unredacted annex to the committees listed in subsection (d)(2) within 7 days after the issuance of the semiannual report.

(b) DEFENSE CONTRACT AUDIT AGENCY INCLUDED.—For purposes of subsection (a), audits of the Defense Contract Audit Agency shall be included in the annex provided by the Inspector General of the Department of Defense if they include significant audit findings.

(c) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to an Inspector General if no audits described in such subsection were issued during the covered period.

(d) SUBMISSION OF INDIVIDUAL AUDITS.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—The head of each Federal department or agency shall provide, within 14 days after a request in writing by

the chairman or ranking member of any committee listed in paragraph (2), a full and unredacted copy of any audit described in subsection (a). Such copy shall include an identification of information in the audit exempt from public disclosure under section 552(b) of title 5, United States Code.

(2) COMMITTEES.—The committees listed in this paragraph are the following:

(A) The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives.

(B) The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

(C) The Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

(D) With respect to the Department of Defense and the Department of Energy, the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives.

(E) The Committees of primary jurisdiction over the agency or department to which the request is made.

(e) CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to require the handling of classified information or information relating to intelligence sources and methods in a manner inconsistent with any law, regulation, executive order, or rule of the House of Representatives or of the Senate relating to the handling or protection of such information.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) SIGNIFICANT AUDIT FINDINGS.—The term ''significant audit findings'' includes—

(A) unsupported, questioned, or disallowed costs in an amount in excess of $10,000,000; or

(B) other findings that the Inspector General of the agency or department concerned determines to be significant.

(2) CONTRACT.—The term ''contract'' includes a contract, an order placed under a task or delivery order contract, or a subcontract.

SEC. 846. PROTECTION FOR CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEES FROM REPRISAL FOR DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN INFORMATION.

(a) INCREASED PROTECTION FROM REPRISAL.—Subsection (a) of section 2409 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''disclosing to a Member of Congress'' and inserting ''disclosing to a Member of Congress, a representative of a committee of Congress, an Inspector General, the Government Accountability Office, a Department of Defense employee responsible for contract oversight or management,''; and

(2) by striking ''information relating to a substantial violation of law related to a contract (including the competition for or negotiation of a contract)'' and inserting ''information that the employee reasonably believes is evidence of gross mismanagement of a Department of Defense contract or grant, a gross waste of Department of Defense funds, a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety, or a violation of law related to a Department of Defense contract (including the competition for or negotiation of a contract) or grant''.

(b) CLARIFICATION OF INSPECTOR GENERAL DETERMINATION.—Subsection (b) of such section is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(1)'' after ''INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINTS.—'';

(2) by striking ''an agency'' and inserting ''the Department of Defense, or the Inspector General of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in the case of a complaint regarding the National Aeronautics and Space Administration''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(2)(A) Except as provided under subparagraph (B), the Inspector General shall make a determination that a complaint is frivolous or submit a report under paragraph (1) within 180 days after receiving the complaint.

''(B) If the Inspector General is unable to complete an investigation in time to submit a report within the 180-day period specified in subparagraph (A) and the person submitting the complaint agrees to an extension of time, the Inspector General shall submit a report under paragraph (1) within such additional period of time as shall be agreed upon between the Inspector General and the person submitting the complaint.''.

(c) ACCELERATION OF SCHEDULE FOR DENYING RELIEF OR PROVIDING REMEDY.—Subsection (c) of such section is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''If the head of the agency determines that a contractor has subjected a person to a reprisal prohibited by subsection (a), the head of the agency may'' and inserting after ''(1)'' the following: ''Not later than 30 days after receiving an Inspector General report pursuant to subsection (b), the head of the agency concerned shall determine whether there is sufficient basis to conclude that the contractor concerned has subjected the complainant to a reprisal prohibited by subsection (a) and shall either issue an order denying relief or shall'';

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraphs:

''(2) If the head of an executive agency issues an order denying relief under paragraph (1) or has not issued an order within 210 days after the submission of a complaint under subsection (b), or in the case of an extension of time under paragraph (b)(2)(B), not later than 30 days after the expiration of the extension of time, and there is no showing that such delay is due to the bad faith of the complainant, the complainant shall be deemed to have exhausted all administrative remedies with respect to the complaint, and the complainant may bring a de novo action at law or equity against the contractor to seek compensatory damages and other relief available under this section in the appropriate district court of the United States, which shall have jurisdiction over such an action without regard to the amount in controversy. Such an action shall, at the request of either party to the action, be tried by the court with a jury.

''(3) An Inspector General determination and an agency head order denying relief under paragraph (2) shall be admissible in evidence in any de novo action at law or equity brought pursuant to this subsection.''.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—Subsection (e) of such section is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by inserting ''or a grant'' after ''a contract''; and

(2) by inserting before the period at the end the following: ''and any Inspector General that receives funding from, or has oversight over contracts awarded for or on behalf of, the Secretary of Defense''.

SEC. 847. REQUIREMENTS FOR SENIOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OFFICIALS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT WITH DEFENSE CONTRACTORS.

(a) REQUIREMENT TO SEEK AND OBTAIN WRITTEN OPINION.—

(1) REQUEST.—An official or former official of the Department of Defense described in subsection (c) who, within two years after leaving service in the Department of Defense, expects to receive compensation from a Department of Defense contractor, shall, prior to accepting such compensation, request a written opinion regarding the applicability of post-employment restrictions to activities that the official or former official may undertake on behalf of a contractor.

(2) SUBMISSION OF REQUEST.—A request for a written opinion under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in writing to an ethics official of the Department of Defense having responsibility for the organization in which the official or former official serves or served and shall set forth all information relevant to the request, including information relating to government positions held and major duties in those positions, actions taken concerning future employment, positions sought, and future job descriptions, if applicable.

(3) WRITTEN OPINION.—Not later than 30 days after receiving a request by an official or former official of the Department of Defense described in subsection (c), the appropriate ethics counselor shall provide such official or former official a written opinion regarding the applicability or inapplicability of post-employment restrictions to activities that the official or former official may undertake on behalf of a contractor.

(4) CONTRACTOR REQUIREMENT.—A Department of Defense contractor may not knowingly provide compensation to a former Department of Defense official described in subsection (c) within two years after such former official leaves service in the Department of Defense, without first determining that the former official has sought and received (or has not received after 30 days of seeking) a written opinion from the appropriate ethics counselor regarding the applicability of post-employment restrictions to the activities that the former official is expected to undertake on behalf of the contractor.

(5) ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS.—In the event that an official or former official of the Department of Defense described in subsection (c), or a Department of Defense contractor, knowingly fails to comply with the requirements of this subsection, the Secretary of Defense may take any of the administrative actions set forth in section 27(e) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 423(e)) that the Secretary of Defense determines to be appropriate.

(b) RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENT.—

(1) DATABASE.—Each request for a written opinion made pursuant to this section, and each written opinion provided pursuant to such a request, shall be retained by the Department of Defense in a central database or repository for not less than five years beginning on the date on which the written opinion was provided.

(2) INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW.—The Inspector General of the Department of Defense shall conduct periodic reviews to ensure that written opinions are being provided and retained in accordance with the requirements of this section. The first such review shall be conducted no later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) COVERED DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OFFICIALS.—An official or former official of the Department of Defense is covered by the requirements of this section if such official or former official—

(1) participated personally and substantially in an acquisition as defined in section 4(16) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act with a value in excess of $10,000,000 and serves or served—

(A) in an Executive Schedule position under subchapter II of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code;

(B) in a position in the Senior Executive Service under subchapter VIII of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code; or

(C) in a general or flag officer position compensated at a rate of pay for grade O–7 or above under section 201 of title 37, United States Code; or

(2) serves or served as a program manager, deputy program manager, procuring contracting officer, administrative contracting officer, source selection authority, member

of the source selection evaluation board, or chief of a financial or technical evaluation team for a contract in an amount in excess of $10,000,000.

(d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''post-employment restrictions'' includes—

(1) section 27 of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 423);

(2) section 207 of title 18, United States Code; and

(3) any other statute or regulation restricting the employment or activities of individuals who leave government service in the Department of Defense.

SEC. 848. REPORT ON CONTRACTOR ETHICS PROGRAMS OF MAJOR DEFENSE CONTRACTORS.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the internal ethics programs of major defense contractors.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall address, at a minimum—

(1) the extent to which major defense contractors have internal ethics programs in place;

(2) the extent to which the ethics programs described in paragraph (1) include—

(A) the availability of internal mechanisms, such as hotlines, for contractor employees to report conduct that may violate applicable requirements of law or regulation;

(B) notification to contractor employees of the availability of external mechanisms, such as the hotline of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, for the reporting of conduct that may violate applicable requirements of law or regulation;

(C) notification to contractor employees of their right to be free from reprisal for disclosing a substantial violation of law related to a contract, in accordance with section 2409 of title 10, United States Code;

(D) ethics training programs for contractor officers and employees;

(E) internal audit or review programs to identify and address conduct that may violate applicable requirements of law or regulation;

(F) self-reporting requirements, under which contractors report conduct that may violate applicable requirements of law or regulation to appropriate government officials;

(G) disciplinary action for contractor employees whose conduct is determined to have violated applicable requirements of law or regulation; and

(H) appropriate management oversight to ensure the successful implementation of such ethics programs;

(3) the extent to which the Department of Defense monitors or approves the ethics programs of major defense contractors; and

(4) the advantages and disadvantages of legislation requiring that defense contractors develop internal ethics programs and requiring that specific elements be included in such ethics programs.

(c) ACCESS TO INFORMATION.—In accordance with the contract clause required pursuant to section 2313(c) of title 10, United States Code, each major defense contractor shall provide the Comptroller General access to information requested by the Comptroller General that is within the scope of the report required by this section.

(d) MAJOR DEFENSE CONTRACTOR DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''major defense contractor'' means any company that was awarded contracts by the Department of Defense during fiscal year 2006 in amounts totaling more than $500,000,000.

SEC. 849. CONTINGENCY CONTRACTING TRAINING FOR PERSONNEL OUTSIDE THE ACQUISITION WORKFORCE AND EVALUATIONS OF ARMY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS.

(a) TRAINING REQUIREMENT.—Section 2333 of title 10, United States Code is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following new subsection (e):

''(e) TRAINING FOR PERSONNEL OUTSIDE ACQUISITION WORKFORCE.—(1) The joint policy for requirements definition, contingency program management, and contingency contracting required by subsection (a) shall provide for training of military personnel outside the acquisition workforce (including operational field commanders and officers performing key staff functions for operational field commanders) who are expected to have acquisition responsibility, including oversight duties associated with contracts or contractors, during combat operations, post-conflict operations, and contingency operations.

''(2) Training under paragraph (1) shall be sufficient to ensure that the military personnel referred to in that paragraph understand the scope and scale of contractor support they will experience in contingency operations and are prepared for their roles and responsibilities with regard to requirements definition, program management (including contractor oversight), and contingency contracting.

''(3) The joint policy shall also provide for the incorporation of contractors and contract operations in mission readiness exercises for operations that will include contracting and contractor support.''.

(b) ORGANIZATIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) EVALUATION BY THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.—The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, shall evaluate the recommendations included in the report of the Commission on Army Acquisition and Program Management in Expeditionary Operations and shall determine the extent to which such recommendations are applicable to the other Armed Forces. Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit a report to the congressional defense committees with the conclusions of this evaluation and a description of the Secretary's plans for implementing the Commission's recommendations for Armed Forces other than the Army.

(2) EVALUATION BY THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY.—The Secretary of the Army, in consultation with the Chief of Staff of the Army, shall evaluate the recommendations included in the report of the Commission on Army Acquisition and Program Management in Expeditionary Operations. Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Army shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report detailing the Secretary's plans for implementation of the recommendations of the Commission. The report shall include the following:

(A) For each recommendation that has been implemented, or that the Secretary plans to implement—

(i) a summary of all actions that have been taken to implement such recommendation; and

(ii) a schedule, with specific milestones, for completing the implementation of such recommendation.

(B) For each recommendation that the Secretary has not implemented and does not plan to implement—

(i) the reasons for the decision not to implement such recommendation; and

(ii) a summary of any alternative actions the Secretary plans to take to address the purposes underlying such recommendation.

(C) For each recommendation that would require legislation to implement, the Secretary's recommendations regarding such legislation.

(c) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT.—Section 854(c) of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2346) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Secretary of Defense submits the final report required by paragraph (2), the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

''(A) review the joint policies developed by the Secretary, including the implementation of such policies; and

''(B) submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the extent to which such policies, and the implementation of such policies, comply with the requirements of section 2333 of title 10, United States Code (as so amended).''.

Subtitle E—Acquisition Workforce Provisions

SEC. 851. REQUIREMENT FOR SECTION ON DEFENSE ACQUISITION WORKFORCE IN STRATEGIC HUMAN CAPITAL PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the update of the strategic human capital plan for 2008, and in each subsequent update, the Secretary of Defense shall include a separate section focused on the defense acquisition workforce, including both military and civilian personnel.

(b) FUNDING.—The section shall contain—

(1) an identification of the funding programmed for defense acquisition workforce improvements, including a specific identification of funding provided in the Department of Defense Acquisition Workforce Fund established under section 1705 of title 10, United States Code (as added by section 852 of this Act);

(2) an identification of the funding programmed for defense acquisition workforce training in the future-years defense program, including a specific identification of funding provided by the acquisition workforce training fund established under section 37(h)(3) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 433(h)(3));

(3) a description of how the funding identified pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2) will be implemented during the fiscal year concerned to address the areas of need identified in accordance with subsection (c);

(4) a statement of whether the funding identified under paragraphs (1) and (2) is being fully used; and

(5) a description of any continuing shortfall in funding available for the defense acquisition workforce.

(c) AREAS OF NEED.—The section also shall identify any areas of need in the defense acquisition workforce, including—

(1) gaps in the skills and competencies of the current or projected defense acquisition workforce;

(2) changes to the types of skills needed in the current or projected defense acquisition workforce;

(3) incentives to retain in the defense acquisition workforce qualified, experienced defense acquisition workforce personnel; and

(4) incentives for attracting new, high-quality personnel to the defense acquisition workforce.

(d) STRATEGIC HUMAN CAPITAL PLAN DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''strategic human capital plan'' means the strategic human capital plan required under section 1122 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109–163; 119 Stat. 3452; 10 U.S.C. prec. 1580 note).

SEC. 852. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ACQUISITION WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND.—Chapter 87 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1704 the following new section:

"§ 1705. Department of Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Fund

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish a fund to be known as the 'Department of Defense Acquisition Workforce Fund' (in this section referred to as the 'Fund') to provide funds, in addition to other funds that may be available, for the recruitment, training, and retention of acquisition personnel of the Department of Defense.

''(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Fund is to ensure that the Department of Defense acquisition workforce has the capacity, in both personnel and skills, needed to properly perform its mission, provide appropriate oversight of contractor performance, and ensure that the Department receives the best value for the expenditure of public resources.

''(c) MANAGEMENT.—The Fund shall be managed by a senior official of the Department of Defense designated by the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics for that purpose, from among persons with an extensive background in management relating to acquisition and personnel.

''(d) ELEMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Fund shall consist of amounts as follows:

''(A) Amounts credited to the Fund under paragraph (2).

''(B) Any other amounts appropriated to, credited to, or deposited into the Fund by law.

''(2) CREDITS TO THE FUND.—(A) There shall be credited to the Fund an amount equal to the applicable percentage for a fiscal year of all amounts expended by the Department of Defense in such fiscal year for contract services, other than services relating to research and development and services relating to military construction.

''(B) Not later than 30 days after the end of the third fiscal year quarter of fiscal year 2008, and 30 days after the end of each fiscal year quarter thereafter, the head of each military department and Defense Agency shall remit to the Secretary of Defense an amount equal to the applicable percentage for such fiscal year of the amount expended by such military department or Defense Agency, as the case may be, during such fiscal year quarter for services covered by subparagraph (A). Any amount so remitted shall be credited to the Fund under subparagraph (A).

''(C) For purposes of this paragraph, the applicable percentage for a fiscal year is a percentage as follows:

''(i) For fiscal year 2008, 0.5 percent.

''(ii) For fiscal year 2009, 1 percent.

''(iii) For fiscal year 2010, 1.5 percent.

''(iv) For any fiscal year after fiscal year 2010, 2 percent.

''(D) The Secretary of Defense may reduce a percentage established in subparagraph (C) for any fiscal year, if he determines that the application of such percentage would result in the crediting of an amount greater than is reasonably needed for the purpose of the Fund. In no event may the Secretary reduce a percentage for any fiscal year below a percentage that results in the deposit in a fiscal year of an amount equal to the following:

''(i) For fiscal year 2008, $300,000,000.

''(ii) For fiscal year 2009, $400,000,000.

''(iii) For fiscal year 2010, $500,000,000.

''(iv) For any fiscal year after fiscal year 2010, $600,000,000.

''(e) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the provisions of this subsection, amounts in the Fund shall be available to the Secretary of Defense for expenditure, or for transfer to a military department or Defense Agency, for the recruitment, training, and retention of acquisition personnel of the Department of Defense for the purpose of the Fund, including for the provision of training and retention incentives to the acquisition workforce of the Department.

''(2) PROHIBITION.—Amounts in the Fund may not be obligated for any purpose other than purposes described in paragraph (1) or otherwise in accordance with this subsection.

''(3) GUIDANCE.—The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, acting through the senior official designated to manage the Fund, shall issue guidance for the administration of the Fund. Such guidance shall include provisions—

''(A) identifying areas of need in the acquisition workforce for which amounts in the Fund may be used, including—

''(i) changes to the types of skills needed in the acquisition workforce;

''(ii) incentives to retain in the acquisition workforce qualified, experienced acquisition workforce personnel; and

''(iii) incentives for attracting new, high-quality personnel to the acquisition workforce;

''(B) describing the manner and timing for applications for amounts in the Fund to be submitted;

''(C) describing the evaluation criteria to be used for approving or prioritizing applications for amounts in the Fund in any fiscal year; and

''(D) describing measurable objectives of performance for determining whether amounts in the Fund are being used in compliance with this section.

''(4) LIMITATION ON PAYMENTS TO OR FOR CONTRACTORS.—Amounts in the Fund shall not be available for payments to contractors or contractor employees, other than for the purpose of providing advanced training to Department of Defense employees.

''(5) PROHIBITION ON PAYMENT OF BASE SALARY OF CURRENT EMPLOYEES.—Amounts in the Fund may not be used to pay the base salary of any person who was an employee of the Department as of the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.

''(6) DURATION OF AVAILABILITY.—Amounts credited to the Fund under subsection (d)(2) shall remain available for expenditure in the fiscal year for which credited and the two succeeding fiscal years.

''(f) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the end of each fiscal year beginning with fiscal year 2008, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the operation of the Fund during such fiscal year. Each report shall include, for the fiscal year covered by such report, the following:

''(1) A statement of the amounts remitted to the Secretary for crediting to the Fund for such fiscal year by each military department and Defense Agency, and a statement of the amounts credited to the Fund for such fiscal year.

''(2) A description of the expenditures made from the Fund (including expenditures following a transfer of amounts in the Fund to a military department or Defense Agency) in such fiscal year, including the purpose of such expenditures.

''(3) A description and assessment of improvements in the Department of Defense acquisition workforce resulting from such expenditures.

''(4) Recommendations for additional authorities to fulfill the purpose of the Fund.

''(5) A statement of the balance remaining in the Fund at the end of such fiscal year.

''(g) ACQUISITION WORKFORCE DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'acquisition workforce' means personnel in positions designated under section 1721 of this title as acquisition positions for purposes of this chapter.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of subchapter I of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1704 the following new item:

''1705. Department of Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Fund.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 1705 of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 853. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO FILL SHORTAGE CATEGORY POSITIONS FOR CERTAIN FEDERAL ACQUISITION POSITIONS.

Section 1413(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (Public Law 108–136; 117 Stat. 1665) is amended by striking ''September 30, 2007'' and inserting ''September 30, 2012''.

SEC. 854. REPEAL OF SUNSET OF ACQUISITION WORKFORCE TRAINING FUND.

Section 37(h)(3) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 433(h)(3)) is amended by striking subparagraph (H).

SEC. 855. FEDERAL ACQUISITION WORKFORCE IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR FOR ACQUISITION WORKFORCE PROGRAMS.—The Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy shall designate a member of the Senior Executive Service as the Associate Administrator for Acquisition Workforce Programs. The Associate Administrator for Acquisition Workforce Programs shall be located in the Federal Acquisition Institute (or its successor). The Associate Administrator shall be responsible for—

(1) supervising the acquisition workforce training fund established under section 37(h)(3) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U. S. C. 433(h)(3));

(2) developing, in coordination with Chief Acquisition Officers and Chief Human Capital Officers, a strategic human capital plan for the acquisition workforce of the Federal Government;

(3) reviewing and providing input to individual agency acquisition workforce succession plans;

(4) recommending to the Administrator and other senior government officials appropriate programs, policies, and practices to increase the quantity and quality of the Federal acquisition workforce; and

(5) carrying out such other functions as the Administrator may assign.

(b) ACQUISITION AND CONTRACTING TRAINING PROGRAMS WITHIN EXECUTIVE AGENCIES.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—The head of each executive agency, after consultation with the Associate Administrator for Acquisition Workforce Programs, shall establish and operate acquisition and contracting training programs. Such programs shall—

(A) have curricula covering a broad range of acquisition and contracting disciplines corresponding to the specific acquisition and contracting needs of the agency involved;

(B) be developed and applied according to rigorous standards; and

(C) be designed to maximize efficiency, through the use of self-paced courses, online courses, on-the-job training, and the use of remote instructors, wherever such features

can be applied without reducing the effectiveness of the training or negatively affecting academic standards.

(2) CHIEF ACQUISITION OFFICER AUTHORITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—Subject to the authority, direction, and control of the head of an executive agency, the Chief Acquisition Officer for such agency shall carry out all powers, functions, and duties of the head of the agency with respect to implementation of this subsection. The Chief Acquisition Officer shall ensure that the policies established by the head of the agency in accordance with this subsection are implemented throughout the agency.

(c) GOVERNMENT-WIDE POLICIES AND EVALUATION.—The Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy shall issue policies to promote the development of performance standards for training and uniform implementation of this section by executive agencies, with due regard for differences in program requirements among agencies that may be appropriate and warranted in view of the agency mission. The Administrator shall evaluate the implementation of the provisions of subsection (b) by executive agencies.

(d) ACQUISITION AND CONTRACTING TRAINING REPORTING.—The Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy shall ensure that the heads of executive agencies collect and maintain standardized information on the acquisition and contracting workforce related to the implementation of subsection (b).

(e) ACQUISITION WORKFORCE HUMAN CAPITAL SUCCESSION PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, each Chief Acquisition Officer for an executive agency shall develop, in consultation with the Chief Human Capital Officer for the agency and the Associate Administrator for Acquisition Workforce Programs, a succession plan consistent with the agency's strategic human capital plan for the recruitment, development, and retention of the agency's acquisition workforce, with a particular focus on warranted contracting officers and program managers of the agency.

(2) CONTENT OF PLAN.—The acquisition workforce succession plan shall address—

(A) recruitment goals for personnel from procurement intern programs;

(B) the agency's acquisition workforce training needs;

(C) actions to retain high performing acquisition professionals who possess critical relevant skills;

(D) recruitment goals for personnel from the Federal Career Intern Program; and

(E) recruitment goals for personnel from the Presidential Management Fellows Program.

(f) TRAINING IN THE ACQUISITION OF ARCHITECT AND ENGINEERING SERVICES.—The Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy shall ensure that a sufficient number of Federal employees are trained in the acquisition of architect and engineering services.

(g) UTILIZATION OF RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION AUTHORITIES.—The Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, shall encourage executive agencies to utilize existing authorities, including direct hire authority and tuition assistance programs, to recruit and retain acquisition personnel and consider recruiting acquisition personnel who may be retiring from the private sector, consistent with existing laws and regulations.

(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—The term ''executive agency'' has the meaning provided in section 4(1) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 403(1)).

(2) CHIEF ACQUISITION OFFICER.—The term ''Chief Acquisition Officer'' means a Chief Acquisition Officer for an executive agency appointed pursuant to section 16 of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 414).

Subtitle F—Contracts in Iraq and Afghanistan

SEC. 861. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON MATTERS RELATING TO CONTRACTING.

(a) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall, not later than July 1, 2008, enter into a memorandum of understanding regarding matters relating to contracting for contracts in Iraq or Afghanistan.

(b) MATTERS COVERED.—The memorandum of understanding required by subsection (a) shall address, at a minimum, the following:

(1) Identification of the major categories of contracts in Iraq or Afghanistan being awarded by the Department of Defense, the Department of State, or the United States Agency for International Development.

(2) Identification of the roles and responsibilities of each department or agency for matters relating to contracting for contracts in Iraq or Afghanistan.

(3) Responsibility for establishing procedures for, and the coordination of, movement of contractor personnel in Iraq or Afghanistan.

(4) Identification of common databases that will serve as repositories of information on contracts in Iraq or Afghanistan and contractor personnel in Iraq or Afghanistan, including agreement on the elements to be included in the databases, including, at a minimum—

(A) with respect to each contract—

(i) a brief description of the contract (to the extent consistent with security considerations);

(ii) the total value of the contract; and

(iii) whether the contract was awarded competitively; and

(B) with respect to contractor personnel—

(i) the total number of personnel employed on contracts in Iraq or Afghanistan;

(ii) the total number of personnel performing security functions under contracts in Iraq or Afghanistan; and

(iii) the total number of personnel working under contracts in Iraq or Afghanistan who have been killed or wounded.

(5) Responsibility for maintaining and updating information in the common databases identified under paragraph (4).

(6) Responsibility for the collection and referral to the appropriate Government agency of any information relating to offenses under chapter 47 of title 10, United States Code (the Uniform Code of Military Justice) or chapter 212 of title 18, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act), including a clarification of responsibilities under section 802(a)(10) of title 10, United States Code (article 2(a) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), as amended by section 552 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364).

(c) IMPLEMENTATION OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—Not later than 120 days after the memorandum of understanding required by subsection (a) is signed, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall issue such policies or guidance and prescribe such regulations as are necessary to implement the memorandum of understanding for the relevant matters pertaining to their respective agencies.

(d) COPIES PROVIDED TO CONGRESS.—

(1) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—Copies of the memorandum of understanding required by subsection (a) shall be provided to the relevant committees of Congress within 30 days after the memorandum is signed.

(2) REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 180 days after the memorandum of understanding required by subsection (a) is signed, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall each provide a report to the relevant committees of Congress on the implementation of the memorandum of understanding.

(3) DATABASES.—The Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, or the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall provide access to the common databases identified under subsection (b)(4) to the relevant committees of Congress.

(4) CONTRACTS.—Effective on the date of the enactment of this Act, copies of any contracts in Iraq or Afghanistan awarded after December 1, 2007, shall be provided to any of the relevant committees of Congress within 15 days after the submission of a request for such contract or contracts from such committee to the department or agency managing the contract.

SEC. 862. CONTRACTORS PERFORMING PRIVATE SECURITY FUNCTIONS IN AREAS OF COMBAT OPERATIONS.

(a) REGULATIONS ON CONTRACTORS PERFORMING PRIVATE SECURITY FUNCTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall prescribe regulations on the selection, training, equipping, and conduct of personnel performing private security functions under a covered contract in an area of combat operations.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The regulations prescribed under subsection (a) shall, at a minimum, establish—

(A) a process for registering, processing, accounting for, and keeping appropriate records of personnel performing private security functions in an area of combat operations;

(B) a process for authorizing and accounting for weapons to be carried by, or available to be used by, personnel performing private security functions in an area of combat operations;

(C) a process for the registration and identification of armored vehicles, helicopters, and other military vehicles operated by contractors performing private security functions in an area of combat operations;

(D) a process under which contractors are required to report all incidents, and persons other than contractors are permitted to report incidents, in which—

(i) a weapon is discharged by personnel performing private security functions in an area of combat operations;

(ii) personnel performing private security functions in an area of combat operations are killed or injured; or

(iii) persons are killed or injured, or property is destroyed, as a result of conduct by contractor personnel;

(E) a process for the independent review and, if practicable, investigation of—

(i) incidents reported pursuant to subparagraph (D); and

(ii) incidents of alleged misconduct by personnel performing private security functions in an area of combat operations;

(F) requirements for qualification, training, screening (including, if practicable, through background checks), and security for personnel performing private security functions in an area of combat operations;

(G) guidance to the commanders of the combatant commands on the issuance of—

(i) orders, directives, and instructions to contractors performing private security functions relating to equipment, force protection, security, health, safety, or relations and interaction with locals;

(ii) predeployment training requirements for personnel performing private security functions in an area of combat operations, addressing the requirements of this section, resources and assistance available to contractor personnel, country information and cultural training, and guidance on working with host country nationals and military; and

(iii) rules on the use of force for personnel performing private security functions in an area of combat operations;

(H) a process by which a commander of a combatant command may request an action described in subsection (b)(3); and

(I) a process by which the training requirements referred to in subparagraph (G)(ii) shall be implemented.

(3) AVAILABILITY OF ORDERS, DIRECTIVES, AND INSTRUCTIONS.—The regulations prescribed under subsection (a) shall include mechanisms to ensure the provision and availability of the orders, directives, and instructions referred to in paragraph (2)(G)(i) to contractors referred to in that paragraph, including through the maintenance of a single location (including an Internet website, to the extent consistent with security considerations) at or through which such contractors may access such orders, directives, and instructions.

(b) CONTRACT CLAUSE ON CONTRACTORS PERFORMING PRIVATE SECURITY FUNCTIONS.—

(1) REQUIREMENT UNDER FAR.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Acquisition Regulation issued in accordance with section 25 of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 421) shall be revised to require the insertion into each covered contract (or, in the case of a task order, the contract under which the task order is issued) of a contract clause addressing the selection, training, equipping, and conduct of personnel performing private security functions under such contract.

(2) CLAUSE REQUIREMENT.—The contract clause required by paragraph (1) shall require, at a minimum, that the contractor concerned shall—

(A) comply with regulations prescribed under subsection (a), including any revisions or updates to such regulations, and follow the procedures established in such regulations for—

(i) registering, processing, accounting for, and keeping appropriate records of personnel performing private security functions in an area of combat operations;

(ii) authorizing and accounting of weapons to be carried by, or available to be used by, personnel performing private security functions in an area of combat operations;

(iii) registration and identification of armored vehicles, helicopters, and other military vehicles operated by contractors and subcontractors performing private security functions in an area of combat operations; and

(iv) the reporting of incidents in which—

(I) a weapon is discharged by personnel performing private security functions in an area of combat operations;

(II) personnel performing private security functions in an area of combat operations are killed or injured; or

(III) persons are killed or injured, or property is destroyed, as a result of conduct by contractor personnel;

(B) ensure that all personnel performing private security functions under such contract are briefed on and understand their obligation to comply with—

(i) qualification, training, screening (including, if practicable, through background checks), and security requirements established by the Secretary of Defense for personnel performing private security functions in an area of combat operations;

(ii) applicable laws and regulations of the United States and the host country, and applicable treaties and international agreements, regarding the performance of the functions of the contractor;

(iii) orders, directives, and instructions issued by the applicable commander of a combatant command relating to equipment, force protection, security, health, safety, or relations and interaction with locals; and

(iv) rules on the use of force issued by the applicable commander of a combatant command for personnel performing private security functions in an area of combat operations; and

(C) cooperate with any investigation conducted by the Department of Defense pursuant to subsection (a)(2)(E) by providing access to employees of the contractor and relevant information in the possession of the contractor regarding the incident concerned.

(3) NONCOMPLIANCE OF PERSONNEL WITH CLAUSE.—The contracting officer for a covered contract may direct the contractor, at its own expense, to remove or replace any personnel performing private security functions in an area of combat operations who violate or fail to comply with applicable requirements of the clause required by this subsection. If the violation or failure to comply is a gross violation or failure or is repeated, the contract may be terminated for default.

(4) APPLICABILITY.—The contract clause required by this subsection shall be included in all covered contracts awarded on or after the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act. Federal agencies shall make best efforts to provide for the inclusion of the contract clause required by this subsection in covered contracts awarded before such date.

(5) INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT ON PILOT PROGRAM ON IMPOSITION OF FINES FOR NONCOMPLIANCE OF PERSONNEL WITH CLAUSE.—Not later than March 30, 2008, the Inspector General of the Department of Defense shall submit to Congress a report assessing the feasibility and advisability of carrying out a pilot program for the imposition of fines on contractors for personnel who violate or fail to comply with applicable requirements of the clause required by this section as a mechanism for enhancing the compliance of such personnel with the clause. The report shall include—

(A) an assessment of the feasibility and advisability of carrying out the pilot program; and

(B) if the Inspector General determines that carrying out the pilot program is feasible and advisable—

(i) recommendations on the range of contracts and subcontracts to which the pilot program should apply; and

(ii) a schedule of fines to be imposed under the pilot program for various types of personnel actions or failures.

(c) AREAS OF COMBAT OPERATIONS.—

(1) DESIGNATION.—The Secretary of Defense shall designate the areas constituting an area of combat operations for purposes of this section by not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) PARTICULAR AREAS.—Iraq and Afghanistan shall be included in the areas designated as an area of combat operations under paragraph (1).

(3) ADDITIONAL AREAS.—The Secretary may designate any additional area as an area constituting an area of combat operations for purposes of this section if the Secretary determines that the presence or potential of combat operations in such area warrants designation of such area as an area of combat operations for purposes of this section.

(4) MODIFICATION OR ELIMINATION OF DESIGNATION.—The Secretary may modify or cease the designation of an area under this subsection as an area of combat operations if the Secretary determines that combat operations are no longer ongoing in such area.

(d) EXCEPTION.—The requirements of this section shall not apply to contracts entered into by elements of the intelligence community in support of intelligence activities.

SEC. 863. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEWS AND REPORTS ON CONTRACTING IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN.

(a) REVIEWS AND REPORTS REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Every 12 months, the Comptroller General shall review contracts in Iraq or Afghanistan and submit to the relevant committees of Congress a report on such review.

(2) MATTERS COVERED.—A report under this subsection shall cover the following with respect to the contracts in Iraq or Afghanistan reviewed for the report:

(A) Total number of contracts and task orders awarded during the period covered by the report.

(B) Total number of active contracts and task orders.

(C) Total value of all contracts and task orders awarded during the reporting period.

(D) Total value of active contracts and task orders.

(E) The extent to which such contracts have used competitive procedures.

(F) Total number of contractor personnel working on contracts during the reporting period.

(G) Total number of contractor personnel, on average, who are performing security functions during the reporting period.

(H) The number of contractor personnel killed or wounded during the reporting period.

(I) Information on any specific contract or class of contracts that the Comptroller General determines raises issues of significant concern.

(3) SUBMISSION OF REPORTS.—The Comptroller General shall submit an initial report under this subsection not later than October 1, 2008, and shall submit an updated report every year thereafter until October 1, 2010.

(b) ACCESS TO DATABASES ON CONTRACTS.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State shall provide full access to the databases described in section 861(b)(4) to the Comptroller General for purposes of the reviews carried out under this section.

SEC. 864. DEFINITIONS AND OTHER GENERAL PROVISIONS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this subtitle:

(1) MATTERS RELATING TO CONTRACTING.—The term ''matters relating to contracting'', with respect to contracts in Iraq and Afghanistan, means all matters relating to awarding, funding, managing, tracking, monitoring, and providing oversight to contracts and contractor personnel.

(2) CONTRACT IN IRAQ OR AFGHANISTAN.—The term ''contract in Iraq or Afghanistan'' means a contract with the Department of Defense, the Department of State, or the United States Agency for International Development, a subcontract at any tier issued under such a contract, or a task order or delivery order at any tier issued under such a contract (including a contract, subcontract, or task order or delivery order issued by another Government agency for the Department of Defense, the Department of State, or the United States Agency for International Development), if the contract, subcontract, or task order or delivery order involves

worked performed in Iraq or Afghanistan for a period longer than 14 days.

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

(A) a contract of a Federal agency for the performance of services in an area of combat operations, as designated by the Secretary of Defense under subsection (c) of section 862;

(B) a subcontract at any tier under such a contract; or

(C) a task order or delivery order issued under such a contract or subcontract.

(4) CONTRACTOR.—The term ''contractor'', with respect to a covered contract, means the contractor or subcontractor carrying out the covered contract.

(5) PRIVATE SECURITY FUNCTIONS.—The term ''private security functions'' means activities engaged in by a contractor under a covered contract as follows:

(A) Guarding of personnel, facilities, or property of a Federal agency, the contractor or subcontractor, or a third party.

(B) Any other activity for which personnel are required to carry weapons in the performance of their duties.

(6) RELEVANT COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''relevant committees of Congress'' means each of the following committees:

(A) The Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

(B) The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives.

(C) The Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(D) For purposes of contracts relating to the National Foreign Intelligence Program, the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(b) CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—Nothing in this subtitle shall be interpreted to require the handling of classified information or information relating to intelligence sources and methods in a manner inconsistent with any law, regulation, executive order, or rule of the House of Representatives or of the Senate relating to the handling or protection of such information.

Subtitle G—Defense Materiel Readiness Board

SEC. 871. ESTABLISHMENT OF DEFENSE MATERIEL READINESS BOARD.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall establish a Defense Materiel Readiness Board (in this subtitle referred to as the ''Board'') within the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Secretary shall appoint the chairman and the members of the Board from among officers of the Armed Forces with expertise in matters relevant to the function of the Board to assess materiel readiness and evaluate plans and policies relating to materiel readiness. At a minimum, the Board shall include representatives of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, each of the Armed Forces, and each of the reserve components of the Armed Forces.

(c) STAFF.—The Secretary of Defense shall assign staff, and request the Secretaries of the military departments to assign staff, as necessary to assist the Board in carrying out its duties.

(d) FUNCTIONS.—The Board shall provide independent assessments of materiel readiness, materiel readiness shortfalls, and materiel readiness plans to the Secretary of Defense and the Congress. To carry out such functions, the Board shall—

(1) monitor and assess the materiel readiness of the Armed Forces;

(2) assist the Secretary of Defense in the identification of deficiencies in the materiel readiness of the Armed Forces caused by shortfalls in weapons systems, equipment, and supplies;

(3) identify shortfalls in materiel readiness, including critical materiel readiness shortfalls, for purposes of the Secretary's designations under section 872 and the funding needed to address such shortfalls;

(4) assess the adequacy of current Department of Defense plans, policies, and programs to address shortfalls in materiel readiness, including critical materiel readiness shortfalls (as designated by the Secretary under section 872), and to sustain and improve materiel readiness;

(5) assist the Secretary of Defense in determining whether the industrial capacity of the Department of Defense and of the defense industrial base is being best utilized to support the materiel readiness needs of the Armed Forces;

(6) review and assess Department of Defense systems for measuring the status of current materiel readiness of the Armed Forces; and

(7) make recommendations with respect to materiel readiness funding, measurement techniques, plans, policies, and programs.

(e) REPORTS.—The Board shall submit to the Secretary of Defense a report summarizing its findings and recommendations not less than once every six months. Within 30 days after receiving a report from the Board, the Secretary shall forward the report in its entirety, together with his comments, to the congressional defense committees. The report shall be submitted in unclassified form. To the extent necessary, the report may be accompanied by a classified annex.

SEC. 872. CRITICAL MATERIEL READINESS SHORTFALLS.

(a) DESIGNATION OF CRITICAL MATERIEL READINESS SHORTFALLS.—

(1) DESIGNATION.—The Secretary of Defense may designate any requirement of the Armed Forces for equipment or supplies as a critical materiel readiness shortfall if there is a shortfall in the required equipment or supplies that materially reduces readiness of the Armed Forces and that—

(A) cannot be adequately addressed by identifying acceptable substitute capabilities or cross leveling of equipment that does not unacceptably reduce the readiness of other Armed Forces; and

(B) that is likely to persist for more than two years based on currently projected budgets and schedules for deliveries of equipment and supplies.

(2) CONSIDERATION OF BOARD FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—In making any such designation, the Secretary shall take into consideration the findings and recommendations of the Defense Materiel Readiness Board.

(b) MEASURES TO ADDRESS CRITICAL MATERIEL READINESS SHORTFALLS.—The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that critical materiel readiness shortfalls designated pursuant to subsection (a)(1) are transmitted to the relevant officials of the Department of Defense responsible for requirements, budgets, and acquisition, and that such officials prioritize and address such shortfalls in the shortest time frame practicable.

(c) TRANSFER AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amounts of authorizations that the Secretary may transfer under the authority of section 1001 of this Act is hereby increased by $2,000,000,000.

(2) LIMITATIONS.—The additional transfer authority provided by this section—

(A) may be made only from authorizations to the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2008;

(B) may be exercised solely for the purpose of addressing critical materiel readiness shortfalls as designated by the Secretary of Defense under subsection (a); and

(C) is subject to the same terms, conditions, and procedures as other transfer authority under section 1001 of this Act.

(d) STRATEGIC READINESS FUND.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established on the books of the Treasury a fund to be known as the Department of Defense Strategic Readiness Fund (in this subsection referred to as the ''Fund''), which shall be administered by the Secretary of the Treasury.

(2) PURPOSES.—The Fund shall be used to address critical materiel readiness shortfalls as designated by the Secretary of Defense under subsection (a).

(3) ASSETS OF FUND.—There shall be deposited into the Fund any amount appropriated to the Fund, which shall constitute the assets of the Fund.

(4) LIMITATION.—The procurement unit cost (as defined in section 2432(a) of title 10, United States Code) of any item purchased using assets of the Fund, whether such assets are in the Fund or after such assets have been transferred from the Fund using the authority provided in subsection (c), shall not exceed $30,000,000.

(e) MULTIYEAR CONTRACT NOTIFICATION.—

(1) NOTIFICATION.—If the Secretary of a military department makes the determination described in paragraph (2) with respect to the use of a multiyear contract, the Secretary shall notify the congressional defense committees within 30 days of the determination and provide a detailed description of the proposed multiyear contract.

(2) DETERMINATION.—The determination referred to in paragraph (1) is a determination by the Secretary of a military department that the use of a multiyear contract to procure an item to address a critical materiel readiness shortfall—

(A) will significantly accelerate efforts to address a critical materiel readiness shortfall;

(B) will provide savings compared to the total anticipated costs of carrying out the contract through annual contracts; and

(C) will serve the interest of national security.

(f) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''critical materiel readiness shortfall'' means a critical materiel readiness shortfall designated by the Secretary of Defense under this section.

Subtitle H—Other Matters

SEC. 881. CLEARINGHOUSE FOR RAPID IDENTIFICATION AND DISSEMINATION OF COMMERCIAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES.

(a) REQUIREMENT TO ESTABLISH CLEARINGHOUSE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, acting through the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Networks and Information Integration, shall establish a clearinghouse for identifying, assessing, and disseminating knowledge about readily available information technologies (with an emphasis on commercial off-the-shelf information technologies) that could support the warfighting mission of the Department of Defense.

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The clearinghouse established pursuant to subsection (a) shall be responsible for the following:

(1) Developing a process to rapidly assess and set priorities and needs for significant information technology needs of the Department of Defense that could be met by commercial technologies, including a process for—

(A) aligning priorities and needs with the requirements of the commanders of the combatant command; and

(B) proposing recommendations to the commanders of the combatant command of

feasible technical solutions for further evaluation.

(2) Identifying and assessing emerging commercial technologies (including commercial off-the-shelf technologies) that could support the warfighting mission of the Department of Defense, including the priorities and needs identified pursuant to paragraph (1).

(3) Disseminating information about commercial technologies identified pursuant to paragraph (2) to commanders of combatant commands and other potential users of such technologies.

(4) Identifying gaps in commercial technologies and working to stimulate investment in research and development in the public and private sectors to address those gaps.

(5) Enhancing internal data and communications systems of the Department of Defense for sharing and retaining information regarding commercial technology priorities and needs, technologies available to meet such priorities and needs, and ongoing research and development directed toward gaps in such technologies.

(6) Developing mechanisms, including web-based mechanisms, to facilitate communications with industry regarding the priorities and needs of the Department of Defense identified pursuant to paragraph (1) and commercial technologies available to address such priorities and needs.

(7) Assisting in the development of guides to help small information technology companies with promising technologies to understand and navigate the funding and acquisition processes of the Department of Defense.

(8) Developing methods to measure how well processes developed by the clearinghouse are being utilized and to collect data on an ongoing basis to assess the benefits of commercial technologies that are procured on the recommendation of the clearinghouse.

(c) PERSONNEL.—The Secretary of Defense, acting through the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Networks and Information Integration, shall provide for the hiring and support of employees (including detailees from other components of the Department of Defense and from other Federal departments or agencies) to assist in identifying, assessing, and disseminating information regarding commercial technologies under this section.

(d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the implementation of this section.

SEC. 882. AUTHORITY TO LICENSE CERTAIN MILITARY DESIGNATIONS AND LIKENESSES OF WEAPONS SYSTEMS TO TOY AND HOBBY MANUFACTURERS.

(a) AUTHORITY TO LICENSE CERTAIN ITEMS.—Section 2260 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (c), (d), and (e) as subsections (d), (e), and (f), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection:

''(c) LICENSES FOR QUALIFYING COMPANIES.—(1) The Secretary concerned may license trademarks, service marks, certification marks, and collective marks owned or controlled by the Secretary relating to military designations and likenesses of military weapons systems to any qualifying company upon receipt of a request from the company.

''(2) For purposes of paragraph (1), a qualifying company is any United States company that—

''(A) is a toy or hobby manufacturer; and

''(B) is determined by the Secretary concerned to be qualified in accordance with such criteria as determined appropriate by the Secretary of Defense.

''(3) The fee for a license under this subsection shall not exceed by more than a nominal amount the amount needed to recover all costs of the Department of Defense in processing the request for the license and supplying the license.

''(4) A license to a qualifying company under this subsection shall provide that the license may not be transferred, sold, or relicensed by the qualifying company.

''(5) A license under this subsection shall not be an exclusive license.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regulations to implement the amendment made by this section not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 883. MODIFICATIONS TO LIMITATION ON CONTRACTS TO ACQUIRE MILITARY FLIGHT SIMULATOR.

(a) EFFECT ON EXISTING CONTRACTS.—Section 832 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2331) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(e) EFFECT ON EXISTING CONTRACTS.—The limitation in subsection (a) does not apply to any service contract of a military department to acquire a military flight simulator, or to any renewal or extension of, or follow-on contract to, such a contract, if—

''(1) the contract was in effect as of October 17, 2006;

''(2) the number of flight simulators to be acquired under the contract (or renewal, extension, or follow-on) will not result in the total number of flight simulators acquired by the military department concerned through service contracts to exceed the total number of flight simulators to be acquired under all service contracts of such department for such simulators in effect as of October 17, 2006; and

''(3) in the case of a renewal or extension of, or follow-on contract to, the contract, the Secretary of the military department concerned provides to the congressional defense committees a written notice of the decision to exercise an option to renew or extend the contract, or to issue a solicitation for bids or proposals using competitive procedures for a follow-on contract, and an economic analysis as described in subsection (c) supporting the decision, at least 30 days before carrying out such decision.''.

(b) CHANGE IN GROUNDS FOR WAIVER.—Section 832(c)(1) of such Act, as redesignated by subsection (a), is amend by striking ''necessary for national security purposes'' and inserting ''in the national interest''.

SEC. 884. REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO WAIVERS OF CERTAIN DOMESTIC SOURCE LIMITATIONS RELATING TO SPECIALTY METALS.

(a) NOTICE REQUIREMENT.—At least 30 days prior to making a domestic nonavailability determination pursuant to section 2533b(b) of title 10, United States Code, that would apply to more than one contract of the Department of Defense, the Secretary of Defense shall, to the maximum extent practicable and in a manner consistent with the protection of national security information and confidential business information—

(1) publish a notice on the website maintained by the General Services Administration known as FedBizOpps.gov (or any successor site) of the Secretary's intent to make the domestic nonavailability determination; and

(2) solicit information relevant to such notice from interested parties, including producers of specialty metal mill products.

(b) DETERMINATION.—(1) The Secretary shall take into consideration all information submitted pursuant to subsection (a) in making a domestic nonavailability determination pursuant to section 2533b(b) of title 10, United States Code, that would apply to more than one contract of the Department of Defense, and may also consider other relevant information that cannot be made part of the public record consistent with the protection of national security information and confidential business information.

(2) The Secretary shall ensure that any such determination and the rationale for such determination is made publicly available to the maximum extent consistent with the protection of national security information and confidential business information.

SEC. 885. TELEPHONE SERVICES FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL SERVING IN COMBAT ZONES.

(a) COMPETITIVE PROCEDURES REQUIRED.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—When the Secretary of Defense considers it necessary to provide morale, welfare, and recreation telephone services for military personnel serving in combat zones, the Secretary shall use competitive procedures when entering into a contract to provide those services.

(2) REVIEW AND DETERMINATION.—Before soliciting bids or proposals for new contracts, or considering extensions to existing contracts, to provide morale, welfare, and recreation telephone services for military personnel serving in combat zones, the Secretary shall review and determine whether it is in the best interest of the Department to require bids or proposals, or adjustments for the purpose of extending a contract, to include options that minimize the cost of the telephone services to individual users while providing individual users the flexibility of using phone cards from other than the prospective contractor. The Secretary shall submit the results of this review and determination to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—Subsection (a)(1) shall apply to any new contract to provide morale, welfare, and recreation telephone services for military personnel serving in combat zones that is entered into after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) REVIEW AND DETERMINATION.—Subsection (a)(2) shall apply to any new contract or extension to an existing contract to provide morale, welfare, and recreation telephone services for military personnel serving in combat zones that is entered into or agreed upon after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 886. ENHANCED AUTHORITY TO ACQUIRE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES PRODUCED IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a product or service to be acquired in support of military operations or stability operations in Iraq or Afghanistan (including security, transition, reconstruction, and humanitarian relief activities) for which the Secretary of Defense makes a determination described in subsection (b), the Secretary may conduct a procurement in which—

(1) competition is limited to products or services that are from Iraq or Afghanistan;

(2) procedures other than competitive procedures are used to award a contract to a particular source or sources from Iraq or Afghanistan; or

(3) a preference is provided for products or services that are from Iraq or Afghanistan.

(b) DETERMINATION.—A determination described in this subsection is a determination by the Secretary that—

(1) the product or service concerned is to be used only by the military forces, police, or other security personnel of Iraq or Afghanistan; or

(2) it is in the national security interest of the United States to limit competition, use

procedures other than competitive procedures, or provide a preference as described in subsection (a) because—

(A) such limitation, procedure, or preference is necessary to provide a stable source of jobs in Iraq or Afghanistan; and

(B) such limitation, procedure, or preference will not adversely affect—

(i) military operations or stability operations in Iraq or Afghanistan; or

(ii) the United States industrial base.

(c) PRODUCTS, SERVICES, AND SOURCES FROM IRAQ OR AFGHANISTAN.—For the purposes of this section:

(1) A product is from Iraq or Afghanistan if it is mined, produced, or manufactured in Iraq or Afghanistan.

(2) A service is from Iraq or Afghanistan if it is performed in Iraq or Afghanistan by citizens or permanent resident aliens of Iraq or Afghanistan.

(3) A source is from Iraq or Afghanistan if it—

(A) is located in Iraq or Afghanistan; and

(B) offers products or services that are from Iraq or Afghanistan.

SEC. 887. DEFENSE SCIENCE BOARD REVIEW OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE ACQUISITION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.

(a) REVIEW REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall direct the Defense Science Board to carry out a review of Department of Defense policies and procedures for the acquisition of information technology.

(b) MATTERS TO BE ADDRESSED.—The matters addressed by the review required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Department of Defense policies and procedures for acquiring national security systems, business information systems, and other information technology.

(2) The roles and responsibilities in implementing such policies and procedures of—

(A) the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics;

(B) the Chief Information Officer of the Department of Defense;

(C) the Director of the Business Transformation Agency;

(D) the service acquisition executives;

(E) the chief information officers of the military departments;

(F) Defense Agency acquisition officials;

(G) the information officers of the Defense Agencies; and

(H) the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation and the heads of the operational test organizations of the military departments and the Defense Agencies.

(3) The application of such policies and procedures to information technologies that are an integral part of weapons or weapon systems.

(4) The requirements of subtitle III of title 40, United States Code, and chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, regarding performance-based and results-based management, capital planning, and investment control in the acquisition of information technology.

(5) Department of Defense policies and procedures for maximizing the usage of commercial information technology while ensuring the security of the microelectronics, software, and networks of the Department.

(6) The suitability of Department of Defense acquisition regulations, including Department of Defense Directive 5000.1 and the accompanying milestones, to the acquisition of information technology systems.

(7) The adequacy and transparency of metrics used by the Department of Defense for the acquisition of information technology systems.

(8) The effectiveness of existing statutory and regulatory reporting requirements for the acquisition of information technology systems.

(9) The adequacy of operational and development test resources (including infrastructure and personnel), policies, and procedures to ensure appropriate testing of information technology systems both during development and before operational use.

(10) The appropriate policies and procedures for technology assessment, development, and operational testing for purposes of the adoption of commercial technologies into information technology systems.

(c) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the results of the review required by subsection (a). The report shall include the findings and recommendations of the Defense Science Board pursuant to the review, including such recommendations for legislative or administrative action as the Board considers appropriate, together with any comments the Secretary considers appropriate.

SEC. 888. GREEN PROCUREMENT POLICY.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Department of Defense should establish a system to document and track the use of environmentally preferable products and services.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report on a plan to increase the usage of environmentally friendly products that minimize potential impacts to human health and the environment at all Department of Defense facilities inside and outside the United States, including through the direct purchase of products and the purchase of products by facility maintenance contractors. The report shall also cover consideration of the budgetary impact of implementation of the plan.

SEC. 889. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW OF USE OF AUTHORITY UNDER THE DEFENSE PRODUCTION ACT OF 1950.

(a) THOROUGH REVIEW REQUIRED.—The Comptroller General of the United States (in this section referred to as the ''Comptroller'') shall conduct a thorough review of the application of the Defense Production Act of 1950, covering the period beginning on the date of the enactment of the Defense Production Act Reauthorization of 2003 (Public Law 108–195) and ending on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting the review required by this section, the Comptroller shall examine—

(1) the relevance and utility of the authorities provided under the Defense Production Act of 1950 to meet the security challenges of the 21st Century;

(2) the manner in which the authorities provided under such Act have been used by the Federal Government—

(A) to meet security challenges;

(B) to meet current and future defense requirements;

(C) to meet current and future energy requirements;

(D) to meet current and future domestic emergency and disaster response and recovery requirements;

(E) to reduce the interruption of critical infrastructure operations during a terrorist attack, natural catastrophe, or other similar national emergency; and

(F) to safeguard critical components of the United States industrial base, including American aerospace and shipbuilding industries;

(3) the economic impact of foreign offset contracts;

(4) the relative merit of developing rapid and standardized systems for use of the authorities provided under the Defense Production Act of 1950, by any Federal agency; and

(5) such other issues as the Comptroller determines relevant.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 150 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services and on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committees on Armed Services and on Financial Services of the House of Representatives a report on the review conducted under this section.

(d) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION ON PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law—

(1) the provisions of section 705(d) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. App. 2155(d)) shall not apply to information sought or obtained by the Comptroller for purposes of the review required by this section; and

(2) provisions of law pertaining to the protection of classified information or proprietary information otherwise applicable to information sought or obtained by the Comptroller in carrying out this section shall not be affected by any provision of this section.

SEC. 890. PREVENTION OF EXPORT CONTROL VIOLATIONS.

(a) PREVENTION OF EXPORT CONTROL VIOLATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regulations requiring any contractor under a contract with the Department of Defense to provide goods or technology that is subject to export controls under the Arms Export Control Act or the Export Administration of 1979 (as continued in effect under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act) to comply with those Acts and applicable regulations with respect to such goods and technology, including the International Traffic in Arms Regulations and the Export Administration Regulations. Regulations prescribed under this subsection shall include a contract clause enforcing such requirement.

(b) TRAINING ON EXPORT CONTROLS.—The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that any contractor under a contract with the Department of Defense to provide goods or technology that is subject to export controls under the Arms Export Control Act or the Export Administration of 1979 (as continued in effect under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act) is made aware of any relevant resources made available by the Department of State and the Department of Commerce to assist in compliance with the requirement established by subsection (a) and the need for a corporate compliance plan and periodic internal audits of corporate performance under such plan.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a report assessing the utility of—

(1) requiring defense contractors (or subcontractors at any tier) to periodically report on measures taken to ensure compliance with the International Traffic in Arms Regulations and the Export Administration Regulations;

(2) requiring periodic audits of defense contractors (or subcontractors at any tier) to ensure compliance with all provisions of the International Traffic in Arms Regulations and the Export Administration Regulations;

(3) requiring defense contractors to maintain a corporate training plan to disseminate information to appropriate contractor personnel regarding the applicability of the

Arms Export Control Act and the Export Administration Act of 1979; and

(4) requiring a designated corporate liaison, available for training provided by the United States Government, whose primary responsibility would be contractor compliance with the Arms Export Control Act and the Export Administration Act of 1979.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) EXPORT ADMINISTRATION REGULATIONS.—The term ''Export Administration Regulations'' means those regulations contained in sections 730 through 774 of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

(2) INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN ARMS REGULATIONS.—The term ''International Traffic in Arms Regulations'' means those regulations contained in sections 120 through 130 of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

SEC. 891. PROCUREMENT GOAL FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN-SERVING INSTITUTIONS AND ALASKA NATIVE-SERVING INSTITUTIONS.

Section 2323 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) by striking ''and'' at the end of subparagraph (C);

(B) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (D) and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(E) Native Hawaiian-serving institutions and Alaska Native-serving institutions (as defined in section 317 of the Higher Education Act of 1965).'';

(2) in subsection (a)(2), by inserting after ''Hispanic-serving institutions,'' the following: ''Native Hawaiian-serving institutions and Alaska Native-serving institutions,'';

(3) in subsection (c)(1), by inserting after ''Hispanic-serving institutions,'' the following: ''Native Hawaiian-serving institutions and Alaska Native-serving institutions,''; and

(4) in subsection (c)(3), by inserting after ''Hispanic-serving institutions,'' the following: ''to Native Hawaiian-serving institutions and Alaska Native-serving institutions,''.

SEC. 892. COMPETITION FOR PROCUREMENT OF SMALL ARMS SUPPLIED TO IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN.

(a) COMPETITION REQUIREMENT.—For the procurement of pistols and other weapons described in subsection (b), the Secretary of Defense shall ensure, consistent with the provisions of section 2304 of title 10, United States Code, that—

(1) full and open competition is obtained to the maximum extent practicable;

(2) no responsible United States manufacturer is excluded from competing for such procurements; and

(3) products manufactured in the United States are not excluded from the competition.

(b) PROCUREMENTS COVERED.—This section applies to the procurement of the following:

(1) Pistols and other weapons less than 0.50 caliber for assistance to the Army of Iraq, the Iraqi Police Forces, and other Iraqi security organizations.

(2) Pistols and other weapons less than 0.50 caliber for assistance to the Army of Afghanistan, the Afghani Police Forces, and other Afghani security organizations.

TITLE IX—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

Subtitle A—Department of Defense Management

Sec. 901. Repeal of limitation on major Department of Defense headquarters activities personnel and related report.

Sec. 902. Flexibility to adjust the number of deputy chiefs and assistant chiefs.

Sec. 903. Change in eligibility requirements for appointment to Department of Defense leadership positions.

Sec. 904. Management of the Department of Defense.

Sec. 905. Revision in guidance relating to combatant command acquisition authority.

Sec. 906. Department of Defense Board of Actuaries.

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Sec. 908. Assistant Secretaries of the military departments for acquisition matters; principal military deputies.

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Subtitle B—Space Activities

Sec. 911. Space protection strategy.

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Subtitle C—Chemical Demilitarization Program

Sec. 921. Chemical demilitarization citizens advisory commissions.

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Sec. 923. Repeal of certain qualifications requirement for director of chemical demilitarization management organization.

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Subtitle D—Intelligence-Related Matters

Sec. 931. Technical amendments to title 10, United States Code, arising from enactment of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004.

Subtitle E—Roles and Missions Analysis

Sec. 941. Requirement for quadrennial roles and missions review.

Sec. 942. Joint Requirements Oversight Council additional duties relating to core mission areas.

Sec. 943. Requirement for certification of major systems prior to technology development.

Sec. 944. Presentation of future-years mission budget by core mission area.

Subtitle F—Other Matters

Sec. 951. Department of Defense consideration of effect of climate change on Department facilities, capabilities, and missions.

Sec. 952. Interagency policy coordination.

Sec. 953. Expansion of employment creditable under service agreements under National Security Education Program.

Sec. 954. Board of Regents for the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

Sec. 955. Establishment of Department of Defense School of Nursing.

Sec. 956. Inclusion of commanders of Western Hemisphere combatant commands in Board of Visitors of Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation.

Sec. 957. Comptroller General assessment of reorganization of the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

Sec. 958. Report on foreign language proficiency.

Subtitle A—Department of Defense Management

SEC. 901. REPEAL OF LIMITATION ON MAJOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HEADQUARTERS ACTIVITIES PERSONNEL AND RELATED REPORT.

(a) REPEAL OF LIMITATION.—

(1) REPEAL.—Section 130a of title 10, United States Code, is repealed.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 3 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 130a.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense shall include a report with the defense budget materials for each fiscal year that includes the following information:

(1) The average number of military personnel and civilian employees of the Department of Defense assigned to major Department of Defense headquarters activities for each component of the Department of Defense during the preceding fiscal year.

(2) The total increase in personnel assigned to major headquarters activities, if any, during the preceding fiscal year—

(A) attributable to the replacement of contract personnel with military personnel or civilian employees of the Department of Defense, including the number of positions associated with the replacement of contract personnel performing inherently governmental functions; and

(B) attributable to reasons other than the replacement of contract personnel with military personnel or civilian employees of the Department, such as workload or operational demand increases.

(3) An estimate of the cost savings, if any, associated with the elimination of contracts for the performance of major headquarters activities.

(4) The number of military personnel and civilian employees of the Department of Defense assigned to major headquarters activities for each component of the Department of Defense as of October 1 of the preceding fiscal year.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DEFENSE BUDGET MATERIALS.—The term ''defense budget materials'', with respect to a fiscal year, means the materials submitted to Congress by the Secretary of Defense in support of the budget for that fiscal year that is submitted to Congress by the President under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code.

(2) CONTRACT PERSONNEL.—The term ''contract personnel'' means persons hired under a contract with the Department of Defense for the performance of major Department of Defense headquarters activities.

SEC. 902. FLEXIBILITY TO ADJUST THE NUMBER OF DEPUTY CHIEFS AND ASSISTANT CHIEFS.

(a) ARMY.—Section 3035(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(b) The Secretary of the Army shall prescribe the number of Deputy Chiefs of Staff and Assistant Chiefs of Staff, for a total of not more than eight positions.''.

(b) NAVY.—

(1) DEPUTY CHIEFS OF NAVAL OPERATIONS.—Section 5036(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking ''There are in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations not more than five Deputy Chiefs of Naval Operations,'' and inserting ''There are Deputy Chiefs of Naval Operations in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations,''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following: ''The Secretary of the Navy shall prescribe the number of Deputy Chiefs of Naval Operations under this section and Assistant Chiefs of Naval Operations under section 5037 of this title, for a total of not more than eight positions.''.

(2) ASSISTANT CHIEFS OF NAVAL OPERATIONS.—Section 5037(a) of such title is amended—

(A) by striking ''There are in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations not more than three Assistant Chiefs of Naval Operations,'' and inserting ''There are Assistant Chiefs of Naval Operations in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations,''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following: ''The Secretary of the Navy shall prescribe the number of Assistant Chiefs of Naval Operations in accordance with section 5036(a) of this title.''.

(c) AIR FORCE.—Section 8035(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(b) The Secretary of the Air Force shall prescribe the number of Deputy Chiefs of Staff and Assistant Chiefs of Staff, for a total of not more than eight positions.''.

SEC. 903. CHANGE IN ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR APPOINTMENT TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE LEADERSHIP POSITIONS.

(a) SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.—Section 113(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''10'' and inserting ''seven''.

(b) DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.—Section 132(a) of such title is amended by striking ''ten'' and inserting ''seven''.

(c) UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR POLICY.—Section 134(a) of such title is amended by striking ''10'' and inserting ''seven''.

SEC. 904. MANAGEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) ASSIGNMENT OF MANAGEMENT DUTIES AND DESIGNATION OF A CHIEF MANAGEMENT OFFICER AND DEPUTY CHIEF MANAGEMENT OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF POSITION.—Section 132 of title 10, United States Code is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(B) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection (c):

''(c) The Deputy Secretary serves as the Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense. The Deputy Secretary shall be assisted in this capacity by a Deputy Chief Management Officer, who shall be appointed from civilian life by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.''.

(2) ASSIGNMENT OF DUTIES.—

(A) The Secretary of Defense shall assign duties and authorities relating to the management of the business operations of the Department of Defense.

(B) The Secretary shall assign such duties and authorities to the Chief Management Officer as are necessary for that official to effectively and efficiently organize the business operations of the Department of Defense.

(C) The Secretary shall assign such duties and authorities to the Deputy Chief Management Officer as are necessary for that official to assist the Chief Management Officer to effectively and efficiently organize the business operations of the Department of Defense.

(D) The Deputy Chief Management Officer shall perform the duties and have the authorities assigned by the Secretary under subparagraph (C) and perform such duties and have such authorities as are delegated by the Chief Management Officer.

(3) EXECUTIVE SCHEDULE LEVEL III.—Section 5314 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence the following new item:

''Deputy Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense.''.

(4) PLACEMENT IN OSD.—Section 131(b)(2) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (8) as paragraphs (4) through (9), respectively; and

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

''(3) The Deputy Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense.''.

(b) ASSIGNMENT OF MANAGEMENT DUTIES AND DESIGNATION OF THE CHIEF MANAGEMENT OFFICERS OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS.—

(1) The Secretary of a military department shall assign duties and authorities relating to the management of the business operations of such military department.

(2) The Secretary of a military department, in assigning duties and authorities under paragraph (1) shall designate the Under Secretary of such military department to have the primary management responsibility for business operations, to be known in the performance of such duties as the Chief Management Officer.

(3) The Secretary shall assign such duties and authorities to the Chief Management Officer as are necessary for that official to effectively and efficiently organize the business operations of the military department concerned.

(4) The Chief Management Officer of each military department shall promptly provide such information relating to the business operations of such department to the Chief Management Officer and Deputy Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense as is necessary to assist those officials in the performance of their duties.

(c) MANAGEMENT OF DEFENSE BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION AGENCY.—Section 192(e)(2) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''that the Agency'' and all that follows and inserting ''that the Director of the Agency shall report directly to the Deputy Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense.''.

(d) STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT PLAN REQUIRED.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of Defense, acting through the Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense, shall develop a strategic management plan for the Department of Defense.

(2) MATTERS COVERED.—Such plan shall include, at a minimum, detailed descriptions of—

(A) performance goals and measures for improving and evaluating the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the business operations of the Department of Defense and achieving an integrated management system for business support areas within the Department of Defense;

(B) key initiatives to be undertaken by the Department of Defense to achieve the performance goals under subparagraph (A), together with related resource needs;

(C) procedures to monitor the progress of the Department of Defense in meeting performance goals and measures under subparagraph (A);

(D) procedures to review and approve plans and budgets for changes in business operations, including any proposed changes to policies, procedures, processes, and systems, to ensure the compatibility of such plans and budgets with the strategic management plan of the Department of Defense; and

(E) procedures to oversee the development of, and review and approve, all budget requests for defense business systems.

(3) UPDATES.—The Secretary of Defense, acting through the Chief Management Officer, shall update the strategic management plan no later than July 1, 2009, and every two years thereafter and provide a copy to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall provide to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the implementation of this section and a copy of the strategic management plan required by subsection (d).

SEC. 905. REVISION IN GUIDANCE RELATING TO COMBATANT COMMAND ACQUISITION AUTHORITY.

Subparagraph (B) of section 905(b)(1) of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2353) is amended by striking ''and mutually supportive of''.

SEC. 906. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BOARD OF ACTUARIES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 7 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 182 the following new section:

''§ 183. Department of Defense Board of Actuaries

''(a) IN GENERAL.—There shall be in the Department of Defense a Department of Defense Board of Actuaries (hereinafter in this section referred to as the 'Board').

''(b) MEMBERS.—(1) The Board shall consist of three members who shall be appointed by the Secretary of Defense from among qualified professional actuaries who are members of the Society of Actuaries.

''(2) The members of the Board shall serve for a term of 15 years, except that a member of the Board appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the end of the term for which the member's predecessor was appointed shall only serve until the end of such term. A member may serve after the end of the member's term until the member's successor takes office.

''(3) A member of the Board may be removed by the Secretary of Defense only for misconduct or failure to perform functions vested in the Board.

''(4) A member of the Board who is not an employee of the United States is entitled to receive pay at the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay of the highest rate of basic pay then currently being paid under the General Schedule of subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5 for each day the member is engaged in the performance of the duties of the Board and is entitled to travel expenses, including a per diem allowance, in accordance with section 5703 of that title in connection with such duties.

''(c) DUTIES.—The Board shall have the following duties:

''(1) To review valuations of the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund in accordance with section 1465(c) of this title and submit to the President and Congress, not less often than once every four years, a report on the status of that Fund, including such recommendations for modifications to the funding or amortization of that Fund as the Board considers appropriate and necessary to maintain that Fund on a sound actuarial basis.

''(2) To review valuations of the Department of Defense Education Benefits Fund in accordance with section 2006(e) of this title and make recommendations to the President and Congress on such modifications to the funding or amortization of that Fund as the

Board considers appropriate to maintain that Fund on a sound actuarial basis.

''(3) To review valuations of such other funds as the Secretary of Defense shall specify for purposes of this section and make recommendations to the President and Congress on such modifications to the funding or amortization of such funds as the Board considers appropriate to maintain such funds on a sound actuarial basis.

''(d) RECORDS.—The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that the Board has access to such records regarding the funds referred to in subsection (c) as the Board shall require to determine the actuarial status of such funds.

''(e) REPORTS.—(1) The Board shall submit to the Secretary of Defense on an annual basis a report on the actuarial status of each of the following:

''(A) The Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund.

''(B) The Department of Defense Education Benefits Fund.

''(C) Each other fund specified by Secretary under subsection (c)(3).

''(2) The Board shall also furnish its advice and opinion on matters referred to it by the Secretary.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 7 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 182 the following new item:

''183. Department of Defense Board of Actuaries''.

(3) INITIAL SERVICE AS BOARD MEMBERS.—Each member of the Department of Defense Retirement Board of Actuaries or the Department of Defense Education Benefits Board of Actuaries as of the date of the enactment of this Act shall serve as an initial member of the Department of Defense Board of Actuaries under section 183 of title 10, United States Code (as added by paragraph (1)), from that date until the date otherwise provided for the completion of such individual's term as a member of the Department of Defense Retirement Board of Actuaries or the Department of Defense Education Benefits Board of Actuaries, as the case may be, unless earlier removed by the Secretary of Defense.

(b) TERMINATION OF EXISTING BOARDS OF ACTUARIES.—

(1) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE RETIREMENT BOARD OF ACTUARIES.—(A) Section 1464 of title 10, United States Code, is repealed.

(B) The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 74 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 1464.

(2) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION BENEFITS BOARD OF ACTUARIES.—Section 2006 of such title is amended—

(A) in subsection (c)(1), by striking ''subsection (g)'' and inserting ''subsection (f)'';

(B) by striking subsection (e);

(C) by redesignating subsections (f), (g), and (h) as subsections (e), (f), and (g), respectively;

(D) in subsection (e), as redesignated by subparagraph (C), by striking ''subsection (g)'' in paragraph (5) and inserting ''subsection (f)''; and

(E) in subsection (f), as so redesignated—

(i) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking ''subsection (f)(3)'' and inserting ''subsection (e)(3)''; and

(ii) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking ''subsection (f)(4)'' and inserting ''subsection (e)(4)''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 1175(h)(4) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''Retirement'' the first place it appears.

(2) Section 1460(b) of such title is amended by striking ''Retirement''.

(3) Section 1466(c)(3) of such title is amended by striking ''Retirement''.

(4) Section 12521(6) of such title is amended by striking ''Department of Defense Education Benefits Board of Actuaries referred to in section 2006(e)(1) of this title'' and inserting ''Department of Defense Board of Actuaries under section 183 of this title''.

SEC. 907. MODIFICATION OF BACKGROUND REQUIREMENT OF INDIVIDUALS APPOINTED AS UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR ACQUISITION, TECHNOLOGY, AND LOGISTICS.

Section 133(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''in the private sector''.

SEC. 908. ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS FOR ACQUISITION MATTERS; PRINCIPAL MILITARY DEPUTIES.

(a) DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY.—Section 3016(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(5)(A) One of the Assistant Secretaries shall be the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics. The principal duty of the Assistant Secretary shall be the overall supervision of acquisition, technology, and logistics matters of the Department of the Army.

''(B) The Assistant Secretary shall have a Principal Military Deputy, who shall be a lieutenant general of the Army on active duty. The Principal Military Deputy shall be appointed from among officers who have significant experience in the areas of acquisition and program management. The position of Principal Military Deputy shall be designated as a critical acquisition position under section 1733 of this title.''.

(b) DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.—Section 5016(b) of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(4)(A) One of the Assistant Secretaries shall be the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition. The principal duty of the Assistant Secretary shall be the overall supervision of research, development, and acquisition matters of the Department of the Navy.

''(B) The Assistant Secretary shall have a Principal Military Deputy, who shall be a vice admiral of the Navy or a lieutenant general of the Marine Corps on active duty. The Principal Military Deputy shall be appointed from among officers who have significant experience in the areas of acquisition and program management. The position of Principal Military Deputy shall be designated as a critical acquisition position under section 1733 of this title.''.

(c) DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE.—Section 8016(b) of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(4)(A) One of the Assistant Secretaries shall be the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition. The principal duty of the Assistant Secretary shall be the overall supervision of acquisition matters of the Department of the Air Force.

''(B) The Assistant Secretary shall have a Principal Military Deputy, who shall be a lieutenant general of the Air Force on active duty. The Principal Military Deputy shall be appointed from among officers who have significant experience in the areas of acquisition and program management. The position of Principal Military Deputy shall be designated as a critical acquisition position under section 1733 of this title.''.

(d) DUTY OF PRINCIPAL MILITARY DEPUTIES TO INFORM SERVICE CHIEFS ON MAJOR DEFENSE ACQUISITION PROGRAMS.—Each Principal Military Deputy to a service acquisition executive shall be responsible for keeping the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces concerned informed of the progress of major defense acquisition programs.

SEC. 909. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON TERM OF OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION.

It is the sense of Congress that the term of office of the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation of the Department of Defense should be not less than five years.

Subtitle B—Space Activities

SEC. 911. SPACE PROTECTION STRATEGY.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the Sense of Congress that the United States should place greater priority on the protection of national security space systems.

(b) STRATEGY.—The Secretary of Defense, in conjunction with the Director of National Intelligence, shall develop a strategy, to be known as the Space Protection Strategy, for the development and fielding by the United States of the capabilities that are necessary to ensure freedom of action in space for the United States.

(c) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The strategy required by subsection (b) shall include each of the following:

(1) An identification of the threats to, and the vulnerabilities of, the national security space systems of the United States.

(2) A description of the capabilities currently contained in the program of record of the Department of Defense and the intelligence community that ensure freedom of action in space.

(3) For each period covered by the strategy, a description of the capabilities that are needed for the period, including—

(A) the hardware, software, and other materials or services to be developed or procured;

(B) the management and organizational changes to be achieved; and

(C) concepts of operations, tactics, techniques, and procedures to be employed.

(4) For each period covered by the strategy, an assessment of the gaps and shortfalls between the capabilities that are needed for the period and the capabilities currently contained in the program of record.

(5) For each period covered by the strategy, a comprehensive plan for investment in capabilities that identifies specific program and technology investments to be made in that period.

(6) A description of the current processes by which the systems protection requirements of the Department of Defense and the intelligence community are addressed in space acquisition programs and during key milestone decisions, an assessment of the adequacy of those processes, and an identification of the actions of the Department and the intelligence community for addressing any inadequacies in those processes.

(7) A description of the current processes by which the Department of Defense and the intelligence community program and budget for capabilities (including capabilities that are incorporated into single programs and capabilities that span multiple programs), an assessment of the adequacy of those processes, and an identification of the actions of the Department and the intelligence community for addressing any inadequacies in those processes.

(8) A description of the organizational and management structure of the Department of Defense and the intelligence community for addressing policy, planning, acquisition, and operations with respect to capabilities, a description of the roles and responsibilities of each organization, and an identification of the actions of the Department and the intelligence community for addressing any inadequacies in that structure.

(d) PERIODS COVERED.—The strategy required by subsection (b) shall cover the following periods:

(1) Fiscal years 2008 through 2013.

(2) Fiscal years 2014 through 2019.

(3) Fiscal years 2020 through 2025.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term ''capabilities'' means space, airborne, and ground systems and capabilities for space situational awareness and for space systems protection; and

(2) the term ''intelligence community'' has the meaning given such term in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 401a(4)).

(f) REPORT; BIENNIAL UPDATE.—

(1) REPORT.—Not later than six months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in conjunction with the Director of National Intelligence, shall submit to Congress a report on the strategy required by subsection (b), including each of the matters required by subsection (c).

(2) BIENNIAL UPDATE.—Not later than March 15 of each even-numbered year after 2008, the Secretary of Defense, in conjunction with the Director of National Intelligence, shall submit to Congress an update to the report required by paragraph (1).

(3) CLASSIFICATION.—The report required by paragraph (1), and each update required by paragraph (2), shall be in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(g) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Section 911 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109–163; 119 Stat. 3405; 10 U.S.C. 2271 note) is repealed.

SEC. 912. BIENNIAL REPORT ON MANAGEMENT OF SPACE CADRE WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 23 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 490. Space cadre management: biennial report

''(a) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of Defense and each Secretary of a military department shall develop metrics and use these metrics to identify, track, and manage space cadre personnel within the Department of Defense to ensure the Department has sufficient numbers of personnel with the expertise, training, and experience to meet current and future national security space needs.

''(b) BIENNIAL REPORT REQUIRED.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, and every even-numbered year thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the management of the space cadre.

''(2) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include—

''(A) the number of active duty, reserve duty, and government civilian space-coded billets that—

''(i) are authorized or permitted to be maintained for each military department and defense agency;

''(ii) are needed or required for each military department and defense agency for the year in which the submission of the report is required; and

''(iii) are needed or required for each military department and defense agency for each of the five years following the date of the submission of the report;

''(B) the actual number of active duty, reserve duty, and government civilian personnel that are coded or classified as space cadre personnel within the Department of Defense, including the military departments and defense agencies;

''(C) the number of personnel recruited or hired as accessions to serve in billets coded or classified as space cadre personnel for each military department and defense agency;

''(D) the number of personnel serving in billets coded or classified as space cadre personnel that discontinued serving each military department and defense agency during the preceding calendar year;

''(E) for each of the reporting requirements in subparagraphs (A) through (D), further classification of the number of personnel by—

''(i) space operators, acquisition personnel, engineers, scientists, program managers, and other space-related areas identified by the Department;

''(ii) expertise or technical specialization area—

''(I) such as communications, missile warning, spacelift, and any other space-related specialties identified by the Department or classifications used by the Department; and

''(II) consistent with section 1721 of this title for acquisition personnel;

''(iii) rank for active duty and reserve duty personnel and grade for government civilian personnel;

''(iv) qualification, expertise, or proficiency level consistent with service and agency-defined qualification, expertise, or proficiency levels; and

''(v) any other such space-related classification categories used by the Department or military departments; and

''(F) any other metrics identified by the Department to improve the identification, tracking, training, and management of space cadre personnel.

''(3) ASSESSMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall also include the Secretary's assessment of the state of the Department's space cadre, the Secretary's assessment of the space cadres of the military departments, and a description of efforts to ensure the Department has a space cadre sufficient to meet current and future national security space needs.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''490. Space cadre management: biennial report.''.

SEC. 913. ADDITIONAL REPORT ON OVERSIGHT OF ACQUISITION FOR DEFENSE SPACE PROGRAMS.

Section 911(b)(1) of the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107–314; 116 Stat. 2621) is amended by inserting '', and March 15, 2008,'' after ''March 15, 2003,''.

Subtitle C—Chemical Demilitarization Program

SEC. 921. CHEMICAL DEMILITARIZATION CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSIONS.

(a) FUNCTIONS.—Section 172 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1993 (50 U.S.C. 1521 note) is amended—

(1) in each of subsections (b) and (f), by striking ''Assistant Secretary of the Army (Research, Development and Acquisition)'' and inserting ''Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology)''; and

(2) in subsection (g), by striking ''Assistant Secretary of the Army (Research, Development, and Acquisition)'' and inserting ''Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology)''.

(b) TERMINATION.—Such section is further amended in subsection (h) by striking ''after the stockpile located in that commission's State has been destroyed'' and inserting ''after the closure activities required pursuant to regulations promulgated by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.) have been completed for the chemical agent destruction facility in the commission's State, or upon the request of the Governor of the commission's State, whichever occurs first''.

SEC. 922. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON COMPLETION OF DESTRUCTION OF UNITED STATES CHEMICAL WEAPONS STOCKPILE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, done at Paris on January 13, 1993 (commonly referred to as the ''Chemical Weapons Convention''), requires that destruction of the entire United States chemical weapons stockpile be completed by not later than April 29, 2007.

(2) In 2006, under the terms of the Chemical Weapons Convention, the United States requested and received a one-time, 5-year extension of its chemical weapons destruction deadline to April 29, 2012.

(3) On April 10, 2006, the Secretary of Defense notified Congress that the United States would not meet even the extended deadline under the Chemical Weapons Convention for destruction of the United States chemical weapons stockpile, but would ''continue working diligently to minimize the time to complete destruction without sacrificing safety and security'' and would also ''continue requesting resources needed to complete destruction as close to April 2012 as practicable''.

(4) The United States chemical demilitarization program has met its one percent, 20 percent, and extended 45 percent destruction deadlines under the Chemical Weapons Convention.

(5) Destroying the remaining stockpile of United States chemical weapons is imperative for public safety and homeland security, and doing so by April 2012, in accordance with the current destruction deadline provided under the Chemical Weapons Convention, is required by United States law.

(6) The elimination of chemical weapons anywhere they exist in the world, and the prevention of their proliferation, is of utmost importance to the national security of the United States.

(7) Section 921(b)(3) of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2359) contained a sense of Congress urging the Secretary of Defense to ensure the elimination of the United States chemical weapons stockpile in the shortest time possible, consistent with the requirement to protect public health, safety, and the environment.

(8) Section 921(b)(4) of that Act contained a sense of Congress urging the Secretary of Defense to propose a credible treatment and disposal process with the support of affected communities. In this regard, any such process should provide for sufficient communication and consultation between representatives of the Department of Defense and representatives of affected States and communities.

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

(1) the United States is, and must remain, committed to making every effort to safely dispose of its entire chemical weapons stockpile by April 2012, the current destruction deadline provided under the Chemical Weapons Convention, or as soon thereafter as possible, and must carry out all of its other obligations under the Convention; and

(2) the Secretary of Defense should make every effort to plan for, and to request in the annual budget of the President submitted to Congress adequate funding to complete, the elimination of the United States chemical weapons stockpile in accordance with United States obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention and in a manner that will

protect public health, safety, and the environment, as required by law.

(c) REPORTS REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 15, 2008, and every 180 days thereafter until the year in which the United States completes the destruction of its entire stockpile of chemical weapons under the terms of the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the members and committees of Congress referred to in paragraph (3) a report on the implementation by the United States of its chemical weapons destruction obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention.

(2) ELEMENTS.—Each report under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) The anticipated schedule at the time of such report for the completion of destruction of chemical agents, munitions, and materiel at each chemical weapons demilitarization facility in the United States.

(B) A description of the options and alternatives for accelerating the completion of chemical weapons destruction at each such facility, particularly in time to meet the destruction deadline of April 29, 2012, currently provided by the Chemical Weapons Convention, and by December 31, 2017.

(C) A description of the funding required to achieve each of the options for destruction described under subparagraph (B), and a detailed life-cycle cost estimate for each of the affected facilities included in each such funding profile.

(D) A description of all actions being taken by the United States to accelerate the destruction of its entire stockpile of chemical weapons, agents, and materiel in order to meet the current destruction deadline under the Chemical Weapons Convention of April 29, 2012, or as soon thereafter as possible.

(3) MEMBERS AND COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The members and committees of Congress referred to in this paragraph are—

(A) the majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the Senate, and the Committees on Armed Services and Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of the House of Representatives, the minority leader of the House of Representatives, and the Committees on Armed Services and Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 923. REPEAL OF CERTAIN QUALIFICATIONS REQUIREMENT FOR DIRECTOR OF CHEMICAL DEMILITARIZATION MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION.

Section 1412(e)(3) of the Department of Defense Authorization Act, 1986 (50 U.S.C. 1521(e)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by adding ''and'' at the end;

(2) by striking subparagraph (B); and

(3) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (B).

SEC. 924. MODIFICATION OF TERMINATION OF ASSISTANCE TO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AFTER COMPLETION OF THE DESTRUCTION OF THE UNITED STATES CHEMICAL WEAPONS STOCKPILE.

Subparagraph (B) of section 1412(c)(5) of the Department of Defense Authorization Act, 1986 (50 U.S.C. 1521(c)(5)) is amended to read as follows:

''(B) Assistance may be provided under this paragraph for capabilities to respond to emergencies involving an installation or facility as described in subparagraph (A) until the earlier of the following:

''(i) The date of the completion of all grants and cooperative agreements with respect to the installation or facility for purposes of this paragraph between the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the State and local governments concerned.

''(ii) The date that is 180 days after the date of the completion of the destruction of lethal chemical agents and munitions at the installation or facility.''.

Subtitle D—Intelligence-Related Matters

SEC. 931. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 10, UNITED STATES CODE, ARISING FROM ENACTMENT OF THE INTELLIGENCE REFORM AND TERRORISM PREVENTION ACT OF 2004.

(a) REFERENCES TO HEAD OF INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—Title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''Director of Central Intelligence'' each place it appears in the following provisions and inserting ''Director of National Intelligence'':

(1) Section 192(c)(2).
(2) Section 193(d)(2).
(3) Section 193(e).
(4) Section 201(a).
(5) Section 201(c)(1).
(6) Section 425(a).
(7) Section 426(a)(3).
(8) Section 426(b)(2).
(9) Section 441(c).
(10) Section 441(d).
(11) Section 443(d).
(12) Section 2273(b)(1).
(13) Section 2723(a).

(b) REFERENCES TO HEAD OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.—Such title is further amended by striking ''Director of Central Intelligence'' each place it appears in the following provisions and inserting ''Director of the Central Intelligence Agency'':

(1) Section 431(b)(1).
(2) Section 444.
(3) Section 1089(g).

(c) OTHER AMENDMENTS.—

(1) SUBSECTION HEADINGS.—

(A) SECTION 441(c).—The heading of subsection (c) of section 441 of such title is amended by striking ''DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE'' and inserting ''DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE''.

(B) SECTION 443(d).—The heading of subsection (d) of section 443 of such title is amended by striking ''DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE'' and inserting ''DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE''.

(2) SECTION 201.—Section 201 of such title is further amended—

(A) in subsection (b)(1), to read as follows:

''(1) In the event of a vacancy in a position referred to in paragraph (2), before appointing an individual to fill the vacancy or recommending to the President an individual to be nominated to fill the vacancy, the Secretary of Defense shall obtain the concurrence of the Director of National Intelligence as provided in section 106(b) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 403–6(b)).''; and

(B) in subsection (c)(1), by striking ''National Foreign Intelligence Program'' and inserting ''National Intelligence Program''.

Subtitle E—Roles and Missions Analysis

SEC. 941. REQUIREMENT FOR QUADRENNIAL ROLES AND MISSIONS REVIEW.

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR REVIEW.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 2 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 118a the following new section:

''§ 118b. Quadrennial roles and missions review

''(a) REVIEW REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense shall every four years conduct a comprehensive assessment (to be known as the 'quadrennial roles and missions review') of the roles and missions of the armed forces and the core competencies and capabilities of the Department of Defense to perform and support such roles and missions.

''(b) INDEPENDENT MILITARY ASSESSMENT OF ROLES AND MISSIONS.—(1) In each year in which the Secretary of Defense is required to conduct a comprehensive assessment pursuant to subsection (a), the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall prepare and submit to the Secretary the Chairman's assessment of the roles and missions of the armed forces and the assignment of functions to the armed forces, together with any recommendations for changes in assignment that the Chairman considers necessary to achieve maximum efficiency and effectiveness of the armed forces.

''(2) The Chairman's assessment shall be conducted so as to—

''(A) organize the significant missions of the armed forces into core mission areas that cover broad areas of military activity;

''(B) ensure that core mission areas are defined and functions are assigned so as to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort among the armed forces; and

''(C) provide the Chairman's recommendations with regard to issues to be addressed by the Secretary of Defense under subsection (c).

''(c) IDENTIFICATION OF CORE MISSION AREAS AND CORE COMPETENCIES AND CAPABILITIES.—Upon receipt of the Chairman's assessment, and after giving appropriate consideration to the Chairman's recommendations, the Secretary of Defense shall identify—

''(1) the core mission areas of the armed forces;

''(2) the core competencies and capabilities that are associated with the performance or support of a core mission area identified pursuant to paragraph (1);

''(3) the elements of the Department of Defense (including any other office, agency, activity, or command described in section 111(b) of this title) that are responsible for providing the core competencies and capabilities required to effectively perform the core missions identified pursuant to paragraph (1);

''(4) any gaps in the ability of the elements (or other office, agency activity, or command) of the Department of Defense to provide core competencies and capabilities required to effectively perform the core missions identified pursuant to paragraph (1);

''(5) any unnecessary duplication of core competencies and capabilities between defense components; and

''(6) a plan for addressing any gaps or unnecessary duplication identified pursuant to paragraph (4) or paragraph (5).

''(d) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit a report on the quadrennial roles and missions review to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives. The report shall be submitted in the year following the year in which the review is conducted, but not later than the date on which the President submits the budget for the next fiscal year to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31.''.

(b) REPEAL OF SUPERSEDED PROVISION.—Section 118(e) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (2); and

(2) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2).

(c) TIMING OF QUADRENNIAL ROLES AND MISSIONS REVIEW.—

(1) FIRST REVIEW.—The first quadrennial roles and missions review under section 118b of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall be conducted during 2008.

(2) SUBSEQUENT REVIEWS.—Subsequent reviews shall be conducted every four years, beginning in 2011.

SEC. 942. JOINT REQUIREMENTS OVERSIGHT COUNCIL ADDITIONAL DUTIES RELATING TO CORE MISSION AREAS.

(a) REVISIONS IN MISSION.—Subsection (b) of section 181 of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(b) MISSION.—In addition to other matters assigned to it by the President or Secretary

of Defense, the Joint Requirements Oversight Council shall—

''(1) assist the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff—

''(A) in identifying, assessing, and approving joint military requirements (including existing systems and equipment) to meet the national military strategy; and

''(B) in identifying the core mission area associated with each such requirement;

''(2) assist the Chairman in establishing and assigning priority levels for joint military requirements;

''(3) assist the Chairman in reviewing the estimated level of resources required in the fulfillment of each joint military requirement and in ensuring that such resource level is consistent with the level of priority assigned to such requirement; and

''(4) assist acquisition officials in identifying alternatives to any acquisition program that meet joint military requirements for the purposes of section 2366a(a)(4), section 2366b(b), and section 2433(e)(2) of this title.''.

(b) ADVISORS.—Section 181 of such title is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (f); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection (d):

''(d) ADVISORS.—The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), and the Director of the Office of Program Analysis and Evaluation shall serve as advisors to the Council on matters within their authority and expertise.''.

(c) ORGANIZATION.—Section 181 of such title is further amended by inserting after subsection (d) (as inserted by subsection (b)) the following new subsection (e):

''(e) ORGANIZATION.—The Joint Requirements Oversight Council shall conduct periodic reviews of joint military requirements within a core mission area of the Department of Defense. In any such review of a core mission area, the officer or official assigned to lead the review shall have a deputy from a different military department.''.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—Section 181 of such title is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) The term 'joint military requirement' means a capability necessary to fulfill a gap in a core mission area of the Department of Defense.

''(2) The term 'core mission area' means a core mission area of the Department of Defense identified under the most recent quadrennial roles and missions review pursuant to section 118b of this title.''.

(e) CONSULTATION.—Section 2433(e)(2) of such title is amended by inserting '', after consultation with the Joint Requirements Oversight Council regarding program requirements,'' after ''Secretary of Defense'' in the matter preceding subparagraph (A).

(f) DEADLINES.—Effective June 1, 2009, all joint military requirements documents of the Joint Requirements Oversight Council produced to carry out its mission under section 181(b)(1) of title 10, United States Code, shall reference the core mission areas organized and defined under section 118b of such title. Not later than October 1, 2009, all such documents produced before June 1, 2009, shall reference such structure.

SEC. 943. REQUIREMENT FOR CERTIFICATION OF MAJOR SYSTEMS PRIOR TO TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT.

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR CERTIFICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 139 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 2366a the following new section:

''§ 2366b. Major defense acquisition programs: certification required before Milestone A or Key Decision Point A approval

''(a) CERTIFICATION.—A major defense acquisition program may not receive Milestone A approval, or Key Decision Point A approval in the case of a space program, until the Milestone Decision Authority certifies, after consultation with the Joint Requirements Oversight Council on matters related to program requirements and military needs—

''(1) that the system fulfills an approved initial capabilities document;

''(2) that the system is being executed by an entity with a relevant core competency as identified by the Secretary of Defense under section 118b of this title;

''(3) if the system duplicates a capability already provided by an existing system, the duplication provided by such system is necessary and appropriate; and

''(4) that a cost estimate for the system has been submitted and that the level of resources required to develop and procure the system is consistent with the priority level assigned by the Joint Requirements Oversight Council.

''(b) NOTIFICATION.—With respect to a major system certified by the Milestone Decision Authority under subsection (a), if the projected cost of the system, at any time prior to Milestone B approval, exceeds the cost estimate for the system submitted at the time of the certification by at least 25 percent, the program manager for the system concerned shall notify the Milestone Decision Authority. The Milestone Decision Authority, in consultation with the Joint Requirements Oversight Council on matters related to program requirements and military needs, shall determine whether the level of resources required to develop and procure the system remains consistent with the priority level assigned by the Joint Requirements Oversight Council. The Milestone Decision Authority may withdraw the certification concerned or rescind Milestone A approval (or Key Decision Point A approval in the case of a space program) if the Milestone Decision Authority determines that such action is in the interest of national defense.

'' (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) The term 'major system' has the meaning provided in section 2302(5) of this title.

''(2) The term 'initial capabilities document' means any capabilities requirement document approved by the Joint Requirements Oversight Council that establishes the need for a materiel approach to resolve a capability gap.

''(3) The term 'technology development program' means a coordinated effort to assess technologies and refine user performance parameters to fulfill a capability gap identified in an initial capabilities document.

''(4) The term 'entity' means an entity listed in section 125a(a) of this title.

''(5) The term 'Milestone B approval' has the meaning provided that term in section 2366(e)(7) of this title.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''2366b. Major defense acquisition programs: certification required before Milestone A or Key Decision Point A approval.''.

(b) REVIEW OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ACQUISITION DIRECTIVES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall review Department of Defense Directive 5000.1 and associated guidance, and the manner in which such directive and guidance have been implemented, and take appropriate steps to ensure that the Department does not commence a technology development program for a major weapon system without Milestone A approval (or Key Decision Point A approval in the case of a space program).

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 2366b of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall apply to major systems on and after March 1, 2008.

SEC. 944. PRESENTATION OF FUTURE-YEARS MISSION BUDGET BY CORE MISSION AREA.

(a) TIME OF SUBMISSION OF FUTURE-YEARS MISSION BUDGET.—The second sentence of section 222(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows: ''That budget shall be submitted for any fiscal year with the future-years defense program submitted under section 221 of this title.''.

(b) ORGANIZATION OF FUTURE-YEARS MISSION BUDGET.—The second sentence of section 222(b) of such title is amended by striking ''on the basis'' and all that follows through the end of the sentence and inserting the following: ''on the basis of both major force programs and the core mission areas identified under the most recent quadrennial roles and missions review pursuant to section 118b of this title.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to the future-years mission budget for fiscal year 2010 and each fiscal year thereafter.

Subtitle F—Other Matters

SEC. 951. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CONSIDERATION OF EFFECT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON DEPARTMENT FACILITIES, CAPABILITIES, AND MISSIONS.

(a) CONSIDERATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE EFFECT.—Section 118 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(g) CONSIDERATION OF EFFECT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON DEPARTMENT FACILITIES, CAPABILITIES, AND MISSIONS.—(1) The first national security strategy and national defense strategy prepared after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 shall include guidance for military planners—

''(A) to assess the risks of projected climate change to current and future missions of the armed forces;

''(B) to update defense plans based on these assessments, including working with allies and partners to incorporate climate mitigation strategies, capacity building, and relevant research and development; and

''(C) to develop the capabilities needed to reduce future impacts.

''(2) The first quadrennial defense review prepared after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 shall also examine the capabilities of the armed forces to respond to the consequences of climate change, in particular, preparedness for natural disasters from extreme weather events and other missions the armed forces may be asked to support inside the United States and overseas.

''(3) For planning purposes to comply with the requirements of this subsection, the Secretary of Defense shall use—

''(A) the mid-range projections of the fourth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;

''(B) subsequent mid-range consensus climate projections if more recent information is available when the next national security strategy, national defense strategy, or quadrennial defense review, as the case may be, is conducted; and

''(C) findings of appropriate and available estimations or studies of the anticipated

strategic, social, political, and economic effects of global climate change and the implications of such effects on the national security of the United States.

''(4) In this subsection, the term 'national security strategy' means the annual national security strategy report of the President under section 108 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 404a).''.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that subsection (g) of section 118 of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), is implemented in a manner that does not have a negative impact on the national security of the United States.

SEC. 952. INTERAGENCY POLICY COORDINATION.

(a) PLAN REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall develop and submit to Congress a plan to improve and reform the Department of Defense's participation in and contribution to the interagency coordination process on national security issues.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The elements of the plan shall include the following:

(1) Assigning either the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy or another official to be the lead policy official for improving and reforming the interagency coordination process on national security issues for the Department of Defense, with an explanation of any decision to name an official other than the Under Secretary and the relative advantages and disadvantages of such decision.

(2) Giving the official assigned under paragraph (1) the following responsibilities:

(A) To be the lead person at the Department of Defense for the development of policy affecting the national security interagency process.

(B) To serve, or designate a person to serve, as the representative of the Department of Defense in Federal Government forums established to address interagency policy, planning, or reforms.

(C) To advocate, on behalf of the Secretary, for greater interagency coordination and contributions in the execution of the National Security Strategy and particularly specific operational objectives undertaken pursuant to that strategy.

(D) To make recommendations to the Secretary of Defense on changes to existing Department of Defense regulations or laws to improve the interagency process.

(E) To serve as the coordinator for all planning and training assistance that is—

(i) designed to improve the interagency process or the capabilities of other agencies to work with the Department of Defense; and

(ii) provided by the Department of Defense at the request of other agencies.

(F) To serve as the lead official in Department of Defense for the development of deployable joint interagency task forces.

(c) FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED.—In drafting the plan, the Secretary of Defense shall also consider the following factors:

(1) How the official assigned under subsection (b)(1) shall provide input to the Secretary of Defense on an ongoing basis on how to incorporate the need to coordinate with other agencies into the establishment and reform of combatant commands.

(2) How such official shall develop and make recommendations to the Secretary of Defense on a regular or an ongoing basis on changes to military and civilian personnel to improve interagency coordination.

(3) How such official shall work with the combatant command that has the mission for joint warfighting experimentation and other interested agencies to develop exercises to test and validate interagency planning and capabilities.

(4) How such official shall lead, coordinate, or participate in after-action reviews of operations, tests, and exercises to capture lessons learned regarding the functioning of the interagency process and how those lessons learned will be disseminated.

(5) The role of such official in ensuring that future defense planning guidance takes into account the capabilities and needs of other agencies.

(d) RECOMMENDATION ON CHANGES IN LAW.—The Secretary of Defense may submit with the plan or with any future budget submissions recommendations for any changes to law that are required to enhance the ability of the official assigned under subsection (b)(1) in the Department of Defense to coordinate defense interagency efforts or to improve the ability of the Department of Defense to work with other agencies.

(e) ANNUAL REPORT.—If an official is named by the Secretary of Defense under subsection (b)(1), the official shall annually submit to Congress a report, beginning in the fiscal year following the naming of the official, on those actions taken by the Department of Defense to enhance national security interagency coordination, the views of the Department of Defense on efforts and challenges in improving the ability of agencies to work together, and suggestions on changes needed to laws or regulations that would enhance the coordination of efforts of agencies.

(f) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''interagency coordination'', within the context of Department of Defense involvement, means the coordination that occurs between elements of the Department of Defense and engaged Federal Government agencies for the purpose of achieving an objective.

(g) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this provision shall be construed as preventing the Secretary of Defense from naming an official with the responsibilities listed in subsection (b) before the submission of the report required under this section.

SEC. 953. EXPANSION OF EMPLOYMENT CREDITABLE UNDER SERVICE AGREEMENTS UNDER NATIONAL SECURITY EDUCATION PROGRAM.

Paragraph (2) of subsection (b) of section 802 of the David L. Boren National Security Education Act of 1991 (50 U.S.C. 1902), as most recently amended by section 945 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2367), is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) in clause (i) by striking ''or'' at the end; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) for not less than one academic year in a position in the field of education in a discipline related to the study supported by the program if the recipient demonstrates to the Secretary of Defense that no position is available in the departments, agencies, and offices covered by clauses (i) and (ii); or''; and

(2) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) in clause (i) by striking ''or'' at the end;

(B) in clause (ii) by striking ''and'' at the end and inserting ''or''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) for not less than one academic year in a position in the field of education in a discipline related to the study supported by the program if the recipient demonstrates to the Secretary of Defense that no position is available in the departments, agencies, and offices covered by clauses (i) and (ii); and''.

SEC. 954. BOARD OF REGENTS FOR THE UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES.

(a) REORGANIZATION AND AMENDMENT OF BOARD OF REGENTS PROVISIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 104 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 2113 the following new section:

''§ 2113a. Board of Regents

''(a) IN GENERAL.—To assist the Secretary of Defense in an advisory capacity, there is a Board of Regents of the University.

''(b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Board shall consist of—

''(1) nine persons outstanding in the fields of health and health education who shall be appointed from civilian life by the Secretary of Defense;

''(2) the Secretary of Defense, or his designee, who shall be an ex officio member;

''(3) the surgeons general of the uniformed services, who shall be ex officio members; and

''(4) the President of the University, who shall be a nonvoting ex officio member.

''(c) TERM OF OFFICE.—The term of office of each member of the Board (other than ex officio members) shall be six years except that—

''(1) any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term for which his predecessor was appointed shall be appointed for the remainder of such term; and

''(2) any member whose term of office has expired shall continue to serve until his successor is appointed.

''(d) CHAIRMAN.—One of the members of the Board (other than an ex officio member) shall be designated by the Secretary as Chairman. He shall be the presiding officer of the Board.

''(e) COMPENSATION.—Members of the Board (other than ex officio members) while attending conferences or meetings or while otherwise performing their duties as members shall be entitled to receive compensation at a rate to be fixed by the Secretary and shall also be entitled to receive an allowance for necessary travel expenses while so serving away from their place of residence.

''(f) MEETINGS.—The Board shall meet at least once a quarter.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''2113a. Board of Regents.''.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Section 2113 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(i) in subsection (a), by striking ''To assist'' and all that follows through the end of paragraph (4);

(ii) by striking subsections (b), (c), and (e);

(iii) by redesignating subsections (d), (f), (g), (h), (i), and (j) as subsections (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), and (g), respectively; and

(iv) in subsection (b), as so redesignated, by striking ''who shall also serve as a nonvoting ex officio member of the Board''.

(B) Section 2114(h) of such title is amended by striking ''2113(h)'' and inserting ''2113(e)''.

(b) STATUTORY REDESIGNATION OF DEAN AS PRESIDENT.—

(1) Subsection 2113 of such title is further amended by striking ''Dean'' each place it appears in subsections (b) and (c)(1), as redesignated by subsection (a)(3), and inserting ''President''.

(2) Section 2114(e) of such title is amended by striking ''Dean'' each place it appears in paragraphs (3) and (5).

SEC. 955. ESTABLISHMENT OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SCHOOL OF NURSING.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT PLAN REQUIRED.—Not later than February 1, 2008, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a plan to establish a School of Nursing within the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

The Secretary shall develop the plan in consultation with the Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and submit the plan to the Board of Regents for review and to solicit the Board's recommendations.

(b) PROGRAMS OF INSTRUCTION.—In consultation with the Secretaries of the military departments, the Secretary of Defense shall include in the plan required by subsection (a) programs of instruction for the School of Nursing that would lead to the award of a bachelor of science in nursing and such other baccalaureate or graduate degrees in nursing as the Secretary considers appropriate. The plan shall also address the enrollment as students of enlisted members and officers of the Armed Forces and civilians for the purpose of commissioning them as military nursing officers upon graduation. The graduates of such a program of instruction shall be fully eligible to meet credentialing and licensing requirements of the military departments and at least one State in their program of study.

(c) CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN PROGRAMS.—In developing the plan under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consider the inclusion of the following types of programs:

(1) A program to enroll students who already possess an associate degree in nursing so that they can earn a bachelor of science in nursing.

(2) A program to enroll students who already possess other associate degrees so that they can earn a bachelor of science in nursing.

(3) A program to enroll students who already possess an associate degree in nursing so that they can earn a master of science in nursing.

(4) A program to enroll students who already possess a bachelor of science in nursing so that they can earn a master of science in nursing.

(d) OTHER CONSIDERATIONS.—The plan required by subsection (a) shall also include the following:

(1) The results of a study of the nursing shortage in the Department of Defense and the reasons for such shortages.

(2) Details of the curriculum and degree requirements for each category of students at the School of Nursing, if established.

(3) An analysis of the contributions to overall medical readiness that will be made by the School of Nursing.

(4) Proposals for the development of the School of Nursing to be phased in over a period of time.

(5) Faculty requirements based on degree requirements and numbers of projected students, to include the source and number of faculty required.

(6) Projected number of graduates per year for each of the first 15 years of operation.

(7) Predicted accession sources, military career paths, and service commitments and retention rates of School of Nursing graduates, to include the retention of enlisted personnel accessed into the school.

(8) Administrative and instructional facilities required, and the likely initial and final location of clinical training institutions.

(9) Plan for accreditation by a nationally recognized nursing school accrediting body.

(10) Projected faculty, administration, instruction, and facilities costs for the School of Nursing beginning in fiscal year 2009 and continuing through fiscal year 2024, including the cost analysis of developing the School of Nursing and the cost of additional administrative support for the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences on account of the establishment of the school.

(e) EFFECT ON CURRENT PROGRAMS.—Notwithstanding the development of the plan under subsection (a), the Secretary shall ensure that graduate degree programs in nursing, including advanced practice nursing, continue.

(f) EFFECT ON OTHER RECRUITMENT EFFORTS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as limiting or terminating any current or future program related to the recruitment, accession, training, or retention of military nurses.

(g) ESTABLISHMENT AUTHORITY.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Chapter 104 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"§ 2117. School of Nursing

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of Defense may establish a School of Nursing within the University. The School of Nursing may include a program that awards a bachelor of science in nursing.

"(b) PHASED DEVELOPMENT.—The School of Nursing may be developed in phases as determined appropriate by the Secretary.".

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

"2117. School of Nursing.".

SEC. 956. INCLUSION OF COMMANDERS OF WESTERN HEMISPHERE COMBATANT COMMANDS IN BOARD OF VISITORS OF WESTERN HEMISPHERE INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION.

Subparagraph (F) of section 2166(e)(1) of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"(F) The commanders of the combatant commands having geographic responsibility for the Western Hemisphere, or the designees of those officers.".

SEC. 957. COMPTROLLER GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF REORGANIZATION OF THE OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR POLICY.

(a) ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.—Not later than June 1, 2008, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report containing an assessment of the most recent reorganization of the office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, including an assessment with respect to the matters set forth in subsection (b).

(b) MATTERS TO BE ASSESSED.—The matters to be included in the assessment required by subsection (a) are as follows:

(1) The manner in which the reorganization of the office furthers, or will further, its stated purposes in the short-term and long-term, including the manner in which the reorganization enhances, or will enhance, the ability of the Department of Defense—

(A) to address current security priorities, including on-going military operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere;

(B) to manage geopolitical defense relationships; and

(C) to anticipate future strategic shifts in those relationships.

(2) The manner in which and the extent to which the reorganization adheres to generally accepted principles of effective organization, such as establishing clear goals, identifying clear lines of authority and accountability, and developing an effective human capital strategy.

(3) The extent to which the Department has developed detailed implementation plans for the reorganization, and the current status of the implementation of all aspects of the reorganization.

(4) The extent to which the Department has worked to mitigate congressional concerns and address other challenges that have arisen since the reorganization was announced.

(5) The manner in which the Department plans to evaluate progress in achieving the stated goals of the reorganization and what measurements, if any, the Department has established to assess the results of the reorganization.

(6) The impact of the large increase in responsibilities for the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict and Interdependent Capabilities under the reorganization on the ability of the Assistant Secretary to carry out the principal duties of the Assistant Secretary under law.

(7) The possible decrease in attention given to special operations issues resulting from the increase in responsibilities for the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict and Interdependent Capabilities, including responsibility under the reorganization for each of the following:

(A) Strategic capabilities.

(B) Forces transformation.

(C) Major budget programs.

(8) The possible diffusion of attention from counternarcotics, counterproliferation, and global threat issues resulting from the merging of those responsibilities under a single Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Counternarcotics, Counterproliferation, and Global Threats.

(9) The impact of the reorganization on counternarcotics program execution.

(10) The unique placement under the reorganization of both functional and regional issue responsibilities under the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Americas' Security Affairs.

(11) The differentiation between the responsibilities of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Partnership Strategy and the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Coalition Affairs and the relationship between such officials.

SEC. 958. REPORT ON FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 240 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter until the date referred to in subsection (d), the Secretary of Defense, in conjunction with the Secretary of each military department, shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the foreign language proficiency of the personnel of the Department of Defense.

(b) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) the number of positions, identified by each foreign language and dialect, for each military department and Defense Agency concerned that—

(A) require proficiency in that foreign language or dialect for the year in which the submission of the report is required;

(B) are anticipated to require proficiency in that foreign language or dialect for each of the five years following the date of the submission of the report; and

(C) are authorized in the future-years defense plan to be maintained for proficiency in a foreign language or dialect;

(2) the number of personnel for each military department and Defense Agency, identified by each foreign language and dialect, that are serving in a position that requires proficiency in the foreign language or dialect—

(A) to perform the primary duty of the position; and

(B) that meet the required level of proficiency of the Interagency Language Roundtable;

(3) the number of personnel for each military department and Defense Agency, identified by each foreign language and dialect, that are recruited or hired as accessions to serve in a position that requires proficiency in the foreign language or dialect;

(4) the number of personnel for each military department and Defense Agency, identified by each foreign language and dialect, that served in a position that requires proficiency in the foreign language or dialect and discontinued service during the preceding calendar year;

(5) the number of positions that require proficiency in a foreign language or dialect that are fulfilled by contractors;

(6) the percentage of work requiring linguistic skills that is fulfilled by personnel of the intelligence community (as defined in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 401a(4))); and

(7) an assessment of the foreign language capacity and capabilities of each military department and Defense Agency and of the Department of Defense as a whole.

(c) NON-MILITARY PERSONNEL.—Except as provided in paragraphs (6) and (7) of subsection (b), a report submitted under subsection (a) shall cover only members of the Armed Forces on active duty and reserve duty assigned to the military departments concerned or to the Department of Defense.

(d) TERMINATION OF REQUIREMENT.—The duty to submit a report under subsection (a) shall terminate on December 31, 2013.

TITLE X—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Subtitle A—Financial Matters

Sec. 1001. General transfer authority.
Sec. 1002. United States contribution to NATO common-funded budgets in fiscal year 2008.
Sec. 1003. Authorization of additional emergency supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2007.
Sec. 1004. Modification of fiscal year 2007 general transfer authority.
Sec. 1005. Financial management transformation initiative for the Defense Agencies.
Sec. 1006. Repeal of requirement for two-year budget cycle for the Department of Defense.

Subtitle B—Policy Relating to Vessels and Shipyards

Sec. 1011. Limitation on leasing of vessels.
Sec. 1012. Policy relating to major combatant vessels of the strike forces of the United States Navy.

Subtitle C—Counter-Drug Activities

Sec. 1021. Extension of authority for joint task forces to provide support to law enforcement agencies conducting counter-terrorism activities.
Sec. 1022. Expansion of authority to provide additional support for counter-drug activities in certain foreign countries.
Sec. 1023. Report on counternarcotics assistance for the Government of Haiti.

Subtitle D—Miscellaneous Authorities and Limitations

Sec. 1031. Provision of Air Force support and services to foreign military and state aircraft.
Sec. 1032. Department of Defense participation in Strategic Airlift Capability Partnership.
Sec. 1033. Improved authority to provide rewards for assistance in combating terrorism.
Sec. 1034. Support for non-Federal development and testing of material for chemical agent defense.
Sec. 1035. Prohibition on sale of F–14 fighter aircraft and related parts.

Subtitle E—Reports

Sec. 1041. Extension and modification of report relating to hardened and deeply buried targets.
Sec. 1042. Report on joint modeling and simulation activities.
Sec. 1043. Renewal of submittal of plans for prompt global strike capability.
Sec. 1044. Report on workforce required to support the nuclear missions of the Navy and the Department of Energy.
Sec. 1045. Comptroller General report on Defense Finance and Accounting Service response to Butterbaugh v. Department of Justice.
Sec. 1046. Study on size and mix of airlift force.
Sec. 1047. Report on feasibility of establishing a domestic military aviation national training center.
Sec. 1048. Limited field user evaluations for combat helmet pad suspension systems.
Sec. 1049. Study on national security interagency system.
Sec. 1050. Report on solid rocket motor industrial base.
Sec. 1051. Reports on establishment of a memorial for members of the Armed Forces who died in the air crash in Bakers Creek, Australia, and establishment of other memorials in Arlington National Cemetery.

Subtitle F—Other Matters

Sec. 1061. Reimbursement for National Guard support provided to Federal agencies.
Sec. 1062. Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States.
Sec. 1063. Technical and clerical amendments.
Sec. 1064. Repeal of certification requirement.
Sec. 1065. Maintenance of capability for space-based nuclear detection.
Sec. 1066. Sense of Congress regarding detainees at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
Sec. 1067. A report on transferring individuals detained at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
Sec. 1068. Repeal of provisions in section 1076 of Public Law 109–364 relating to use of Armed Forces in major public emergencies.
Sec. 1069. Standards required for entry to military installations in United States.
Sec. 1070. Revised nuclear posture review.
Sec. 1071. Termination of Commission on the Implementation of the New Strategic Posture of the United States.
Sec. 1072. Security clearances; limitations.
Sec. 1073. Improvements in the process for the issuance of security clearances.
Sec. 1074. Protection of certain individuals.
Sec. 1075. Modification of authorities on Commission to Assess the Threat to the United States from Electromagnetic Pulse Attack.
Sec. 1076. Sense of Congress on Small Business Innovation Research Program.
Sec. 1077. Revision of proficiency flying definition.
Sec. 1078. Qualifications for public aircraft status of aircraft under contract with the Armed Forces.
Sec. 1079. Communications with the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives.
Sec. 1080. Retention of reimbursement for provision of reciprocal fire protection services.
Sec. 1081. Pilot program on commercial fee-for-service air refueling support for the Air Force.
Sec. 1082. Advisory panel on Department of Defense capabilities for support of civil authorities after certain incidents.
Sec. 1083. Terrorism exception to immunity.

Subtitle A—Financial Matters

SEC. 1001. GENERAL TRANSFER AUTHORITY.

(a) AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER AUTHORIZATIONS.—

(1) AUTHORITY.—Upon determination by the Secretary of Defense that such action is necessary in the national interest, the Secretary may transfer amounts of authorizations made available to the Department of Defense in this division for fiscal year 2008 between any such authorizations for that fiscal year (or any subdivisions thereof). Amounts of authorizations so transferred shall be merged with and be available for the same purposes as the authorization to which transferred.

(2) LIMITATION.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), the total amount of authorizations that the Secretary may transfer under the authority of this section may not exceed $5,000,000,000.

(3) EXCEPTION FOR TRANSFERS BETWEEN MILITARY PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATIONS.—A transfer of funds between military personnel authorizations under title IV shall not be counted toward the dollar limitation in paragraph (2).

(b) LIMITATIONS.—The authority provided by this section to transfer authorizations—

(1) may only be used to provide authority for items that have a higher priority than the items from which authority is transferred; and

(2) may not be used to provide authority for an item that has been denied authorization by Congress.

(c) EFFECT ON AUTHORIZATION AMOUNTS.—A transfer made from one account to another under the authority of this section shall be deemed to increase the amount authorized for the account to which the amount is transferred by an amount equal to the amount transferred.

(d) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall promptly notify Congress of each transfer made under subsection (a).

SEC. 1002. UNITED STATES CONTRIBUTION TO NATO COMMON-FUNDED BUDGETS IN FISCAL YEAR 2008.

(a) FISCAL YEAR 2008 LIMITATION.—The total amount contributed by the Secretary of Defense in fiscal year 2008 for the common-funded budgets of NATO may be any amount up to, but not in excess of, the amount specified in subsection (b) (rather than the maximum amount that would otherwise be applicable to those contributions under the fiscal year 1998 baseline limitation).

(b) TOTAL AMOUNT.—The amount of the limitation applicable under subsection (a) is the sum of the following:

(1) The amounts of unexpended balances, as of the end of fiscal year 2007, of funds appropriated for fiscal years before fiscal year 2008 for payments for those budgets.

(2) The amount specified in subsection (c)(1).

(3) The amount specified in subsection (c)(2).

(4) The total amount of the contributions authorized to be made under section 2501.

(c) AUTHORIZED AMOUNTS.—Amounts authorized to be appropriated by titles II and III of this Act are available for contributions for the common-funded budgets of NATO as follows:

(1) Of the amount provided in section 201(1), $1,031,000 for the Civil Budget.

(2) Of the amount provided in section 301(1), $362,159,000 for the Military Budget.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

(1) COMMON-FUNDED BUDGETS OF NATO.—The term ''common-funded budgets of NATO'' means the Military Budget, the Security Investment Program, and the Civil Budget of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (and any successor or additional account or program of NATO).

(2) FISCAL YEAR 1998 BASELINE LIMITATION.—The term ''fiscal year 1998 baseline limitation'' means the maximum annual amount of Department of Defense contributions for common-funded budgets of NATO that is set forth as the annual limitation in section 3(2)(C)(ii) of the resolution of the Senate giving the advice and consent of the Senate to the ratification of the Protocols to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic (as defined in section 4(7) of that resolution), approved by the Senate on April 30, 1998.

SEC. 1003. AUTHORIZATION OF ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007.

Amounts authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2007 in the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364) are hereby adjusted, with respect to any such authorized amount, by the amount by which appropriations pursuant to such authorization are increased by a supplemental appropriation or by a transfer of funds, or decreased by a rescission, or any thereof, pursuant to the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007 (Public Law 110–28).

SEC. 1004. MODIFICATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2007 GENERAL TRANSFER AUTHORITY.

Section 1001(a) of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2371) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN TRANSFERS.—The following transfers of funds shall be not be counted toward the limitation in paragraph (2) on the amount that may be transferred under this section:

''(A) The transfer of funds to the Iraq Security Forces Fund under reprogramming FY07–07–R PA.

''(B) The transfer of funds to the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund under reprogramming FY07–11 PA.

''(C) The transfer of funds back from the accounts referred to in subparagraphs (A) and (B) to restore the sources used in the reprogrammings referred to in such subparagraphs.''.

SEC. 1005. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVE FOR THE DEFENSE AGENCIES.

(a) FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Business Transformation Agency of the Department of Defense shall carry out an initiative for financial management transformation in the Defense Agencies. The initiative shall be known as the ''Defense Agencies Initiative'' (in this section referred to as the ''Initiative'').

(2) SCOPE OF AUTHORITY.—In carrying out the Initiative, the Director of the Business Transformation Agency may require the heads of the Defense Agencies to carry out actions that are within the purpose and scope of the Initiative.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of Initiative shall be as follows:

(1) To eliminate or replace financial management systems of the Defense Agencies that are duplicative, redundant, or fail to comply with the standards set forth in subsection (d).

(2) To transform the budget, finance, and accounting operations of the Defense Agencies to enable the Defense Agencies to achieve accurate and reliable financial information needed to support financial accountability and effective and efficient management decisions.

(c) REQUIRED ELEMENTS.—The Initiative shall include, to the maximum extent practicable—

(1) the utilization of commercial, off-the-shelf technologies and web-based solutions;

(2) a standardized technical environment and an open and accessible architecture; and

(3) the implementation of common business processes, shared services, and common data structures.

(d) STANDARDS.—In carrying out the Initiative, the Director of the Business Transformation Agency shall ensure that the Initiative is consistent with—

(1) the requirements of the Business Enterprise Architecture and Transition Plan developed pursuant to section 2222 of title 10, United States Code;

(2) the Standard Financial Information Structure of the Department of Defense;

(3) the Federal Financial Management Improvement Act of 1996 (and the amendments made by that Act); and

(4) other applicable requirements of law and regulation.

(e) SCOPE.—The Initiative shall be designed to provide, at a minimum, capabilities in the major process areas for both general fund and working capital fund operations of the Defense Agencies as follows:

(1) Budget formulation.

(2) Budget to report, including general ledger and trial balance.

(3) Procure to pay, including commitments, obligations, and accounts payable.

(4) Order to fulfill, including billing and accounts receivable.

(5) Cost accounting.

(6) Acquire to retire (account management).

(7) Time and attendance and employee entitlement.

(8) Grants financial management.

(f) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out subsections (d) and (e), the Director of the Business Transformation Agency shall consult with the Comptroller of the Department of Defense to ensure that any financial management systems developed for the Defense Agencies, and any changes to the budget, finance, and accounting operations of the Defense Agencies, are consistent with the financial standards and requirements of the Department of Defense.

(g) PROGRAM CONTROL.—In carrying out the Initiative, the Director of the Business Transformation Agency shall establish—

(1) a board (to be known as the ''Configuration Control Board'') to manage scope and cost changes to the Initiative; and

(2) a program management office (to be known as the ''Program Management Office'') to control and enforce assumptions made in the acquisition plan, the cost estimate, and the system integration contract for the Initiative, as directed by the Configuration Control Board.

(h) PLAN ON DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF INITIATIVE.—Not later than six months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Business Transformation Agency shall submit to the congressional defense committees a plan for the development and implementation of the Initiative. The plan shall provide for the implementation of an initial capability under the Initiative as follows:

(1) In at least one Defense Agency by not later than eight months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) In not less than five Defense Agencies by not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 1006. REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT FOR TWO-YEAR BUDGET CYCLE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

Section 1405 of the Department of Defense Authorization Act, 1986 (Public Law 99–145; 99 Stat. 744; 31 U.S.C. 1105 note) is repealed.

Subtitle B—Policy Relating to Vessels and Shipyards

SEC. 1011. LIMITATION ON LEASING OF VESSELS.

Section 2401 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(h) The Secretary of a military department may make a contract for the lease of a vessel or for the provision of a service through use by a contractor of a vessel, the term of which is for a period of greater than two years, but less than five years, only if—

''(1) the Secretary has notified the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives of the proposed contract and included in such notification—

''(A) a detailed description of the terms of the proposed contract and a justification for entering into the proposed contract rather than obtaining the capability provided for by the lease, charter, or services involved through purchase of the vessel;

''(B) a determination that entering into the proposed contract as a means of obtaining the vessel is the most cost-effective means of obtaining such vessel; and

''(C) a plan for meeting the requirement provided by the proposed contract upon completion of the term of the lease contract; and

''(2) a period of 30 days of continuous session of Congress has expired following the date on which notice was received by such committees.''.

SEC. 1012. POLICY RELATING TO MAJOR COMBATANT VESSELS OF THE STRIKE FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY.

(a) INTEGRATED NUCLEAR POWER SYSTEMS.—It is the policy of the United States to construct the major combatant vessels of the strike forces of the United States Navy, including all new classes of such vessels, with integrated nuclear power systems.

(b) REQUIREMENT TO REQUEST NUCLEAR VESSELS.—If a request is submitted to Congress in the budget for a fiscal year for construction of a new class of major combatant vessel for the strike forces of the United States, the request shall be for such a vessel with an integrated nuclear power system, unless the Secretary of Defense submits with the request a notification to Congress that the inclusion of an integrated nuclear power system in such vessel is not in the national interest.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) MAJOR COMBATANT VESSELS OF THE STRIKE FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY.—The term ''major combatant vessels of the strike forces of the United States Navy'' means the following:

(A) Submarines.

(B) Aircraft carriers.

(C) Cruisers, battleships, or other large surface combatants whose primary mission includes protection of carrier strike groups, expeditionary strike groups, and vessels comprising a sea base.

(2) INTEGRATED NUCLEAR POWER SYSTEM.—The term ''integrated nuclear power system'' means a ship engineering system that uses a naval nuclear reactor as its energy source

and generates sufficient electric energy to provide power to the ship's electrical loads, including its combat systems and propulsion motors.

(3) BUDGET.—The term ''budget'' means the budget that is submitted to Congress by the President under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code.

Subtitle C—Counter-Drug Activities

SEC. 1021. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR JOINT TASK FORCES TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES CONDUCTING COUNTER-TERRORISM ACTIVITIES.

Section 1022(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (Public Law 108–136; 10 U.S.C. 371 note) is amended by striking ''and 2007'' and inserting ''through 2008''.

SEC. 1022. EXPANSION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR COUNTER-DRUG ACTIVITIES IN CERTAIN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Subsection (b) of section 1033 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998 (Public Law 105–85; 111 Stat. 1881), as amended by section 1021(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (Public Law 108–136, 117 Stat. 1593) and section 1022(b) of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2382), is further amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

''(17) The Government of Mexico.

''(18) The Government of the Dominican Republic.''.

SEC. 1023. REPORT ON COUNTERNARCOTICS ASSISTANCE FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF HAITI.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to Congress a report on counternarcotics assistance for the Government of Haiti.

(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A description and assessment of the counternarcotics assistance provided to the Government of Haiti by the Department of Defense, the Department of State, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Department of Justice.

(2) A description and assessment of any impediments to increasing counternarcotics assistance to the Government of Haiti.

(3) An assessment of the potential for the provision of counternarcotics assistance for the Government of Haiti through the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti.

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

Subtitle D—Miscellaneous Authorities and Limitations

SEC. 1031. PROVISION OF AIR FORCE SUPPORT AND SERVICES TO FOREIGN MILITARY AND STATE AIRCRAFT.

(a) PROVISION OF SUPPORT AND SERVICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 9626 of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 9626. Aircraft supplies and services: foreign military or other state aircraft

''(a) PROVISION OF SUPPLIES AND SERVICES ON REIMBURSABLE BASIS.—(1) The Secretary of the Air Force may, under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe and when in the best interests of the United States, provide any of the supplies or services described in paragraph (2) to military and other state aircraft of a foreign country, on a reimbursable basis without an advance of funds, if similar supplies and services are furnished on a like basis to military aircraft and other state aircraft of the United States by the foreign country concerned.

''(2) The supplies and services described in this paragraph are supplies and services as follows:

''(A) Routine airport services, including landing and takeoff assistance, servicing aircraft with fuel, use of runways, parking and servicing, and loading and unloading of baggage and cargo.

''(B) Miscellaneous supplies, including Air Force-owned fuel, provisions, spare parts, and general stores, but not including ammunition.

''(b) PROVISION OF ROUTINE AIRPORT SERVICES ON NON-REIMBURSABLE BASIS.—(1) Routine airport services may be provided under this section at no cost to a foreign country—

''(A) if such services are provided by Air Force personnel and equipment without direct cost to the Air Force; or

''(B) if such services are provided under an agreement with the foreign country that provides for the reciprocal furnishing by the foreign country of routine airport services, as defined in that agreement, to military and other state aircraft of the United States without reimbursement.

''(2) If routine airport services are provided under this section by a working-capital fund activity of the Air Force under section 2208 of this title and such activity is not reimbursed directly for the costs incurred by the activity in providing such services by reason of paragraph (1)(B), the working-capital fund activity shall be reimbursed for such costs out of funds currently available to the Air Force for operation and maintenance.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 939 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 9626 and inserting the following new item:

''9626. Aircraft supplies and services: foreign military or other state aircraft.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 9629(3) of such title is amended by striking ''for aircraft of a foreign military or air attaché''.

SEC. 1032. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PARTICIPATION IN STRATEGIC AIRLIFT CAPABILITY PARTNERSHIP.

(a) AUTHORITY TO PARTICIPATE IN PARTNERSHIP.—

(1) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Secretary of Defense may enter into a multilateral memorandum of understanding authorizing the Strategic Airlift Capability Partnership to conduct activities necessary to accomplish its purpose, including—

(A) the acquisition, equipping, ownership, and operation of strategic airlift aircraft; and

(B) the acquisition or transfer of airlift and airlift-related services and supplies among members of the Strategic Airlift Capability Partnership, or between the Partnership and non-member countries or international organizations, on a reimbursable basis or by replacement-in-kind or exchange of airlift or airlift-related services of an equal value.

(2) PAYMENTS.—From funds available to the Department of Defense for such purpose, the Secretary of Defense may pay the United States equitable share of the recurring and non-recurring costs of the activities and operations of the Strategic Airlift Capability Partnership, including costs associated with procurement of aircraft components and spare parts, maintenance, facilities, and training, and the costs of claims.

(b) AUTHORITIES UNDER PARTNERSHIP.—In carrying out the memorandum of understanding entered into under subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense may do the following:

(1) Waive reimbursement of the United States for the cost of the following functions performed by Department of Defense personnel with respect to the Strategic Airlift Capability Partnership:

(A) Auditing.

(B) Quality assurance.

(C) Inspection.

(D) Contract administration.

(E) Acceptance testing.

(F) Certification services.

(G) Planning, programming, and management services.

(2) Waive the imposition of any surcharge for administrative services provided by the United States that would otherwise be chargeable against the Strategic Airlift Capability Partnership.

(3) Pay the salaries, travel, lodging, and subsistence expenses of Department of Defense personnel assigned for duty to the Strategic Airlift Capability Partnership without seeking reimbursement or cost-sharing for such expenses.

(c) CREDITING OF RECEIPTS.—Any amount received by the United States in carrying out the memorandum of understanding entered into under subsection (a) shall be credited, as elected by the Secretary of Defense, to the following:

(1) The appropriation, fund, or account used in incurring the obligation for which such amount is received.

(2) An appropriation, fund, or account currently providing funds for the purposes for which such obligation was made.

(d) AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER AIRCRAFT.—

(1) TRANSFER AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Defense may transfer one strategic airlift aircraft to the Strategic Airlift Capability Partnership in accordance with the terms and conditions of the memorandum of understanding entered into under subsection (a).

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days before the date on which the Secretary transfers a strategic airlift aircraft under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the strategic airlift aircraft to be transferred, including the type of strategic airlift aircraft to be transferred and the tail registration or serial number of such aircraft.

(e) STRATEGIC AIRLIFT CAPABILITY PARTNERSHIP DEFINED.—In this section the term ''Strategic Airlift Capability Partnership'' means the strategic airlift capability consortium established by the United States and other participating countries.

SEC. 1033. IMPROVED AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE REWARDS FOR ASSISTANCE IN COMBATING TERRORISM.

(a) INCREASED AMOUNTS.—Section 127b of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking ''$200,000'' and inserting ''$5,000,000'';

(2) in subsection (c)(1)(B), by striking ''$50,000'' and inserting ''$1,000,000''; and

(3) in subsection (d)(2), by striking ''$100,000'' and inserting ''$2,000,000''.

(b) INVOLVEMENT OF ALLIED FORCES.—Such section is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting after ''United States Government personnel'' the following: '', or government personnel of allied forces participating in a combined operation with the armed forces,'';

(B) in paragraph (1), by inserting after ''armed forces'' the following: '', or of allied forces participating in a combined operation with the armed forces,''; and

(C) in paragraph (2), by inserting after ''armed forces'' the following: '', or of allied forces participating in a combined operation with the armed forces''; and

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

''(3)(A) Subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C), an official who has authority delegated

under paragraph (1) or (2) may use that authority, acting through government personnel of allied forces, to offer and make rewards.

''(B) The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe policies and procedures for making rewards in the manner described in subparagraph (A), which shall include guidance for the accountability of funds used for making rewards in that manner. The policies and procedures shall not take effect until 30 days after the date on which the Secretary submits the policies and procedures to the congressional defense committees. Rewards may not be made in the manner described in subparagraph (A) except under policies and procedures that have taken effect.

''(C) Rewards may not be made in the manner described in subparagraph (A) after September 30, 2009.

''(D) Not later than April 1, 2008, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the implementation of this paragraph. The report shall identify each reward made in the manner described in subparagraph (A) and, for each such reward—

''(i) identify the type, amount, and recipient of the reward;

''(ii) explain the reason for making the reward; and

''(iii) assess the success of the reward in advancing the effort to combat terrorism.''.

(c) ANNUAL REPORT TO INCLUDE SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.—Section 127b of title 10, United States Code, is further amended in subsection (f)(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(D) Information on the implementation of paragraph (3) of subsection (c).''.

SEC. 1034. SUPPORT FOR NON-FEDERAL DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING OF MATERIAL FOR CHEMICAL AGENT DEFENSE.

(a) AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TOXIC CHEMICALS OR PRECURSORS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the heads of other elements of the Federal Government, may make available, to a State, a unit of local government, or a private entity incorporated in the United States, small quantities of a toxic chemical or precursor for the development or testing, in the United States, of material that is designed to be used for protective purposes.

(2) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—Any use of the authority under paragraph (1) shall be subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(b) PAYMENT OF COSTS AND DISPOSITION OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure, through the advance payment required by paragraph (2) and through any other payments that may be required, that a recipient of toxic chemicals or precursors under subsection (a) pays for all actual costs, including direct and indirect costs, associated with providing the toxic chemicals or precursors.

(2) ADVANCE PAYMENT.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall require each recipient to make an advance payment in an amount that the Secretary determines will equal all such actual costs.

(3) CREDITS.—A payment received under this subsection shall be credited to the account that was used to cover the costs for which the payment was provided. Amounts so credited shall be merged with amounts in that account, and shall be available for the same purposes, and subject to the same conditions and limitations, as other amounts in that account.

(c) CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION.—The Secretary shall ensure that toxic chemicals and precursors are made available under this section for uses and in quantities that comply with the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, signed at Paris on January 13, 1993, and entered into force with respect to the United States on April 29, 1997.

(d) REPORT.—

(1) Not later than March 15, 2008, and each year thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the use of the authority under subsection (a) during the previous calendar year. The report shall include a description of each use of the authority and specify what material was made available and to whom it was made available.

(2) Each report under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ''precursor'', ''protective purposes'', and ''toxic chemical'' have the meanings given those terms in the convention referred to in subsection (c), in paragraph 2, paragraph 9(b), and paragraph 1, respectively, of article II of that convention.

SEC. 1035. PROHIBITION ON SALE OF F–14 FIGHTER AIRCRAFT AND RELATED PARTS.

(a) PROHIBITION ON SALE BY DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Department of Defense may not sell (whether directly or indirectly) any F–14 fighter aircraft, any parts unique to the F–14 fighter aircraft, or any tooling or dies used in the manufacture of such aircraft or parts, whether such sales occur through the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service or through another agency or element of the Department.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to the sale of F–14 fighter aircraft or parts for F–14 fighter aircraft to a museum or similar organization located in the United States that is involved in the preservation of F–14 fighter aircraft for historical purposes.

(b) PROHIBITION ON EXPORT LICENSE.—No license for the export of any F-14 fighter aircraft, any parts unique to the F–14 fighter aircraft, or any tooling or dies used in the manufacture of such aircraft or parts may be issued by the United States Government to a non-United States person or entity.

Subtitle E—Reports

SEC. 1041. EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF REPORT RELATING TO HARDENED AND DEEPLY BURIED TARGETS.

Section 1032 of the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107–314; 116 Stat. 2643; 10 U.S.C. 2358 note) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking ''**ANNUAL REPORT ON WEAPONS**'' and inserting ''**REPORT ON WEAPONS AND CAPABILITIES**'';

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the heading, by striking ''ANNUAL'';

(B) by striking ''April 1 of each year'' and inserting ''March 1, 2009, and every two years thereafter,'';

(C) by striking ''Director of Central Intelligence'' and inserting ''Director of National Intelligence'';

(D) by striking ''the preceding fiscal year'' and inserting ''the preceding two fiscal years and planned for the current fiscal year and the next fiscal year''; and

(E) by striking ''to develop weapons'' and inserting ''to develop weapons and capabilities'';

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''The report for a fiscal year'' and inserting ''A report submitted'';

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking ''were undertaken during that fiscal year'' and inserting ''were or will be undertaken during the four-fiscal-year period covered by the report''; and

(C) in paragraph (2) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''were undertaken during such fiscal year'' and inserting ''were or will be undertaken during the four-fiscal-year period covered by the report''; and

(4) in subsection (d), by striking ''April 1, 2007'' and inserting ''March 1, 2013''.

SEC. 1042. REPORT ON JOINT MODELING AND SIMULATION ACTIVITIES.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than December 31, 2008, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report that describes current and planned joint modeling and simulation activities within the Department of Defense.

(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An identification and description of how joint modeling and simulation activities support the development of capabilities to meet joint and service-unique military requirements and needs, in areas including but not limited to joint training, experimentation, systems acquisition, test and evaluation, assessment, and planning.

(2) A description of how joint modeling and simulation activities are supportive of Department-level strategies and goals.

(3) For each appropriate element of the Department of Defense and each appropriate combatant command—

(A) An identification of modeling and simulation capabilities; and

(B) A description of plans and programs to continuously introduce new modeling and simulation technologies so as to enhance defense capabilities.

(4) A description of incentives and plans to reduce or divest duplicative or outdated capabilities as necessary.

(5) Plans or activities to allow non-defense users to access defense joint modeling and simulation activities, as appropriate.

(6) Budget and resource estimates, including government and contractor personnel requirements, for planned joint modeling and simulation activities.

(7) A description of the relationship and coordination between and among joint modeling and simulation activities and the modeling and simulation activities of elements of the Department of Defense, Federal agencies, State and local governments, academia, private industry, United States and international standards organizations, and international partners.

(8) Any other matters the Secretary considers appropriate.

(c) CONSULTATION.—The report under (a) shall be developed in consultation with appropriate military departments, Defense Agencies, combatant commands, and other defense activities.

SEC. 1043. RENEWAL OF SUBMITTAL OF PLANS FOR PROMPT GLOBAL STRIKE CAPABILITY.

Section 1032(b)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (Public Law 108–136; 117 Stat. 1605; 10 U.S.C. 113 note) is amended by inserting ''and each of 2007, 2008, and 2009,'' after ''2004, 2005, and 2006,''.

SEC. 1044. REPORT ON WORKFORCE REQUIRED TO SUPPORT THE NUCLEAR MISSIONS OF THE NAVY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Energy shall each submit to Congress a report on the requirements for a workforce to support the nuclear missions of the Navy and the Department of Energy during the 10-year period beginning on the date of the report.

(b) ELEMENTS.—Each report shall include—

(1) a description of the projected nuclear missions of the Navy and the Department of Energy during the 10-year period beginning on the date of the report;

(2) an assessment of existing knowledge retention programs within the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, the national laboratories, and federally funded research facilities that support the nuclear missions of the Navy and the Department of Energy, and any planned changes in those programs; and

(3) a plan to address anticipated workforce attrition, retirement, and recruiting trends during that period and ensure an adequate workforce in support of the nuclear missions of the Navy and the Department of Energy.

SEC. 1045. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT ON DEFENSE FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING SERVICE RESPONSE TO BUTTERBAUGH V. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth an assessment by the Comptroller General of the response of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service to the decision in Butterbaugh v. Department of Justice (336 F.3d 1332 (2003)).

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

(1) An estimate of the number of members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, both past and present, who are entitled to compensation under the decision in Butterbaugh v. Department of Justice.

(2) An assessment of the current policies, procedures, and timeliness of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service in implementing and resolving claims under the decision in Butterbaugh v. Department of Justice.

(3) An assessment whether or not the decisions made by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service in implementing the decision in Butterbaugh v. Department of Justice follow a consistent pattern of resolution.

(4) An assessment of whether or not the decisions made by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service in implementing the decision in Butterbaugh v. Department of Justice are resolving claims by providing more compensation than an individual has been able to prove, under the rule of construction that laws providing benefits to veterans are liberally construed in favor of the veteran.

(5) An estimate of the total amount of compensation payable to members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, both past and present, as a result of the recent decision in Hernandez v. Department of the Air Force (No. 2006–3375, slip op.) that leave can be reimbursed for Reserve service before 1994, when Congress enacted chapter 43 of title 38, United States Code (commonly referred to as the ''Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act'').

(6) A comparative assessment of the handling of claims by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service under the decision in Butterbaugh v. Department of Justice with the handling of claims by other Federal agencies (selected by the Comptroller General for purposes of the comparative assessment) under that decision.

(7) A statement of the number of claims by members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces under the decision in Butterbaugh v. Department of Justice that have been adjudicated by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

(8) A statement of the number of claims by members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces under the decision in Butterbaugh v. Department of Justice that have been denied by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

(9) A comparative assessment of the average amount of time required for the Defense Finance and Accounting Service to resolve a claim under the decision in Butterbaugh v. Department of Justice with the average amount of time required by other Federal agencies (as so selected) to resolve a claim under that decision.

(10) A comparative statement of the backlog of claims with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service under the decision in Butterbaugh v. Department of Justice with the backlog of claims of other Federal agencies (as so selected) under that decision.

(11) An estimate of the amount of time required for the Defense Finance and Accounting Service to resolve all outstanding claims under the decision in Butterbaugh v. Department of Justice.

(12) An assessment of the reasonableness of the requirement of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service for the submittal by members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces of supporting documentation for claims under the decision in Butterbaugh v. Department of Justice.

(13) A comparative assessment of the requirement of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service for the submittal by members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces of supporting documentation for claims under the decision in Butterbaugh v. Department of Justice with the requirement of other Federal agencies (as so selected) for the submittal by such members of supporting documentation for such claims.

(14) Such recommendations for legislative action as the Comptroller General considers appropriate in light of the decision in Butterbaugh v. Department of Justice and the decision in Hernandez v. Department of the Air Force.

SEC. 1046. STUDY ON SIZE AND MIX OF AIRLIFT FORCE.

(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense shall conduct a requirements-based study on alternatives for the proper size and mix of fixed-wing intratheater and intertheater airlift assets to meet the National Military Strategy for each of the following timeframes: fiscal year 2012, 2018, and 2024. The study shall—

(1) focus on organic and commercially programmed airlift capabilities;

(2) analyze the full-spectrum lifecycle costs of the various alternatives for organic models of each of the following aircraft: C–5A/B/C/M, C–17A, KC–X, KC–10, KC–135R, C–130E/H/J, Joint Cargo Aircraft; and

(3) incorporate the augmentation capability, viability, and feasibility of the Civil Reserve Air Fleet during activation stages I, II, and III.

(b) USE OF FFRDC.—The Secretary shall select, to carry out the study required by subsection (a), a federally funded research and development center that has experience and expertise in conducting similar studies.

(c) STUDY PLAN.—The study required by subsection (a) shall be carried out under a study plan. The study plan shall be developed as follows:

(1) The center selected under subsection (b) shall develop the study plan and shall, not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, submit the study plan to the congressional defense committees, the Secretary, and the Comptroller General of the United States.

(2) The Comptroller General shall review the study plan to determine whether it is complete and objective, and whether it has any flaws or weaknesses in scope or methodology, and shall, not later than 30 days after receiving the study plan, submit to the Secretary and the center a report that contains the results of that review and provides any recommendations that the Comptroller General considers appropriate for improvements to the study plan.

(3) The center shall modify the study plan to incorporate the recommendations under paragraph (2) and shall, not later than 45 days after receiving that report, submit to the Secretary and the congressional defense committees a report on those modifications. The report shall describe each modification and, if the modifications do not incorporate one or more of the recommendations, shall explain the reasons for not doing so.

(d) ELEMENTS OF STUDY PLAN.—The study plan required by subsection (c) shall address, at minimum, the following:

(1) A description of lift requirements and operating profiles for airlift aircraft required to meet the National Military Strategy, including assumptions regarding the following:

(A) Current and future military combat and support missions.

(B) The planned force structure growth of the military services.

(C) Potential changes in lift requirements, including the deployment of the Future Combat Systems by the Army.

(D) New capability in airlift to be provided by the KC(X) aircraft and the expected utilization of such capability, including its use in intratheater lift.

(E) The utilization of intertheater lift aircraft in intratheater combat mission support roles.

(F) The availability and application of Civil Reserve Air Fleet assets in future military scenarios.

(G) Air mobility requirements associated with the Global Rebasing Initiative of the Department of Defense.

(H) Air mobility requirements in support of worldwide peacekeeping and humanitarian missions.

(I) Air mobility requirements in support of homeland defense and national emergencies.

(J) The viability and capability of the Civil Reserve Air Fleet to augment organic forces in both friendly and hostile environments.

(K) An assessment of the Civil Reserve Air Fleet to adequately augment the organic fleet as it relates to commercial inventory management restructuring in response to future commercial markets, streamlining of operations, efficiency measures, or downsizing of the participant.

(2) An evaluation of the state of the current airlift fleet of the Air Force, including assessments of the following:

(A) The extent to which the increased use of airlift aircraft in on-going operations is affecting the programmed service life of the aircraft of that fleet.

(B) The adequacy of the current airlift force, including whether or not a minimum of 299 strategic airlift aircraft for the Air Force is sufficient to support future expeditionary combat and non-combat missions, as well as domestic and training mission demands consistent with the requirements of meeting the National Military Strategy.

(C) The optimal mix of C–5 and C–17 aircraft for the strategic airlift fleet of the Air Force, to include the following:

(i) The cost-effectiveness of modernizing various iterations of the C–5A and C–5B/C aircraft fleet versus procuring additional C–17 aircraft.

(ii) The military capability, operational availability, usefulness, and service life of the C–5A/B/C/M aircraft and the C–17 aircraft. Such an assessment shall examine appropriate metrics, such as aircraft availability rates, departure rates, and mission capable rates, in each of the following cases:

(I) Completion of the Avionics Modernization Program and the Reliability Enhancement and Re-engining Program.

(II) Partial completion of the Avionics Modernization Program and the Reliability Enhancement and Re-engining Program, with partial completion of either such program being considered the point at which the continued execution of each program is no longer supported by the cost-effectiveness analysis.

(iii) At what specific fleet inventory for each organic aircraft, to include air refueling aircraft used in the airlift role, would it impede the ability of Civil Reserve Air Fleet participants to remain a viable augmentation option.

(D) An analysis and assessment of the lessons that may be learned from the experience of the Air Force in restarting the production line for the C–5 aircraft after having closed the line for several years, and recommendations for the actions that the Department of Defense should take to ensure that the production line for the C–17 aircraft could be restarted if necessary, including—

(i) an analysis of the methods that were used and costs that were incurred in closing and re-opening the production line for the C–5 aircraft;

(ii) an assessment of the methods and actions that should be employed and the expected costs and risks of closing and re-opening the production line for the C–17 aircraft in view of that experience.

Such analysis and assessment should deal with issues such as production work force, production facilities, tooling, industrial base suppliers, contractor logistics support versus organic maintenance, and diminished manufacturing sources.

(E) Assessing the military capability, operational availability, usefulness, service life and optimal mix of intra-theater airlift aircraft, to include—

(i) the cost-effectiveness of procuring the Joint Cargo Aircraft versus procuring additional C–130J or refurbishing C–130E/H platforms to meet intra-theater airlift requirements of the combatant commander and component commands; and

(ii) the cost-effectiveness of procuring additional C–17 aircraft versus procuring additional C–130J platforms or refurbishing C–130E/H platforms to meet intra-theater airlift requirements of the combatant commander and component commands.

(3) Each analysis required by paragraph (2) shall include—

(A) a description of the assumptions and sensitivity analysis utilized in the study regarding aircraft performances and cargo loading factors; and

(B) a comprehensive statement of the data and assumptions utilized in making the program life cycle cost estimates and a comparison of cost and risk associated with the optimally mixed fleet of airlift aircraft versus the program of record airlift aircraft fleet.

(e) UTILIZATION OF OTHER STUDIES.—The study required by subsection (a) shall build upon the results of the 2005 Mobility Capabilities Studies, the on-going Intra-theater Airlift Fleet Mix Analysis, the Intra-theater Lift Capabilities Study, the Joint Future Theater Airlift Capabilities Analysis, and other appropriate studies and analyses, such as Fleet Viability Board Reports or special aircraft assessments. The study shall also include any testing data collected on modernization, recapitalization, and upgrade efforts of current organic aircraft.

(f) COLLABORATION WITH UNITED STATES TRANSPORTATION COMMAND.—In conducting the study required by subsection (a) and preparing the report required by subsection (c)(3), the center shall collaborate with the commander of the United States Transportation Command.

(g) COLLABORATION WITH COST ANALYSIS IMPROVEMENT GROUP.—In conducting the study required by subsection (a) and constructing the analysis required by subsection (a)(2), the center shall collaborate with the Cost Analysis Improvement Group of the Department of Defense.

(h) REPORT.—Not later than January 10, 2009, the center selected under subsection (b) shall submit to the Secretary and the congressional defense committees a report on the study required by subsection (a). The report shall be submitted in unclassified form, but shall include a classified annex.

SEC. 1047. REPORT ON FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A DOMESTIC MILITARY AVIATION NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than June 1, 2008, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report to determine the feasibility of establishing a Border State Aviation Training Center (BSATC) to support the current and future requirements of the existing RC–26 training site for counterdrug activities, located at the Fixed Wing Army National Guard Aviation Training Site (FWAATS), including the domestic reconnaissance and surveillance missions of the National Guard in support of local, State, and Federal law enforcement agencies, provided that the activities to be conducted at the BSATC shall not duplicate or displace any activity or program at the RC–26 training site or the FWAATS.

(b) CONTENT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) examine the current and past requirements of RC–26 aircraft in support of local, State, and Federal law enforcement and determine the number of additional aircraft required to provide such support for each State that borders Canada, Mexico, or the Gulf of Mexico;

(2) determine the number of military and civilian personnel required to run a RC–26 domestic training center meeting the requirements identified under paragraph (1);

(3) determine the requirements and cost of locating such a training center at a military installation for the purpose of preempting and responding to security threats and responding to crises; and

(4) include a comprehensive review of the number and type of intelligence, reconnaissance, and surveillance platforms needed for the National Guard to effectively provide domestic operations and civil support (including homeland defense and counterdrug) to local, State, and Federal law enforcement and first responder entities and how those platforms would provide additional capabilities not currently available from the assets of other local, State, and Federal agencies.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In preparing the report required under subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense shall consult with the Adjutant General of each State that borders Canada, Mexico, or the Gulf of Mexico, the Adjutant General of the State of West Virginia, and the National Guard Bureau.

SEC. 1048. LIMITED FIELD USER EVALUATIONS FOR COMBAT HELMET PAD SUSPENSION SYSTEMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall carry out a limited field user evaluation and operational assessment of qualified combat helmet pad suspension systems. The evaluation and assessment shall be carried out using verified product representative samples from combat helmet pad suspension systems that are qualified as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than September 30, 2008, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the results of the limited field user evaluation and operational assessment.

(c) FUNDING.—The limited field user evaluation and operational assessment required by subsection (a) shall be conducted using funds appropriated pursuant to an authorization of appropriations or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2008 for operation and maintenance, Army, for soldier protection and safety.

SEC. 1049. STUDY ON NATIONAL SECURITY INTERAGENCY SYSTEM.

(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall enter into an agreement with an independent, nonprofit, non-partisan organization to conduct a study on the national security interagency system.

(b) REPORT.—The agreement entered into under subsection (a) shall require the organization to submit to Congress and the President a report containing the results of the study conducted pursuant to such agreement and any recommendations for changes to the national security interagency system (including legislative or regulatory changes) identified by the organization as a result of the study.

(c) SUBMITTAL DATE.—The agreement entered into under subsection (a) shall require the organization to submit the report required under subsection (a) not later than September 1, 2008.

(d) NATIONAL SECURITY INTERAGENCY SYSTEM DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''national security interagency system'' means the structures, mechanisms, and processes by which the departments, agencies, and elements of the Federal Government that have national security missions coordinate and integrate their policies, capabilities, expertise, and activities to accomplish such missions.

(e) FUNDING.—Of the amount authorized to be appropriated by section 301(5) for operation and maintenance for Defense-wide activities, not more than $3,000,000 may be available to carry out this section.

SEC. 1050. REPORT ON SOLID ROCKET MOTOR INDUSTRIAL BASE.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 190 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the status, capability, viability, and capacity of the solid rocket motor industrial base in the United States.

(b) CONTENT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the ability to maintain the Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile through its planned operational life.

(2) An assessment of the ability to maintain the Trident II D–5 submarine launched ballistic missile through its planned operational life.

(3) An assessment of the ability to maintain all other space launch, missile defense, and other vehicles with solid rocket motors, through their planned operational lifetimes.

(4) An assessment of the ability to support projected future requirements for vehicles with solid rocket motors to support space launch, missile defense, or any range of ballistic missiles determined to be necessary to meet defense needs or other requirements of the United States Government.

(5) An assessment of the required materials, the supplier base, the production facilities, and the production workforce needed to ensure that current and future requirements could be met.

(6) An assessment of the adequacy of the current and projected industrial base support

programs to support the full range of projected future requirements identified in paragraph (4).

SEC. 1051. REPORTS ON ESTABLISHMENT OF A MEMORIAL FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WHO DIED IN THE AIR CRASH IN BAKERS CREEK, AUSTRALIA, AND ESTABLISHMENT OF OTHER MEMORIALS IN ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY.

(a) BAKERS CREEK MEMORIAL.—Not later than April 1, 2008, the Secretary of the Army shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate a report containing a discussion of locations outside of Arlington National Cemetery that would serve as a suitable location for the establishment of a memorial to honor the memory of the 40 members of the Armed Forces of the United States who lost their lives in the air crash at Bakers Creek, Australia, on June 14, 1943.

(b) MEMORIALS IN ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY.—Not later than April 1, 2008, the Secretary of the Army shall submit to the congressional committees specified in subsection (a) a report containing—

(1) recommendations to implement the results of the study regarding proposals for the construction of new memorials in Arlington National Cemetery that was conducted pursuant to section 2897 of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (Public Law 108–375; 118 Stat. 2157); and

(2) proposed legislation, if necessary, to implement the results of the study.

Subtitle F—Other Matters

SEC. 1061. REIMBURSEMENT FOR NATIONAL GUARD SUPPORT PROVIDED TO FEDERAL AGENCIES.

Section 377 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''To the extent'' and inserting ''Subject to subsection (c), to the extent''; and

(2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following new subsections:

''(b)(1) Subject to subsection (c), the Secretary of Defense shall require a Federal agency to which law enforcement support or support to a national special security event is provided by National Guard personnel performing duty under section 502(f) of title 32 to reimburse the Department of Defense for the costs of that support, notwithstanding any other provision of law. No other provision of this chapter shall apply to such support.

''(2) Any funds received by the Department of Defense under this subsection as reimbursement for support provided by personnel of the National Guard shall be credited, at the election of the Secretary of Defense, to the following:

''(A) The appropriation, fund, or account used to fund the support.

''(B) The appropriation, fund, or account currently available for reimbursement purposes.

''(c) An agency to which support is provided under this chapter or section 502(f) of title 32 is not required to reimburse the Department of Defense for such support if the Secretary of Defense waives reimbursement. The Secretary may waive the reimbursement requirement under this subsection if such support—

''(1) is provided in the normal course of military training or operations; or

''(2) results in a benefit to the element of the Department of Defense or personnel of the National Guard providing the support that is substantially equivalent to that which would otherwise be obtained from military operations or training.''.

SEC. 1062. CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSION ON THE STRATEGIC POSTURE OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established a commission to be known as the ''Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States''. The purpose of the commission is to examine and make recommendations with respect to the long-term strategic posture of the United States.

(b) COMPOSITION.—

(1) MEMBERSHIP.—The commission shall be composed of 12 members appointed as follows:

(A) Three by the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(B) Three by the ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(C) Three by the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate.

(D) Three by the ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate.

(2) CHAIRMAN; VICE CHAIRMAN.—

(A) CHAIRMAN.—The chairman of the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate shall jointly designate one member of the commission to serve as chairman of the commission.

(B) VICE CHAIRMAN.—The ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate shall jointly designate one member of the commission to serve as vice chairman of the commission.

(3) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—Members shall be appointed for the life of the commission. Any vacancy in the commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(c) DUTIES.—

(1) REVIEW.—The commission shall conduct a review of the strategic posture of the United States, including a strategic threat assessment and a detailed review of nuclear weapons policy, strategy, and force structure.

(2) ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—

(A) ASSESSMENT.—The commission shall assess the benefits and risks associated with the current strategic posture and nuclear weapons policies of the United States.

(B) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The commission shall make recommendations as to the most appropriate strategic posture and most effective nuclear weapons strategy.

(d) COOPERATION FROM GOVERNMENT.—

(1) COOPERATION.—In carrying out its duties, the commission shall receive the full and timely cooperation of the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of State, the Director of National Intelligence, and any other United States Government official in providing the commission with analyses, briefings, and other information necessary for the fulfillment of its responsibilities.

(2) LIAISON.—The Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of State, and the Director of National Intelligence shall each designate at least one officer or employee of the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, the Department of State, and the intelligence community, respectively, to serve as a liaison officer between the department (or the intelligence community, as the case may be) and the commission.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than December 1, 2008, the commission shall submit to the President, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of State, the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a report on the commission's findings, conclusions, and recommendations. The report shall identify the strategic posture and nuclear weapons strategy recommended under subsection (c)(2)(B) and shall include—

(1) the military capabilities and force structure necessary to support the strategy, including both nuclear and non-nuclear capabilities that might support the strategy;

(2) the number of nuclear weapons required to support the strategy, including the number of replacement warheads required, if any;

(3) the appropriate qualitative analysis, including force-on-force exchange modeling, to calculate the effectiveness of the strategy under various scenarios;

(4) the nuclear infrastructure (that is, the size of the nuclear complex) required to support the strategy;

(5) an assessment of the role of missile defenses in the strategy;

(6) an assessment of the role of nonproliferation programs in the strategy;

(7) the political and military implications of the strategy for the United States and its allies; and

(8) any other information or recommendations relating to the strategy (or to the strategic posture) that the commission considers appropriate.

(f) FUNDING.—Of the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available pursuant to this Act to the Department of Defense, $5,000,000 is available to fund the activities of the commission.

(g) TERMINATION.—The commission shall terminate on June 1, 2009.

SEC. 1063. TECHNICAL AND CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.

(a) TITLE 10, UNITED STATES CODE.—Title 10, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(1) Chapter 3 is amended—

(A) by redesignating the section 127c added by section 1201(a) of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2410) as section 127d and transferring that section so as to appear immediately after the section 127c added by section 1231(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109–163; 119 Stat. 3467); and

(B) by revising the table of sections at the beginning of such chapter to reflect the redesignation and transfer made by paragraph (1).

(2) Section 629(d)(1) is amended by inserting a comma after ''(a)''.

(3) Section 662(b) is amended by striking ''paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (a)'' and inserting ''paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a)''.

(4) Subsections (c) and (d) of section 948r are each amended by striking ''Defense Treatment Act of 2005'' each place it appears and inserting ''Detainee Treatment Act of 2005''.

(5) The table of sections at the beginning of subchapter VI of chapter 47A is amended by striking the item relating to section 950j and inserting the following:

''950j. Finality of proceedings, findings, and sentences.''.

(6) Section 950f(b) is amended by striking ''No person may be serve'' and inserting ''No person may serve''.

(7) The heading for section 950j is amended by striking ''**Finality or**'' and inserting ''**Finality of**''.

(8) Section 1034(b)(2) is amended by inserting ''unfavorable'' before ''action'' the second place it appears.

(9) Section 1588(d)(1)(B) is amended by striking ''the Act of March 9, 1920, commonly known as the 'Suits in Admiralty Act' (41

Stat. 525; 46 U.S.C. App. 741 et seq.) and the Act of March 3, 1925, commonly known as the 'Public Vessels Act' (43 Stat. 1112; 46 U.S.C. App. 781 et seq.)'' and inserting ''chapters 309 and 311 of title 46''.

(10) The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 137 is amended by striking the item relating to section 2333 and inserting the following new item:

''2333. Joint policies on requirements definition, contingency program management, and contingency contracting.''.

(11) The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 141 is amended by inserting a period at the end of the item relating to section 2410p.

(12) The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 152 is amended by inserting a period at the end of the item relating to section 2567.

(13) Section 2583(e) is amended by striking ''DOGS'' and inserting ''ANIMALS''.

(14) Section 2668(e) is amended by striking ''and (d)'' and inserting ''and (e)''.

(15) Section 12304(a) is amended by striking the second period at the end.

(16) Section 14310(d)(1) is amended by inserting a comma after ''(a)''.

(b) TITLE 37, UNITED STATES CODE.—Section 302c(d)(1) of title 37, United States Code, is amended by striking ''Services Corps'' and inserting ''Service Corps''.

(c) JOHN WARNER NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007.—Effective as of October 17, 2006, and as if included therein as enacted, the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364) is amended as follows:

(1) Section 333(a) (120 Stat. 2151) is amended—

(A) by striking ''Section 332(c)'' and inserting ''Section 332''; and

(B) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''in subsection (c),'' after ''(1)''.

(2) Section 348(2) (120 Stat. 2159) is amended by striking ''60 days of'' and inserting ''60 days after''.

(3) Section 511(a)(2)(D)(i) (120 Stat. 2182) is amended by inserting a comma after ''title''.

(4) Section 591(b)(1) (120 Stat. 2233) is amended by inserting a period after ''this title''.

(5) Section 606(b)(1)(A) (120 Stat. 2246) is amended by striking ''in'' and inserting ''In''.

(6) Section 670(b) (120 Stat. 2269) is amended by striking ''such title'' and inserting ''such chapter''.

(7) Section 673 (120 Stat. 2271) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(1), by inserting ''the second place it appears'' before ''and inserting'';

(B) in subsection (b)(1)—

(i) by striking ''Section'' and inserting ''Subsection (a) of section''; and

(ii) by inserting ''the second place it appears'' before ''and inserting''; and

(C) in subsection (c)(1), by inserting ''the second place it appears'' before ''and inserting''.

(8) Section 842(a)(2) (120 Stat. 2337) is amended by striking ''adding at the end'' and inserting ''inserting after the item relating to section 2533a''.

(9) Section 1017(b)(2) (120 Stat. 2379; 10 U.S.C. 2631 note) is amended by striking ''section 27'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''sections 12112 and 50501 and chapter 551 of title 46, United States Code.''.

(10) Section 1071(f) (120 Stat. 2402) is amended by striking ''identical'' both places it appears.

(11) Section 1231(d) (120 Stat. 2430; 22 U.S.C. 2776a(d)) is amended by striking ''note''.

(12) Section 2404(b)(2)(A)(ii) (120 Stat. 2459) is amended by striking ''2906 of such Act'' and inserting ''2906A of such Act''.

(13) Section 2831 (120 Stat. 2480) is amended—

(A) by striking ''Section 2667(d)'' and inserting ''Section 2667(e)''; and

(B) by inserting ''as redesignated by section 662(b)(1) of this Act,'' after ''Code,''.

(d) PUBLIC LAW 109–366.—Effective as of October 17, 2006, and as if included therein as enacted, Public Law 109–366 is amended as follows:

(1) Section 8(a)(3) (120 Stat. 2636) is amended by inserting a semicolon after ''subsection''.

(2) Section 9(1) (120 Stat. 2636) is amended by striking ''No. 1.'' and inserting ''No. 1,''.

(e) NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006.—Effective as of January 6, 2006, and as if included therein as enacted, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109–163) is amended as follows:

(1) Section 571 (119 Stat. 3270) is amended by striking ''931 et seq.)'' and inserting ''921 et seq.)''.

(2) Section 1052(j) (119 Stat. 3435) is amended by striking ''Section 1049'' and inserting ''Section 1409''.

(f) MILITARY COMMISSIONS ACT OF 2006.—Section 7 of the Military Commissions Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–366) is amended by striking ''added by added by'' and inserting ''added by''.

(g) NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004.—The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (Public Law 108–136) is amended as follows:

(1) Section 706(a) (117 Stat. 1529; 10 U.S.C. 1076b note) is amended by striking ''those program'' and inserting ''those programs''.

(2) Section 1413(a) (117 Stat. 1665; 41 U.S.C. 433 note) is amended by striking ''(A))'' and inserting ''(A)))''.

(3) Section 1602(e)(3) (117 Stat. 1683; 10 U.S.C. 2302 note) is amended by inserting ''Security'' after ''Health''.

(h) NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1994.—Section 845(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1994 (10 U.S.C. 2371 note) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting ''Research'' after ''Defense Advanced''; and

(2) in paragraph (3), by inserting ''Research'' after ''Defense Advanced''.

(i) NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1993.—Section 722(a)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1993 (Public Law 102–484; 10 U.S.C. 1073 note) is amended by striking ''155 Stat.'' and inserting ''115 Stat.''.

SEC. 1064. REPEAL OF CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.

Section 1063 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109–163; 119 Stat. 3445) is repealed.

SEC. 1065. MAINTENANCE OF CAPABILITY FOR SPACE-BASED NUCLEAR DETECTION.

The Secretary of Defense shall maintain the capability for space-based nuclear detection at a level that meets or exceeds the level of capability as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 1066. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING DETAINEES AT NAVAL STATION, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Nation extends its gratitude to the military personnel who guard and interrogate some of the world's most dangerous men every day at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba;

(2) the United States Government should urge the international community, in general, and in particular, the home countries of the detainees who remain in detention despite having been ordered released by a Department of Defense administrative review board, to work with the Department of Defense to facilitate and expedite the repatriation of such detainees;

(3) detainees at Guantanamo Bay, to the maximum extent possible, should be charged and expeditiously prosecuted for crimes committed against the United States; and

(4) operations at Guantanamo Bay should be carried out in a way that upholds the national interest and core values of the American people.

SEC. 1067. A REPORT ON TRANSFERRING INDIVIDUALS DETAINED AT NAVAL STATION, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report that contains the Secretary's plan for each individual presently detained at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, under the control of the Joint Task Force Guantanamo, who is or has ever been classified as an ''enemy combatant'' (referred to in this section as a ''detainee'').

(b) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include each of the following:

(1) An identification of the number of detainees who, as of December 31, 2007, the Department estimates—

(A) will have been or will be charged with one or more crimes and may, therefore, be tried before a military commission;

(B) will be subject of an order calling for the release or transfer of the detainee from the Guantanamo Bay facility; or

(C) will not have been charged with any crimes and will not be subject to an order calling for the release or transfer of the detainee from the Guantanamo Bay facility, but whom the Department wishes to continue to detain.

(2) A description of the actions required to be undertaken, by the Secretary of Defense, possibly the heads of other Federal agencies, and Congress, to ensure that detainees who are subject to an order calling for their release or transfer from the Guantanamo Bay facility have, in fact, been released.

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

SEC. 1068. REPEAL OF PROVISIONS IN SECTION 1076 OF PUBLIC LAW 109–364 RELATING TO USE OF ARMED FORCES IN MAJOR PUBLIC EMERGENCIES.

(a) INTERFERENCE WITH STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 333 of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 333. Interference with State and Federal law

''The President, by using the militia or the armed forces, or both, or by any other means, shall take such measures as he considers necessary to suppress, in a State, any insurrection, domestic violence, unlawful combination, or conspiracy, if it—

''(1) so hinders the execution of the laws of that State, and of the United States within the State, that any part or class of its people is deprived of a right, privilege, immunity, or protection named in the Constitution and secured by law, and the constituted authorities of that State are unable, fail, or refuse to protect that right, privilege, or immunity, or to give that protection; or

''(2) opposes or obstructs the execution of the laws of the United States or impedes the course of justice under those laws.

In any situation covered by clause (1), the State shall be considered to have denied the

equal protection of the laws secured by the Constitution.''.

(2) PROCLAMATION TO DISPERSE.—Section 334 of such title is amended by striking ''or those obstructing the enforcement of the laws'' after ''insurgents''.

(3) HEADING AMENDMENT.—The heading of chapter 15 of such title is amended to read as follows:

''CHAPTER 15—INSURRECTION''.

(4) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(A) The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 15 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 333 and inserting the following new item:

''333. Interference with State and Federal law.''.

(B) The tables of chapters at the beginning of subtitle A of title 10, United States Code, and at the beginning of part I of such subtitle, are each amended by striking the item relating to chapter 15 and inserting the following new item:

''15. Insurrection ..... 331''.

(b) REPEAL OF SECTION RELATING TO PROVISION OF SUPPLIES, SERVICES, AND EQUIPMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2567 of title 10, United States Code, is repealed.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 152 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 2567.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 12304(c) of such title is amended by striking ''Except to perform'' and all that follows through ''this section'' and inserting ''No unit or member of a reserve component may be ordered to active duty under this section to perform any of the functions authorized by chapter 15 or section 12406 of this title or, except as provided in subsection (b),''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 1069. STANDARDS REQUIRED FOR ENTRY TO MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN UNITED STATES.

(a) DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARDS.—

(1) ACCESS STANDARDS FOR VISITORS.—The Secretary of Defense shall develop access standards applicable to all military installations in the United States. The standards shall require screening standards appropriate to the type of installation involved, the security level, category of individuals authorized to visit the installation, and level of access to be granted, including—

(A) protocols to determine the fitness of the individual to enter an installation; and

(B) standards and methods for verifying the identity of the individual.

(2) ADDITIONAL CRITERIA.—The standards required under paragraph (1) may—

(A) provide for expedited access to a military installation for Department of Defense personnel and employees and family members of personnel who reside on the installation;

(B) provide for closer scrutiny of categories of individuals determined by the Secretary of Defense to pose a higher potential security risk; and

(C) in the case of an installation that the Secretary determines contains particularly sensitive facilities, provide additional screening requirements, as well as physical and other security measures for the installation.

(b) USE OF TECHNOLOGY.—The Secretary of Defense is encouraged to procure and field existing identification screening technology and to develop additional technology only to the extent necessary to assist commanders of military installations in implementing the standards developed under this section at points of entry for such installations.

(c) DEADLINES.—

(1) DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary of Defense shall develop the standards required under this section by not later than July 1, 2008, and implement such standards by not later than January 1, 2009.

(2) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than August 1, 2009, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives the standards implemented pursuant to paragraph (1).

SEC. 1070. REVISED NUCLEAR POSTURE REVIEW.

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW.—In order to clarify United States nuclear deterrence policy and strategy for the near term, the Secretary of Defense shall conduct a comprehensive review of the nuclear posture of the United States for the next 5 to 10 years. The Secretary shall conduct the review in consultation with the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of State.

(b) ELEMENTS OF REVIEW.—The nuclear posture review shall include the following elements:

(1) The role of nuclear forces in United States military strategy, planning, and programming.

(2) The policy requirements and objectives for the United States to maintain a safe, reliable, and credible nuclear deterrence posture.

(3) The relationship among United States nuclear deterrence policy, targeting strategy, and arms control objectives.

(4) The role that missile defense capabilities and conventional strike forces play in determining the role and size of nuclear forces.

(5) The levels and composition of the nuclear delivery systems that will be required for implementing the United States national and military strategy, including any plans for replacing or modifying existing systems.

(6) The nuclear weapons complex that will be required for implementing the United States national and military strategy, including any plans to modernize or modify the complex.

(7) The active and inactive nuclear weapons stockpile that will be required for implementing the United States national and military strategy, including any plans for replacing or modifying warheads.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress, in unclassified and classified forms as necessary, a report on the results of the nuclear posture review conducted under this section. The report shall be submitted concurrently with the quadrennial defense review required to be submitted under section 118 of title 10, United States Code, in 2009.

(d) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the nuclear posture review conducted under this section should be used as a basis for establishing future United States arms control objectives and negotiating positions.

SEC. 1071. TERMINATION OF COMMISSION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW STRATEGIC POSTURE OF THE UNITED STATES.

Section 1051 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109–163; 119 Stat. 3431) is repealed.

SEC. 1072. SECURITY CLEARANCES; LIMITATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (50 U.S.C. 435b) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 3002. SECURITY CLEARANCES; LIMITATIONS.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE.—The term 'controlled substance' has the meaning given that term in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802).

''(2) COVERED PERSON.—The term 'covered person' means—

''(A) an officer or employee of a Federal agency;

''(B) a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marine Corps who is on active duty or is in an active status; and

''(C) an officer or employee of a contractor of a Federal agency.

''(3) RESTRICTED DATA.—The term 'Restricted Data' has the meaning given that term in section 11 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2014).

''(4) SPECIAL ACCESS PROGRAM.—The term 'special access program' has the meaning given that term in section 4.1 of Executive Order No. 12958 (60 Fed. Reg. 19825).

''(b) PROHIBITION.—After January 1, 2008, the head of a Federal agency may not grant or renew a security clearance for a covered person who is an unlawful user of a controlled substance or an addict (as defined in section 102(1) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802)).

''(c) DISQUALIFICATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—After January 1, 2008, absent an express written waiver granted in accordance with paragraph (2), the head of a Federal agency may not grant or renew a security clearance described in paragraph (3) for a covered person who—

''(A) has been convicted in any court of the United States of a crime, was sentenced to imprisonment for a term exceeding 1 year, and was incarcerated as a result of that sentence for not less than 1 year;

''(B) has been discharged or dismissed from the Armed Forces under dishonorable conditions; or

''(C) is mentally incompetent, as determined by an adjudicating authority, based on an evaluation by a duly qualified mental health professional employed by, or acceptable to and approved by, the United States Government and in accordance with the adjudicative guidelines required by subsection (d).

''(2) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—In a meritorious case, an exception to the disqualification in this subsection may be authorized if there are mitigating factors. Any such waiver may be authorized only in accordance with—

''(A) standards and procedures prescribed by, or under the authority of, an Executive order or other guidance issued by the President; or

''(B) the adjudicative guidelines required by subsection (d).

''(3) COVERED SECURITY CLEARANCES.—This subsection applies to security clearances that provide for access to—

''(A) special access programs;

''(B) Restricted Data; or

''(C) any other information commonly referred to as 'sensitive compartmented information'.

''(4) ANNUAL REPORT.—

''(A) REQUIREMENT FOR REPORT.—Not later than February 1 of each year, the head of a Federal agency shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress if such agency employs or employed a person for whom a waiver was granted in accordance with paragraph (2) during the preceding year. Such annual report shall not reveal the identity of such person, but shall include for each waiver issued the disqualifying factor under paragraph (1) and the reasons for the waiver of the disqualifying factor.

''(B) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

''(i) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term 'appropriate committees of Congress' means, with respect to a report submitted under subparagraph (A) by the head of a Federal agency—

''(I) the congressional defense committees;

''(II) the congressional intelligence committees;

''(III) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

''(IV) the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives; and

''(V) each Committee of the Senate or the House of Representatives with oversight authority over such Federal agency.

''(ii) CONGRESSIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEES.—The term 'congressional defense committees' has the meaning given that term in section 101(a)(16) of title 10, United States Code.

''(iii) CONGRESSIONAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES.—The term 'congressional intelligence committees' has the meaning given that term in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 401a).

''(d) ADJUDICATIVE GUIDELINES.—

''(1) REQUIREMENT TO ESTABLISH.—The President shall establish adjudicative guidelines for determining eligibility for access to classified information.

''(2) REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO MENTAL HEALTH.—The guidelines required by paragraph (1) shall—

''(A) include procedures and standards under which a covered person is determined to be mentally incompetent and provide a means to appeal such a determination; and

''(B) require that no negative inference concerning the standards in the guidelines may be raised solely on the basis of seeking mental health counseling.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) REPEAL.—Section 986 of title 10, United States Code, is repealed.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 49 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 986.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall take effect on January 1, 2008.

SEC. 1073. IMPROVEMENTS IN THE PROCESS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF SECURITY CLEARANCES.

(a) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence shall implement a demonstration project that applies new and innovative approaches to improve the processing of requests for security clearances.

(b) EVALUATION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence shall carry out an evaluation of the process for issuing security clearances and develop a specific plan and schedule for replacing such process with an improved process.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the completion of the evaluation required by subsection (b), the Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to Congress a report on—

(1) the results of the demonstration project carried out pursuant to subsection (a);

(2) the results of the evaluation carried out under subsection (b); and

(3) the recommended specific plan and schedule for replacing the existing process for issuing security clearances with an improved process.

SEC. 1074. PROTECTION OF CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.

(a) PROTECTION FOR DEPARTMENT LEADERSHIP.—The Secretary of Defense, under regulations prescribed by the Secretary and in accordance with guidelines approved by the Secretary and the Attorney General, may authorize qualified members of the Armed Forces and qualified civilian employees of the Department of Defense to provide physical protection and personal security within the United States to the following persons who, by nature of their positions, require continuous security and protection:

(1) Secretary of Defense.

(2) Deputy Secretary of Defense.

(3) Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

(4) Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

(5) Secretaries of the military departments.

(6) Chiefs of the Services.

(7) Commanders of combatant commands.

(b) PROTECTION FOR ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL.—

(1) AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE.—The Secretary of Defense, under regulations prescribed by the Secretary and in accordance with guidelines approved by the Secretary and the Attorney General, may authorize qualified members of the Armed Forces and qualified civilian employees of the Department of Defense to provide physical protection and personal security within the United States to individuals other than individuals described in paragraphs (1) through (7) of subsection (a) if the Secretary determines that such protection and security are necessary because—

(A) there is an imminent and credible threat to the safety of the individual for whom protection is to be provided; or

(B) compelling operational considerations make such protection essential to the conduct of official Department of Defense business.

(2) PERSONNEL.—Individuals authorized to receive physical protection and personal security under this subsection include the following:

(A) Any official, military member, or employee of the Department of Defense.

(B) A former or retired official who faces serious and credible threats arising from duties performed while employed by the Department for a period of up to two years beginning on the date on which the official separates from the Department.

(C) A head of a foreign state, an official representative of a foreign government, or any other distinguished foreign visitor to the United States who is primarily conducting official business with the Department of Defense.

(D) Any member of the immediate family of a person authorized to receive physical protection and personal security under this section.

(E) An individual who has been designated by the President, and who has received the advice and consent of the Senate, to serve as Secretary of Defense, but who has not yet been appointed as Secretary of Defense.

(3) LIMITATION ON DELEGATION.—The authority of the Secretary of Defense to authorize the provision of physical protection and personal security under this subsection may be delegated only to the Deputy Secretary of Defense.

(4) REQUIREMENT FOR WRITTEN DETERMINATION.—A determination of the Secretary of Defense to provide physical protection and personal security under this subsection shall be in writing, shall be based on a threat assessment by an appropriate law enforcement, security, or intelligence organization, and shall include the name and title of the officer, employee, or other individual affected, the reason for such determination, the duration of the authorized protection and security for such officer, employee, or individual, and the nature of the arrangements for the protection and security.

(5) DURATION OF PROTECTION.—

(A) INITIAL PERIOD OF PROTECTION.—After making a written determination under paragraph (4), the Secretary of Defense may provide protection and security to an individual under this subsection for an initial period of not more than 90 calendar days.

(B) SUBSEQUENT PERIOD.—If, at the end of the period that protection and security is provided to an individual under subsection (A), the Secretary determines that a condition described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1) continues to exist with respect to the individual, the Secretary may extend the period that such protection and security is provided for additional 60-day periods. The Secretary shall review such a determination at the end of each 60-day period to determine whether to continue to provide such protection and security.

(C) REQUIREMENT FOR COMPLIANCE WITH REGULATIONS.—Protection and personal security provided under subparagraph (B) shall be provided in accordance with the regulations and guidelines referred to in paragraph (1).

(6) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees each determination made under paragraph (4) to provide protection and security to an individual and of each determination under paragraph (5)(B) to extend such protection and security, together with the justification for such determination, not later than 15 days after the date on which the determination is made.

(B) FORM OF REPORT.—A report submitted under subparagraph (A) may be made in classified form.

(C) REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES.—The Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees the regulations and guidelines prescribed pursuant to paragraph (1) not less than 20 days before the date on which such regulations take effect.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CONGRESSIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEES.—The term ''congressional defense committees'' means the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(2) QUALIFIED MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND QUALIFIED CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—The terms ''qualified members of the Armed Forces'' and ''qualified civilian employees of the Department of Defense'' refer collectively to members or employees who are assigned to investigative, law enforcement, or security duties of any of the following:

(A) The Army Criminal Investigation Command.

(B) The Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

(C) The Air Force Office of Special Investigations.

(D) The Defense Criminal Investigative Service.

(E) The Pentagon Force Protection Agency.

(d) CONSTRUCTION.—

(1) NO ADDITIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OR ARREST AUTHORITY.—Other than the authority to provide protection and security under this section, nothing in this section may be construed to bestow any additional law enforcement or arrest authority upon the qualified members of the Armed Forces and qualified civilian employees of the Department of Defense.

(2) POSSE COMITATUS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to abridge section 1385 of title 18, United States Code.

(3) AUTHORITIES OF OTHER DEPARTMENTS.—Nothing in this section may be construed to preclude or limit, in any way, the express or implied powers of the Secretary of Defense or other Department of Defense officials, or the duties and authorities of the Secretary of State, the Director of the United States

Secret Service, the Director of the United States Marshals Service, or any other Federal law enforcement agency.

SEC. 1075. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITIES ON COMMISSION TO ASSESS THE THREAT TO THE UNITED STATES FROM ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE ATTACK.

(a) EXTENSION OF DATE OF SUBMITTAL OF FINAL REPORT.—Section 1403(a) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (as enacted into law by Public Law 106–398; 50 U.S.C. 2301 note) is amended by striking ''June 30, 2007'' and inserting ''November 30, 2008''.

(b) COORDINATION OF WORK WITH DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.—Section 1404 of such Act is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(c) COORDINATION WITH DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.—The Commission and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall jointly ensure that the work of the Commission with respect to electromagnetic pulse attack on electricity infrastructure, and protection against such attack, is coordinated with Department of Homeland Security efforts on such matters.''.

(c) LIMITATION ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FUNDING.—The aggregate amount of funds provided by the Department of Defense to the Commission to Assess the Threat to the United States from Electromagnetic Pulse Attack for purposes of the preparation and submittal of the final report required by section 1403(a) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (as amended by subsection (a)), whether by transfer or otherwise and including funds provided the Commission before the date of the enactment of this Act, shall not exceed $5,600,000.

SEC. 1076. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH PROGRAM.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Department of Defense's Small Business Innovation Research program has been effective in supporting the performance of the missions of the Department of Defense, by stimulating technological innovation through investments in small business research activities;

(2) the Department of Defense's Small Business Innovation Research program has transitioned a number of technologies and systems into operational use by warfighters; and

(3) the Department of Defense's Small Business Innovation Research program should be reauthorized so as to ensure that the program's activities can continue seamlessly, efficiently, and effectively.

SEC. 1077. REVISION OF PROFICIENCY FLYING DEFINITION.

Subsection (c) of section 2245 of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(c) In this section, the term 'proficiency flying' means flying performed under competent orders by a rated or designated member of the armed forces while serving in a non-aviation assignment or in an assignment in which skills would normally not be maintained in the performance of assigned duties.''.

SEC. 1078. QUALIFICATIONS FOR PUBLIC AIRCRAFT STATUS OF AIRCRAFT UNDER CONTRACT WITH THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) DEFINITION OF PUBLIC AIRCRAFT.—Section 40102(a)(41)(E) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''or other commercial air service'' after ''transportation''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following: ''In the preceding sentence, the term 'other commercial air service' means an aircraft operation that (i) is within the United States territorial airspace; (ii) the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration determines is available for compensation or hire to the public, and (iii) must comply with all applicable civil aircraft rules under title 14, Code of Federal Regulations.''.

(b) AIRCRAFT OPERATED BY THE ARMED FORCES.—Section 40125(c)(1)(C) of such title is amended by inserting ''or other commercial air service'' after ''transportation''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 40125(b) of such title is amended by striking ''40102(a)(37)'' and inserting ''40102(a)(41)''.

(2) Section 40125(c)(1) of such title is amended by striking ''40102(a)(37)(E)'' and inserting ''40102(a)(41)(E)''.

SEC. 1079. COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE COMMITTEES ON ARMED SERVICES OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

(a) REQUESTS OF COMMITTEES.—The Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, the Director of a national intelligence center, or the head of any element of the intelligence community shall, not later than 45 days after receiving a written request from the Chair or ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate or the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives for any existing intelligence assessment, report, estimate, or legal opinion relating to matters within the jurisdiction of such Committee, make available to such committee such assessment, report, estimate, or legal opinion, as the case may be.

(b) ASSERTION OF PRIVILEGE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In response to a request covered by subsection (a), the Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, the Director of a national intelligence center, or the head of any element of the intelligence community shall provide to the Committee making such request the document or information covered by such request unless the President determines that such document or information shall not be provided because the President is asserting a privilege pursuant to the Constitution of the United States.

(2) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—The White House Counsel shall submit to Congress in writing any assertion by the President under paragraph (1) of a privilege pursuant to the Constitution.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The term ''intelligence community'' has the meaning given the term in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 401a(4)).

(2) INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT.—The term ''intelligence assessment'' means an intelligence-related analytical study of a subject of policy significance and does not include building-block papers, research projects, and reference aids.

(3) INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE.—The term ''intelligence estimate'' means an appraisal of available intelligence relating to a specific situation or condition with a view to determining the courses of action open to an enemy or potential enemy and the probable order of adoption of such courses of action.

SEC. 1080. RETENTION OF REIMBURSEMENT FOR PROVISION OF RECIPROCAL FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES.

Section 5 of the Act of May 27, 1955 (chapter 105; 69 Stat. 67; 42 U.S.C. 1856d) is amended—

(1) by striking ''Funds'' and inserting ''(a) Funds''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a), all sums received for any Department of Defense activity for fire protection rendered pursuant to this Act shall be credited to the appropriation fund or account from which the expenses were paid. Amounts so credited shall be merged with funds in such appropriation fund or account and shall be available for the same purposes and subject to the same limitations as the funds with which the funds are merged.''.

SEC. 1081. PILOT PROGRAM ON COMMERCIAL FEE-FOR-SERVICE AIR REFUELING SUPPORT FOR THE AIR FORCE.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.—The Secretary of the Air Force shall conduct, as soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of utilizing commercial fee-for-service air refueling tanker aircraft for Air Force operations. The duration of the pilot program shall be at least five years after commencement of the program.

(b) PURPOSE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The pilot program required by subsection (a) shall evaluate the feasibility of fee-for-service air refueling to support, augment, or enhance the air refueling mission of the Air Force by utilizing commercial air refueling providers on a fee-for-service basis.

(2) ELEMENTS.—In order to achieve the purpose of the pilot program, the Secretary of the Air Force shall—

(A) demonstrate and validate a comprehensive strategy for air refueling on a fee-for-service basis by evaluating all mission areas, including testing support, training support to receiving aircraft, homeland defense support, deployment support, air bridge support, aeromedical evacuation, and emergency air refueling; and

(B) integrate fee-for-service air refueling described in paragraph (1) into Air Mobility Command operations during the evaluation and execution phases of the pilot program.

(c) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary of the Air Force shall provide to the congressional defense committees an annual report on the fee-for-service air refueling program, which includes—

(1) information with respect to—

(A) missions flown;

(B) mission areas supported;

(C) aircraft number, type, model series supported;

(D) fuel dispensed;

(E) departure reliability rates; and

(F) the annual and cumulative cost to the Government for the program, including a comparison of costs of the same service provided by the Air Force;

(2) an assessment of the impact of outsourcing air refueling on the Air Force's flying hour program and aircrew training; and

(3) any other data that the Secretary determines is appropriate for evaluating the performance of the commercial air refueling providers participating in the pilot program.

(d) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW.—The Comptroller General shall submit to the congressional defense committees—

(1) an annual review of the conduct of the pilot program under this section and any recommendations of the Comptroller General for improving the program; and

(2) not later than 90 days after the completion of the pilot program, a final assessment of the results of the pilot program and the recommendations of the Comptroller General for whether the Secretary of the Air Force should continue to utilize fee-for-service air refueling.

SEC. 1082. ADVISORY PANEL ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CAPABILITIES FOR SUPPORT OF CIVIL AUTHORITIES AFTER CERTAIN INCIDENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish an advisory panel to carry out an assessment of the capabilities of the

Department of Defense to provide support to United States civil authorities in the event of a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or high-yield explosive (CBRNE) incident.

(b) PANEL MATTERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The advisory panel required by subsection (a) shall consist of individuals appointed by the Secretary of Defense (in consultation with the chairmen and ranking members of the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives) from among private citizens of the United States with expertise in the legal, operational, and organizational aspects of the management of the consequences of a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or high-yield explosive incident.

(2) DEADLINE FOR APPOINTMENT.—All members of the advisory panel shall be appointed under this subsection not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary enters into the contract required by subsection (c).

(3) INITIAL MEETING.—The advisory panel shall conduct its first meeting not later than 30 days after the date that all appointments to the panel have been made under this subsection.

(4) PROCEDURES.—The advisory panel shall carry out its duties under this section under procedures established under subsection (c) by the federally funded research and development center with which the Secretary contracts under that subsection. Such procedures shall include procedures for the selection of a chairman of the advisory panel from among its members.

(c) SUPPORT OF FEDERALLY FUNDED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall enter into a contract with a federally funded research and development center for the provision of support and assistance to the advisory panel required by subsection (a) in carrying out its duties under this section. Such support and assistance shall include the establishment of the procedures of the advisory panel under subsection (b)(4).

(2) DEADLINE FOR CONTRACT.—The Secretary shall enter into the contract required by this subsection not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) DUTIES OF PANEL.—The advisory panel required by subsection (a) shall—

(1) evaluate the authorities and capabilities of the Department of Defense to conduct operations in support to United States civil authorities in the event of a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or high-yield explosive incident, including the authorities and capabilities of the military departments, the Defense Agencies, the combatant commands, any supporting commands, and the reserve components of the Armed Forces (including the National Guard in a Federal and non-Federal status);

(2) assess the adequacy of existing plans and programs of the Department of Defense for training and equipping dedicated, special, and general purposes forces for conducting operations described in paragraph (1) across a broad spectrum of scenarios, including current National Planning Scenarios as applicable;

(3) assess policies, directives, and plans of the Department of Defense in support of civilian authorities in managing the consequences of a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or high-yield explosive incident;

(4) assess the adequacy of policies and structures of the Department of Defense for coordination with other department and agencies of the Federal Government, especially the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Energy, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Health and Human Services, in the provision of support described in paragraph (1);

(5) assess the adequacy and currency of information available to the Department of Defense, whether directly or through other departments and agencies of the Federal Government, from State and local governments in circumstances where the Department provides support described in paragraph (1) because State and local response capabilities are not fully adequate for a comprehensive response;

(6) assess the equipment capabilities and needs of the Department of Defense to provide support described in paragraph (1);

(7) develop recommendations for modifying the capabilities, plans, policies, equipment, and structures evaluated or assessed under this subsection in order to improve the provision by the Department of Defense of the support described in paragraph (1); and

(8) assess and make recommendations on—

(A) whether there should be any additional Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams, beyond the 55 already authorized and, if so, how many additional Civil Support Teams, and where they should be located; and

(B) what criteria and considerations are appropriate to determine whether additional Civil Support Teams are needed and, if so, where they should be located.

(e) COOPERATION OF OTHER AGENCIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The advisory panel required by subsection (a) may secure directly from the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Energy, the Department of Justice, the Department of Health and Human Services, and any other department or agency of the Federal Government information that the panel considers necessary for the panel to carry out its duties.

(2) COOPERATION.—The Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Homeland Secretary, the Secretary of Energy, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and any other official of the United States shall provide the advisory panel with full and timely cooperation in carrying out its duties under this section.

(f) REPORT.—Not later than 12 months after the date of the initial meeting of the advisory panel required by subsection (a), the advisory panel shall submit to the Secretary of Defense, and to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, a report on activities under this section. The report shall set forth—

(1) the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the advisory panel for improving the capabilities of the Department of Defense to provide support to United States civil authorities in the event of a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or high-yield explosive incident; and

(2) such other findings, conclusions, and recommendations for improving the capabilities of the Department for homeland defense as the advisory panel considers appropriate.

SEC. 1083. TERRORISM EXCEPTION TO IMMUNITY.

(a) TERRORISM EXCEPTION TO IMMUNITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 97 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1605 the following:

"§ 1605A. Terrorism exception to the jurisdictional immunity of a foreign state

"(a) IN GENERAL.—

"(1) NO IMMUNITY.—A foreign state shall not be immune from the jurisdiction of courts of the United States or of the States in any case not otherwise covered by this chapter in which money damages are sought against a foreign state for personal injury or death that was caused by an act of torture, extrajudicial killing, aircraft sabotage, hostage taking, or the provision of material support or resources for such an act if such act or provision of material support or resources is engaged in by an official, employee, or agent of such foreign state while acting within the scope of his or her office, employment, or agency.

"(2) CLAIM HEARD.—The court shall hear a claim under this section if—

"(A)(i)(I) the foreign state was designated as a state sponsor of terrorism at the time the act described in paragraph (1) occurred, or was so designated as a result of such act, and, subject to subclause (II), either remains so designated when the claim is filed under this section or was so designated within the 6-month period before the claim is filed under this section; or

"(II) in the case of an action that is refiled under this section by reason of section 1083(c)(2)(A) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 or is filed under this section by reason of section 1083(c)(3) of that Act, the foreign state was designated as a state sponsor of terrorism when the original action or the related action under section 1605(a)(7) (as in effect before the enactment of this section) or section 589 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1997 (as contained in section 101(c) of division A of Public Law 104–208) was filed;

"(ii) the claimant or the victim was, at the time the act described in paragraph (1) occurred—

"(I) a national of the United States;

"(II) a member of the armed forces; or

"(III) otherwise an employee of the Government of the United States, or of an individual performing a contract awarded by the United States Government, acting within the scope of the employee's employment; and

"(iii) in a case in which the act occurred in the foreign state against which the claim has been brought, the claimant has afforded the foreign state a reasonable opportunity to arbitrate the claim in accordance with the accepted international rules of arbitration; or

"(B) the act described in paragraph (1) is related to Case Number 1:00CV03110 (EGS) in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

"(b) LIMITATIONS.—An action may be brought or maintained under this section if the action is commenced, or a related action was commenced under section 1605(a)(7) (before the date of the enactment of this section) or section 589 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1997 (as contained in section 101(c) of division A of Public Law 104–208) not later than the latter of—

"(1) 10 years after April 24, 1996; or

"(2) 10 years after the date on which the cause of action arose.

"(c) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—A foreign state that is or was a state sponsor of terrorism as described in subsection (a)(2)(A)(i), and any official, employee, or agent of that foreign state while acting within the scope of his or her office, employment, or agency, shall be liable to—

"(1) a national of the United States,

"(2) a member of the armed forces,

"(3) an employee of the Government of the United States, or of an individual performing a contract awarded by the United States Government, acting within the scope of the employee's employment, or

"(4) the legal representative of a person described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3),

for personal injury or death caused by acts described in subsection (a)(1) of that foreign state, or of an official, employee, or agent of that foreign state, for which the courts of the United States may maintain jurisdiction under this section for money damages. In

any such action, damages may include economic damages, solatium, pain and suffering, and punitive damages. In any such action, a foreign state shall be vicariously liable for the acts of its officials, employees, or agents.

''(d) ADDITIONAL DAMAGES.—After an action has been brought under subsection (c), actions may also be brought for reasonably foreseeable property loss, whether insured or uninsured, third party liability, and loss claims under life and property insurance policies, by reason of the same acts on which the action under subsection (c) is based.

''(e) SPECIAL MASTERS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The courts of the United States may appoint special masters to hear damage claims brought under this section.

''(2) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—The Attorney General shall transfer, from funds available for the program under section 1404C of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10603c), to the Administrator of the United States district court in which any case is pending which has been brought or maintained under this section such funds as may be required to cover the costs of special masters appointed under paragraph (1). Any amount paid in compensation to any such special master shall constitute an item of court costs.

''(f) APPEAL.—In an action brought under this section, appeals from orders not conclusively ending the litigation may only be taken pursuant to section 1292(b) of this title.

''(g) PROPERTY DISPOSITION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In every action filed in a United States district court in which jurisdiction is alleged under this section, the filing of a notice of pending action pursuant to this section, to which is attached a copy of the complaint filed in the action, shall have the effect of establishing a lien of lis pendens upon any real property or tangible personal property that is—

''(A) subject to attachment in aid of execution, or execution, under section 1610;

''(B) located within that judicial district; and

''(C) titled in the name of any defendant, or titled in the name of any entity controlled by any defendant if such notice contains a statement listing such controlled entity.

''(2) NOTICE.—A notice of pending action pursuant to this section shall be filed by the clerk of the district court in the same manner as any pending action and shall be indexed by listing as defendants all named defendants and all entities listed as controlled by any defendant.

''(3) ENFORCEABILITY.—Liens established by reason of this subsection shall be enforceable as provided in chapter 111 of this title.

''(h) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

''(1) the term 'aircraft sabotage' has the meaning given that term in Article 1 of the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Civil Aviation;

''(2) the term 'hostage taking' has the meaning given that term in Article 1 of the International Convention Against the Taking of Hostages;

''(3) the term 'material support or resources' has the meaning given that term in section 2339A of title 18;

''(4) the term 'armed forces' has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 10;

''(5) the term 'national of the United States' has the meaning given that term in section 101(a)(22) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(22));

''(6) the term 'state sponsor of terrorism' means a country the government of which the Secretary of State has determined, for purposes of section 6(j) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2405(j)), section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371), section 40 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780), or any other provision of law, is a government that has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism; and

''(7) the terms 'torture' and 'extrajudicial killing' have the meaning given those terms in section 3 of the Torture Victim Protection Act of 1991 (28 U.S.C. 1350 note).''.

(2) AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER ANALYSIS.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 97 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1605 the following:

''1605A. Terrorism exception to the jurisdictional immunity of a foreign state.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) GENERAL EXCEPTION.—Section 1605 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (5)(B), by inserting ''or'' after the semicolon;

(ii) in paragraph (6)(D), by striking ''; or'' and inserting a period; and

(iii) by striking paragraph (7);

(B) by repealing subsections (e) and (f); and

(C) in subsection (g)(1)(A), by striking ''but for subsection (a)(7)'' and inserting ''but for section 1605A''.

(2) COUNTERCLAIMS.—Section 1607(a) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''or 1605A'' after ''1605''.

(3) PROPERTY.—Section 1610 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(7), by striking ''1605(a)(7)'' and inserting ''1605A'';

(B) in subsection (b)(2), by striking ''(5), or (7), or 1605(b)'' and inserting ''or (5), 1605(b), or 1605A'';

(C) in subsection (f), in paragraphs (1)(A) and (2)(A), by inserting ''(as in effect before the enactment of section 1605A) or section 1605A'' after ''1605(a)(7)''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(g) PROPERTY IN CERTAIN ACTIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (3), the property of a foreign state against which a judgment is entered under section 1605A, and the property of an agency or instrumentality of such a state, including property that is a separate juridical entity or is an interest held directly or indirectly in a separate juridical entity, is subject to attachment in aid of execution, and execution, upon that judgment as provided in this section, regardless of—

''(A) the level of economic control over the property by the government of the foreign state;

''(B) whether the profits of the property go to that government;

''(C) the degree to which officials of that government manage the property or otherwise control its daily affairs;

''(D) whether that government is the sole beneficiary in interest of the property; or

''(E) whether establishing the property as a separate entity would entitle the foreign state to benefits in United States courts while avoiding its obligations.

''(2) UNITED STATES SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY INAPPLICABLE.—Any property of a foreign state, or agency or instrumentality of a foreign state, to which paragraph (1) applies shall not be immune from attachment in aid of execution, or execution, upon a judgment entered under section 1605A because the property is regulated by the United States Government by reason of action taken against that foreign state under the Trading With the Enemy Act or the International Emergency Economic Powers Act.

''(3) THIRD-PARTY JOINT PROPERTY HOLDERS.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to supersede the authority of a court to prevent appropriately the impairment of an interest held by a person who is not liable in the action giving rise to a judgment in property subject to attachment in aid of execution, or execution, upon such judgment.''.

(4) VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT.—Section 1404C(a)(3) of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10603c(a)(3)) is amended by striking ''December 21, 1988 with respect to which an investigation or'' and inserting ''October 23, 1983, with respect to which an investigation or civil or criminal''.

(c) APPLICATION TO PENDING CASES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to any claim arising under section 1605A of title 28, United States Code.

(2) PRIOR ACTIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to any action that—

(i) was brought under section 1605(a)(7) of title 28, United States Code, or section 589 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1997 (as contained in section 101(c) of division A of Public Law 104–208), before the date of the enactment of this Act,

(ii) relied upon either such provision as creating a cause of action,

(iii) has been adversely affected on the grounds that either or both of these provisions fail to create a cause of action against the state, and

(iv) as of such date of enactment, is before the courts in any form, including on appeal or motion under rule 60(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure,

that action, and any judgment in the action shall, on motion made by plaintiffs to the United States district court where the action was initially brought, or judgment in the action was initially entered, be given effect as if the action had originally been filed under section 1605A(c) of title 28, United States Code.

(B) DEFENSES WAIVED.—The defenses of res judicata, collateral estoppel, and limitation period are waived—

(i) in any action with respect to which a motion is made under subparagraph (A), or

(ii) in any action that was originally brought, before the date of the enactment of this Act, under section 1605(a)(7) of title 28, United States Code, or section 589 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1997 (as contained in section 101(c) of division A of Public Law 104–208), and is refiled under section 1605A(c) of title 28, United States Code,

to the extent such defenses are based on the claim in the action.

(C) TIME LIMITATIONS.—A motion may be made or an action may be refiled under subparagraph (A) only—

(i) if the original action was commenced not later than the latter of—

(I) 10 years after April 24, 1996; or

(II) 10 years after the cause of action arose; and

(ii) within the 60-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) RELATED ACTIONS.—If an action arising out of an act or incident has been timely commenced under section 1605(a)(7) of title 28, United States Code, or section 589 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1997 (as contained in section 101(c) of division A of Public Law 104–208), any other action arising out of the same act or incident may be brought under section 1605A of title 28, United States Code, if the action is commenced not later than the latter of 60 days after—

(A) the date of the entry of judgment in the original action; or

(B) the date of the enactment of this Act.

(4) PRESERVING THE JURISDICTION OF THE COURTS.—Nothing in section 1503 of the Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2003 (Public Law 108–11, 117 Stat. 579) has ever authorized, directly or indirectly, the making inapplicable of any provision of chapter 97 of title 28, United States Code, or the removal of the jurisdiction of any court of the United States.

(d) APPLICABILITY TO IRAQ.—

(1) APPLICABILITY.—The President may waive any provision of this section with respect to Iraq, insofar as that provision may, in the President's determination, affect Iraq or any agency or instrumentality thereof, if the President determines that—

(A) the waiver is in the national security interest of the United States;

(B) the waiver will promote the reconstruction of, the consolidation of democracy in, and the relations of the United States with, Iraq; and

(C) Iraq continues to be a reliable ally of the United States and partner in combating acts of international terrorism.

(2) TEMPORAL SCOPE.—The authority under paragraph (1) shall apply—

(A) with respect to any conduct or event occurring before or on the date of the enactment of this Act;

(B) with respect to any conduct or event occurring before or on the date of the exercise of that authority; and

(C) regardless of whether, or the extent to which, the exercise of that authority affects any action filed before, on, or after the date of the exercise of that authority or of the enactment of this Act.

(3) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—A waiver by the President under paragraph (1) shall cease to be effective 30 days after it is made unless the President has notified Congress in writing of the basis for the waiver as determined by the President under paragraph (1).

(4) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that the President, acting through the Secretary of State, should work with the Government of Iraq on a state-to-state basis to ensure compensation for any meritorious claims based on terrorist acts committed by the Saddam Hussein regime against individuals who were United States nationals or members of the United States Armed Forces at the time of those terrorist acts and whose claims cannot be addressed in courts in the United States due to the exercise of the waiver authority under paragraph (1).

(e) SEVERABILITY.—If any provision of this section or the amendments made by this section, or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, the remainder of this section and such amendments, and the application of such provision to other persons not similarly situated or to other circumstances, shall not be affected by such invalidation.

TITLE XI—CIVILIAN PERSONNEL MATTERS

Sec. 1101. Extension of authority to waive annual limitation on total compensation paid to Federal civilian employees working overseas under areas of United States Central Command.

Sec. 1102. Continuation of life insurance coverage for Federal employees called to active duty.

Sec. 1103. Transportation of dependents, household effects, and personal property to former home following death of Federal employee where death resulted from disease or injury incurred in the Central Command area of responsibility.

Sec. 1104. Special benefits for civilian employees assigned on deployment temporary change of station.

Sec. 1105. Death gratuity authorized for Federal employees.

Sec. 1106. Modifications to the National Security Personnel System.

Sec. 1107. Requirement for full implementation of personnel demonstration project.

Sec. 1108. Authority for inclusion of certain Office of Defense Research and Engineering positions in experimental personnel program for scientific and technical personnel.

Sec. 1109. Pilot program for the temporary assignment of information technology personnel to private sector organizations.

Sec. 1110. Compensation for Federal wage system employees for certain travel hours.

Sec. 1111. Travel compensation for wage grade personnel.

Sec. 1112. Accumulation of annual leave by senior level employees.

Sec. 1113. Uniform allowances for civilian employees.

Sec. 1114. Flexibility in setting pay for employees who move from a Department of Defense or Coast Guard nonappropriated fund instrumentality position to a position in the General Schedule pay system.

Sec. 1115. Retirement service credit for service as cadet or midshipman at a military service academy.

Sec. 1116. Authorization for increased compensation for faculty and staff of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

Sec. 1117. Report on establishment of a scholarship program for civilian mental health professionals.

SEC. 1101. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO WAIVE ANNUAL LIMITATION ON TOTAL COMPENSATION PAID TO FEDERAL CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES WORKING OVERSEAS UNDER AREAS OF UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND.

(a) EXTENSION.—Section 1105 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109–163; 119 Stat. 3450), as amended by section 1105 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2409), is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking ''and 2007'' and inserting '', 2007, and 2008''; and

(B) by striking ''Code).'' and inserting ''Code) or, during 2008, a military operation (including a contingency operation, as so defined) or an operation in response to an emergency declared by the President.''; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking ''2007.'' and inserting ''2007 or 2008.''.

(b) RETROACTIVE EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect as of December 31, 2007.

SEC. 1102. CONTINUATION OF LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES CALLED TO ACTIVE DUTY.

Section 8706 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (d) through (g) as subsections (e) through (h), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

''(d)(1) An employee who enters on approved leave without pay in the circumstances described in paragraph (2) may elect to have such employee's life insurance continue (beyond the end of the 12 months of coverage provided for under subsection (a)) for an additional 12 months and arrange to pay currently into the Employees' Life Insurance Fund, through such employee's employing agency, both employee and agency contributions, from the beginning of that additional 12 months of coverage. The employing agency shall forward the premium payments to the Fund. If the employee does not so elect, such employee's insurance will continue during nonpay status and stop as provided by subsection (a). An individual making an election under this subsection may cancel that election at any time, in which case such employee's insurance will stop as provided by subsection (a) or upon receipt of notice of cancellation, whichever is later.

''(2) This subsection applies in the case of any employee who—

''(A) is a member of a reserve component of the armed forces called or ordered to active duty under a call or order that does not specify a period of 30 days or less; and

''(B) enters on approved leave without pay to perform active duty pursuant to such call or order.''.

SEC. 1103. TRANSPORTATION OF DEPENDENTS, HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS, AND PERSONAL PROPERTY TO FORMER HOME FOLLOWING DEATH OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEE WHERE DEATH RESULTED FROM DISEASE OR INJURY INCURRED IN THE CENTRAL COMMAND AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 5742(b) of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(2) the expense of transporting his dependents, including expenses of packing, crating, draying, and transporting household effects and other personal property to his former home or such other place as is determined by the head of the agency concerned, if—

''(A) the employee died while performing official duties outside the continental United States or in transit thereto or therefrom; or

''(B) in the case of an employee who was a party to a mandatory mobility agreement that was in effect when the employee died—

''(i) the employee died in the circumstances described in subparagraph (A); or

''(ii)(I) the employee died as a result of disease or injury incurred while performing official duties—

''(aa) in an overseas location that, at the time such employee was performing such official duties, was within the area of responsibility of the Commander of the United States Central Command; and

''(bb) in direct support of or directly related to a military operation, including a contingency operation (as defined in section 101(13) of title 10) or an operation in response to an emergency declared by the President; and

''(II) the employee's dependents were residing either outside the continental United States or within the continental United States when the employee died; and''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to deaths occurring on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 1104. SPECIAL BENEFITS FOR CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES ASSIGNED ON DEPLOYMENT TEMPORARY CHANGE OF STATION.

(a) AUTHORITY.—Subchapter II of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 5737 the following:

"§ 5737a. Employees temporarily deployed in contingency operations

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

''(1) the term 'covered employee' means an individual who—

''(A) is an employee of an Executive agency or a military department, excluding a Government controlled corporation; and

''(B) is assigned on a temporary change of station in support of a contingency operation;

''(2) the term 'temporary change of station', as used with respect to an employee, means an assignment—

''(A) from the employee's official duty station to a temporary duty station; and

''(B) for which such employee is eligible for expenses under section 5737; and

''(3) the term 'contingency operation' has the meaning given such term by section 1482a(c) of title 10.

''(b) QUARTERS AND RATIONS.—The head of an agency may provide quarters and rations, without charge, to any covered employee of such agency during the period of such employee's temporary assignment (as described in subsection (a)(1)(B)).

''(c) STORAGE OF MOTOR VEHICLE.—The head of an agency may provide for the storage, without charge, or for the reimbursement of the cost of storage, of a motor vehicle that is owned or leased by a covered employee of such agency (or by a dependent of such an employee) and that is for the personal use of the covered employee. This subsection shall apply—

''(1) with respect to storage during the period of the employee's temporary assignment (as described in subsection (a)(1)(B)); and

''(2) in the case of a covered employee, with respect to not more than one motor vehicle as of any given time.

''(d) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER BENEFITS.—Any benefits under this section shall be in addition to (and not in lieu of) any other benefits for which the covered employee is otherwise eligible.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 57 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 5737 the following:

''5737a. Employees temporarily deployed in contingency operations.''.

SEC. 1105. DEATH GRATUITY AUTHORIZED FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.

(a) DEATH GRATUITY AUTHORIZED.—Chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 8102 the following:

"§ 8102a. Death gratuity for injuries incurred in connection with employee's service with an Armed Force

''(a) DEATH GRATUITY AUTHORIZED.—The United States shall pay a death gratuity of up to $100,000 to or for the survivor prescribed by subsection (d) immediately upon receiving official notification of the death of an employee who dies of injuries incurred in connection with the employee's service with an Armed Force in a contingency operation.

''(b) RETROACTIVE PAYMENT IN CERTAIN CASES.—At the discretion of the Secretary concerned, subsection (a) may apply in the case of an employee who died, on or after October 7, 2001, and before the date of enactment of this section, as a result of injuries incurred in connection with the employee's service with an Armed Force in the theater of operations of Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom.

''(c) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER BENEFITS.—The death gratuity payable under this section shall be reduced by the amount of any death gratuity provided under section 413 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980, section 1603 of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006, or any other law of the United States based on the same death.

''(d) ELIGIBLE SURVIVORS.—

''(1) Subject to paragraph (5), a death gratuity payable upon the death of a person covered by subsection (a) shall be paid to or for the living survivor highest on the following list:

''(A) The employee's surviving spouse.

''(B) The employee's children, as prescribed by paragraph (2), in equal shares.

''(C) If designated by the employee, any one or more of the following persons:

''(i) The employee's parents or persons in loco parentis, as prescribed by paragraph (3).

''(ii) The employee's brothers.

''(iii) The employee's sisters.

''(D) The employee's parents or persons in loco parentis, as prescribed by paragraph (3), in equal shares.

''(E) The employee's brothers and sisters in equal shares.

Subparagraphs (C) and (E) of this paragraph include brothers and sisters of the half blood and those through adoption.

''(2) Paragraph (1)(B) applies, without regard to age or marital status, to—

''(A) legitimate children;

''(B) adopted children;

''(C) stepchildren who were a part of the decedent's household at the time of death;

''(D) illegitimate children of a female decedent; and

''(E) illegitimate children of a male decedent—

''(i) who have been acknowledged in writing signed by the decedent;

''(ii) who have been judicially determined, before the decedent's death, to be his children;

''(iii) who have been otherwise proved, by evidence satisfactory to the employing agency, to be children of the decedent; or

''(iv) to whose support the decedent had been judicially ordered to contribute.

''(3) Subparagraphs (C) and (D) of paragraph (1), so far as they apply to parents and persons in loco parentis, include fathers and mothers through adoption, and persons who stood in loco parentis to the decedent for a period of not less than one year at any time before the decedent became an employee. However, only one father and one mother, or their counterparts in loco parentis, may be recognized in any case, and preference shall be given to those who exercised a parental relationship on the date, or most nearly before the date, on which the decedent became an employee.

''(4) Beginning on the date of the enactment of this paragraph, a person covered by this section may designate another person to receive not more than 50 percent of the amount payable under this section. The designation shall indicate the percentage of the amount, to be specified only in 10 percent increments up to the maximum of 50 percent, that the designated person may receive. The balance of the amount of the death gratuity shall be paid to or for the living survivors of the person concerned in accordance with subparagraphs (A) through (E) of paragraph (1).

''(5) If a person entitled to all or a portion of a death gratuity under paragraph (1) or (4) dies before the person receives the death gratuity, it shall be paid to the living survivor next in the order prescribed by paragraph (1).

''(e) DEFINITIONS.—(1) The term 'contingency operation' has the meaning given to that term in section 1482a(c) of title 10, United States Code.

''(2) The term 'employee' has the meaning provided in section 8101 of this title, but also includes a nonappropriated fund instrumentality employee, as defined in section 1587(a)(1) of title 10.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 81 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 8102 the following:

''8102a. Death gratuity for injuries incurred in connection with employee's service with an Armed Force.''.

SEC. 1106. MODIFICATIONS TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY PERSONNEL SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 9902 of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"§ 9902. Establishment of human resources management system

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may, in regulations prescribed jointly with the Director, establish, and from time to time adjust, a human resources management system for some or all of the organizational or functional units of the Department of Defense. The human resources management system established under authority of this section shall be referred to as the 'National Security Personnel System'.

''(b) SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS.—Any system established under subsection (a) shall—

''(1) be flexible;

''(2) be contemporary;

''(3) not waive, modify, or otherwise affect—

''(A) the public employment principles of merit and fitness set forth in section 2301, including the principles of hiring based on merit, fair treatment without regard to political affiliation or other nonmerit considerations, equal pay for equal work, and protection of employees against reprisal for whistleblowing;

''(B) any provision of section 2302, relating to prohibited personnel practices;

''(C)(i) any provision of law referred to in section 2302(b)(1), (8), and (9); or

''(ii) any provision of law implementing any provision of law referred to in section 2302(b)(1), (8), and (9) by—

''(I) providing for equal employment opportunity through affirmative action; or

''(II) providing any right or remedy available to any employee or applicant for employment in the public service;

''(D) any other provision of this part (as described in subsection (d)); or

''(E) any rule or regulation prescribed under any provision of law referred to in this paragraph;

''(4) not apply to any prevailing rate employees, as defined in section 5342(a)(2);

''(5) ensure that employees may organize, bargain collectively, and participate through labor organizations of their own choosing in decisions which affect them, subject to any exclusion from coverage or limitation on negotiability established pursuant to law;

''(6) not be limited by any specific law or authority under this title, or by any rule or regulation prescribed under this title, that is waived in regulations prescribed under this chapter, subject to paragraph (3); and

''(7) include a performance management system that incorporates the following elements:

''(A) Adherence to merit principles set forth in section 2301.

''(B) A fair, credible, and transparent employee performance appraisal system.

''(C) A link between the performance management system and the agency's strategic plan.

''(D) A means for ensuring employee involvement in the design and implementation of the system.

''(E) Adequate training and retraining for supervisors, managers, and employees in the implementation and operation of the performance management system.

''(F) A process for ensuring ongoing performance feedback and dialogue between supervisors, managers, and employees throughout the appraisal period, and setting timetables for review.

''(G) Effective safeguards to ensure that the management of the system is fair and equitable and based on employee performance.

''(H) A means for ensuring that adequate agency resources are allocated for the design, implementation, and administration of the performance management system.

''(I) A pay-for-performance evaluation system to better link individual pay to performance, and provide an equitable method for appraising and compensating employees.

''(c) PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT AT DEFENSE LABORATORIES.—

''(1) The National Security Personnel System shall not apply with respect to a laboratory under paragraph (2) before October 1, 2011, and shall apply on or after October 1, 2011, only to the extent that the Secretary determines that the flexibilities provided by the National Security Personnel System are greater than the flexibilities provided to those laboratories pursuant to section 342 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1995 (Public Law 103–337; 108 Stat. 2721) and section 1101 of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (5 U.S.C. 3104 note), respectively.

''(2) The laboratories to which this subsection applies are—

''(A) the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center;

''(B) the Army Research Laboratory;

''(C) the Medical Research and Materiel Command;

''(D) the Engineer Research and Development Command;

''(E) the Communications-Electronics Command;

''(F) the Soldier and Biological Chemical Command;

''(G) the Naval Sea Systems Command Centers;

''(H) the Naval Research Laboratory;

''(I) the Office of Naval Research; and

''(J) the Air Force Research Laboratory.

''(d) OTHER NONWAIVABLE PROVISIONS.—The other provisions of this part referred to in subsection (b)(3)(D) are—

''(1) subparts A, B, E, G, and H of this part; and

''(2) chapters 41, 45, 47, 55 (except subchapter V thereof, apart from section 5545b), 57, 59, 71, 72, 73, 75, 77, and 79, and this chapter.

''(e) LIMITATIONS RELATING TO PAY.—

''(1) Nothing in this section shall constitute authority to modify the pay of any employee who serves in an Executive Schedule position under subchapter II of chapter 53.

''(2) Except as provided for in paragraph (1), the total amount in a calendar year of allowances, differentials, bonuses, awards, or other similar cash payments paid under this title to any employee who is paid under section 5376 or 5383 or under title 10 or under other comparable pay authority established for payment of Department of Defense senior executive or equivalent employees may not exceed the total annual compensation payable to the Vice President under section 104 of title 3.

''(3) To the maximum extent practicable, the rates of compensation for civilian employees at the Department of Defense shall be adjusted at the same rate, and in the same proportion, as are rates of compensation for members of the uniformed services.

''(4) To the maximum extent practicable, for fiscal years 2004 through 2012, the overall amount allocated for compensation of the civilian employees of an organizational or functional unit of the Department of Defense that is included in the National Security Personnel System shall not be less than the amount that would have been allocated for compensation of such employees for such fiscal year if they had not been converted to the National Security Personnel System, based on, at a minimum—

''(A) the number and mix of employees in such organizational or functional unit prior to the conversion of such employees to the National Security Personnel System; and

''(B) adjusted for normal step increases and rates of promotion that would have been expected, had such employees remained in their previous pay schedule.

''(5) To the maximum extent practicable, the regulations implementing the National Security Personnel System shall provide a formula for calculating the overall amount to be allocated for fiscal years after fiscal year 2012 for compensation of the civilian employees of an organization or functional unit of the Department of Defense that is included in the National Security Personnel System. The formula shall ensure that in the aggregate, employees are not disadvantaged in terms of the overall amount of pay available as a result of conversion to the National Security Personnel System, while providing flexibility to accommodate changes in the function of the organization, changes in the mix of employees performing those functions, and other changed circumstances that might impact pay levels.

''(6) Amounts allocated for compensation of civilian employees of the Department of Defense pursuant to paragraphs (4) and (5) shall be available only for the purpose of providing such compensation.

''(7) At the time of any annual adjustment to pay schedules pursuant to section 5303, the rate of basic pay for each employee of an organizational or functional unit of the Department of Defense that is included in the National Security Personnel System who receives a performance rating above unacceptable or who does not have a current rating of record for the most recently completed appraisal period shall be adjusted by no less than 60 percent of the amount of such adjustment. The balance of the amount that would have been available for an annual adjustment under section 5303 shall be allocated to pay pool funding, for the purpose of increasing rates of pay on the basis of employee performance.

''(8) Each employee of an organizational or functional unit of the Department of Defense that is included in the National Security Personnel System who receives a performance rating above unacceptable or who does not have a current rating of record for the most recently completed appraisal period shall receive—

''(A) locality-based comparability payments under section 5304 and section 5304a in the same manner and to the same extent as employees under the General Schedule; or

''(B) the full measure of any other local market supplement applicable to the employee if locality-based comparability payments referred to in subparagraph (A) are not generally applicable to the employee.

Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to make locality-based comparability payments or other local market supplements payable to any category of employees or positions which were ineligible for such payments or supplements (as the case may be) as of the day before the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004.

''(9) Any rate of pay established or adjusted in accordance with the requirements of this section shall be non-negotiable, but shall be subject to procedures and appropriate arrangements of paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 7106(b), except that nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to eliminate the bargaining rights of any category of employees who were authorized to negotiate rates of pay as of the day before the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004.

''(f) PROVISIONS REGARDING NATIONAL LEVEL BARGAINING.—

''(1) The Secretary may bargain with a labor organization which has been accorded exclusive recognition under chapter 71 at an organizational level above the level of exclusive recognition. The decision to bargain above the level of exclusive recognition shall not be subject to review. The Secretary shall consult with the labor organization before determining the appropriate organizational level of bargaining.

''(2) Any such bargaining shall—

''(A) address issues that are—

''(i) subject to bargaining under chapter 71 and this chapter;

''(ii) applicable to multiple bargaining units; and

''(iii) raised by either party to the bargaining;

''(B) except as agreed by the parties or directed through an independent dispute resolution process agreed upon by the parties, be binding on all affected subordinate bargaining units of the labor organization at the level of recognition and their exclusive representatives, and the Department of Defense and its subcomponents, without regard to levels of recognition;

''(C) to the extent agreed by the parties or directed through an independent dispute resolution process agreed upon by the parties, supersede conflicting provisions of all other collective bargaining agreements of the labor organization, including collective bargaining agreements negotiated with an exclusive representative at the level of recognition; and

''(D) except as agreed by the parties or directed through an independent dispute resolution process agreed upon by the parties, not be subject to further negotiations for any purpose, including bargaining at the level of recognition.

''(3) Any independent dispute resolution process agreed to by the parties for the purposes of paragraph (2) shall have the authority to address all issues on which the parties are unable to reach agreement.

''(4) The National Guard Bureau and the Army and Air Force National Guard may be included in coverage under this subsection.

''(5) Any bargaining completed pursuant to this subsection with a labor organization not otherwise having national consultation rights with the Department of Defense or its subcomponents shall not create any obligation on the Department of Defense or its subcomponents to confer national consultation rights on such a labor organization.

''(g) PROVISIONS RELATED TO SEPARATION AND RETIREMENT INCENTIVES.—

''(1) The Secretary may establish a program within the Department of Defense under which employees may be eligible for early retirement, offered separation incentive pay to separate from service voluntarily, or both. This authority may be used to reduce the number of personnel employed by the Department of Defense or to restructure the workforce to meet mission objectives without reducing the overall number of personnel. This authority is in addition to, and notwithstanding, any other authorities established by law or regulation for such programs.

''(2)(A) The Secretary may not authorize the payment of voluntary separation incentive pay under paragraph (1) to more than 25,000 employees in any fiscal year, except

that employees who receive voluntary separation incentive pay as a result of a closure or realignment of a military installation under the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (title XXIX of Public Law 101–510; 10 U.S.C. 2687 note) shall not be included in that number.

''(B) The Secretary shall prepare a report each fiscal year setting forth the number of employees who received such pay as a result of a closure or realignment of a military base as described under subparagraph (A).

''(C) The Secretary shall submit the report under subparagraph (B) to the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Governmental Affairs of the Senate, and the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Government Reform of the House of Representatives.

''(3) For purposes of this section, the term 'employee' means an employee of the Department of Defense, serving under an appointment without time limitation, except that such term does not include—

''(A) a reemployed annuitant under subchapter III of chapter 83 or chapter 84, or another retirement system for employees of the Federal Government;

''(B) an employee having a disability on the basis of which such employee is or would be eligible for disability retirement under any of the retirement systems referred to in subparagraph (A); or

''(C) for purposes of eligibility for separation incentives under this section, an employee who is in receipt of a decision notice of involuntary separation for misconduct or unacceptable performance.

''(4) An employee who is at least 50 years of age and has completed 20 years of service, or has at least 25 years of service, may, pursuant to regulations promulgated under this section, apply and be retired from the Department of Defense and receive benefits in accordance with chapter 83 or 84 if the employee has been employed continuously within the Department of Defense for more than 30 days before the date on which the determination to conduct a reduction or restructuring within 1 or more Department of Defense components is approved.

''(5)(A) Separation pay shall be paid in a lump sum or in installments and shall be equal to the lesser of —

''(i) an amount equal to the amount the employee would be entitled to receive under section 5595(c), if the employee were entitled to payment under such section; or

''(ii) $25,000.

''(B) Separation pay shall not be a basis for payment, and shall not be included in the computation, of any other type of Government benefit. Separation pay shall not be taken into account for the purpose of determining the amount of any severance pay to which an individual may be entitled under section 5595, based on any other separation.

''(C) Separation pay, if paid in installments, shall cease to be paid upon the recipient's acceptance of employment by the Federal Government, or commencement of work under a personal services contract as described in paragraph (6).

''(6)(A) An employee who receives separation pay under such program may not be reemployed by the Department of Defense for a 12-month period beginning on the effective date of the employee's separation, unless this prohibition is waived by the Secretary on a case-by-case basis.

''(B) An employee who receives separation pay under this section on the basis of a separation occurring on or after the date of the enactment of the Federal Workforce Restructuring Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–226; 108 Stat. 111) and accepts employment with the Government of the United States, or who commences work through a personal services contract with the United States within 5 years after the date of the separation on which payment of the separation pay is based, shall be required to repay the entire amount of the separation pay to the Department of Defense. If the employment is with an Executive agency (as defined by section 105) other than the Department of Defense, the Director may, at the request of the head of that agency, waive the repayment if the individual involved possesses unique abilities and is the only qualified applicant available for the position. If the employment is within the Department of Defense, the Secretary may waive the repayment if the individual involved is the only qualified applicant available for the position. If the employment is with an entity in the legislative branch, the head of the entity or the appointing official may waive the repayment if the individual involved possesses unique abilities and is the only qualified applicant available for the position. If the employment is with the judicial branch, the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts may waive the repayment if the individual involved possesses unique abilities and is the only qualified applicant available for the position.

''(7) Under this program, early retirement and separation pay may be offered only pursuant to regulations established by the Secretary, subject to such limitations or conditions as the Secretary may require.

''(h) PROVISIONS RELATING TO REEMPLOYMENT.—

''(1) Except as provided under paragraph (2), if an annuitant receiving an annuity from the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund becomes employed in a position within the Department of Defense, his annuity shall continue. An annuitant so reemployed shall not be considered an employee for purposes of subchapter III of chapter 83 or chapter 84.

''(2)(A) An annuitant retired under section 8336(d)(1) or 8414(b)(1)(A) receiving an annuity from the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund, who becomes employed in a position within the Department of Defense after the date of enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (Public Law 108–136), may elect to be subject to section 8344 or 8468 (as the case may be).

''(B) An election for coverage under this paragraph shall be filed not later than the later of 90 days after the date the Department of Defense—

''(i) prescribes regulations to carry out this subsection; or

''(ii) takes reasonable actions to notify employees who may file an election.

''(C) If an employee files an election under this paragraph, coverage shall be effective beginning on the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after the date of the filing of the election.

''(D) Paragraph (1) shall apply to an individual who is eligible to file an election under subparagraph (A) and does not file a timely election under subparagraph (B).

''(3) The Secretary shall prescribe regulations to carry out this subsection.

''(i) ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT.—

''(1) Subject to the requirements of chapter 71 and the limitations in subsection (b)(3), the Secretary of Defense, in establishing and implementing the National Security Personnel System under subsection (a), shall not be limited by any provision of this title or any rule or regulation prescribed under this title in establishing and implementing regulations relating to—

''(A) the methods of establishing qualification requirements for, recruitment for, and appointments to positions; and

''(B) the methods of assigning, reassigning, detailing, transferring, or promoting employees.

''(2) In implementing this subsection, the Secretary shall comply with the provisions of section 2302(b)(11), regarding veterans' preference requirements, as provided for in subsection (b)(3).

''(j) PHASE-IN.—The Secretary may not, in any calendar year, add any organizational or functional unit to the National Security Personnel System which would cause the total number of employees added to such System in such year to exceed 100,000.''.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) The requirements of section 9902 of title 5, United States Code, as amended by this section, may be implemented through rules promulgated jointly by the Secretary of Defense and the Director of the Office of Personnel Management after notice and opportunity for public comment or through Department of Defense rules or internal agency implementing issuances. Rules promulgated jointly by the Secretary and the Director under this paragraph shall be treated as major rules for the purposes of section 801 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) Both rules and implementing issuances shall be subject to collective bargaining consistent with the requirements of chapter 71 of title 5, United States Code. Rules promulgated jointly by the Secretary of Defense and the Director of the Office of Personnel Management after notice and opportunity for public comment and in accordance with the requirements of section 801 of such title 5 for a major rule shall be treated in the same manner as government-wide rules for the purpose of such collective bargaining, if such rules are uniformly applicable to all organizational or functional units included in the National Security Personnel System.

(3) Any rules and implementing issuances that were adopted prior to the date of the enactment of this Act—

(A) shall be invalid to the extent that they are inconsistent with the requirements of section 9902 of title 5, United States Code, as amended by this section;

(B) shall not supersede a collective bargaining agreement that was in place prior to the date on which the rule or implementing issuance was promulgated; and

(C) shall be subject to collective bargaining—

(i) in the case of rules which are uniformly applicable to all organizational or functional units included in the National Security Personnel System and issued jointly by the Secretary of Defense and the Director of the Office of Personnel Management pursuant to subsection 9902(f)(1) of title 5, United States Code (as in effect prior to the enactment of this section), only as to impact and implementation, when applied to employees of the Department of Defense from any bargaining unit;

(ii) in the case of any other rules or implementing issuances, to the extent provided in chapter 71 of title 5, United States Code.

(4) The availability of judicial review of any rules or implementing issuances that were adopted prior to the date of the enactment of this Act shall not be affected by the enactment of this section.

(c) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEWS.—

(1) The Comptroller General shall conduct annual reviews in calendar years 2008, 2009 and 2010 of—

(A) employee satisfaction with the National Security Personnel System established pursuant to section 9902 of title 5, United States Code, as amended by this section; and

(B) the extent to which the Department of Defense has effectively implemented accountability mechanisms, including those

established in section 9902(b)(7) of title 5, United States Code, and internal safeguards for the National Security Personnel System.

(2) To the extent that the Department of Defense undertakes internal assessments or employee surveys to assess employee satisfaction with the National Security Personnel System in any such calendar year, the Comptroller General shall—

(A) determine whether such assessments or surveys are appropriately designed and statistically valid; and

(B) provide an independent evaluation of the results of such assessments or surveys.

(3) To the extent that the Department of Defense does not undertake appropriately designed and statistically valid employee surveys, the Comptroller General shall conduct such a survey and provide an independent evaluation of the results.

(4) The Comptroller General shall report the results of each annual review conducted under this subsection to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 1107. REQUIREMENT FOR FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF PERSONNEL DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of Defense shall take all necessary actions to fully implement and use the authorities provided to the Secretary under section 342(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1995 (Public Law 103–337; 108 Stat. 2721), as amended by section 1114 of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (as enacted into law by Public Law 106–398; 114 Stat. 1654A–315), to carry out personnel management demonstration projects at Department of Defense laboratories that are exempted by section 9902(c) of title 5, United States Code, from inclusion in the Department of Defense National Security Personnel System.

(b) PROCESS FOR FULL IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary of Defense shall also implement a process and implementation plan to fully utilize the authorities described in subsection (a) to enhance the performance of the missions of the laboratories.

(c) OTHER LABORATORIES.—Any flexibility available to any demonstration laboratory shall be available for use at any other laboratory as enumerated in section 9902(c)(2) of title 5, United States Code.

(d) SUBMISSION OF LIST AND DESCRIPTION.—Not later than March 1 of each year, beginning with March 1, 2008, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a list and description of the demonstration project notices, amendments, and changes requested by the laboratories during the preceding calendar year. The list shall include all approved and disapproved notices, amendments, and changes, and the reasons for disapproval or delay in approval.

SEC. 1108. AUTHORITY FOR INCLUSION OF CERTAIN OFFICE OF DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING POSITIONS IN EXPERIMENTAL PERSONNEL PROGRAM FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL PERSONNEL.

Section 1101(b)(1) of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (5 U.S.C. 3104 note) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by adding ''and'' at the end; and

(3) by adding after subparagraph (C) the following:

''(D) not more than a total of 10 scientific and engineering positions in the Office of the Director of Defense Research and Engineering;''.

SEC. 1109. PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PERSONNEL TO PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) ASSIGNMENT AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Defense may, with the agreement of the private sector organization and the Department of Defense employee concerned, arrange for the temporary assignment of such employee to such private sector organization under this section. An employee shall be eligible for such an assignment only if—

(1) the employee—

(A) works in the field of information technology management;

(B) is considered to be an exceptional employee;

(C) is expected to assume increased information technology management responsibilities in the future;

(D) is compensated at not less than the GS–11 level (or the equivalent); and

(E) is serving under a career or career-conditional appointment or an appointment of equivalent tenure in the excepted service; and

(2) the proposed assignment meets applicable requirements of section 209(b) of the E-Government Act of 2002 (44 U.S.C. 3501 note).

(b) AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary of Defense shall provide for a written agreement between the Department of Defense and the employee concerned regarding the terms and conditions of the employee's assignment under this section. The agreement—

(1) shall require that, upon completion of the assignment, the employee will serve in the civil service for a period equal to the length of the assignment; and

(2) shall provide that if the employee fails to carry out the agreement, such employee shall be liable to the United States for payment of all expenses of the assignment, unless that failure was for good and sufficient reason (as determined by the Secretary of Defense).

An amount for which an employee is liable under paragraph (2) shall be treated as a debt due the United States.

(c) TERMINATION.—An assignment under this section may, at any time and for any reason, be terminated by the Department of Defense or the private sector organization concerned.

(d) DURATION.—An assignment under this section shall be for a period of not less than 3 months and not more than 1 year, and may be extended in 3-month increments for a total of not more than 1 additional year; however, no assignment under this section may commence after September 30, 2010.

(e) CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary of Defense—

(1) shall ensure that, of the assignments made under this section each year, at least 20 percent are to small business concerns (as defined by section 3703(e)(2)(A) of title 5, United States Code); and

(2) shall take into consideration the question of how assignments under this section might best be used to help meet the needs of the Department of Defense with respect to the training of employees in information technology management.

(f) NUMERICAL LIMITATION.—In no event may more than 10 employees be participating in assignments under this section as of any given time.

(g) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on the potential benefits of a program under which employees specializing in information technology may be temporarily assigned from private sector organizations to the Department of Defense.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report shall include—

(A) a statement of findings and an explanation of the bases for those findings;

(B) an assessment of the laws, rules, and processes relating to the prevention of conflicts of interest and abuse which would apply to private sector employees during the period of their assignment to the Department of Defense, and whether they need to be strengthened or otherwise changed;

(C) mechanisms proposed for the governance and oversight of the program; and

(D) recommendations for any legislation which may be necessary.

SEC. 1110. COMPENSATION FOR FEDERAL WAGE SYSTEM EMPLOYEES FOR CERTAIN TRAVEL HOURS.

Section 5544(a) of title 5, United States Code, is amended in clause (iv) (in the third sentence following paragraph (3)), by striking ''administratively.'' and inserting ''administratively (including travel by the employee to such event and the return of the employee from such event to the employee's official duty station).''.

SEC. 1111. TRAVEL COMPENSATION FOR WAGE GRADE PERSONNEL.

(a) ELIGIBILITY FOR COMPENSATORY TIME OFF FOR TRAVEL.—Section 5550b(a) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking ''section 5542(b)(2),'' and inserting ''any provision of section 5542(b)(2) or 5544(a),''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 5541(2)(xi) of such title is amended by striking ''section 5544'' and inserting ''section 5544 or 5550b''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the earlier of—

(1) the effective date of any regulations prescribed to carry out such amendments; or

(2) the 90th day after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 1112. ACCUMULATION OF ANNUAL LEAVE BY SENIOR LEVEL EMPLOYEES.

Section 6304(f)(1) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter before subparagraph (A), by striking ''in a position in—'' and inserting ''in—'';

(2) in subparagraphs (A) through (E), by inserting ''a position in'' before ''the'';

(3) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(4) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(5) by adding after subparagraph (E) the following:

''(F) a position to which section 5376 applies; or

''(G) a position designated under section 1607(a) of title 10 as an Intelligence Senior Level position.''.

SEC. 1113. UNIFORM ALLOWANCES FOR CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES.

Section 1593(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''$400 per year.'' and inserting ''$400 per year (or such higher maximum amount as the Secretary of Defense may by regulation prescribe).''.

SEC. 1114. FLEXIBILITY IN SETTING PAY FOR EMPLOYEES WHO MOVE FROM A DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OR COAST GUARD NONAPPROPRIATED FUND INSTRUMENTALITY POSITION TO A POSITION IN THE GENERAL SCHEDULE PAY SYSTEM.

Section 5334(f) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

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

(2) in the first sentence, by striking ''does not exceed'' and all that follows through ''2105(c).'' and inserting the following: ''does not exceed—

''(A) if the highest previous rate of basic pay received by that employee during the

employee's service described in section 2105(c) is equal to a rate of the appropriate grade, such rate of the appropriate grade;

''(B) if the employee's highest previous rate of basic pay (as described in subparagraph (A)) is between two rates of the appropriate grade, the higher of those two rates; or

''(C) if the employee's highest previous rate of basic pay (as described in subparagraph (A)) exceeds the maximum rate of the appropriate grade, the maximum rate of the appropriate grade.''; and

(3) in the second sentence, by striking ''In the case of'' and inserting the following:

''(2) In the case of''.

SEC. 1115. RETIREMENT SERVICE CREDIT FOR SERVICE AS CADET OR MIDSHIPMAN AT A MILITARY SERVICE ACADEMY.

(a) CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM.—Section 8331(13) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking ''but'' and inserting ''and includes service as a cadet at the United States Military Academy, the United States Air Force Academy, or the United States Coast Guard Academy, or as a midshipman at the United States Naval Academy, but''.

(b) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM.—Section 8401(31) of such title is amended by striking ''but'' and inserting ''and includes service as a cadet at the United States Military Academy, the United States Air Force Academy, or the United States Coast Guard Academy, or as a midshipman at the United States Naval Academy, but''.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to—

(1) any annuity, eligibility for which is based upon a separation occurring before, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) any period of service as a cadet at the United States Military Academy, the United States Air Force Academy, or the United States Coast Guard Academy, or as a midshipman at the United States Naval Academy, occurring before, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 1116. AUTHORIZATION FOR INCREASED COMPENSATION FOR FACULTY AND STAFF OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES.

Section 2113(c) of title 10, United States Code, as redesignated by section 954(a)(3) of this Act, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by inserting ''(after due consideration by the Secretary)'' before ''so as''; and

(B) by striking ''within the vicinity of the District of Columbia'' and inserting ''identified by the Secretary for purposes of this paragraph''; and

(2) in paragraph (4)—

(A) by striking ''section 5373'' and inserting ''sections 5307 and 5373''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new sentence: ''In no event may the total amount of compensation paid to an employee under paragraph (1) in any year (including salary, allowances, differentials, bonuses, awards, and other similar cash payments) exceed the total amount of annual compensation (excluding expenses) specified in section 102 of title 3.''.

SEC. 1117. REPORT ON ESTABLISHMENT OF A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR CIVILIAN MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall, in consultation with the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs and each of the Surgeons General of the Armed Forces, submit to Congress a report on the feasibility and advisability of establishing a scholarship program for civilian mental health professionals.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of a potential scholarship program that provides certain educational funding to students seeking a career in mental health services in exchange for service in the Department of Defense.

(2) An assessment of current scholarship programs which may be expanded to include mental health professionals.

(3) Recommendations regarding the establishment or expansion of scholarship programs for mental health professionals.

(4) A plan to implement, or reasons for not implementing, recommendations that will increase mental health staffing across the Department of Defense.

TITLE XII—MATTERS RELATING TO FOREIGN NATIONS

Subtitle A—Assistance and Training

Sec. 1201. Military-to-military contacts and comparable activities.
Sec. 1202. Authority for support of military operations to combat terrorism.
Sec. 1203. Medical care and temporary duty travel expenses for liaison officers of certain foreign nations.
Sec. 1204. Extension and expansion of Department of Defense authority to participate in multinational military centers of excellence.
Sec. 1205. Reauthorization of Commanders' Emergency Response Program.
Sec. 1206. Authority to build the capacity of the Pakistan Frontier Corps.
Sec. 1207. Authority to equip and train foreign personnel to assist in accounting for missing United States Government personnel.
Sec. 1208. Authority to provide automatic identification system data on maritime shipping to foreign countries and international organizations.
Sec. 1209. Report on foreign-assistance related programs carried out by the Department of Defense.
Sec. 1210. Extension and enhancement of authority for security and stabilization assistance.
Sec. 1211. Government Accountability Office report on Global Peace Operations Initiative.
Sec. 1212. Repeal of limitations on military assistance under the American Servicemembers' Protection Act of 2002.

Subtitle B—Matters Relating to Iraq and Afghanistan

Sec. 1221. Modification of authorities relating to the Office of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction.
Sec. 1222. Limitation on availability of funds for certain purposes relating to Iraq.
Sec. 1223. Report on United States policy and military operations in Iraq.
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Sec. 1226. Sense of Congress on the consequences of a failed state in Iraq.
Sec. 1227. Sense of Congress on federalism in Iraq.
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Sec. 1229. Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction.
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Sec. 1231. United States plan for sustaining the Afghanistan National Security Forces.
Sec. 1232. Report on enhancing security and stability in the region along the border of Afghanistan and Pakistan.
Sec. 1233. Reimbursement of certain coalition nations for support provided to United States military operations.
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Subtitle C—Iraq Refugee Crisis

Sec. 1241. Short title.
Sec. 1242. Processing mechanisms.
Sec. 1243. United States refugee program processing priorities.
Sec. 1244. Special immigrant status for certain Iraqis.
Sec. 1245. Senior Coordinator for Iraqi Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons.
Sec. 1246. Countries with significant populations of Iraqi refugees.
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Subtitle D—Other Authorities and Limitations

Sec. 1251. Cooperative opportunities documents under cooperative research and development agreements with NATO organizations and other allied and friendly foreign countries.
Sec. 1252. Extension and expansion of temporary authority to use acquisition and cross-servicing agreements to lend military equipment for personnel protection and survivability.
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Sec. 1254. Repeal of requirement relating to North Korea.
Sec. 1255. Justice for Osama bin Laden and other leaders of al Qaeda.
Sec. 1256. Extension of Counterproliferation Program Review Committee.
Sec. 1257. Sense of Congress on the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation.
Sec. 1258. Sense of Congress on Iran.

Subtitle E—Reports

Sec. 1261. One-year extension of update on report on claims relating to the bombing of the Labelle Discotheque.
Sec. 1262. Report on United States policy toward Darfur, Sudan.
Sec. 1263. Inclusion of information on asymmetric capabilities in annual report on military power of the People's Republic of China.
Sec. 1264. Report on application of the Uniform Code of Military Justice to civilians accompanying the Armed Forces during a time of declared war or contingency operation.
Sec. 1265. Report on family reunions between United States citizens and their relatives in North Korea.
Sec. 1266. Reports on prevention of mass atrocities.

Sec. 1267. Report on threats to the United States from ungoverned areas.

Subtitle A—Assistance and Training

SEC. 1201. MILITARY-TO-MILITARY CONTACTS AND COMPARABLE ACTIVITIES.

Section 168(c) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(9) The assignment of personnel described in paragraph (3) or (4) on a non-reciprocal basis if the Secretary of Defense determines that such an assignment, rather than an exchange of personnel, is in the interests of the United States.''.

SEC. 1202. AUTHORITY FOR SUPPORT OF MILITARY OPERATIONS TO COMBAT TERRORISM.

(a) MODIFICATION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Subsection (f) of section 1208 of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (Public Law 108–375; 118 Stat. 2086–2087) is amended to read as follows:

''(f) ANNUAL REPORT.—

''(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 120 days after the close of each fiscal year during which subsection (a) is in effect, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on support provided under that subsection during that fiscal year.

''(2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall describe the support provided, including—

''(A) the country involved in the activity, the individual or force receiving the support, and, to the maximum extent practicable, the specific region of each country involved in the activity;

''(B) the respective dates and a summary of congressional notifications for each activity;

''(C) the unified commander for each activity, as well as the related objectives, as established by that commander;

''(D) the total amount obligated to provide the support;

''(E) for each activity that amounts to more than $500,000, specific budget details that explain the overall funding level for that activity; and

''(F) a statement providing a brief assessment of the outcome of the support, including specific indications of how the support furthered the mission objective of special operations forces and the types of follow-on support, if any, that may be necessary.''.

(b) ANNUAL LIMITATION.—Subsection (g) of such section is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking ''FISCAL YEAR 2005'' and inserting ''ANNUAL''; and

(2) by striking ''fiscal year 2005'' and inserting ''each fiscal year during which subsection (a) is in effect''.

(c) EXTENSION OF PERIOD OF AUTHORITY.—Subsection (h) of such section is amended by striking ''2007'' and inserting ''2010''.

SEC. 1203. MEDICAL CARE AND TEMPORARY DUTY TRAVEL EXPENSES FOR LIAISON OFFICERS OF CERTAIN FOREIGN NATIONS.

(a) AUTHORITY.—Subsection (a) of section 1051a of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''involved in a coalition'' and inserting ''involved in a military operation''; and

(2) by striking ''coalition operation'' and inserting ''military operation''.

(b) MEDICAL CARE AND TEMPORARY DUTY TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Subsection (b) of such section is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking ''AND SUBSISTENCE'' inserting '', SUBSISTENCE, AND MEDICAL CARE'';

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

''(C) Expenses for medical care at a civilian medical facility if—

''(i) adequate medical care is not available to the liaison officer at a local military medical treatment facility;

''(ii) the Secretary determines that payment of such medical expenses is necessary and in the best interests of the United States; and

''(iii) medical care is not otherwise available to the liaison officer pursuant to any treaty or other international agreement.''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) The Secretary may pay the mission-related travel expenses of a liaison officer described in subsection (a) if such travel is in support of the national interests of the United States and the commander of the headquarters to which the liaison officer is temporarily assigned directs round-trip travel from the assigned headquarters to one or more locations.''.

(c) DEFINITION.—Subsection (d) of such section is amended—

(1) by striking ''(d) DEFINITIONS.—'' and all that follows through ''(1) The term'' and inserting ''(d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term''; and

(2) by striking paragraph (2).

(d) EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY.—Such section is further amended by striking subsection (e).

(e) CONFORMING AND CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—(1) The heading for such section is amended to read as follows:

''§ 1051a. Liaison officers of certain foreign nations; administrative services and support; travel, subsistence, medical care, and other personal expenses''.

(2) The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 53 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 1051a and inserting the following:

''1051a. Liaison officers of certain foreign nations; administrative services and support; travel, subsistence, medical care, and other personal expenses.''.

SEC. 1204. EXTENSION AND EXPANSION OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AUTHORITY TO PARTICIPATE IN MULTINATIONAL MILITARY CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.

(a) EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY.—Subsection (a) of section 1205 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364; 1202 Stat. 2416) is amended by striking ''fiscal year 2007'' and inserting ''fiscal years 2007 and 2008''.

(b) LIMITATION ON AMOUNTS AVAILABLE FOR PARTICIPATION.—Subsection (e) of such section is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following new paragraph:

''(2) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT.—The amount available under paragraph (1)(A) for the expenses referred to in that paragraph may not exceed—

''(A) in fiscal year 2007, $3,000,000; and

''(B) in fiscal year 2008, $5,000,000.''.

(c) REPORTS.—Subsection (g) of such section is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by inserting ''and October 31, 2008,'' after ''October 31, 2007,''; and

(B) by striking ''fiscal year 2007'' and inserting ''fiscal years 2007 and 2008''; and

(2) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking ''during fiscal year 2007'' and inserting ''during the preceding fiscal year''.

SEC. 1205. REAUTHORIZATION OF COMMANDERS' EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM.

(a) AUTHORITY.—Subsection (a) of section 1202 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109–163; 119 Stat. 3455–3456) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking ''FISCAL YEARS 2006 AND 2007'' and inserting ''FISCAL YEARS 2008 AND 2009''; and

(2) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''fiscal years 2006 and 2007'' and inserting ''fiscal years 2008 and 2009''; and

(B) by striking ''$500,000,000'' and inserting ''$977,441,000''.

(b) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—Subsection (b) of such section is amended by striking ''fiscal years 2006 and 2007'' and inserting ''fiscal years 2008 and 2009''.

SEC. 1206. AUTHORITY TO BUILD THE CAPACITY OF THE PAKISTAN FRONTIER CORPS.

(a) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, is authorized during fiscal year 2008 to provide assistance to enhance the ability of the Pakistan Frontier Corps to conduct counterterrorism operations along the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

(b) TYPES OF ASSISTANCE.—

(1) AUTHORIZED ELEMENTS.—Assistance under subsection (a) may include the provision of equipment, supplies, and training.

(2) REQUIRED ELEMENTS.—Assistance under subsection (a) shall be provided in a manner that promotes—

(A) observance of and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; and

(B) respect for legitimate civilian authority within Pakistan.

(c) LIMITATIONS.—

(1) FUNDING LIMITATION.—The Secretary of Defense may use up to $75,000,000 of funds available to the Department of Defense for operation and maintenance for fiscal year 2008 to provide the assistance under subsection (a).

(2) ASSISTANCE OTHERWISE PROHIBITED BY LAW.—The Secretary of Defense may not use the authority in subsection (a) to provide any type of assistance described in subsection (b) that is otherwise prohibited by any provision of law.

(d) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less than 15 days before providing assistance under subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional committees specified in paragraph (2) a notice of the following:

(A) The budget, types of assistance, and completion date for providing the assistance under subsection (a).

(B) The source and planned expenditure of funds for the assistance under subsection (a).

(2) SPECIFIED CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The congressional committees specified in this paragraph are the following:

(A) The Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

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

SEC. 1207. AUTHORITY TO EQUIP AND TRAIN FOREIGN PERSONNEL TO ASSIST IN ACCOUNTING FOR MISSING UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 20 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 408. Equipment and training of foreign personnel to assist in Department of Defense accounting for missing United States Government personnel

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense may provide assistance to any foreign nation to assist the Department of Defense with recovery of and accounting for missing United States Government personnel.

''(b) TYPES OF ASSISTANCE.—The assistance provided under subsection (a) may include the following:

''(1) Equipment.

''(2) Supplies.

''(3) Services.

''(4) Training of personnel.

''(c) APPROVAL BY SECRETARY OF STATE.—Assistance may not be provided under this section to any foreign nation unless the Secretary of State specifically approves the provision of such assistance.

''(d) LIMITATION.—The amount of assistance provided under this section in any fiscal year may not exceed $1,000,000.

''(e) CONSTRUCTION WITH OTHER ASSISTANCE.—The authority to provide assistance under this section is in addition to any other authority to provide assistance to foreign nations under law.

''(f) ANNUAL REPORTS.—(1) Not later than December 31 each year, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the assistance provided under this section during the fiscal year ending in such year.

''(2) Each report under paragraph (1) shall include, for the fiscal year covered by such report, the following:

''(A) A listing of each foreign nation provided assistance under this section.

''(B) For each nation so provided assistance, a description of the type and amount of such assistance.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 20 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''408. Equipment and training of foreign personnel to assist in Department of Defense accounting for missing United States Government personnel.''.

SEC. 1208. AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM DATA ON MARITIME SHIPPING TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE DATA.—The Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, may authorize the Secretary of a military department or a commander of a combatant command to exchange or furnish automatic identification system data broadcast by merchant or private ships and collected by the United States to a foreign country or international organization pursuant to an agreement for the exchange or production of such data. Such data may be transferred pursuant to this section without cost to the recipient country or international organization.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM.—The term ''automatic identification system'' means a system that is used to satisfy the requirements of the Automatic Identification System under the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, signed at London on November 1, 1974 (TIAS 9700).

(2) GEOGRAPHIC COMBATANT COMMANDER.—The term ''commander of a combatant command'' means a commander of a combatant command (as such term is defined in section 161(c) of title 10, United States Code) with a geographic area of responsibility.

SEC. 1209. REPORT ON FOREIGN-ASSISTANCE RELATED PROGRAMS CARRIED OUT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that specifies, on a country-by-country basis, each foreign-assistance related program carried out by the Department of Defense during the prior fiscal year under the authorities described in subsection (b).

(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a description of the dollar amount, type of support, and purpose of each foreign–assistance related program carried out by the Department of Defense under—

(A) section 1206 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109–163; 119 Stat. 3456), relating to authority to build the capacity of foreign military forces;

(B) section 1207 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109–163; 119 Stat. 3458), relating to authority to provide security and stabilization assistance to foreign countries;

(C) section 1208 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109–163; 119 Stat. 3459), relating to authority to reimburse certain coalition nations for support provided to United States military operations;

(D) section 1033 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998 (Public Law 105–85; 111 Stat. 1881), relating to authority to provide additional support for counter-drug activities of Peru and Colombia;

(E) section 1004 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1991 (Public Law 101–510; 10 U.S.C. 374 note), relating to additional support for counter-drug activities;

(F) section 127d of title 10, United States Code, relating to authority to provide logistic support, supplies, and services to allied forces participating in a combined operation with the Armed Forces;

(G) section 2249c of title 10, United States Code, relating to authority to use appropriated funds for costs associated with education and training of foreign officials under the Regional Defense Combating Terrorism Fellowship Program; and

(H) section 2561 of title 10, United States Code, relating to authority to provide humanitarian assistance; and

(2) a description of each foreign-assistance related program that the Department of Defense undertakes or implements on behalf of any other department or agency of the United States Government, including programs under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) and the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.).

(c) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

(d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

SEC. 1210. EXTENSION AND ENHANCEMENT OF AUTHORITY FOR SECURITY AND STABILIZATION ASSISTANCE.

(a) PROGRAM FOR ASSISTANCE.—Section 1207 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109–163; 119 Stat. 3458) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (d), (e), and (f) as subsections (e), (f), and (g), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

''(d) FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAM FOR ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of State shall coordinate with the Secretary of Defense in the formulation and implementation of a program of reconstruction, security, or stabilization assistance to a foreign country that involves the provision of services or transfer of defense articles or funds under subsection (a).''.

(b) ONE-YEAR EXTENSION.—Subsection (g) of such section, as redesignated by subsection (a) of this section, is amended by striking ''September 30, 2007'' and inserting ''September 30, 2008''.

SEC. 1211. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT ON GLOBAL PEACE OPERATIONS INITIATIVE.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than June 1, 2008, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the congressional defense committees, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report assessing the Global Peace Operations Initiative.

(b) CONTENT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of whether, and to what extent, the Global Peace Operations Initiative has met the goals set by the President at the inception of the program in 2004.

(2) Which goals, if any, remain unfulfilled.

(3) A description of activities conducted by each member state of the Group of Eight (G–8), including the approximate cost of the activities, and the approximate percentage of the total monetary value of the activities conducted by each G–8 member, including the United States, as well as efforts by the President to seek contributions or participation by other G–8 members.

(4) A description of any activities conducted by non-G–8 members, or other organizations and institutions, as well as any efforts by the President to solicit contributions or participation.

(5) A description of the extent to which the Global Peace Operations Initiative has had global participation.

(6) A description of the administration of the program by the Department of State and Department of Defense, including—

(A) whether each Department should concentrate administration in one office or bureau, and if so, which one;

(B) the extent to which the two Departments coordinate and the quality of their coordination; and

(C) the extent to which contractors are used and an assessment of the quality and timeliness of the results achieved by the contractors, and whether the United States Government might have achieved similar or better results without contracting out functions.

(7) A description of the metrics, if any, that are used by the President and the G–8 to measure progress in implementation of the Global Peace Operations Initiative, including—

(A) assessments of the quality and sustainability of the training of individual soldiers and units;

(B) the extent to which the G–8 and participating countries maintain records or databases of trained individuals and units and conduct inspections to measure and monitor the continued readiness of such individuals and units;

(C) the extent to which the individuals and units are equipped and remain equipped to deploy in peace operations; and

(D) the extent to which, the timeline by which, and how individuals and units can be mobilized for peace operations.

(8) The extent to which, the timeline by which, and how individuals and units can be and are being deployed to peace operations.

(9) An assessment of whether individuals and units trained under the Global Peace Operations Initiative have been utilized in peace operations subsequent to receiving training under the Initiative, whether they will be deployed to upcoming operations in Africa and elsewhere, and the extent to which such individuals and units would be prepared to deploy and participate in such peace operations.

(10) Recommendations as to whether participation in the Global Peace Operations Initiative should require reciprocal participation by countries in peace operations.

(11) Any additional measures that could be taken to enhance the effectiveness of the Global Peace Operations Initiative in terms of—

(A) achieving its stated goals; and

(B) ensuring that individuals and units trained as part of the Initiative are regularly participating in peace operations.

(c) FORM.—To the maximum extent practicable, the report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex, if necessary.

SEC. 1212. REPEAL OF LIMITATIONS ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE UNDER THE AMERICAN SERVICEMEMBERS' PROTECTION ACT OF 2002.

(a) REPEAL OF LIMITATIONS.—Section 2007 of the American Servicemembers' Protection Act of 2002 (22 U.S.C. 7426) is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such Act is further amended—

(1) in section 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7422)—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in the heading, by striking ''SECTIONS 5 AND 7'' and inserting ''SECTION 2005''; and

(ii) by striking ''sections 2005 and 2007'' and inserting ''section 2005'';

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in the heading, by striking ''SECTIONS 5 AND 7'' and inserting ''SECTION 2005''; and

(ii) by striking ''sections 2005 and 2007'' and inserting ''section 2005'';

(C) in subsection (c)(2)(A), by striking ''sections 2005 and 2007'' and inserting ''section 2005'';

(D) in subsection (d), by striking ''sections 2005 and 2007'' and inserting ''section 2005''; and

(E) in subsection (e), by striking ''2006, and 2007'' and inserting ''and 2006''; and

(2) in section 2013 (22 U.S.C. 7432), by striking paragraph (13).

Subtitle B—Matters Relating to Iraq and Afghanistan

SEC. 1221. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITIES RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION.

(a) PURPOSES.—Subsection (a)(1) of section 3001 of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense and for the Reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan, 2004 (Public Law 108–106; 117 Stat. 1234–1238; 5 U.S.C. App., note to section 8G of Public Law 95–452) is amended by striking ''to the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund'' and inserting ''for the reconstruction of Iraq''.

(b) ASSISTANT INSPECTORS GENERAL.—Subsection (d)(1) of such section is amended by striking ''the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund'' and inserting ''amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the reconstruction of Iraq''.

(c) SUPERVISION.—Subsection (e)(2) of such section is amended by striking ''the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund'' and inserting ''amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the reconstruction of Iraq''.

(d) DUTIES.—Subsection (f)(1) of such section is amended by striking ''to the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund'' and inserting ''for the reconstruction of Iraq''.

(e) PERSONNEL, FACILITIES, AND OTHER RESOURCES.—Subsection (h) of such section is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting after ''pay rates'' the following: '', and may exercise the authorities of subsections (b) through (i) of section 3161 of title 5, United States Code (without regard to subsection (a) of such section)''; and

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking ''my enter'' and inserting ''may enter''.

(f) REPORTS.—Subsection (i) of such section is amended by striking ''to the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund'' each place it appears and inserting ''for the reconstruction of Iraq''.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—Subsection (m) of such section is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking ''APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED'' and inserting ''DEFINITIONS'';

(2) by striking ''In this section, the term'' and inserting the following: ''In this section—

''(1) the term'';

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively;

(4) in paragraph (1)(B) (as redesignated by paragraph (3) of this subsection), by striking ''and International Relations'' and inserting ''Foreign Affairs, and Oversight and Government Reform'';

(5) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(6) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) the term 'amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the reconstruction of Iraq' means amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for any fiscal year—

''(A) to the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund, the Iraq Security Forces Fund, and the Commanders' Emergency Response Program authorized under section 1202 of the National Defense Authorization for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109–163; 119 Stat. 3455–3456); or

''(B) for assistance for the reconstruction of Iraq under—

''(i) the Economic Support Fund authorized under chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2346 et seq.);

''(ii) the International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement account authorized under section 481 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2291); or

''(iii) any other provision of law.''.

(h) TERMINATION DATE.—Subsection (o) of such section is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), to read as follows:

''(1) The Office of the Inspector General shall terminate 180 days after the date on which amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the reconstruction of Iraq that are unexpended are less than $250,000,000.''; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking ''funds deemed to be''; and

(B) by striking ''to the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund'' and inserting ''for the reconstruction of Iraq''.

SEC. 1222. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES RELATING TO IRAQ.

No funds appropriated pursuant to an authorization of appropriations in this Act may be obligated or expended for a purpose as follows:

(1) To establish any military installation or base for the purpose of providing for the permanent stationing of United States Armed Forces in Iraq.

(2) To exercise United States control of the oil resources of Iraq.

SEC. 1223. REPORT ON UNITED STATES POLICY AND MILITARY OPERATIONS IN IRAQ.

(a) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 1227 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109–163; 119 Stat. 3465; 50 U.S.C. 1541 note) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking ''Iraq.'' and inserting the following: ''Iraq, including—

''(A) enacting a broadly-accepted hydrocarbon law that equitably shares revenue among all Iraqis;

''(B) adopting laws necessary for the conduct of provincial and local elections, taking steps to implement such laws, and setting a schedule to conduct provincial and local elections;

''(C) reforming current laws governing the de-Baathification process in a manner that encourages national reconciliation;

''(D) amending the Constitution of Iraq in a manner that encourages national reconciliation;

''(E) allocating and beginning expenditure of $10 billion in Iraqi revenues for reconstruction projects, including delivery of essential services, and implementing such reconstruction projects on an equitable basis; and

''(F) making significant efforts to plan and implement disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration programs relating to Iraqi militias.'';

(B) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

''(3) A detailed description of the Joint Campaign Plan, or any subsequent revisions, updates, or documents that replace or supersede the Joint Campaign Plan, including goals, phases, or other milestones contained in the Joint Campaign Plan. Specifically, the description shall include the following:

''(A) An explanation of conditions required to move through phases of the Joint Campaign Plan, in particular those conditions that must be met in order to provide for the transition of additional security responsibility to the Iraqi Security Forces, and the measurements used to determine progress.

''(B) An assessment of which conditions in the Joint Campaign Plan have been achieved and which conditions have not been achieved. The assessment of those conditions that have not been achieved shall include a discussion of the factors that have precluded progress.

''(C) A description of any companion or equivalent plan of the Government of Iraq used to measure progress for Iraqi Security Forces undertaking joint operations with Coalition Forces.''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(7) An assessment of the levels of United States Armed Forces required in Iraq for the six-month period following the date of the report, the missions to be undertaken by the Armed Forces in Iraq for such period, and the incremental costs or savings of any proposed changes to such levels or missions.

''(8) A description of the range of conditions that could prompt changes to the levels of United States Armed Forces required in Iraq for the six-month period following the date of the report or the missions to be undertaken by the Armed Forces in Iraq for such period, including the status of planning for such changes to the levels or missions of the Armed Forces in Iraq.''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to each report required to be submitted to Congress under section 1227(c) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS REQUIRED.—Such section is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS REQUIRED.—Not later than 30 days after the submission of the first report under subsection (c) on or after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall meet with the congressional defense committees to brief such committees on the matters described in paragraphs (7) and (8) of subsection (c) contained in the report. Not later than 30 days after the submission of each subsequent report under subsection (c), appropriate senior officials of the Department of Defense shall meet with the congressional defense committees to brief such committees on the matters described in paragraphs (7)

and (8) of subsection (c) contained in the report.''.

SEC. 1224. REPORT ON A COMPREHENSIVE SET OF PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND MEASURES FOR PROGRESS TOWARD MILITARY AND POLITICAL STABILITY IN IRAQ.

(a) REPORT.—Section 9010(c) of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2007 (division A of Public Law 109–289; 120 Stat. 1307) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(B)—

(A) by striking ''and trends'' and inserting ''trends''; and

(B) by adding at the end before the period the following: '', and progress made in the transition of responsibility for the security of Iraqi provinces to the Iraqi Security Forces under the Provincial Iraqi Control (PIC) process''; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (C)(i), by adding at the end before the semicolon the following: '', without any support from Coalition Forces'';

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (D) through (J) as subparagraphs (F) through (L), respectively;

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

''(D) The amount and type of support provided by Coalition Forces to the Iraqi Security Forces at each level of operational readiness.

''(E) The number of Iraqi battalions in the Iraqi Army currently conducting operations and the type of operations being conducted.'';

(D) by redesignating subparagraphs (H) through (L) (as redesignated by subparagraph (B) of this paragraph) as subparagraphs (I) through (M), respectively;

(E) by inserting after subparagraph (G) (as redesignated by subparagraph (B) of this paragraph) the following:

''(H) The level and effectiveness of the Iraqi Security Forces under the Ministry of Defense in provinces where the United States has formally transferred responsibility for the security of the province to the Iraqi Security Forces under the Provincial Iraqi Control (PIC) process.''; and

(F) in subparagraph (I) (as redesignated by subparagraphs (B) and (D) of this paragraph)—

(i) in clause (iv), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(ii) in clause (v), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(vi) the level and effectiveness of the Iraqi Police and other Ministry of Interior Forces in provinces where the United States has formally transferred responsibility for the security of the province to the Iraqi Security Forces under the Provincial Iraqi Control (PIC) process.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to each report required to be submitted to Congress under section 9010 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2007 on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 1225. REPORT ON SUPPORT FROM IRAN FOR ATTACKS AGAINST COALITION FORCES IN IRAQ.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence, shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report describing and assessing in detail—

(1) any support or direction provided to anti-coalition forces in Iraq by the Government of Iran or its agents;

(2) the strategy and ambitions in Iraq of the Government of Iran; and

(3) any strategy or efforts by the United States Government to counter the activities of agents of the Government of Iran in Iraq.

(b) FORM.—Each report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, to the maximum extent practicable, but may contain a classified annex, if necessary.

(c) TERMINATION.—The requirement to submit reports under subsection (a) shall terminate on the date on which the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence, submits to the congressional defense committees a certification in writing that the Government of Iran has ceased to provide military support to anti-coalition forces that conduct attacks against coalition forces in Iraq.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize or otherwise speak to the use of the Armed Forces against Iran.

SEC. 1226. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE CONSEQUENCES OF A FAILED STATE IN IRAQ.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) a failed state in Iraq will have a negative impact on the Middle East and United States interests in the region; and

(2) the United States should pursue strategies to prevent a failed state in Iraq or to contain the negative effects of a failed state in Iraq.

SEC. 1227. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON FEDERALISM IN IRAQ.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) policies supported by the United States in the pursuit of a political settlement in Iraq should be consistent with the wishes of the Iraqi people and should not violate the sovereignty of the nation of Iraq;

(2) if the Iraqi people support a political settlement in Iraq based on the final provisions of the Constitution of Iraq that create a federal system of government and allow for the creation of federal regions, consistent with the wishes of the Iraqi people and their elected leaders, the United States should actively support such a political settlement in Iraq;

(3) the active support referred to in paragraph (2) should include—

(A) calling on the international community, including countries with troops in Iraq, the permanent 5 members of the United Nations Security Council, members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, and Iraq's neighbors—

(i) to support an Iraqi political settlement based on federalism;

(ii) to acknowledge the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq; and

(iii) to fulfill commitments for the urgent delivery of significant assistance and debt relief to Iraq, especially those made by the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council; and

(B) convening a conference for Iraqis to reach an agreement on a comprehensive political settlement based on the federalism law approved by the Iraqi Parliament on October 11, 2006;

(4) the United States should urge the Government of Iraq to quickly agree upon and implement a law providing for the equitable distribution of oil revenues, which is a critical component of a comprehensive political settlement in Iraq, including a potential settlement based upon federalism;

(5) the steps described in paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) could lead to an Iraq that is stable, not a haven for terrorists, and not a threat to its neighbors;

(6) in pursuit of a political settlement in Iraq, whether based on federalism or not, the United States should call on Iraq's neighbors to pledge not to militarily intervene in or destabilize Iraq; and

(7) nothing in this Act should be construed in any way to infringe on the sovereign rights of the nation of Iraq or to imply that the United States wishes to impose a political settlement in Iraq based on federalism if such a political settlement is contrary to the wishes of the Iraqi people.

SEC. 1228. TRACKING AND MONITORING OF DEFENSE ARTICLES PROVIDED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAQ AND OTHER INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS IN IRAQ.

(a) EXPORT AND TRANSFER CONTROL POLICY.—The President shall implement a policy to control the export and transfer of defense articles into Iraq, including implementation of the registration and monitoring system under subsection (c).

(b) REQUIREMENT TO IMPLEMENT CONTROL SYSTEM.—No defense articles may be provided to the Government of Iraq or any other group, organization, citizen, or resident of Iraq until the President certifies to the specified congressional committees that a registration and monitoring system meeting the requirements set forth in subsection (c) has been established.

(c) REGISTRATION AND MONITORING SYSTEM.—The registration and monitoring system required under this subsection shall include—

(1) the registration of the serial numbers of all small arms to be provided to the Government of Iraq or to other groups, organizations, citizens, or residents of Iraq;

(2) a program of end-use monitoring of all lethal defense articles provided to such entities or individuals; and

(3) a detailed record of the origin, shipping, and distribution of all defense articles transferred under the Iraq Security Forces Fund or any other security assistance program to such entities or individuals.

(d) REVIEW; EXEMPTION.—

(1) REVIEW.—The President shall periodically review the items subject to the registration and monitoring requirements under subsection (c) to determine what items, if any, should no longer be subject to such registration and monitoring requirements. The President shall transmit to the specified congressional committees the results of each review conducted under this paragraph.

(2) EXEMPTION.—The President may exempt an item from the registration and monitoring requirements under subsection (c) beginning on the date that is 30 days after the date on which the President provides notice of the proposed exemption to the specified congressional committees in accordance with the procedures applicable to reprogramming notifications under section 634A(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2394–1(a)). Such notice shall describe any controls to be imposed on such item under any other provision of law.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DEFENSE ARTICLE.—The term ''defense article'' has the meaning given the term in section 644(d) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2403(d)).

(2) SMALL ARMS.—The term ''small arms'' means—

(A) handguns;

(B) shoulder-fired weapons;

(C) light automatic weapons up to and including .50 caliber machine guns;

(D) recoilless rifles up to and including 106mm;

(E) mortars up to and including 81mm;

(F) rocket launchers, man-portable;

(G) grenade launchers, rifle and shoulder fired; and

(H) individually-operated weapons which are portable or can be fired without special mounts or firing devices and which have potential use in civil disturbances and are vulnerable to theft.

(3) SPECIFIED CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''specified congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), this section shall take effect 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) EXCEPTION.—The President may delay the effective date of this section by an additional period of up to 90 days if the President certifies in writing to the specified congressional committees for such additional period that it is in the vital interest of the United States to do so and includes in the certification a description of such vital interest.

SEC. 1229. SPECIAL INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR AFGHANISTAN RECONSTRUCTION.

(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are as follows:

(1) To provide for the independent and objective conduct and supervision of audits and investigations relating to the programs and operations funded with amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

(2) To provide for the independent and objective leadership and coordination of, and recommendations on, policies designed to—

(A) promote economy efficiency, and effectiveness in the administration of the programs and operations described in paragraph (1); and

(B) prevent and detect waste, fraud, and abuse in such programs and operations.

(3) To provide for an independent and objective means of keeping the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense fully and currently informed about problems and deficiencies relating to the administration of such programs and operations and the necessity for and progress on corrective action.

(b) OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL.—There is hereby established the Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction to carry out the purposes of subsection (a).

(c) APPOINTMENT OF INSPECTOR GENERAL; REMOVAL.—

(1) APPOINTMENT.—The head of the Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction is the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (in this section referred to as the ''Inspector General''), who shall be appointed by the President. The President may appoint the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction to serve as the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, in which case the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction shall have all of the duties, responsibilities, and authorities set forth under this section with respect to such appointed position for the purpose of carrying out this section.

(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The appointment of the Inspector General shall be made solely on the basis of integrity and demonstrated ability in accounting, auditing, financial analysis, law, management analysis, public administration, or investigations.

(3) DEADLINE FOR APPOINTMENT.—The appointment of an individual as Inspector General shall be made not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(4) COMPENSATION.—The annual rate of basic pay of the Inspector General shall be the annual rate of basic pay provided for positions at level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code.

(5) PROHIBITION ON POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.—For purposes of section 7324 of title 5, United States Code, the Inspector General shall not be considered an employee who determines policies to be pursued by the United States in the nationwide administration of Federal law.

(6) REMOVAL.—The Inspector General shall be removable from office in accordance with the provisions of section 3(b) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

(d) ASSISTANT INSPECTORS GENERAL.—The Inspector General shall, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations governing the civil service—

(1) appoint an Assistant Inspector General for Auditing who shall have the responsibility for supervising the performance of auditing activities relating to programs and operations supported by amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the reconstruction of Afghanistan; and

(2) appoint an Assistant Inspector General for Investigations who shall have the responsibility for supervising the performance of investigative activities relating to such programs and operations.

(e) SUPERVISION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Inspector General shall report directly to, and be under the general supervision of, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense.

(2) INDEPENDENCE TO CONDUCT INVESTIGATIONS AND AUDITS.—No officer of the Department of Defense, the Department of State, or the United States Agency for International Development shall prevent or prohibit the Inspector General from initiating, carrying out, or completing any audit or investigation related to amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the reconstruction of Afghanistan or from issuing any subpoena during the course of any such audit or investigation.

(f) DUTIES.—

(1) OVERSIGHT OF AFGHANISTAN RECONSTRUCTION.—It shall be the duty of the Inspector General to conduct, supervise, and coordinate audits and investigations of the treatment, handling, and expenditure of amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the reconstruction of Afghanistan, and of the programs, operations, and contracts carried out utilizing such funds, including—

(A) the oversight and accounting of the obligation and expenditure of such funds;

(B) the monitoring and review of reconstruction activities funded by such funds;

(C) the monitoring and review of contracts funded by such funds;

(D) the monitoring and review of the transfer of such funds and associated information between and among departments, agencies, and entities of the United States and private and nongovernmental entities;

(E) the maintenance of records on the use of such funds to facilitate future audits and investigations of the use of such fund;

(F) the monitoring and review of the effectiveness of United States coordination with the Government of Afghanistan and other donor countries in the implementation of the Afghanistan Compact and the Afghanistan National Development Strategy; and

(G) the investigation of overpayments such as duplicate payments or duplicate billing and any potential unethical or illegal actions of Federal employees, contractors, or affiliated entities and the referral of such reports, as necessary, to the Department of Justice to ensure further investigations, prosecutions, recovery of further funds, or other remedies.

(2) OTHER DUTIES RELATED TO OVERSIGHT.—The Inspector General shall establish, maintain, and oversee such systems, procedures, and controls as the Inspector General considers appropriate to discharge the duties under paragraph (1).

(3) DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER INSPECTOR GENERAL ACT OF 1978.—In addition to the duties specified in paragraphs (1) and (2), the Inspector General shall also have the duties and responsibilities of inspectors general under the Inspector General Act of 1978.

(4) COORDINATION OF EFFORTS.—In carrying out the duties, responsibilities, and authorities of the Inspector General under this section, the Inspector General shall coordinate with, and receive the cooperation of each of the following:

(A) The Inspector General of the Department of Defense.

(B) The Inspector General of the Department of State.

(C) The Inspector General of the United States Agency for International Development.

(g) POWERS AND AUTHORITIES.—

(1) AUTHORITIES UNDER INSPECTOR GENERAL ACT OF 1978.—In carrying out the duties specified in subsection (f), the Inspector General shall have the authorities provided in section 6 of the Inspector General Act of 1978, including the authorities under subsection (e) of such section.

(2) AUDIT STANDARDS.—The Inspector General shall carry out the duties specified in subsection (f)(1) in accordance with section 4(b)(1) of the Inspector General Act of 1978.

(h) PERSONNEL, FACILITIES, AND OTHER RESOURCES.—

(1) PERSONNEL.—The Inspector General may select, appoint, and employ such officers and employees as may be necessary for carrying out the duties of the Inspector General, subject to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title, relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates.

(2) EMPLOYMENT OF EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—The Inspector General may obtain services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, at daily rates not to exceed the equivalent rate prescribed for grade GS–15 of the General Schedule by section 5332 of such title.

(3) CONTRACTING AUTHORITY.—To the extent and in such amounts as may be provided in advance by appropriations Acts, the Inspector General may enter into contracts and other arrangements for audits, studies, analyses, and other services with public agencies and with private persons, and make such payments as may be necessary to carry out the duties of the Inspector General.

(4) RESOURCES.—The Secretary of State or the Secretary of Defense, as appropriate, shall provide the Inspector General with appropriate and adequate office space at appropriate locations of the Department of State or the Department of Defense, as the case may be, in Afghanistan, together with such equipment, office supplies, and communications facilities and services as may be necessary for the operation of such offices, and shall provide necessary maintenance services for such offices and the equipment and facilities located therein.

(5) ASSISTANCE FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon request of the Inspector General for information or assistance from any department, agency, or other entity of the Federal Government, the head of such entity shall, insofar as is practicable and not in contravention of any existing law, furnish such information or assistance to the Inspector General, or an authorized designee.

(B) REPORTING OF REFUSED ASSISTANCE.—Whenever information or assistance requested by the Inspector General is, in the judgment of the Inspector General, unreasonably refused or not provided, the Inspector General shall report the circumstances to the Secretary of State or the Secretary of

Defense, as appropriate, and to the appropriate congressional committees without delay.

(6) USE OF PERSONNEL, FACILITIES, AND OTHER RESOURCES OF THE OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION.—Upon the request of the Inspector General, the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction—

(A) may detail, on a reimbursable basis, any of the personnel of the Office of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction to the Office of the Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction for the purpose of carrying out this section; and

(B) may provide, on a reimbursable basis, any of the facilities or other resources of the Office of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction to the Office of the Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction for the purpose of carrying out this section.

(i) REPORTS.—

(1) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal-year quarter, the Inspector General shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report summarizing, for the period of that quarter and, to the extent possible, the period from the end of such quarter to the time of the submission of the report, the activities during such period of the Inspector General and the activities under programs and operations funded with amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the reconstruction of Afghanistan. Each report shall include, for the period covered by such report, a detailed statement of all obligations, expenditures, and revenues associated with reconstruction and rehabilitation activities in Afghanistan, including the following:

(A) Obligations and expenditures of appropriated funds.

(B) A project-by-project and program-by-program accounting of the costs incurred to date for the reconstruction of Afghanistan, together with the estimate of the Department of Defense, the Department of State, and the United States Agency for International Development, as applicable, of the costs to complete each project and each program.

(C) Revenues attributable to or consisting of funds provided by foreign nations or international organizations to programs and projects funded by any department or agency of the United States Government, and any obligations or expenditures of such revenues.

(D) Revenues attributable to or consisting of foreign assets seized or frozen that contribute to programs and projects funded by any department or agency of the United States Government, and any obligations or expenditures of such revenues.

(E) Operating expenses of agencies or entities receiving amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

(F) In the case of any contract, grant, agreement, or other funding mechanism described in paragraph (2)—

(i) the amount of the contract, grant, agreement, or other funding mechanism;

(ii) a brief discussion of the scope of the contract, grant, agreement, or other funding mechanism;

(iii) a discussion of how the department or agency of the United States Government involved in the contract, grant, agreement, or other funding mechanism identified, and solicited offers from, potential individuals or entities to perform the contract, grant, agreement, or other funding mechanism, together with a list of the potential individuals or entities that were issued solicitations for the offers; and

(iv) the justification and approval documents on which was based the determination to use procedures other than procedures that provide for full and open competition.

(2) COVERED CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AGREEMENTS, AND FUNDING MECHANISMS.—A contract, grant, agreement, or other funding mechanism described in this paragraph is any major contract, grant, agreement, or other funding mechanism that is entered into by any department or agency of the United States Government that involves the use of amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the reconstruction of Afghanistan with any public or private sector entity for any of the following purposes:

(A) To build or rebuild physical infrastructure of Afghanistan.

(B) To establish or reestablish a political or societal institution of Afghanistan.

(C) To provide products or services to the people of Afghanistan.

(3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Inspector General shall publish on a publically-available Internet website each report under paragraph (1) of this subsection in English and other languages that the Inspector General determines are widely used and understood in Afghanistan.

(4) FORM.—Each report required under this subsection shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex if the Inspector General considers it necessary.

(5) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to authorize the public disclosure of information that is—

(A) specifically prohibited from disclosure by any other provision of law;

(B) specifically required by Executive order to be protected from disclosure in the interest of national defense or national security or in the conduct of foreign affairs; or

(C) a part of an ongoing criminal investigation.

(j) REPORT COORDINATION.—

(1) SUBMISSION TO SECRETARIES OF STATE AND DEFENSE.—The Inspector General shall also submit each report required under subsection (i) to the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense.

(2) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days after receipt of a report under paragraph (1), the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Defense may submit to the appropriate congressional committees any comments on the matters covered by the report as the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Defense, as the case may be, considers appropriate. Any comments on the matters covered by the report shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex if the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Defense, as the case may be, considers it necessary.

(k) TRANSPARENCY.—

(1) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after submission to the appropriate congressional committees of a report under subsection (i), the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense shall jointly make copies of the report available to the public upon request, and at a reasonable cost.

(2) COMMENTS ON MATTERS COVERED BY REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after submission to the appropriate congressional committees under subsection (j)(2) of comments on a report under subsection (i), the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense shall jointly make copies of the comments available to the public upon request, and at a reasonable cost.

(l) WAIVER.—

(1) AUTHORITY.—The President may waive the requirement under paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (k) with respect to availability to the public of any element in a report under subsection (i), or any comment under subsection (j)(2), if the President determines that the waiver is justified for national security reasons.

(2) NOTICE OF WAIVER.—The President shall publish a notice of each waiver made under this subsection in the Federal Register no later than the date on which a report required under subsection (i), or any comment under subsection (j)(2), is submitted to the appropriate congressional committees. The report and comments shall specify whether waivers under this subsection were made and with respect to which elements in the report or which comments, as appropriate.

(m) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AMOUNTS APPROPRIATED OR OTHERWISE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF AFGHANISTAN.—The term ''amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the reconstruction of Afghanistan'' means—

(A) amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for any fiscal year—

(i) to the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund; or

(ii) to the program to assist the people of Afghanistan established under subsection (a)(2) of section 1202 of the National Defense Authorization for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109–163; 119 Stat. 3455–3456); and

(B) amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for any fiscal year for the reconstruction of Afghanistan under—

(i) the Economic Support Fund;

(ii) the International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement account; or

(iii) any other provision of law.

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

(A) the Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(n) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated $20,000,000 for fiscal year 2008 to carry out this section.

(2) OFFSET.—The amount authorized to be appropriated by section 1513 for the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund is hereby reduced by $20,000,000.

(o) TERMINATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction shall terminate 180 days after the date on which amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the reconstruction of Afghanistan that are unexpended are less than $250,000,000.

(2) FINAL REPORT.—The Inspector General shall, prior to the termination of the Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction under paragraph (1), prepare and submit to the appropriate congressional committees a final forensic audit report on programs and operations funded with amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

SEC. 1230. REPORT ON PROGRESS TOWARD SECURITY AND STABILITY IN AFGHANISTAN.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter through the end of fiscal year 2010, the President, acting through the Secretary of Defense, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on progress toward security and stability in Afghanistan.

(b) COORDINATION.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be prepared in coordination with the Secretary of State, the Director of National Intelligence, the Attorney General, the Administrator of the Drug

Enforcement Administration, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the head of any other department or agency of the Government of the United States involved with activities relating to security and stability in Afghanistan.

(c) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED: STRATEGIC DIRECTION OF UNITED STATES ACTIVITIES RELATING TO SECURITY AND STABILITY IN AFGHANISTAN.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include a description of a comprehensive strategy of the United States for security and stability in Afghanistan. The description of such strategy shall consist of a general overview and a separate detailed section for each of the following:

(1) NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE FORCE.—A description of the following:

(A) Efforts of the United States to work with countries participating in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan (hereafter in this section referred to as ''NATO ISAF countries'').

(B) Any actions by the United States to achieve the following goals relating to strengthening the NATO ISAF, and the results of such actions:

(i) Encourage NATO ISAF countries to fulfill commitments to the NATO ISAF mission in Afghanistan, and ensure adequate contributions to efforts to build the capacity of the Afghanistan National Security Forces (ANSF), counter-narcotics efforts, and reconstruction and development activities in Afghanistan.

(ii) Remove national caveats on the use of forces deployed as part of the NATO ISAF.

(iii) Reduce the number of civilian casualties resulting from military operations of NATO ISAF countries and mitigate the impact of such casualties on the Afghan people.

(2) AFGHANISTAN NATIONAL SECURITY FORCES.—A description of the following:

(A) A comprehensive and effective long-term strategy and budget, with defined objectives, for activities relating to strengthening the resources, capabilities, and effectiveness of the Afghanistan National Army (ANA) and the Afghanistan National Police (ANP) of the ANSF, with the goal of ensuring that a strong and fully-capable ANSF is able to independently and effectively conduct operations and maintain security and stability in Afghanistan.

(B) Any actions by the United States to achieve the following goals relating to building the capacity of the ANSF, and the results of such actions:

(i) Improve coordination with all relevant departments and agencies of the Government of the United States, as well as NATO ISAF countries and other international partners.

(ii) Improve ANSF recruitment and retention, including through improved vetting and salaries for the ANSF.

(iii) Increase and improve ANSF training and mentoring.

(iv) Strengthen the partnership between the Government of the United States and the Government of Afghanistan.

(3) PROVINCIAL RECONSTRUCTION TEAMS AND OTHER RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.—A description of the following:

(A) A comprehensive and effective long-term strategy and budget, with defined objectives, for reconstruction and development in Afghanistan, including a long-term strategy with a mission and objectives for each United States-led Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Afghanistan.

(B) Any actions by the United States to achieve the following goals with respect to reconstruction and development in Afghanistan, and the results of such actions:

(i) Improve coordination with all relevant departments and agencies of the Government of the United States, as well as NATO ISAF countries and other international partners.

(ii) Clarify the chain of command, and operations plans for United States-led PRTs that are appropriate to meet the needs of the relevant local communities.

(iii) Promote coordination among PRTs.

(iv) Ensure that each PRT is adequately staffed, particularly with civilian specialists, and that such staff receive appropriate training.

(v) Expand the ability of the Afghan people to assume greater responsibility for their own reconstruction and development projects.

(vi) Strengthen the partnership between the Government of the United States and the Government of Afghanistan.

(vii) Ensure proper reconstruction and development oversight activities, including implementation, where appropriate, of recommendations of any United States inspectors general, including the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction appointed pursuant to section 1229.

(4) COUNTER-NARCOTICS ACTIVITIES.—A description of the following:

(A) A comprehensive and effective long-term strategy and budget, with defined objectives, for the activities of the Department of Defense relating to counter-narcotics efforts in Afghanistan, including—

(i) roles and missions of the Department of Defense within the overall counter-narcotics strategy for Afghanistan of the Government of the United States, including a statement of priorities;

(ii) a detailed, comprehensive, and effective strategy with defined one-year, three-year, and five-year objectives and a description of the accompanying allocation of resources of the Department of Defense to accomplish such objectives;

(iii) in furtherance of the strategy described in clause (i), actions that the Department of Defense is taking and has planned to take to—

(I) improve coordination within the Department of Defense and with all relevant departments and agencies of the Government of the United States;

(II) strengthen significantly the Afghanistan National Counter-narcotics Police;

(III) build the capacity of local and provincial governments of Afghanistan and the national Government of Afghanistan to assume greater responsibility for counter-narcotics-related activities, including interdiction; and

(IV) improve counter-narcotics-related intelligence capabilities and tactical use of such capabilities by the Department of Defense and other appropriate departments and agencies of the Government of the United States; and

(iv) the impact, if any, including the disadvantages and advantages, if any, on the primary counter-terrorism mission of the United States military of providing enhanced logistical support to departments and agencies of the Government of the United States and counter-narcotics partners of the United States in their interdiction efforts, including apprehending or eliminating major drug traffickers in Afghanistan.

(B) The counter-narcotics roles and missions assumed by the local and provincial governments of Afghanistan and the national Government of Afghanistan, appropriate departments and agencies of the Government of the United States (other than the Department of Defense), the NATO ISAF, and the governments of other countries.

(C) The plan and efforts to coordinate the counter-narcotics strategy and activities of the Department of Defense with the counter-narcotics strategy and activities of the Government of Afghanistan, the NATO-led interdiction and security forces, other appropriate countries, and other counter-narcotics partners of the United States, and the results of such efforts.

(D) The progress made by the governments, organizations, and entities specified in subparagraph (B) in executing designated roles and missions, and in coordinating and implementing counternarcotics plans and activities, and based on the results of this progress whether, and to what extent, roles and missions for the Department of Defense should be altered in the future, or should remain unaltered.

(5) PUBLIC CORRUPTION AND RULE OF LAW.—A description of any actions, and the results of such actions, to help the Government of Afghanistan fight public corruption and strengthen governance and the rule of law at the local, provincial, and national levels.

(6) REGIONAL CONSIDERATIONS.—A description of any actions and the results of such actions to increase cooperation with countries geographically located around Afghanistan's border, with a particular focus on improving security and stability in the Afghanistan-Pakistan border areas.

(d) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED: PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND MEASURES OF PROGRESS TOWARD SUSTAINABLE LONG-TERM SECURITY AND STABILITY IN AFGHANISTAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The report required under subsection (a) shall set forth a comprehensive set of performance indicators and measures of progress toward sustainable long-term security and stability in Afghanistan, as specified in paragraph (2), and shall include performance standards and progress goals, together with a notional timetable for achieving such goals.

(2) PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND MEASURES OF PROGRESS SPECIFIED.—The performance indicators and measures of progress specified in this paragraph shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(A) With respect to the NATO ISAF, an assessment of unfulfilled NATO ISAF mission requirements and contributions from individual NATO ISAF countries, including levels of troops and equipment, the effect of contributions on operations, and unfulfilled commitments.

(B) An assessment of military operations of the NATO ISAF, including of NATO ISAF countries, and an assessment of separate military operations by United States forces. Such assessments shall include—

(i) indicators of a stable security environment in Afghanistan, such as number of engagements per day, and trends relating to the numbers and types of hostile encounters; and

(ii) the effects of national caveats that limit operations, geographic location of operations, and estimated number of civilian casualties.

(C) For the Afghanistan National Army (ANA), and separately for the Afghanistan National Police (ANP), of the Afghanistan National Security Forces (ANSF) an assessment of the following:

(i) Recruitment and retention numbers, rates of absenteeism, vetting procedures, and salary scale.

(ii) Numbers trained, numbers receiving mentoring, the type of training and mentoring, and number of trainers, mentors, and advisers needed to support the ANA and ANP and associated ministries.

(iii) Type of equipment used.

(iv) Operational readiness status of ANSF units, including the type, number, size, and organizational structure of ANA and ANP units that are—

(I) capable of conducting operations independently;

(II) capable of conducting operations with the support of the United States, NATO ISAF forces, or other coalition forces; or

(III) not ready to conduct operations.

(v) Effectiveness of ANA and ANP officers and the ANA and ANP chain of command.

(vi) Extent to which insurgents have infiltrated the ANA and ANP.

(vii) Estimated number and capability level of the ANA and ANP needed to perform duties now undertaken by NATO ISAF countries, separate United States forces and other coalition forces, including defending the borders of Afghanistan and providing adequate levels of law and order throughout Afghanistan.

(D) An assessment of the estimated strength of the insurgency in Afghanistan and the extent to which it is composed of non-Afghan fighters and utilizing weapons or weapons-related materials from countries other than Afghanistan.

(E) A description of all terrorist and insurgent groups operating in Afghanistan, including the number, size, equipment strength, military effectiveness, sources of support, legal status, and any efforts to disarm or reintegrate each such group.

(F) An assessment of security and stability, including terrorist and insurgent activity, in Afghanistan-Pakistan border areas and in Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas.

(G) An assessment of United States military requirements, including planned force rotations, for the twelve-month period following the date of the report required under subsection (a).

(H) For reconstruction and development, an assessment of the following:

(i) The location, funding (including the sources of funding), staffing requirements, current staffing levels, and activities of each United States-led Provincial Reconstruction Team.

(ii) Key indicators of economic activity that should be considered the most important for determining the prospects of stability in Afghanistan, including—

(I) the indicators set forth in the Afghanistan Compact, which consist of roads, education, health, agriculture, and electricity; and

(II) unemployment and poverty levels.

(I) For counter-narcotics efforts, an assessment of the activities of the Department of Defense in Afghanistan, as described in subsection (c)(4), and the effectiveness of such activities.

(J) Key measures of political stability relating to both central and local Afghan governance.

(K) For public corruption and rule of law, an assessment of anti-corruption and law enforcement activities at the local, provincial, and national levels and the effectiveness of such activities.

(e) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex, if necessary.

(f) CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS.—The Secretary of Defense shall supplement the report required under subsection (a) with regular briefings to the appropriate congressional committees on the subject matter of the report.

(g) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

SEC. 1231. UNITED STATES PLAN FOR SUSTAINING THE AFGHANISTAN NATIONAL SECURITY FORCES.

(a) PLAN REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter through the end of fiscal year 2010, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on a long-term detailed plan for sustaining the Afghanistan National Army (ANA) and the Afghanistan National Police (ANP) of the Afghanistan National Security Forces (ANSF), with the objective of ensuring that a strong and fully-capable ANSF will be able to independently and effectively conduct operations and maintain long-term security and stability in Afghanistan.

(b) COORDINATION.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be prepared in coordination with the Secretary of State.

(c) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include a description of the following matters relating to the plan for sustaining the ANSF:

(1) A comprehensive and effective long-term strategy and budget, with defined objectives.

(2) A mechanism for tracking funding, equipment, training, and services provided for the ANSF by the United States, countries participating in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan (hereafter in this section referred to as ''NATO ISAF countries''), and other coalition forces that are not part of the NATO ISAF.

(3) Any actions to assist the Government of Afghanistan achieve the following goals, and the results of such actions:

(A) Build and sustain effective Afghan security institutions with fully-capable leadership and staff, including a reformed Ministry of Interior, a fully-established Ministry of Defense, and logistics, intelligence, medical, and recruiting units (hereafter in this section referred to as ''ANSF-sustaining institutions'').

(B) Train and equip fully-capable ANSF that are capable of conducting operations independently and in sufficient numbers.

(C) Establish strong ANSF-readiness assessment tools and metrics.

(D) Build and sustain strong, professional ANSF officers at the junior-, mid-, and senior-levels.

(E) Develop strong ANSF communication and control between central command and regions, provinces, and districts.

(F) Establish a robust mentoring and advising program, and a strong professional military training and education program, for all ANSF officials.

(G) Establish effective merit-based salary, rank, promotion, and incentive structures for the ANSF.

(H) Develop mechanisms for incorporating lessons learned and best practices into ANSF operations.

(I) Establish an ANSF personnel accountability system with effective internal discipline procedures and mechanisms, and a system for addressing ANSF personnel complaints.

(J) Ensure effective ANSF oversight mechanisms, including a strong record-keeping system to track ANSF equipment and personnel.

(4) Coordination with all relevant departments and agencies of the Government of the United States, as well as NATO ISAF countries and other international partners, including on—

(A) funding;

(B) reform and establishment of ANSF-sustaining institutions; and

(C) efforts to ensure that progress on sustaining the ANSF is reinforced with progress in other pillars of the Afghan security sector, particularly progress on building an effective judiciary, curbing production and trafficking of illicit narcotics, and demobilizing, disarming, and reintegrating militia fighters.

(d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

SEC. 1232. REPORT ON ENHANCING SECURITY AND STABILITY IN THE REGION ALONG THE BORDER OF AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 31, 2008, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on enhancing security and stability in the region along the border of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

(2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A detailed description of the efforts by the Government of Pakistan to achieve the following objectives:

(i) Eliminate safe havens for Taliban, Al Qaeda, and other violent extremist forces on the national territory of Pakistan.

(ii) Prevent the movement of such forces across the border of Pakistan into Afghanistan to engage in insurgent or terrorist activities.

(B) An assessment of the Secretary of Defense as to whether Pakistan is making substantial and sustained efforts to achieve the objectives specified in subparagraph (A).

(3) FORM.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(4) LIMITATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary of Defense does not submit the report required under paragraph (1) by March 31, 2008, then after such date the Government of Pakistan may not be reimbursed under the authority of any provision of law described in subparagraph (B) for logistical, military, or other support provided by Pakistan to the United States until the Secretary submits to the appropriate congressional committees the report required by such paragraph.

(B) PROVISIONS OF LAW.—The provisions of law referred to in subparagraph (A) are the following:

(i) Section 1233.

(ii) Any other provision of law under which payments are authorized to reimburse key cooperating nations for logistical, military, or other support provided by that nation to or in connection with United States military operations.

(5) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

(b) NOTIFICATION RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE COALITION SUPPORT FUNDS FOR PAKISTAN.—

(1) NOTIFICATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not less than 15 days before making any reimbursement to the Government of Pakistan under the authority of any provision of law described in subparagraph (B) for logistical, military, or other support provided by Pakistan to the United States, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a written notification that contains a detailed description of such logistical, military, or other support.

(B) PROVISIONS OF LAW.—The provisions of law referred to in subparagraph (A) are the following:

(i) Section 1233.

(ii) Any other provision of law under which payments are authorized to reimburse key cooperating nations for logistical, military, or other support provided by that nation to or in connection with United States military operations.

(2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—Each notification required under paragraph (1) shall include an itemized description of the following support provided by Pakistan to the United States for which the United States will provide reimbursement:

(A) Logistic support, supplies, and services, as such term is defined in section 2350(1) of title 10, United States Code.

(B) Military support.

(C) Any other support or services.

(3) FORM.—Each notification required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(4) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—Each notification required under paragraph (1) shall be in addition to any notification requirements under any provision of law described in subparagraph (B) of such paragraph.

(5) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The requirement to submit notifications under paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to reimbursements to the Government of Pakistan for logistical, military, or other support provided by Pakistan to the United States during the period beginning on February 1, 2008, and ending on September 30, 2009.

SEC. 1233. REIMBURSEMENT OF CERTAIN COALITION NATIONS FOR SUPPORT PROVIDED TO UNITED STATES MILITARY OPERATIONS.

(a) AUTHORITY.—From funds made available for the Department of Defense by section 1508 for operation and maintenance, Defense-wide activities, the Secretary of Defense may reimburse any key cooperating nation for logistical and military support provided by that nation to or in connection with United States military operations in Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom.

(b) AMOUNTS OF REIMBURSEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Reimbursement authorized by subsection (a) may be made in such amounts as the Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State and in consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, may determine, based on documentation determined by the Secretary of Defense to adequately account for the support provided.

(2) STANDARDS.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall prescribe standards for determining the kinds of logistical and military support to the United States that shall be considered reimbursable under the authority in subsection (a). Such standards may not take effect until 15 days after the date on which the Secretary submits to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth such standards.

(c) LIMITATIONS.—

(1) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT.—The total amount of reimbursements made under the authority in subsection (a) during fiscal year 2008 may not exceed $1,200,000,000.

(2) PROHIBITION ON CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS TO MAKE PAYMENTS.—The Secretary of Defense may not enter into any contractual obligation to make a reimbursement under the authority in subsection (a).

(d) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary of Defense shall—

(1) notify the congressional defense committees not less than 15 days before making any reimbursement under the authority in subsection (a); and

(2) submit to the congressional defense committees on a quarterly basis a report on any reimbursements made under the authority in subsection (a) during such quarter.

SEC. 1234. LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FOR COALITION FORCES SUPPORTING OPERATIONS IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN.

(a) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR LOGISTICAL SUPPORT.—Subject to the provisions of this section, amounts available to the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2008 for operation and maintenance may be used to provide supplies, services, transportation (including airlift and sealift), and other logistical support to coalition forces supporting United States military and stabilization operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

(b) REQUIRED DETERMINATION.—The Secretary may provide logistical support under the authority in subsection (a) only if the Secretary determines that the coalition forces to be provided the logistical support—

(1) are essential to the success of a United States military or stabilization operation; and

(2) would not be able to participate in such operation without the provision of the logistical support.

(c) COORDINATION WITH EXPORT CONTROL LAWS.—Logistical support may be provided under the authority in subsection (a) only in accordance with applicable provisions of the Arms Export Control Act and other export control laws of the United States.

(d) LIMITATION ON VALUE.—The total amount of logistical support provided under the authority in subsection (a) in fiscal year 2008 may not exceed $400,000,000.

(e) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—

(1) REPORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than 15 days after the end of each fiscal-year quarter of fiscal year 2008, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the provision of logistical support under the authority in subsection (a) during such fiscal-year quarter.

(2) ELEMENTS.—Each report under paragraph (1) shall include, for the fiscal-year quarter covered by such report, the following:

(A) Each nation provided logistical support under the authority in subsection (a).

(B) For each such nation, a description of the type and value of logistical support so provided.

Subtitle C—Iraq Refugee Crisis

SEC. 1241. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Refugee Crisis in Iraq Act of 2007''.

SEC. 1242. PROCESSING MECHANISMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall establish or use existing refugee processing mechanisms in Iraq and in countries, where appropriate, in the region in which—

(1) aliens described in section 1243 may apply and interview for admission to the United States as refugees; and

(2) aliens described in section 1244(b) may apply and interview for admission to United States as special immigrants.

(b) SUSPENSION.—If such is determined necessary, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, may suspend in-country processing under subsection (a) for a period not to exceed 90 days. Such suspension may be extended by the Secretary of State upon notification to the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate. The Secretary of State shall submit to such committees a report outlining the basis of any such suspension and any extensions thereof.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall submit to the committees specified in subsection (b) a report that—

(1) describes the Secretary of State's plans to establish the processing mechanisms required under subsection (a);

(2) contains an assessment of in-country processing that makes use of video-conferencing; and

(3) describes the Secretary of State's diplomatic efforts to improve issuance of exit permits to Iraqis who have been provided special immigrant status under section 1244 and Iraqi refugees under section 1243.

SEC. 1243. UNITED STATES REFUGEE PROGRAM PROCESSING PRIORITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Refugees of special humanitarian concern eligible for Priority 2 processing under the refugee resettlement priority system who may apply directly to the United States Admission Program shall include—

(1) Iraqis who were or are employed by the United States Government, in Iraq;

(2) Iraqis who establish to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State that they are or were employed in Iraq by—

(A) a media or nongovernmental organization headquartered in the United States; or

(B) an organization or entity closely associated with the United States mission in Iraq that has received United States Government funding through an official and documented contract, award, grant, or cooperative agreement; and

(3) spouses, children, and parents whether or not accompanying or following to join, and sons, daughters, and siblings of aliens described in paragraph (1), paragraph (2), or section 1244(b)(1); and

(4) Iraqis who are members of a religious or minority community, have been identified by the Secretary of State, or the designee of the Secretary, as a persecuted group, and have close family members (as described in section 201(b)(2)(A)(i) or 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151(b)(2)(A)(i) and 1153(a))) in the United States.

(b) IDENTIFICATION OF OTHER PERSECUTED GROUPS.—The Secretary of State, or the designee of the Secretary, is authorized to identify other Priority 2 groups of Iraqis, including vulnerable populations.

(c) INELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS AND ENTITIES.—Organizations and entities described in subsection (a)(2) shall not include any that appear on the Department of the Treasury's list of Specially Designated Nationals or any entity specifically excluded by the Secretary of Homeland Security, after consultation with the Secretary of State and the heads of relevant elements of the intelligence community (as defined in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 401a(4)).

(d) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—Aliens under this section who qualify for Priority 2 processing under the refugee resettlement priority system shall satisfy the requirements of section 207 of the

Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157) for admission to the United States.

(e) NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS.—In determining the number of Iraqi refugees who should be resettled in the United States under paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) of subsection (a) and subsection (b) of section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157), the President shall consult with the heads of nongovernmental organizations that have a presence in Iraq or experience in assessing the problems faced by Iraqi refugees.

(f) ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION AS REFUGEE.—No alien shall be denied the opportunity to apply for admission under this section solely because such alien qualifies as an immediate relative or is eligible for any other immigrant classification.

SEC. 1244. SPECIAL IMMIGRANT STATUS FOR CERTAIN IRAQIS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (c), the Secretary of Homeland Security, or, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of State in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, may provide an alien described in subsection (b) with the status of a special immigrant under section 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)), if the alien—

(1) or an agent acting on behalf of the alien, submits a petition for classification under section 203(b)(4) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)(4));

(2) is otherwise eligible to receive an immigrant visa;

(3) is otherwise admissible to the United States for permanent residence (excluding the grounds for inadmissibility specified in section 212(a)(4) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(4)); and

(4) cleared a background check and appropriate screening, as determined by the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(b) ALIENS DESCRIBED.—

(1) PRINCIPAL ALIENS.—An alien is described in this subsection if the alien—

(A) is a citizen or national of Iraq;

(B) was or is employed by or on behalf of the United States Government in Iraq, on or after March 20, 2003, for not less than one year;

(C) provided faithful and valuable service to the United States Government, which is documented in a positive recommendation or evaluation, subject to paragraph (4), from the employee's senior supervisor or the person currently occupying that position, or a more senior person, if the employee's senior supervisor has left the employer or has left Iraq; and

(D) has experienced or is experiencing an ongoing serious threat as a consequence of the alien's employment by the United States Government.

(2) SPOUSES AND CHILDREN.—An alien is described in this subsection if the alien—

(A) is the spouse or child of a principal alien described in paragraph (1); and

(B) is accompanying or following to join the principal alien in the United States.

(3) TREATMENT OF SURVIVING SPOUSE OR CHILD.—An alien is described in subsection (b) if the alien—

(A) was the spouse or child of a principal alien described in paragraph (1) who had a petition for classification approved pursuant to this section or section 1059 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109–163; 8 U.S.C. 1101 note), which included the alien as an accompanying spouse or child; and

(B) due to the death of the principal alien—

(i) such petition was revoked or terminated (or otherwise rendered null); and

(ii) such petition would have been approved if the principal alien had survived.

(4) APPROVAL BY CHIEF OF MISSION REQUIRED.—A recommendation or evaluation required under paragraph (1)(C) shall be accompanied by approval from the Chief of Mission, or the designee of the Chief of Mission, who shall conduct a risk assessment of the alien and an independent review of records maintained by the United States Government or hiring organization or entity to confirm employment and faithful and valuable service to the United States Government prior to approval of a petition under this section.

(c) NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The total number of principal aliens who may be provided special immigrant status under this section may not exceed 5,000 per year for each of the five fiscal years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) EXCLUSION FROM NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS.—Aliens provided special immigrant status under this section shall not be counted against any numerical limitation under sections 201(d), 202(a), or 203(b)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151(d), 1152(a), and 1153(b)(4)).

(3) CARRY FORWARD.—

(A) FISCAL YEARS ONE THROUGH FOUR.—If the numerical limitation specified in paragraph (1) is not reached during a given fiscal year referred to in such paragraph (with respect to fiscal years one through four), the numerical limitation specified in such paragraph for the following fiscal year shall be increased by a number equal to the difference between—

(i) the numerical limitation specified in paragraph (1) for the given fiscal year; and

(ii) the number of principal aliens provided special immigrant status under this section during the given fiscal year.

(B) FISCAL YEARS FIVE AND SIX.—If the numerical limitation specified in paragraph (1) is not reached in the fifth fiscal year beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act, the total number of principal aliens who may be provided special immigrant status under this section for the sixth fiscal year beginning after such date shall be equal to the difference between—

(i) the numerical limitation specified in paragraph (1) for the fifth fiscal year; and

(ii) the number of principal aliens provided such status under this section during the fifth fiscal year.

(d) VISA AND PASSPORT ISSUANCE AND FEES.—Neither the Secretary of State nor the Secretary of Homeland Security may charge an alien described in subsection (b) any fee in connection with an application for, or issuance of, a special immigrant visa. The Secretary of State shall make a reasonable effort to ensure that aliens described in this section who are issued special immigrant visas are provided with the appropriate series Iraqi passport necessary to enter the United States.

(e) PROTECTION OF ALIENS.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall make a reasonable effort to provide an alien described in this section who is applying for a special immigrant visa with protection or the immediate removal from Iraq, if possible, of such alien if the Secretary determines after consultation that such alien is in imminent danger.

(f) ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION UNDER OTHER CLASSIFICATION.—No alien shall be denied the opportunity to apply for admission under this section solely because such alien qualifies as an immediate relative or is eligible for any other immigrant classification.

(g) RESETTLEMENT SUPPORT.—Iraqi aliens granted special immigrant status described in section 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)) shall be eligible for resettlement assistance, entitlement programs, and other benefits available to refugees admitted under section 207 of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1157) for a period not to exceed eight months.

(h) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to affect the authority of the Secretary of Homeland Security under section 1059 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006.

SEC. 1245. SENIOR COORDINATOR FOR IRAQI REFUGEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS.

(a) DESIGNATION IN IRAQ.—The Secretary of State shall designate in the embassy of the United States in Baghdad, Iraq, a Senior Coordinator for Iraqi Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (referred to in this section as the ''Senior Coordinator'').

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Senior Coordinator shall be responsible for the oversight of processing for the resettlement in the United States of refugees of special humanitarian concern, special immigrant visa programs in Iraq, and the development and implementation of other appropriate policies and programs concerning Iraqi refugees and internally displaced persons. The Senior Coordinator shall have the authority to refer persons to the United States refugee resettlement program.

(c) DESIGNATION OF ADDITIONAL SENIOR COORDINATORS.—The Secretary of State shall designate in the embassies of the United States in Cairo, Egypt, Amman, Jordan, Damascus, Syria, and Beirut, Lebanon, a Senior Coordinator to oversee resettlement in the United States of refugees of special humanitarian concern in those countries to ensure their applications to the United States refugee resettlement program are processed in an orderly manner and without delay.

SEC. 1246. COUNTRIES WITH SIGNIFICANT POPULATIONS OF IRAQI REFUGEES.

With respect to each country with a significant population of Iraqi refugees, including Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Turkey, and Lebanon, the Secretary of State shall—

(1) as appropriate, consult with the appropriate government officials of such countries and other countries and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees regarding resettlement of the most vulnerable members of such refugee populations; and

(2) as appropriate, except where otherwise prohibited by the laws of the United States, develop mechanisms in and provide assistance to countries with a significant population of Iraqi refugees to ensure the well-being and safety of such populations in their host environments.

SEC. 1247. MOTION TO REOPEN DENIAL OR TERMINATION OF ASYLUM.

An alien who applied for asylum or withholding of removal and whose claim was denied on or after March 1, 2003, by an asylum officer or an immigration judge solely, or in part, on the basis of changed country conditions may, notwithstanding any other provision of law, file a motion to reopen such claim in accordance with subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 240(c)(7) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229a(c)(7)) not later than six months after the date of the enactment of the Refugee Crisis in Iraq Act if the alien—

(1) is a citizen or national of Iraq; and

(2) has remained in the United States since the date of such denial.

SEC. 1248. REPORTS.

(a) SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, the

Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report containing plans to expedite the processing of Iraqi refugees for resettlement, including information relating to—

(1) expediting the processing of Iraqi refugees for resettlement, including through temporary expansion of the Refugee Corps of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services;

(2) increasing the number of personnel of the Department of Homeland Security devoted to refugee processing in Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Turkey, and Lebanon;

(3) enhancing existing systems for conducting background and security checks of persons applying for special immigrant status and of persons considered Priority 2 refugees of special humanitarian concern under the refugee resettlement priority system, which enhancements shall support immigration security and provide for the orderly processing of such applications without delay; and

(4) the projections of the Secretary, per country and per month, for the number of refugee interviews that will be conducted in fiscal year 2008 and fiscal year 2009.

(b) PRESIDENT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter through 2013, the President shall submit to Congress an unclassified report, with a classified annex if necessary, which includes—

(1) an assessment of the financial, security, and personnel considerations and resources necessary to carry out the provisions of this subtitle;

(2) the number of aliens described in section 1243(a)(1);

(3) the number of such aliens who have applied for special immigrant visas;

(4) the date of such applications; and

(5) in the case of applications pending for longer than six months, the reasons that such visas have not been expeditiously processed.

(c) REPORT ON IRAQI CITIZENS AND NATIONALS EMPLOYED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OR FEDERAL CONTRACTORS IN IRAQ.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall—

(A) review internal records and databases of their respective agencies for information that can be used to verify employment of Iraqi nationals by the United States Government; and

(B) request from each prime contractor or grantee that has performed work in Iraq since March 20, 2003, under a contract, grant, or cooperative agreement with their respective agencies that is valued in excess of $25,000 information that can be used to verify the employment of Iraqi nationals by such contractor or grantee.

(2) INFORMATION REQUIRED.—To the extent data is available, the information referred to in paragraph (1) shall include the name and dates of employment of, biometric data for, and other data that can be used to verify the employment of each Iraqi citizen or national who has performed work in Iraq since March 20, 2003, under a contract, grant, or cooperative agreement with an executive agency.

(3) EXECUTIVE AGENCY DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''executive agency'' has the meaning given the term in section 4(1) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 403(1)).

(d) REPORT ON ESTABLISHMENT OF DATABASE.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall submit to Congress a report examining the options for establishing a unified, classified database of information related to contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements entered into by executive agencies for the performance of work in Iraq since March 20, 2003, including the information described and collected under subsection (c), to be used by relevant Federal departments and agencies to adjudicate refugee, asylum, special immigrant visa, and other immigration claims and applications.

(e) NONCOMPLIANCE REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit a report to Congress that describes—

(1) the inability or unwillingness of any contractor or grantee to provide the information requested under subsection (c)(1)(B); and

(2) the reasons for failing to provide such information.

SEC. 1249. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this subtitle.

Subtitle D—Other Authorities and Limitations

SEC. 1251. COOPERATIVE OPPORTUNITIES DOCUMENTS UNDER COOPERATIVE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENTS WITH NATO ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER ALLIED AND FRIENDLY FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Section 2350a(e) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''(A)'';

(B) by striking ''an arms cooperation opportunities document'' and inserting ''a cooperative opportunities document before the first milestone or decision point''; and

(C) by striking subparagraph (B); and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''An arms cooperation opportunities document'' and inserting ''A cooperative opportunities document''.

SEC. 1252. EXTENSION AND EXPANSION OF TEMPORARY AUTHORITY TO USE ACQUISITION AND CROSS-SERVICING AGREEMENTS TO LEND MILITARY EQUIPMENT FOR PERSONNEL PROTECTION AND SURVIVABILITY.

(a) EXPANSION TO NATIONS ENGAGED IN CERTAIN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS.—Subsection (a) of section 1202 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2412) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''or participating in combined operations with the United States as part of a peacekeeping operation under the Charter of the United Nations or another international agreement'' after ''Iraq or Afghanistan''; and

(2) in paragraph (3) by inserting '', or in a peacekeeping operation described in paragraph (1), as applicable,'' after ''Iraq or Afghanistan''.

(b) ONE-YEAR EXTENSION.—Subsection (e) of such section is amended by striking ''September 30, 2008'' and inserting ''September 30, 2009''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The heading of such section is amended by striking ''**FOREIGN FORCES IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN**'' and inserting ''**CERTAIN FOREIGN FORCES**''.

SEC. 1253. ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF PALAU FOR COSTS OF UNITED STATES MILITARY CIVIC ACTION TEAM IN PALAU.

Section 104(a) of Public Law 99–658 (48 U.S.C. 1933(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''In recognition'' and inserting ''(1) In recognition''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) For expenditures that the Department of Defense makes pursuant to paragraph (1), the Secretary of Defense may accept up to the amount of $250,000 in annual funds from the Government of Palau as specified in paragraph (1). Funds accepted by the Secretary from the Government of Palau under this paragraph shall be credited to and merged with appropriations available to the Department of Defense and shall be used to defray expenditures attendant to the operation of the United States military Civic Action Team in Palau. Funds so credited and merged shall be available for the same time period as the appropriations to which the funds are credited and merged.''.

SEC. 1254. REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT RELATING TO NORTH KOREA.

Section 1211 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2420) is amended by striking subsection (a).

SEC. 1255. JUSTICE FOR OSAMA BIN LADEN AND OTHER LEADERS OF AL QAEDA.

(a) ENHANCED REWARD FOR CAPTURE OF OSAMA BIN LADEN.—Section 36(e)(1) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2708(e)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: ''The Secretary shall authorize a reward of $50,000,000 for the capture or death or information leading to the capture or death of Osama bin Laden.''.

(b) STATUS OF EFFORTS TO BRING OSAMA BIN LADEN AND OTHER LEADERS OF AL QAEDA TO JUSTICE.—

(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense shall, in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence, jointly submit to Congress a report on the progress made in bringing Osama bin Laden and other leaders of al Qaeda to justice.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) An assessment of the likely current location of terrorist leaders, including Osama bin Laden, Ayman al-Zawahiri, and other key leaders of al Qaeda.

(B) A description of ongoing efforts to bring to justice such terrorist leaders, particularly those who have been directly implicated in attacks in the United States and its embassies.

(C) An assessment of whether the government of each country assessed as a likely location of top leaders of al Qaeda has fully cooperated in efforts to bring those leaders to justice.

(D) A description of diplomatic efforts currently being made to improve the cooperation of the governments described in subparagraph (C).

(E) A description of the current status of the top leadership of al Qaeda and the strategy for locating them and bringing them to justice.

(F) An assessment of whether al Qaeda remains the terrorist organization that poses the greatest threat to United States interests, including the greatest threat to the territorial United States.

(3) UPDATE OF REPORT.—Not later than one year after the submission of the report required under paragraph (1), the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense shall, in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence, jointly submit to Congress an update of the report required under paragraph (1).

(4) FORM.—The report required under paragraph (1) and the update of the report required under paragraph (3) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex, if necessary.

SEC. 1256. EXTENSION OF COUNTER-PROLIFERATION PROGRAM REVIEW COMMITTEE.

(a) MEMBERS.—Section 1605 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1994 (22 U.S.C. 2751 note) is amended in subsection (a)(1)—

(1) in subparagraph (C) by striking ''Director of Central Intelligence'' and inserting ''Director of National Intelligence''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(E) The Secretary of State.

''(F) The Secretary of Homeland Security.''.

(b) ACCESS TO INFORMATION.—Subsection (d) of such section is amended by inserting after ''Department of Energy,'' the following: ''the Department of State, the Department of Homeland Security,''.

(c) TERMINATION.—Subsection (f) of such section is amended by striking ''2008'' and inserting ''2013''.

(d) SUBMISSION OF REPORT.—Section 1503 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1995 (22 U.S.C. 2751 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking ''ANNUAL'' and inserting ''BIENNIAL''; and

(B) by striking ''each year'' and inserting ''each odd-numbered year''; and

(2) in subsection (b)(5)—

(A) by striking ''fiscal year preceding'' and inserting ''two fiscal years preceding''; and

(B) by striking ''preceding fiscal year'' and inserting ''preceding fiscal years''.

SEC. 1257. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the education and training facility of the Department of Defense known as the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation has the mission of providing professional education and training to eligible military personnel, law enforcement officials, and civilians of nations of the Western Hemisphere that support the democratic principles set forth in the Inter-American Democratic Charter of the Organization of American States, while fostering mutual knowledge, transparency, confidence, and cooperation among the participating nations and promoting democratic values and respect for human rights; and

(2) therefore, the Institute is an invaluable education and training facility which the Department of Defense should continue to utilize in order to help foster a spirit of partnership and interoperability among the United States military and the militaries of participating nations.

SEC. 1258. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON IRAN.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the manner in which the United States transitions and structures its military presence in Iraq will have critical long-term consequences for the future of the Persian Gulf and the Middle East, in particular with regard to the ability of the Government of Iran to pose a threat to the security of the region, the prospects for democracy for the people of the region, and the health of the global economy;

(2) it is in the national interest of the United States that the Government of Iran should not use extremists in Iraq to subvert or co-opt the institutions of the legitimate Government of Iraq;

(3) the United States should designate Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps as a foreign terrorist organization under section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189) and place the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps on the list of Specially Designated Global Terrorists, as established under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) and initiated under Executive Order 13224 (September 23, 2001); and

(4) the United States should act with all possible expediency to complete the listing of those entities targeted under United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1737 and 1747, adopted unanimously on December 23, 2006, and March 24, 2007, respectively.

Subtitle E—Reports

SEC. 1261. ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF UPDATE ON REPORT ON CLAIMS RELATING TO THE BOMBING OF THE LABELLE DISCOTHEQUE.

Section 1225 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109–163; 119 Stat. 3465) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2)—

(A) in the heading, by striking ''UPDATE'' and inserting ''UPDATES''; and

(B) by inserting ''and not later than two years after enactment of this Act,'' after ''Not later than one year after enactment of this Act,''; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking ''Committee on International Relations'' and inserting ''Committee on Foreign Affairs''.

SEC. 1262. REPORT ON UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARD DARFUR, SUDAN.

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State shall jointly submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the policy of the United States to address the crisis in the Darfur region of Sudan, eastern Chad, and north-eastern Central African Republic, and on the contributions of the Department of Defense and the Department of State to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the United Nations, and the African Union in support of the current African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) or any covered United Nations mission.

(2) UPDATE OF REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the submission of the report required under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State shall jointly submit to the appropriate congressional committees an update of the report.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the extent to which the Government of Sudan is in compliance with its obligations under international law and as a member of the United Nations, including under United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1591 (2005), 1706 (2006), 1769 (2007), and 1784 (2007) and a description of any violations of such obligations, including violations relating to the denial of or delay in facilitating access by AMIS and United Nations peacekeeping forces to conflict areas, failure to implement responsibilities to demobilize and disarm the Janjaweed militias, obstruction of the voluntary safe return of internally displaced persons and refugees, and degradation of security of and access to humanitarian supply routes.

(2) An assessment of the role played by rebel forces in contributing to violence being carried out against civilians and humanitarian organizations and of the impact of such activities on international efforts to create conditions of peace and security on the ground.

(3) A comprehensive explanation of the policy of the United States to address the crisis in the Darfur region, including the activities undertaken by the Department of Defense and the Department of State in support of that policy.

(4) A comprehensive assessment of the potential impact of a no-fly zone for the Darfur region, including an assessment of the impact of such a no-fly zone on humanitarian efforts in Darfur and the region and a plan to minimize any negative impact on such humanitarian efforts during the implementation of such a no-fly zone.

(5) A description of contributions made by the Department of Defense and the Department of State in support of NATO assistance to AMIS and any covered United Nations mission.

(6) An assessment of the extent to which additional United States Government resources are necessary to meet its obligations to AMIS and any covered United Nations mission.

(7) An assessment of the force size and composition of an international effort estimated to be necessary to provide protection to civilian populations currently displaced in the Darfur region, as well as the force size and composition of an international effort estimated to be necessary to provide broader stability within that region.

(8) An examination of the current capacity of the existing airfield in Abeche, Chad, including the scope of its current use by the international community in response to the crisis in the Darfur region.

(9) An analysis of the upgrades, and their associated costs, necessary to enable the airfield in Abeche, Chad, to be improved to be fully capable of accommodating a humanitarian, peacekeeping, or other force deployment of the size foreseen by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1769 calling for a United Nations deployment to Chad and a hybrid force of the United Nations and African Union operating under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter for Sudan.

(c) FORM AND AVAILABILITY OF REPORTS.—

(1) FORM.—The report and update of the report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in an unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(2) AVAILABILITY.—The unclassified portion of the report and update of the report required under subsection (a) shall be made available to the public.

(d) REPEAL OF SUPERSEDED REPORT REQUIREMENT.—Section 1227 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2426) is repealed.

(e) 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) COVERED UNITED NATIONS MISSION.—The term ''covered United Nations mission'' means any United Nations-African Union hybrid peacekeeping operation in the Darfur region of Sudan, and any United Nations peacekeeping operation in the Darfur region, eastern Chad, or northern Central African Republic, that is deployed on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 1263. INCLUSION OF INFORMATION ON ASYMMETRIC CAPABILITIES IN ANNUAL REPORT ON MILITARY POWER OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

Section 1202(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 (Public Law 106–65; 10 U.S.C. 113 note) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(9) Developments in China's asymmetric capabilities, including efforts to acquire, develop, and deploy cyberwarfare capabilities.''.

SEC. 1264. REPORT ON APPLICATION OF THE UNIFORM CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE TO CIVILIANS ACCOMPANYING THE ARMED FORCES DURING A TIME OF DECLARED WAR OR CONTINGENCY OPERATION.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the status of implementing paragraph (10) of section 802(a) of title 10, United States Code (article 2(a) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), as amended by section 552 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364), related to the application of chapter 47 of such title (the Uniform Code of Military Justice) to persons serving with or accompanying an armed force in the field during a time of declared war or contingency operation.

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

(1) A discussion of how the Secretary has resolved issues related to establishing jurisdiction under such chapter over persons referred to in paragraph (10) of section 802(a) of title 10, United States Code (article 2(a) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), specifically with respect to persons under contract with the Department of Defense or with other Federal agencies.

(2) An identification of any outstanding issues that remain to be resolved with respect to implementing such paragraph and a timetable for resolving such issues.

(3) A description of key implementing steps that have been taken or remain to be taken to assert jurisdiction under chapter 47 of such title over such persons.

(4) An explanation of the Secretary's approach to identifying factors that commanders should consider in determining whether to seek prosecution of such a person under such chapter or under chapter 212 of title 18, United States Code.

SEC. 1265. REPORT ON FAMILY REUNIONS BETWEEN UNITED STATES CITIZENS AND THEIR RELATIVES IN NORTH KOREA.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall transmit to Congress a report on family reunions between United States citizens and their relatives in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A description of the efforts, if any, of the United States Government to facilitate family reunions between United States citizens and their relatives in North Korea, including the following:

(A) Discussing with North Korea family reunions between United States citizens and their relatives in North Korea.

(B) Planning, in the event of a normalization of relations between the United States and North Korea, for the appropriate role of the United States embassy in Pyongyang, North Korea, in facilitating family reunions between United States citizens and their relatives in North Korea.

(2) A description of additional efforts, if any, of the United States Government to facilitate family reunions between United States citizens and their relatives in North Korea that the President considers to be desirable and feasible.

SEC. 1266. REPORTS ON PREVENTION OF MASS ATROCITIES.

(a) DEPARTMENT OF STATE REPORT.—

(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the congressional defense committees, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report assessing the capability of the Department of State to provide training and guidance to the command of an international intervention force that seeks to prevent mass atrocities.

(2) CONTENT.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) An evaluation of any doctrine currently used by the Secretary of State to prepare for the training and guidance of the command of an international intervention force.

(B) An assessment of the role played by the United States in developing the ''responsibility to protect'' doctrine described in paragraphs 138 through 140 of the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly adopted by the United Nations in September 2005, and an update on actions taken by the United States Mission to the United Nations to discuss, promote, and implement such doctrine.

(C) An assessment of the potential capability of the Department of State and other Federal departments and agencies to support the development of new doctrines for the training and guidance of an international intervention force in keeping with the ''responsibility to protect'' doctrine.

(D) Recommendations as to the steps necessary to allow the Secretary of State to provide more effective training and guidance to an international intervention force.

(b) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE REPORT.—

(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report assessing the capability of the Department of Defense to provide training and guidance to the command of an international intervention force that seeks to prevent mass atrocities.

(2) CONTENT.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) An evaluation of any doctrine currently used by the Secretary of Defense to prepare for the training and guidance of the command of an international intervention force.

(B) An assessment of the potential capability of the Department of Defense and other Federal departments and agencies to support the development of new doctrines for the training and guidance of an international intervention force in keeping with the ''responsibility to protect'' doctrine.

(C) Recommendations as to the steps necessary to allow the Secretary of Defense to provide more effective training and guidance to an international intervention force.

(D) A summary of any assessments or studies of the Department of Defense or other Federal departments or agencies relating to ''Operation Artemis'', the 2004 French military deployment and intervention in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo to protect civilians from local warring factions.

(c) INTERNATIONAL INTERVENTION FORCE.—For the purposes of this section, ''international intervention force'' means a military force that—

(1) is authorized by the United Nations; and

(2) has a mission that is narrowly focused on the protection of civilian life and the prevention of mass atrocities such as genocide.

SEC. 1267. REPORT ON THREATS TO THE UNITED STATES FROM UNGOVERNED AREAS.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence, shall jointly submit to the specified congressional committees a report on the threats posed to the United States from ungoverned areas, including the threats to the United States from terrorist groups and individuals located in such areas who direct their activities against the national security interests of the United States and its allies.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A description of those areas the United States Government considers ungoverned, including—

(A) a description of the geo-political and cultural influences exerted within such areas and by whom;

(B) a description of the economic conditions and prospects and the major social dynamics of such areas; and

(C) a description of the United States Government's relationships with entities located in such areas, including with relevant national or other governments and relevant tribal or other groups.

(2) A description of the capabilities required by the United States Government to support United States policy aimed at managing the threats described in subsection (a), including, specifically, the technical, linguistic, and analytical capabilities required by the Department of Defense and the Department of State.

(3) An assessment of the extent to which the Department of Defense and the Department of State possess the capabilities described in paragraph (2) as well as the necessary resources and organization to support United States policy aimed at managing the threats described in subsection (a).

(4) A description of the extent to which the implementation of Department of Defense Directive 3000.05, entitled ''Military Support for Stability, Security, Transition, and Reconstruction Operations'', will support United States policy for managing such threats.

(5) A description of the actions, if any, to be taken to improve the capabilities of the Department of Defense and the Department of State described in paragraph (2), and the schedule for implementing any actions so described.

(c) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, to the maximum extent practicable, but may contain a classified annex, if necessary.

(d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''specified congressional committees'' means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

TITLE XIII—COOPERATIVE THREAT REDUCTION WITH STATES OF THE FORMER SOVIET UNION

Sec. 1301. Specification of Cooperative Threat Reduction programs and funds.
Sec. 1302. Funding allocations.
Sec. 1303. Specification of Cooperative Threat Reduction programs in states outside the former Soviet Union.
Sec. 1304. Repeal of restrictions on assistance to states of the former Soviet Union for Cooperative Threat Reduction.

Sec. 1305. Modification of authority to use Cooperative Threat Reduction funds outside the former Soviet Union.
Sec. 1306. New initiatives for the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program.
Sec. 1307. Report relating to chemical weapons destruction at Shchuch'ye, Russia.
Sec. 1308. National Academy of Sciences study of prevention of proliferation of biological weapons.

SEC. 1301. SPECIFICATION OF COOPERATIVE THREAT REDUCTION PROGRAMS AND FUNDS.

(a) SPECIFICATION OF COOPERATIVE THREAT REDUCTION PROGRAMS.—For purposes of section 301 and other provisions of this Act, Cooperative Threat Reduction programs are the programs specified in section 1501(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1997 (50 U.S.C. 2362 note), as amended by section 1303 of this Act.

(b) FISCAL YEAR 2008 COOPERATIVE THREAT REDUCTION FUNDS DEFINED.—As used in this title, the term ''fiscal year 2008 Cooperative Threat Reduction funds'' means the funds appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 301 for Cooperative Threat Reduction programs.

(c) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Funds appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 301 for Cooperative Threat Reduction programs shall be available for obligation for three fiscal years.

SEC. 1302. FUNDING ALLOCATIONS.

(a) FUNDING FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES.—Of the $428,048,000 authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2008 in section 301(19) for Cooperative Threat Reduction programs, the following amounts may be obligated for the purposes specified:

(1) For strategic offensive arms elimination in Russia, $92,885,000.

(2) For nuclear weapons storage security in Russia, $47,640,000.

(3) For nuclear weapons transportation security in Russia, $37,700,000.

(4) For weapons of mass destruction proliferation prevention in the states of the former Soviet Union, $47,986,000.

(5) For biological weapons proliferation prevention in the former Soviet Union, $158,489,000.

(6) For chemical weapons destruction, $6,000,000.

(7) For defense and military contacts, $8,000,000.

(8) For new Cooperative Threat Reduction initiatives that are outside the former Soviet Union, $10,000,000.

(9) For activities designated as Other Assessments/Administrative Support, $19,348,000.

(b) REPORT ON OBLIGATION OR EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR OTHER PURPOSES.—No fiscal year 2008 Cooperative Threat Reduction funds may be obligated or expended for a purpose other than a purpose listed in paragraphs (1) through (9) of subsection (a) until 30 days after the date that the Secretary of Defense submits to Congress a report on the purpose for which the funds will be obligated or expended and the amount of funds to be obligated or expended. Nothing in the preceding sentence shall be construed as authorizing the obligation or expenditure of fiscal year 2008 Cooperative Threat Reduction funds for a purpose for which the obligation or expenditure of such funds is specifically prohibited under this title or any other provision of law.

(c) LIMITED AUTHORITY TO VARY INDIVIDUAL AMOUNTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), in any case in which the Secretary of Defense determines that it is necessary to do so in the national interest, the Secretary may obligate amounts appropriated for fiscal year 2008 for a purpose listed in paragraphs (1) through (9) of subsection (a) in excess of the specific amount authorized for that purpose.

(2) NOTICE-AND-WAIT REQUIRED.—An obligation of funds for a purpose stated in paragraphs (1) through (9) of subsection (a) in excess of the specific amount authorized for such purpose may be made using the authority provided in paragraph (1) only after—

(A) the Secretary submits to Congress notification of the intent to do so together with a complete discussion of the justification for doing so; and

(B) 15 days have elapsed following the date of the notification.

SEC. 1303. SPECIFICATION OF COOPERATIVE THREAT REDUCTION PROGRAMS IN STATES OUTSIDE THE FORMER SOVIET UNION.

Section 1501 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1997 (50 U.S.C. 2362 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''subsection (b)'' and inserting ''subsections (b) and (c)''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(c) SPECIFIED PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO STATES OUTSIDE THE FORMER SOVIET UNION.—The programs referred to in subsection (a) are the following programs with respect to states that are not states of the former Soviet Union:

''(1) Programs to facilitate the elimination, and the safe and secure transportation and storage, of chemical or biological weapons, weapons components, weapons-related materials, and their delivery vehicles.

''(2) Programs to facilitate safe and secure transportation and storage of nuclear weapons, weapons components, and their delivery vehicles.

''(3) Programs to prevent the proliferation of nuclear and chemical weapons, weapons components, and weapons-related military technology and expertise.

''(4) Programs to prevent the proliferation of biological weapons, weapons components, and weapons-related military technology and expertise, which may include activities that facilitate detection and reporting of highly pathogenic diseases or other diseases that are associated with or that could be utilized as an early warning mechanism for disease outbreaks that could impact the Armed Forces of the United States or allies of the United States.

''(5) Programs to expand military-to-military and defense contacts.''.

SEC. 1304. REPEAL OF RESTRICTIONS ON ASSISTANCE TO STATES OF THE FORMER SOVIET UNION FOR COOPERATIVE THREAT REDUCTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) SOVIET NUCLEAR THREAT REDUCTION ACT OF 1991.—The Soviet Nuclear Threat Reduction Act of 1991 (title II of Public Law 102–228; 22 U.S.C. 2551 note) is amended—

(A) by striking section 211; and

(B) in section 212, by striking '', consistent with the findings stated in section 211,''.

(2) COOPERATIVE THREAT REDUCTION ACT OF 1993.—Section 1203 of the Cooperative Threat Reduction Act of 1993 (22 U.S.C. 5952) is amended by striking subsection (d).

(3) RUSSIAN CHEMICAL WEAPONS DESTRUCTION FACILITIES.—Section 1305 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 (Public Law 106–65; 22 U.S.C. 5952 note) is repealed.

(4) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Section 1303 of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (Public Law 108–375; 22 U.S.C. 5952 note) is repealed.

(b) INAPPLICABILITY OF OTHER RESTRICTIONS.—Section 502 of the Freedom for Russia and Emerging Eurasian Democracies and Open Markets Support Act of 1992 (22 U.S.C. 5852) shall not apply to any Cooperative Threat Reduction program.

SEC. 1305. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO USE COOPERATIVE THREAT REDUCTION FUNDS OUTSIDE THE FORMER SOVIET UNION.

Section 1308 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (22 U.S.C. 5963) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''Subject to'' and all that follows through ''the following:'' and inserting ''Subject to the provisions of this section, the Secretary of Defense may obligate and expend Cooperative Threat Reduction funds for a fiscal year, and any Cooperative Threat Reduction funds for a fiscal year before such fiscal year that remain available for obligation, for a proliferation threat reduction project or activity outside the states of the former Soviet Union if the Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, determines each of the following:'';

(2) by striking subsection (c) and redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as (c) and (d), respectively; and

(3) by amending subsection (c) (as so redesignated) to read as follows:

''(c) LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—

''(1) The Secretary of Defense may not obligate funds for a project or activity under the authority in subsection (a) of this section until the Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, makes each determination specified in that subsection with respect to such project or activity.

''(2) Not later than 10 days after obligating funds under the authority in subsection (a) of this section for a project or activity, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State shall notify Congress in writing of the determinations made under paragraph (1) with respect to such project or activity, together with—

''(A) a justification for such determinations; and

''(B) a description of the scope and duration of such project or activity.''.

SEC. 1306. NEW INITIATIVES FOR THE COOPERATIVE THREAT REDUCTION PROGRAM.

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

(1) the Department of Defense Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) Program should be strengthened and expanded, in part by developing new CTR initiatives;

(2) such new initiatives should—

(A) be well-coordinated with the Department of Energy, the Department of State, and any other relevant United States Government agency or department;

(B) include appropriate transparency and accountability mechanisms, and legal frameworks and agreements between the United States and CTR partner countries;

(C) reflect engagement with non-governmental experts on possible new options for the CTR Program;

(D) include work with the Russian Federation and other countries to establish strong CTR partnerships that, among other things—

(i) increase the role of scientists and government officials of CTR partner countries in designing CTR programs and projects; and

(ii) increase financial contributions and additional commitments to CTR programs and projects from Russia and other partner countries, as appropriate, as evidence that the programs and projects reflect national priorities and will be sustainable;

(E) include broader international cooperation and partnerships, and increased international contributions;

(F) incorporate a strong focus on national programs and sustainability, which includes actions to address concerns raised and recommendations made by the Government Accountability Office, in its report of February 2007 titled ''Progress Made in Improving Security at Russian Nuclear Sites, but the Long-Term Sustainability of U.S. Funded Security Upgrades is Uncertain'', which pertain to the Department of Defense;

(G) continue to focus on the development of CTR programs and projects that secure nuclear weapons; secure and eliminate chemical and biological weapons and weapons-related materials; and eliminate nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons-related delivery vehicles and infrastructure at the source; and

(H) include efforts to develop new CTR programs and projects in Russia and the former Soviet Union, and in countries and regions outside the former Soviet Union, as appropriate and in the interest of United States national security; and

(3) such new initiatives could include—

(A) programs and projects in Asia and the Middle East; and

(B) activities relating to the denuclearization of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

(b) NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES STUDY.—

(1) STUDY.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences under which the Academy shall carry out a study to analyze options for strengthening and expanding the CTR Program.

(2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED IN STUDY.—The Secretary shall provide for the study under paragraph (1) to include—

(A) an assessment of new CTR initiatives described in subsection (a); and

(B) an identification of options and recommendations for strengthening and expanding the CTR Program.

(3) SUBMISSION OF NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES REPORT.—The National Academy of Sciences shall submit to Congress a report on the study under this subsection at the same time that such report is submitted to the Secretary of Defense pursuant to subsection (c).

(c) SECRETARY OF DEFENSE REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after receipt of the report under subsection (b), the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report on new CTR initiatives. The report shall include—

(A) a summary of the results of the study carried out under subsection (b);

(B) an assessment by the Secretary of the study; and

(C) a statement of the actions, if any, to be undertaken by the Secretary to implement any recommendations in the study.

(2) FORM.—The report shall be in unclassified form but may include a classified annex if necessary.

(d) FUNDING.—Of the amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 301(19) or otherwise made available for Cooperative Threat Reduction programs for fiscal year 2008, not more than $1,000,000 shall be obligated or expended to carry out this section.

SEC. 1307. REPORT RELATING TO CHEMICAL WEAPONS DESTRUCTION AT SHCHUCH'YE, RUSSIA.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the terms ''Shchuch'ye project'' and ''project'' mean the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program chemical weapons destruction project located in the area of Shchuch'ye in the Russian Federation.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the Shchuch'ye project. The report shall include—

(1) a current and detailed cost estimate for completion of the project, to include costs that will be borne by the United States and Russia, respectively; and

(2) a specific strategic and operating plan for completion of the project, which includes—

(A) the Department's plans to ensure robust project management and oversight, including management and oversight with respect to the performance of any contractors;

(B) project quality assurance and sustainability measures;

(C) metrics for measuring project progress with a timetable for achieving goals, including initial systems integration and start-up testing; and

(D) a projected project completion date.

SEC. 1308. NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES STUDY OF PREVENTION OF PROLIFERATION OF BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS.

(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences under which the Academy shall carry out a study to identify areas for cooperation with states other than states of the former Soviet Union under the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program of the Department of Defense in the prevention of proliferation of biological weapons.

(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED IN STUDY.—The Secretary shall provide for the study under subsection (a) to include the following:

(1) An assessment of the capabilities and capacity of governments of developing countries to control the containment and use of dual-use technologies of potential interest to terrorist organizations or individuals with hostile intentions.

(2) An assessment of the approaches to cooperative threat reduction used by the states of the former Soviet Union that are of special relevance in preventing the proliferation of biological weapons in other areas of the world.

(3) A brief review of programs of the United States Government and other governments, international organizations, foundations, and other private sector entities that may contribute to the prevention of the proliferation of biological weapons.

(4) Recommendations on steps for integrating activities of the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program relating to biological weapons proliferation prevention with activities of other departments and agencies of the United States, as appropriate, in states outside of the former Soviet Union.

(c) SUBMISSION OF NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES REPORT.—The National Academy of Sciences shall submit to Congress a report on the study under subsection (a) at the same time that such report is submitted to the Secretary of Defense pursuant to subsection (d).

(d) SECRETARY OF DEFENSE REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after receipt of the report required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Congress a report on the study carried out under subsection (a).

(2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A summary of the results of the study carried out under subsection (a).

(B) An assessment by the Secretary of the study.

(C) A statement of the actions, if any, to be undertaken by the Secretary to implement any recommendations in the study.

(3) FORM.—The report under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(e) FUNDING.—Of the amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 301(19) or otherwise made available for Cooperative Threat Reduction programs for fiscal year 2008, not more than $1,000,000 may be obligated or expended to carry out this section.

TITLE XIV—OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS

Subtitle A—Military Programs

Sec. 1401. Working capital funds.
Sec. 1402. National Defense Sealift Fund.
Sec. 1403. Defense Health Program.
Sec. 1404. Chemical agents and munitions destruction, Defense.
Sec. 1405. Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense-wide.
Sec. 1406. Defense Inspector General.

Subtitle B—National Defense Stockpile

Sec. 1411. Authorized uses of National Defense Stockpile funds.
Sec. 1412. Revisions to required receipt objectives for previously authorized disposals from the National Defense Stockpile.
Sec. 1413. Disposal of ferromanganese.
Sec. 1414. Disposal of chrome metal.

Subtitle C—Armed Forces Retirement Home

Sec. 1421. Authorization of appropriations for Armed Forces Retirement Home.
Sec. 1422. Administration and oversight of the Armed Forces Retirement Home.

Subtitle A—Military Programs

SEC. 1401. WORKING CAPITAL FUNDS.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2008 for the use of the Armed Forces and other activities and agencies of the Department of Defense for providing capital for working capital and revolving funds in amounts as follows:

(1) For the Defense Working Capital Funds, $102,446,000.

(2) For the Defense Working Capital Fund, Defense Commissary, $1,250,300,000.

SEC. 1402. NATIONAL DEFENSE SEALIFT FUND.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2008 for the National Defense Sealift Fund in the amount of $1,349,094,000.

SEC. 1403. DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAM.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2008 for expenses, not otherwise provided for, for the Defense Health Program, in the amount of $23,080,384,000, of which—

(1) $22,583,641,000 is for Operation and Maintenance;

(2) $134,482,000 is for Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation; and

(3) $362,261,000 is for Procurement.

SEC. 1404. CHEMICAL AGENTS AND MUNITIONS DESTRUCTION, DEFENSE.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2008 for expenses, not otherwise provided for, for Chemical Agents and Munitions Destruction, Defense, in the amount of $1,512,724,000, of which—

(1) $1,181,500,000 is for Operation and Maintenance;

(2) $312,800,000 is for Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation; and

(3) $18,424,000 is for Procurement.

(b) USE.—Amounts authorized to be appropriated under subsection (a) are authorized for—

(1) the destruction of lethal chemical agents and munitions in accordance with

section 1412 of the Department of Defense Authorization Act, 1986 (50 U.S.C. 1521); and

(2) the destruction of chemical warfare materiel of the United States that is not covered by section 1412 of such Act.

SEC. 1405. DRUG INTERDICTION AND COUNTER-DRUG ACTIVITIES, DEFENSE-WIDE.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2008 for expenses, not otherwise provided for, for Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense-wide, in the amount of $938,022,000.

SEC. 1406. DEFENSE INSPECTOR GENERAL.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2008 for expenses, not otherwise provided for, for the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, in the amount of $225,995,000, of which—

(1) $224,995,000 is for Operation and Maintenance; and

(2) $1,000,000 is for Procurement.

Subtitle B—National Defense Stockpile

SEC. 1411. AUTHORIZED USES OF NATIONAL DEFENSE STOCKPILE FUNDS.

(a) OBLIGATION OF STOCKPILE FUNDS.—During fiscal year 2008, the National Defense Stockpile Manager may obligate up to $44,825,000 of the funds in the National Defense Stockpile Transaction Fund established under subsection (a) of section 9 of the Strategic and Critical Materials Stock Piling Act (50 U.S.C. 98h) for the authorized uses of such funds under subsection (b)(2) of such section, including the disposal of hazardous materials that are environmentally sensitive.

(b) ADDITIONAL OBLIGATIONS.—The National Defense Stockpile Manager may obligate amounts in excess of the amount specified in subsection (a) if the National Defense Stockpile Manager notifies Congress that extraordinary or emergency conditions necessitate the additional obligations. The National Defense Stockpile Manager may make the additional obligations described in the notification after the end of the 45-day period beginning on the date on which Congress receives the notification.

(c) LIMITATIONS.—The authorities provided by this section shall be subject to such limitations as may be provided in appropriations Acts.

SEC. 1412. REVISIONS TO REQUIRED RECEIPT OBJECTIVES FOR PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED DISPOSALS FROM THE NATIONAL DEFENSE STOCKPILE.

(a) FISCAL YEAR 2000 DISPOSAL AUTHORITY.—Section 3402(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 (50 U.S.C. 98d note), as amended by section 3302 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (Public Law 108–136; 117 Stat. 1788) and section 3302 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109–163; 119 Stat. 3545), is amended by striking ''$600,000,000 before'' in paragraph (5) and inserting ''$710,000,000 by''.

(b) FISCAL YEAR 1999 DISPOSAL AUTHORITY.—Section 3303(a) of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (Public Law 105–261; 50 U.S.C. 98d note), as amended by section 3302 of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Year 2005 (Public Law 108–375; 118 Stat. 2193), section 3302 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109–163; 119 Stat. 3545), and section 3302(a) of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2513), is amended by striking ''$1,016,000,000 by the end of fiscal year 2014'' in paragraph (7) and inserting ''$1,066,000,000 by the end of fiscal year 2015''.

SEC. 1413. DISPOSAL OF FERROMANGANESE.

(a) DISPOSAL AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of Defense may dispose of up to 50,000 tons of ferromanganese from the National Defense Stockpile during fiscal year 2008.

(b) CONTINGENT AUTHORITY FOR ADDITIONAL DISPOSAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary of Defense enters into a contract for the disposal of the total quantity of ferromanganese authorized for disposal by subsection (a) before September 30, 2008, the Secretary of Defense may dispose of up to an additional 25,000 tons of ferromanganese from the National Defense Stockpile before that date.

(2) ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS.—If the Secretary enters into a contract for the disposal of the total quantity of additional ferromanganese authorized for disposal by paragraph (1) before September 30, 2008, the Secretary may dispose of up to an additional 25,000 tons of ferromanganese from the National Defense Stockpile before that date.

(c) CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary of Defense may dispose of ferromanganese under the authority of paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (b) only if the Secretary submits to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives, written certification that—

(1) the disposal of the additional ferromanganese from the National Defense Stockpile under such paragraph is in the interest of national defense;

(2) the disposal of the additional ferromanganese under such paragraph will not cause disruption to the usual markets of producers and processors of ferromanganese in the United States; and

(3) the disposal of the additional ferromanganese under such paragraph is consistent with the requirements and purpose of the National Defense Stockpile.

(d) NATIONAL DEFENSE STOCKPILE DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''National Defense Stockpile'' means the stockpile provided for in section 4 of the Strategic and Critical Materials Stock Piling Act (50 U.S.C. 98c).

SEC. 1414. DISPOSAL OF CHROME METAL.

(a) DISPOSAL AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of Defense may dispose of up to 500 short tons of chrome metal from the National Defense Stockpile during fiscal year 2008.

(b) CONTINGENT AUTHORITY FOR ADDITIONAL DISPOSAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary of Defense completes the disposal of the total quantity of chrome metal authorized for disposal by subsection (a) before September 30, 2008, the Secretary of Defense may dispose of up to an additional 250 short tons of chrome metal from the National Defense Stockpile before that date.

(2) ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS.—If the Secretary completes the disposal of the total quantity of additional chrome metal authorized for disposal by paragraph (1) before September 30, 2008, the Secretary may dispose of up to an additional 250 short tons of chrome metal from the National Defense Stockpile before that date.

(c) CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary of Defense may dispose of chrome metal under the authority of paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (b) only if the Secretary submits to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives, not later than 30 days before the commencement of disposal under the applicable paragraph, written certification that—

(1) the disposal of the additional chrome metal from the National Defense Stockpile is in the interest of national defense;

(2) the disposal of the additional chrome metal will not cause disruption to the usual markets of producers and processors of chrome metal in the United States; and

(3) the disposal of the additional chrome metal is consistent with the requirements and purpose of the National Defense Stockpile.

(d) NATIONAL DEFENSE STOCKPILE DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''National Defense Stockpile'' means the stockpile provided for in section 4 of the Strategic and Critical Materials Stock Piling Act (50 U.S.C. 98c).

Subtitle C—Armed Forces Retirement Home

SEC. 1421. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME.

There is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2008 from the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund the sum of $61,624,000 for the operation of the Armed Forces Retirement Home.

SEC. 1422. ADMINISTRATION AND OVERSIGHT OF THE ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME.

(a) ROLE OF SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.—Section 1511 of the Armed Forces Retirement Home Act of 1991 (24 U.S.C. 411) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) The administration of the Retirement Home (including administration for the provision of health care and medical care for residents) shall remain under the direct authority, control, and administration of the Secretary of Defense.''; and

(2) in subsection (h), by adding at the end the following new sentence: ''The annual report shall include an assessment of all aspects of each facility of the Retirement Home, including the quality of care at the facility.''.

(b) ACCREDITATION.—Subsection (g) of section 1511 of the Armed Forces Retirement Home Act of 1991 (24 U.S.C. 411) is amended to read as follows:

''(g) ACCREDITATION.—The Chief Operating Officer shall secure and maintain accreditation by a nationally recognized civilian accrediting organization for each aspect of each facility of the Retirement Home, including medical and dental care, pharmacy, independent living, and assisted living and nursing care.''.

(c) SPECTRUM OF CARE.—Section 1513(b) of the Armed Forces Retirement Home Act of 1991 (24 U.S.C. 413(b)) is amended by inserting after the first sentence the following new sentence: ''The services provided residents of the Retirement Home shall include appropriate nonacute medical and dental services, pharmaceutical services, and transportation of residents, which shall be provided at no cost to residents.''.

(d) SENIOR MEDICAL ADVISOR FOR RETIREMENT HOME.—

(1) DESIGNATION AND DUTIES OF SENIOR MEDICAL ADVISOR.—The Armed Forces Retirement Home Act of 1991 is amended by inserting after section 1513 (24 U.S.C. 413) the following new section:

''SEC. 1513A. IMPROVED HEALTH CARE OVERSIGHT OF RETIREMENT HOME.

''(a) DESIGNATION OF SENIOR MEDICAL ADVISOR.—(1) The Secretary of Defense shall designate the Deputy Director of the TRICARE Management Activity to serve as the Senior Medical Advisor for the Retirement Home.

''(2) The Deputy Director of the TRICARE Management Activity shall serve as Senior Medical Advisor for the Retirement Home in addition to performing all other duties and responsibilities assigned to the Deputy Director of the TRICARE Management Activity at the time of the designation under paragraph (1) or afterward.

''(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—(1) The Senior Medical Advisor shall provide advice to the Secretary of Defense, the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, and the

Chief Operating Officer regarding the direction and oversight of the provision of medical, preventive mental health, and dental care services at each facility of the Retirement Home.

''(2) The Senior Medical Advisor shall also provide advice to the Local Board for a facility of the Retirement Home regarding all medical and medical administrative matters of the facility.

''(c) DUTIES.—In carrying out the responsibilities set forth in subsection (b), the Senior Medical Advisor shall perform the following duties:

''(1) Ensure the timely availability to residents of the Retirement Home, at locations other than the Retirement Home, of such acute medical, mental health, and dental care as such resident may require that is not available at the applicable facility of the Retirement Home.

''(2) Ensure compliance by the facilities of the Retirement Home with accreditation standards, applicable health care standards of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or any other applicable health care standards and requirements (including requirements identified in applicable reports of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense).

''(3) Periodically visit and inspect the medical facilities and medical operations of each facility of the Retirement Home.

''(4) Periodically examine and audit the medical records and administration of the Retirement Home.

''(5) Consult with the Local Board for each facility of the Retirement Home not less frequently than once each year.

''(d) ADVISORY BODIES.—In carrying out the responsibilities set forth in subsection (b) and the duties set forth in subsection (c), the Senior Medical Advisor may establish and seek the advice of such advisory bodies as the Senior Medical Advisor considers appropriate.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1501(b) of the Armed Forces Retirement Home Act of 1991 (24 U.S.C. 401 note) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1513 the following new item:

''1513A. Improved health care oversight of Retirement Home.''.

(e) LOCAL BOARDS OF TRUSTEES.—

(1) DUTIES.—Subsection (b) of section 1516 of the Armed Forces Retirement Home Act of 1991 (24 U.S.C. 416) is amended to read as follows:

''(b) DUTIES.—(1) The Local Board for a facility shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Director of the facility and to the Chief Operating Officer.

''(2) The Local Board for a facility shall provide to the Chief Operating Officer and the Director of the facility such guidance and recommendations on the administration of the facility as the Local Board considers appropriate.

''(3) Not less often than annually, the Local Board for a facility shall provide to the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness an assessment of all aspects of the facility, including the quality of care at the facility.''.

(2) COMPOSITION.—Subparagraph (K) of subsection (c) of such section is amended to read as follows:

''(K) One senior representative of one of the chief personnel officers of the Armed Forces, who shall be a commissioned officer of the Armed Forces serving on active duty in the grade of brigadier general, or in the case of the Navy or Coast Guard, rear admiral (lower half).''.

(f) INSPECTION OF RETIREMENT HOME.—Section 1518 of the Armed Forces Retirement Home Act of 1991 (24 U.S.C. 418) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 1518. INSPECTION OF RETIREMENT HOME.

''(a) DUTY OF INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—The Inspector General of the Department of Defense shall have the duty to inspect the Retirement Home.

''(b) INSPECTIONS BY INSPECTOR GENERAL.—(1) In any year in which a facility of the Retirement Home is not inspected by a nationally recognized civilian accrediting organization, the Inspector General of the Department of Defense shall perform a comprehensive inspection of all aspects of that facility, including independent living, assisted living, medical and dental care, pharmacy, financial and contracting records, and any aspect of either facility on which the Local Board for the facility or the resident advisory committee or council of the facility recommends inspection.

''(2) The Inspector General shall be assisted in inspections under this subsection by a medical inspector general of a military department designated for purposes of this subsection by the Secretary of Defense.

''(3) In conducting the inspection of a facility of the Retirement Home under this subsection, the Inspector General shall solicit concerns, observations, and recommendations from the Local Board for the facility, the resident advisory committee or council of the facility, and the residents of the facility. Any concerns, observations, and recommendations solicited from residents shall be solicited on a not-for-attribution basis.

''(4) The Chief Operating Officer and the Director of each facility of the Retirement Home shall make all staff, other personnel, and records of each facility available to the Inspector General in a timely manner for purposes of inspections under this subsection.

''(c) REPORTS ON INSPECTIONS BY INSPECTOR GENERAL.—(1) The Inspector General shall prepare a report describing the results of each inspection conducted of a facility of the Retirement Home under subsection (b), and include in the report such recommendations as the Inspector General considers appropriate in light of the inspection. Not later than 45 days after completing the inspection of the facility, the Inspector General shall submit the report to Congress and the Secretary of Defense, the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, the Chief Operating Officer, the Director of the facility, the Senior Medical Advisor, and the Local Board for the facility.

''(2) Not later than 45 days after receiving a report of the Inspector General under paragraph (1), the Director of the facility concerned shall submit to the Secretary of Defense, the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, the Chief Operating Officer, and the Local Board for the facility, and to Congress, a plan to address the recommendations and other matters set forth in the report.

''(d) ADDITIONAL INSPECTIONS.—(1) The Chief Operating Officer shall request the inspection of each facility of the Retirement Home by a nationally recognized civilian accrediting organization in accordance with section 1511(g).

''(2) The Chief Operating Officer and the Director of a facility being inspected under this subsection shall make all staff, other personnel, and records of the facility available to the civilian accrediting organization in a timely manner for purposes of inspections under this subsection.

''(e) REPORTS ON ADDITIONAL INSPECTIONS.—(1) Not later than 45 days after receiving a report of an inspection from the civilian accrediting organization under subsection (d), the Director of the facility concerned shall submit to the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, the Chief Operating Officer, and the Local Board for the facility a report containing—

''(A) the results of the inspection; and

''(B) a plan to address any recommendations and other matters set forth in the report.

''(2) Not later than 45 days after receiving a report and plan under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Defense shall submit the report and plan to Congress.''.

(g) ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME TRUST FUND.—Section 1519 of the Armed Forces Retirement Home Act of 1991 (24 U.S.C. 419) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(d) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—The Chief Financial Officer of the Armed Forces Retirement Home shall comply with the reporting requirements of subchapter II of chapter 35 of title 31, United States Code.''.

TITLE XV—AUTHORIZATION OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM AND OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

Sec. 1501. Purpose.
Sec. 1502. Army procurement.
Sec. 1503. Navy and Marine Corps procurement.
Sec. 1504. Air Force procurement.
Sec. 1505. Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund.
Sec. 1506. Defense-wide activities procurement.
Sec. 1507. Research, development, test, and evaluation.
Sec. 1508. Operation and maintenance.
Sec. 1509. Working capital funds.
Sec. 1510. Other Department of Defense programs.
Sec. 1511. Iraq Freedom Fund.
Sec. 1512. Iraq Security Forces Fund.
Sec. 1513. Afghanistan Security Forces Fund.
Sec. 1514. Military personnel.
Sec. 1515. Strategic Readiness Fund.
Sec. 1516. Treatment as additional authorizations.
Sec. 1517. Special transfer authority.

SEC. 1501. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this title is to authorize appropriations for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2008 to provide additional funds for Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

SEC. 1502. ARMY PROCUREMENT.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2008 for procurement accounts for the Army in amounts as follows:

(1) For aircraft procurement, $2,086,864,000.

(2) For ammunition procurement, $513,600,000.

(3) For weapons and tracked combat vehicles procurement, $7,289,697,000.

(4) For missile procurement, $641,764,000.

(5) For other procurement, $32,478,568,000.

SEC. 1503. NAVY AND MARINE CORPS PROCUREMENT.

(a) NAVY.—Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2008 for procurement accounts for the Navy in amounts as follows:

(1) For aircraft procurement, $3,908,458,000.

(2) For weapons procurement, $318,281,000.

(3) For other procurement, $1,870,597,000.

(b) MARINE CORPS.—Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2008 for the procurement account for the Marine Corps in the amount of $5,519,740,000.

(c) NAVY AND MARINE CORPS AMMUNITION.—Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2008 for the procurement account for ammunition for the Navy and the Marine Corps in the amount of $609,890,000.

SEC. 1504. AIR FORCE PROCUREMENT.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2008 for procurement

accounts for the Air Force in amounts as follows:

(1) For aircraft procurement, $5,828,239,000.

(2) For ammunition procurement, $104,405,000.

(3) For missile procurement, $1,800,000.

(4) For other procurement, $4,528,126,000.

SEC. 1505. JOINT IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE DEFEAT FUND.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Funds are hereby authorized for fiscal year 2008 for the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund in the amount of $4,541,000,000.

(b) USE AND TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—Subsections (b) and (c) of section 1514 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2439) shall apply to the funds appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in subsection (a).

(c) REVISION OF MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The Secretary of Defense shall revise the management plan required by section 1514(d) of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 to identify projected transfers and obligations through September 30, 2008.

(d) DURATION OF AUTHORITY.—Section 1514(f) of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 is amended by striking ''September 30, 2009'' and inserting ''September 30, 2010''.

SEC. 1506. DEFENSE-WIDE ACTIVITIES PROCUREMENT.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2008 for the procurement account for Defense-wide activities in the amount of $768,157,000.

SEC. 1507. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2008 for the use of the Department of Defense for research, development, test, and evaluation as follows:

(1) For the Army, $183,299,000.

(2) For the Navy, $695,996,000.

(3) For the Air Force, $1,457,710,000.

(4) For Defense-wide activities, $1,320,088,000.

SEC. 1508. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2008 for the use of the Armed Forces for expenses, not otherwise provided for, for operation and maintenance, in amounts as follows:

(1) For the Army, $54,929,551,000.

(2) For the Navy, $6,249,793,000.

(3) For the Marine Corps, $4,674,688,000.

(4) For the Air Force, $10,798,473,000.

(5) For Defense-wide activities, $6,424,085,000.

(6) For the Army Reserve, $196,694,000.

(7) For the Navy Reserve, $83,407,000.

(8) For the Marine Corps Reserve, $68,193,000.

(9) For the Army National Guard, $757,008,000.

(10) For the Air Force Reserve, $24,266,000.

(11) For the Air National Guard, $103,267,000.

SEC. 1509. WORKING CAPITAL FUNDS.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2008 for the use of the Armed Forces and other activities and agencies of the Department of Defense for providing capital for working capital and revolving funds in amounts as follows:

(1) For the Defense Working Capital Funds, $1,957,675,000.

(2) For the National Defense Sealift Fund, $5,110,000.

SEC. 1510. OTHER DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROGRAMS.

(a) DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAM.—Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2008 for expenses, not otherwise provided for, for the Defense Health Program in the amount of $1,137,442,000 for operation and maintenance.

(b) DRUG INTERDICTION AND COUNTER-DRUG ACTIVITIES, DEFENSE-WIDE.—Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2008 for expenses, not otherwise provided for, for Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense-wide in the amount of $257,618,000.

(c) DEFENSE INSPECTOR GENERAL.—Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2008 for expenses, not otherwise provided for, for the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense in the amount of $4,394,000 for operation and maintenance.

SEC. 1511. IRAQ FREEDOM FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2008 for the Iraq Freedom Fund in the amount of $207,500,000.

(b) TRANSFER.—

(1) TRANSFER AUTHORIZED.—Subject to paragraph (2), amounts authorized to be appropriated by subsection (a) may be transferred from the Iraq Freedom Fund to any accounts as follows:

(A) Operation and maintenance accounts of the Armed Forces.

(B) Military personnel accounts.

(C) Research, development, test, and evaluation accounts of the Department of Defense.

(D) Procurement accounts of the Department of Defense.

(E) Accounts providing funding for classified programs.

(F) The operating expenses account of the Coast Guard.

(2) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—A transfer may not be made under the authority in paragraph (1) until five days after the date on which the Secretary of Defense notifies the congressional defense committees in writing of the transfer.

(3) TREATMENT OF TRANSFERRED FUNDS.—Amounts transferred to an account under the authority in paragraph (1) shall be merged with amounts in such account and shall be made available for the same purposes, and subject to the same conditions and limitations, as amounts in such account.

(4) EFFECT ON AUTHORIZATION AMOUNTS.—A transfer of an amount to an account under the authority in paragraph (1) shall be deemed to increase the amount authorized for such account by an amount equal to the amount transferred.

SEC. 1512. IRAQ SECURITY FORCES FUND.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2008 for the Iraq Security Forces Fund in the amount of $3,000,000,000.

(b) USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Funds appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) shall be available to the Secretary of Defense for the purpose of allowing the Commander, Multi-National Security Transition Command–Iraq, to provide assistance to the security forces of Iraq.

(2) TYPES OF ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED.—Assistance provided under this section may include the provision of equipment, supplies, services, training, facility and infrastructure repair, renovation, construction, and funding.

(3) SECRETARY OF STATE CONCURRENCE.—Assistance may be provided under this section only with the concurrence of the Secretary of State.

(c) AUTHORITY IN ADDITION TO OTHER AUTHORITIES.—The authority to provide assistance under this section is in addition to any other authority to provide assistance to foreign nations.

(d) TRANSFER AUTHORITY.—

(1) TRANSFERS AUTHORIZED.—Subject to paragraph (2), amounts authorized to be appropriated by subsection (a) may be transferred from the Iraq Security Forces Fund to any of the following accounts and funds of the Department of Defense to accomplish the purposes provided in subsection (b):

(A) Military personnel accounts.

(B) Operation and maintenance accounts.

(C) Procurement accounts.

(D) Research, development, test, and evaluation accounts.

(E) Defense working capital funds.

(F) Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster, and Civic Aid account.

(2) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.—The transfer authority provided by paragraph (1) is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense.

(3) TRANSFERS BACK TO THE FUND.—Upon determination that all or part of the funds transferred from the Iraq Security Forces Fund under paragraph (1) are not necessary for the purpose provided, such funds may be transferred back to the Iraq Security Forces Fund.

(4) EFFECT ON AUTHORIZATION AMOUNTS.—A transfer of an amount to an account under the authority in paragraph (1) shall be deemed to increase the amount authorized for such account by an amount equal to the amount transferred.

(e) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—Funds may not be obligated from the Iraq Security Forces Fund, or transferred under the authority provided in subsection (d)(1), until five days after the date on which the Secretary of Defense notifies the congressional defense committees in writing of the details of the proposed obligation or transfer.

(f) CONTRIBUTIONS.—

(1) AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT CONTRIBUTIONS.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary of Defense may accept contributions of amounts to the Iraq Security Forces Fund for the purposes provided in subsection (b) from any person, foreign government, or international organization. Any amounts so accepted shall be credited to the Iraq Security Forces Fund.

(2) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may not accept a contribution under this subsection if the acceptance of the contribution would compromise or appear to compromise the integrity of any program of the Department of Defense.

(3) USE.—Amounts accepted under this subsection shall be available for assistance authorized by subsection (b), including transfer under subsection (d) for that purpose.

(4) NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall notify the congressional defense committees, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, in writing, upon the acceptance, and upon the transfer under subsection (d), of any contribution under this subsection. Such notice shall specify the source and amount of any amount so accepted and the use of any amount so accepted.

(g) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal-year quarter, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report summarizing the details of any obligation or transfer of funds from the Iraq Security Forces Fund during such fiscal-year quarter.

(h) DURATION OF AUTHORITY.—Amounts authorized to be appropriated or contributed to the Iraq Security Forces Fund during fiscal year 2008 are available for obligation or transfer from the Iraq Security Forces Fund in accordance with this section until September 30, 2009.

SEC. 1513. AFGHANISTAN SECURITY FORCES FUND.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2008 for the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund in the amount of $2,700,000,000.

(b) USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Funds authorized to be appropriated by subsection (a) shall be available to the Secretary of Defense to provide assistance to the security forces of Afghanistan.

(2) TYPES OF ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED.—Assistance provided under this section may include the provision of equipment, supplies, services, training, facility and infrastructure repair, renovation, construction, and funds.

(3) SECRETARY OF STATE CONCURRENCE.—Assistance may be provided under this section only with the concurrence of the Secretary of State.

(c) AUTHORITY IN ADDITION TO OTHER AUTHORITIES.—The authority to provide assistance under this section is in addition to any other authority to provide assistance to foreign nations.

(d) TRANSFER AUTHORITY.—

(1) TRANSFERS AUTHORIZED.—Subject to paragraph (2), amounts authorized to be appropriated by subsection (a) may be transferred from the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund to any of the following accounts and funds of the Department of Defense to accomplish the purposes provided in subsection (b):

(A) Military personnel accounts.

(B) Operation and maintenance accounts.

(C) Procurement accounts.

(D) Research, development, test, and evaluation accounts.

(E) Defense working capital funds.

(F) Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster, and Civic Aid.

(2) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.—The transfer authority provided by paragraph (1) is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense.

(3) TRANSFERS BACK TO FUND.—Upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund under paragraph (1) are not necessary for the purpose for which transferred, such funds may be transferred back to the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund.

(4) EFFECT ON AUTHORIZATION AMOUNTS.—A transfer of an amount to an account under the authority in paragraph (1) shall be deemed to increase the amount authorized for such account by an amount equal to the amount transferred.

(e) PRIOR NOTICE TO CONGRESS OF OBLIGATION OR TRANSFER.—Funds may not be obligated from the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund, or transferred under subsection (d)(1), until five days after the date on which the Secretary of Defense notifies the congressional defense committees in writing of the details of the proposed obligation or transfer.

(f) CONTRIBUTIONS.—

(1) AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT CONTRIBUTIONS.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary of Defense may accept contributions of amounts to the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund for the purposes provided in subsection (b) from any person, foreign government, or international organization. Any amounts so accepted shall be credited to the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund.

(2) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may not accept a contribution under this subsection if the acceptance of the contribution would compromise or appear to compromise the integrity of any program of the Department of Defense.

(3) USE.—Amounts accepted under this subsection shall be available for assistance authorized by subsection (b), including transfer under subsection (d) for that purpose.

(4) NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall notify the congressional defense committees, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, in writing, upon the acceptance, and upon the transfer under subsection (d), of any contribution under this subsection. Such notice shall specify the source and amount of any amount so accepted and the use of any amount so accepted.

(g) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal-year quarter, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report summarizing the details of any obligation or transfer of funds from the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund during such fiscal-year quarter.

(h) DURATION OF AUTHORITY.—Amounts authorized to be appropriated or contributed to the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund during fiscal year 2008 are available for obligation or transfer from the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund in accordance with this section until September 30, 2009.

SEC. 1514. MILITARY PERSONNEL.

There is hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Defense for military personnel accounts for fiscal year 2008 a total of $17,912,510,000.

SEC. 1515. STRATEGIC READINESS FUND.

There is authorized to be appropriated $1,000,000,000 to the Strategic Readiness Fund.

SEC. 1516. TREATMENT AS ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATIONS.

The amounts authorized to be appropriated by this title are in addition to amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated by this Act.

SEC. 1517. SPECIAL TRANSFER AUTHORITY.

(a) AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER AUTHORIZATIONS.—

(1) AUTHORITY.—Upon determination by the Secretary of Defense that such action is necessary in the national interest, the Secretary may transfer amounts of authorizations made available to the Department of Defense in this title for fiscal year 2008 between any such authorizations for that fiscal year (or any subdivisions thereof). Amounts of authorizations so transferred shall be merged with and be available for the same purposes as the authorization to which transferred.

(2) LIMITATION.—The total amount of authorizations that the Secretary may transfer under the authority of this section may not exceed $3,500,000,000.

(b) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—Transfers under this section shall be subject to the same terms and conditions as transfers under section 1001.

(c) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.—The transfer authority provided by this section is in addition to the transfer authority provided under section 1001.

TITLE XVI—WOUNDED WARRIOR MATTERS

Sec. 1601. Short title.
Sec. 1602. General definitions.
Sec. 1603. Consideration of gender-specific needs of recovering service members and veterans.

Subtitle A—Policy on Improvements to Care, Management, and Transition of Recovering Service Members

Sec. 1611. Comprehensive policy on improvements to care, management, and transition of recovering service members.
Sec. 1612. Medical evaluations and physical disability evaluations of recovering service members.
Sec. 1613. Return of recovering service members to active duty in the Armed Forces.
Sec. 1614. Transition of recovering service members from care and treatment through the Department of Defense to care, treatment, and rehabilitation through the Department of Veterans Affairs.
Sec. 1615. Reports.
Sec. 1616. Establishment of a wounded warrior resource center.
Sec. 1617. Notification to Congress of hospitalization of combat wounded service members.
Sec. 1618. Comprehensive plan on prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, and rehabilitation of, and research on, traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other mental health conditions in members of the Armed Forces.

Subtitle B—Centers of Excellence in the Prevention, Diagnosis, Mitigation, Treatment, and Rehabilitation of Traumatic Brain Injury, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and Eye Injuries

Sec. 1621. Center of excellence in the prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, and rehabilitation of traumatic brain injury.
Sec. 1622. Center of excellence in prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, and rehabilitation of post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health conditions.
Sec. 1623. Center of excellence in prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, and rehabilitation of military eye injuries.
Sec. 1624. Report on establishment of centers of excellence.

Subtitle C—Health Care Matters

Sec. 1631. Medical care and other benefits for members and former members of the Armed Forces with severe injuries or illnesses.
Sec. 1632. Reimbursement of travel expenses of retired members with combat-related disabilities for follow-on specialty care, services, and supplies.
Sec. 1633. Respite care and other extended care benefits for members of the uniformed services who incur a serious injury or illness on active duty.
Sec. 1634. Reports.
Sec. 1635. Fully interoperable electronic personal health information for the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs.
Sec. 1636. Enhanced personnel authorities for the Department of Defense for health care professionals for care and treatment of wounded and injured members of the Armed Forces.
Sec. 1637. Continuation of transitional health benefits for members of the Armed Forces pending resolution of service-related medical conditions.

Subtitle D—Disability Matters

Sec. 1641. Utilization of veterans' presumption of sound condition in establishing eligibility of members of the Armed Forces for retirement for disability.

Sec. 1642. Requirements and limitations on Department of Defense determinations of disability with respect to members of the Armed Forces.
Sec. 1643. Review of separation of members of the Armed Forces separated from service with a disability rating of 20 percent disabled or less.
Sec. 1644. Authorization of pilot programs to improve the disability evaluation system for members of the Armed Forces.
Sec. 1645. Reports on Army action plan in response to deficiencies in the Army physical disability evaluation system.
Sec. 1646. Enhancement of disability severance pay for members of the Armed Forces.
Sec. 1647. Assessments of continuing utility and future role of temporary disability retired list.
Sec. 1648. Standards for military medical treatment facilities, specialty medical care facilities, and military quarters housing patients and annual report on such facilities.
Sec. 1649. Reports on Army Medical Action Plan in response to deficiencies identified at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, District of Columbia.
Sec. 1650. Required certifications in connection with closure of Walter Reed Army Medical Center, District of Columbia.
Sec. 1651. Handbook for members of the Armed Forces on compensation and benefits available for serious injuries and illnesses.

Subtitle E—Studies and Reports

Sec. 1661. Study on physical and mental health and other readjustment needs of members and former members of the Armed Forces who deployed in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom and their families.
Sec. 1662. Access of recovering service members to adequate outpatient residential facilities.
Sec. 1663. Study and report on support services for families of recovering service members.
Sec. 1664. Report on traumatic brain injury classifications.
Sec. 1665. Evaluation of the Polytrauma Liaison Officer/Non-Commissioned Officer program.

Subtitle F—Other Matters

Sec. 1671. Prohibition on transfer of resources from medical care.
Sec. 1672. Medical care for families of members of the Armed Forces recovering from serious injuries or illnesses.
Sec. 1673. Improvement of medical tracking system for members of the Armed Forces deployed overseas.
Sec. 1674. Guaranteed funding for Walter Reed Army Medical Center, District of Columbia.
Sec. 1675. Use of leave transfer program by wounded veterans who are Federal employees.
Sec. 1676. Moratorium on conversion to contractor performance of Department of Defense functions at military medical facilities.

SEC. 1601. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Wounded Warrior Act''.

SEC. 1602. GENERAL DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committees on Armed Services, Veterans' Affairs, and Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committees on Armed Services, Veterans' Affairs, and Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) BENEFITS DELIVERY AT DISCHARGE PROGRAM.—The term ''Benefits Delivery at Discharge Program'' means a program administered jointly by the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide information and assistance on available benefits and other transition assistance to members of the Armed Forces who are separating from the Armed Forces, including assistance to obtain any disability benefits for which such members may be eligible.

(3) DISABILITY EVALUATION SYSTEM.—The term ''Disability Evaluation System'' means the following:

(A) A system or process of the Department of Defense for evaluating the nature and extent of disabilities affecting members of the Armed Forces that is operated by the Secretaries of the military departments and is comprised of medical evaluation boards, physical evaluation boards, counseling of members, and mechanisms for the final disposition of disability evaluations by appropriate personnel.

(B) A system or process of the Coast Guard for evaluating the nature and extent of disabilities affecting members of the Coast Guard that is operated by the Secretary of Homeland Security and is similar to the system or process of the Department of Defense described in subparagraph (A).

(4) ELIGIBLE FAMILY MEMBER.—The term ''eligible family member'', with respect to a recovering service member, means a family member (as defined in section 411 h(b) of title 37, United States Code) who is on invitational travel orders or serving as a nonmedical attendee while caring for the recovering service member for more than 45 days during a one-year period.

(5) MEDICAL CARE.—The term ''medical care'' includes mental health care.

(6) OUTPATIENT STATUS.—The term ''outpatient status'', with respect to a recovering service member, means the status of a recovering service member assigned to—

(A) a military medical treatment facility as an outpatient; or

(B) a unit established for the purpose of providing command and control of members of the Armed Forces receiving medical care as outpatients.

(7) RECOVERING SERVICE MEMBER.—The term ''recovering service member'' means a member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or a Reserve, who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy and is in an outpatient status while recovering from a serious injury or illness related to the member's military service.

(8) SERIOUS INJURY OR ILLNESS.—The term ''serious injury or illness'', in the case of a member of the Armed Forces, means an injury or illness incurred by the member in line of duty on active duty in the Armed Forces that may render the member medically unfit to perform the duties of the member's office, grade, rank, or rating.

(9) TRICARE PROGRAM.—The term ''TRICARE program'' has the meaning given that term in section 1072(7) of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 1603. CONSIDERATION OF GENDER-SPECIFIC NEEDS OF RECOVERING SERVICE MEMBERS AND VETERANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In developing and implementing the policy required by section 1611(a), and in otherwise carrying out any other provision of this title or any amendment made by this title, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall take into account and fully address any unique gender-specific needs of recovering service members and veterans under such policy or other provision.

(b) REPORTS.—In submitting any report required by this title or an amendment made by this title, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, to the extent applicable, include a description of the manner in which the matters covered by such report address the unique gender-specific needs of recovering service members and veterans.

Subtitle A—Policy on Improvements to Care, Management, and Transition of Recovering Service Members

SEC. 1611. COMPREHENSIVE POLICY ON IMPROVEMENTS TO CARE, MANAGEMENT, AND TRANSITION OF RECOVERING SERVICE MEMBERS.

(a) COMPREHENSIVE POLICY REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than July 1, 2008, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, to the extent feasible, jointly develop and implement a comprehensive policy on improvements to the care, management, and transition of recovering service members.

(2) SCOPE OF POLICY.—The policy shall cover each of the following:

(A) The care and management of recovering service members.

(B) The medical evaluation and disability evaluation of recovering service members.

(C) The return of service members who have recovered to active duty when appropriate.

(D) The transition of recovering service members from receipt of care and services through the Department of Defense to receipt of care and services through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(3) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall develop the policy in consultation with the heads of other appropriate departments and agencies of the Federal Government and with appropriate non-governmental organizations having an expertise in matters relating to the policy.

(4) UPDATE.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly update the policy on a periodic basis, but not less often than annually, in order to incorporate in the policy, as appropriate, the following:

(A) The results of the reviews required under subsections (b) and (c).

(B) Best practices identified through pilot programs carried out under this title.

(C) Improvements to matters under the policy otherwise identified and agreed upon by the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

(b) REVIEW OF CURRENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.—

(1) REVIEW REQUIRED.—In developing the policy required by subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, to the extent necessary, jointly and separately conduct a review of all policies and procedures of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs that apply to, or shall be covered by, the policy.

(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the review shall be to identify the most effective and patient-oriented approaches to care and management of recovering service members for purposes of—

(A) incorporating such approaches into the policy; and

(B) extending such approaches, where applicable, to the care and management of other injured or ill members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

(3) ELEMENTS.—In conducting the review, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—

(A) identify among the policies and procedures described in paragraph (1) best practices in approaches to the care and management of recovering service members;

(B) identify among such policies and procedures existing and potential shortfalls in the care and management of recovering service members (including care and management of recovering service members on the temporary disability retired list), and determine means of addressing any shortfalls so identified;

(C) determine potential modifications of such policies and procedures in order to ensure consistency and uniformity, where appropriate, in the application of such policies and procedures—

(i) among the military departments;

(ii) among the Veterans Integrated Services Networks (VISNs) of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

(iii) between the military departments and the Veterans Integrated Services Networks; and

(D) develop recommendations for legislative and administrative action necessary to implement the results of the review.

(4) DEADLINE FOR COMPLETION.—The review shall be completed not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) CONSIDERATION OF EXISTING FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND PRACTICES.—In developing the policy required by subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall take into account the following:

(1) The findings and recommendations of applicable studies, reviews, reports, and evaluations that address matters relating to the policy, including, but not limited, to the following:

(A) The Independent Review Group on Rehabilitative Care and Administrative Processes at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and National Naval Medical Center, appointed by the Secretary of Defense.

(B) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs Task Force on Returning Global War on Terror Heroes, appointed by the President.

(C) The President's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors.

(D) The Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission established by title XV of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (Public Law 108–136; 117 Stat. 1676; 38 U.S.C. 1101 note).

(E) The President's Task Force to Improve Health Care Delivery for Our Nation's Veterans, of March 2003.

(F) The Report of the Congressional Commission on Servicemembers and Veterans Transition Assistance, of 1999, chaired by Anthony J. Principi.

(G) The President's Commission on Veterans' Pensions, of 1956, chaired by General Omar N. Bradley.

(2) The experience and best practices of the Department of Defense and the military departments on matters relating to the policy.

(3) The experience and best practices of the Department of Veterans Affairs on matters relating to the policy.

(4) Such other matters as the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs consider appropriate.

(d) TRAINING AND SKILLS OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, RECOVERY CARE COORDINATORS, MEDICAL CARE CASE MANAGERS, AND NON-MEDICAL CARE MANAGERS FOR RECOVERING SERVICE MEMBERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The policy required by subsection (a) shall provide for uniform standards among the military departments for the training and skills of health care professionals, recovery care coordinators, medical care case managers, and non-medical care managers for recovering service members under subsection (e) in order to ensure that such personnel are able to—

(A) detect early warning signs of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), suicidal or homicidal thoughts or behaviors, and other behavioral health concerns among recovering service members; and

(B) promptly notify appropriate health care professionals following detection of such signs.

(2) TRACKING OF NOTIFICATIONS.—In providing for uniform standards under paragraph (1), the policy shall include a mechanism or system to track the number of notifications made by recovery care coordinators, medical care case managers, and non-medical care managers to health care professionals under paragraph (1)(A) regarding early warning signs of post-traumatic stress disorder and suicide in recovering service members.

(e) SERVICES FOR RECOVERING SERVICE MEMBERS.—The policy required by subsection (a) shall provide for improvements as follows with respect to the care, management, and transition of recovering service members:

(1) COMPREHENSIVE RECOVERY PLAN FOR RECOVERING SERVICE MEMBERS.—The policy shall provide for uniform standards and procedures for the development of a comprehensive recovery plan for each recovering service member that covers the full spectrum of care, management, transition, and rehabilitation of the service member during recovery.

(2) RECOVERY CARE COORDINATORS FOR RECOVERING SERVICE MEMBERS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The policy shall provide for a uniform program for the assignment to recovering service members of recovery care coordinators having the duties specified in subparagraph (B).

(B) DUTIES.—The duties under the program of a recovery care coordinator for a recovering service member shall include, but not be limited to, overseeing and assisting the service member in the service member's course through the entire spectrum of care, management, transition, and rehabilitation services available from the Federal Government, including services provided by the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Labor, and the Social Security Administration.

(C) LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF SERVICE MEMBERS MANAGED BY COORDINATORS.—The maximum number of recovering service members whose cases may be assigned to a recovery care coordinator under the program at any one time shall be such number as the policy shall specify, except that the Secretary of the military department concerned may waive such limitation with respect to a given coordinator for not more than 120 days in the event of unforeseen circumstances (as specified in the policy).

(D) TRAINING.—The policy shall specify standard training requirements and curricula for recovery care coordinators under the program, including a requirement for successful completion of the training program before a person may assume the duties of such a coordinator.

(E) RESOURCES.—The policy shall include mechanisms to ensure that recovery care coordinators under the program have the resources necessary to expeditiously carry out the duties of such coordinators under the program.

(F) SUPERVISION.—The policy shall specify requirements for the appropriate rank or grade, and appropriate occupation, for persons appointed to head and supervise recovery care coordinators.

(3) MEDICAL CARE CASE MANAGERS FOR RECOVERING SERVICE MEMBERS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The policy shall provide for a uniform program among the military departments for the assignment to recovering service members of medical care case managers having the duties specified in subparagraph (B).

(B) DUTIES.—The duties under the program of a medical care case manager for a recovering service member (or the service member's immediate family or other designee if the service member is incapable of making judgments about personal medical care) shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(i) Assisting in understanding the service member's medical status during the care, recovery, and transition of the service member.

(ii) Assisting in the receipt by the service member of prescribed medical care during the care, recovery, and transition of the service member.

(iii) Conducting a periodic review of the medical status of the service member, which review shall be conducted, to the extent practicable, in person with the service member, or, whenever the conduct of the review in person is not practicable, with the medical care case manager submitting to the manager's supervisor a written explanation why the review in person was not practicable (if the Secretary of the military department concerned elects to require such written explanations for purposes of the program).

(C) LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF SERVICE MEMBERS MANAGED BY MANAGERS.—The maximum number of recovering service members whose cases may be assigned to a medical care case manager under the program at any one time shall be such number as the policy shall specify, except that the Secretary of the military department concerned may waive such limitation with respect to a given manager for not more than 120 days in the event of unforeseen circumstances (as specified in the policy).

(D) TRAINING.—The policy shall specify standard training requirements and curricula for medical care case managers under the program, including a requirement for successful completion of the training program before a person may assume the duties of such a manager.

(E) RESOURCES.—The policy shall include mechanisms to ensure that medical care case managers under the program have the resources necessary to expeditiously carry out the duties of such managers under the program.

(F) SUPERVISION AT ARMED FORCES MEDICAL FACILITIES.—The policy shall specify requirements for the appropriate rank or grade, and appropriate occupation, for persons appointed to head and supervise the medical care case managers at each medical facility of the Armed Forces. Persons so appointed may be appointed from the Army Medical Corps, Army Medical Service Corps, Army Nurse Corps, Navy Medical Corps, Navy Medical Service Corps, Navy Nurse Corps, Air Force Medical Service, or other corps or civilian health care professional, as applicable, at the discretion of the Secretary of Defense.

(4) NON-MEDICAL CARE MANAGERS FOR RECOVERING SERVICE MEMBERS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The policy shall provide for a uniform program among the military departments for the assignment to recovering service members of non-medical care

managers having the duties specified in subparagraph (B).

(B) DUTIES.—The duties under the program of a non-medical care manager for a recovering service member shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(i) Communicating with the service member and with the service member's family or other individuals designated by the service member regarding non-medical matters that arise during the care, recovery, and transition of the service member.

(ii) Assisting with oversight of the service member's welfare and quality of life.

(iii) Assisting the service member in resolving problems involving financial, administrative, personnel, transitional, and other matters that arise during the care, recovery, and transition of the service member.

(C) DURATION OF DUTIES.—The policy shall provide that a non-medical care manager shall perform duties under the program for a recovering service member until the service member is returned to active duty or retired or separated from the Armed Forces.

(D) LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF SERVICE MEMBERS MANAGED BY MANAGERS.—The maximum number of recovering service members whose cases may be assigned to a non-medical care manager under the program at any one time shall be such number as the policy shall specify, except that the Secretary of the military department concerned may waive such limitation with respect to a given manager for not more than 120 days in the event of unforeseen circumstances (as specified in the policy).

(E) TRAINING.—The policy shall specify standard training requirements and curricula among the military departments for non-medical care managers under the program, including a requirement for successful completion of the training program before a person may assume the duties of such a manager.

(F) RESOURCES.—The policy shall include mechanisms to ensure that non-medical care managers under the program have the resources necessary to expeditiously carry out the duties of such managers under the program.

(G) SUPERVISION AT ARMED FORCES MEDICAL FACILITIES.—The policy shall specify requirements for the appropriate rank and occupational speciality for persons appointed to head and supervise the non-medical care managers at each medical facility of the Armed Forces.

(5) ACCESS OF RECOVERING SERVICE MEMBERS TO NON-URGENT HEALTH CARE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OR OTHER PROVIDERS UNDER TRICARE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The policy shall provide for appropriate minimum standards for access of recovering service members to non-urgent medical care and other health care services as follows:

(i) In medical facilities of the Department of Defense.

(ii) Through the TRICARE program.

(B) MAXIMUM WAITING TIMES FOR CERTAIN CARE.—The standards for access under subparagraph (A) shall include such standards on maximum waiting times of recovering service members as the policy shall specify for care that includes, but is not limited to, the following:

(i) Follow-up care.

(ii) Specialty care.

(iii) Diagnostic referrals and studies.

(iv) Surgery based on a physician's determination of medical necessity.

(C) WAIVER BY RECOVERING SERVICE MEMBERS.—The policy shall permit any recovering service member to waive a standard for access under this paragraph under such circumstances and conditions as the policy shall specify.

(6) ASSIGNMENT OF RECOVERING SERVICE MEMBERS TO LOCATIONS OF CARE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The policy shall provide for uniform guidelines among the military departments for the assignment of recovering service members to a location of care, including guidelines that provide for the assignment of recovering service members, when medically appropriate, to care and residential facilities closest to their duty station or home of record or the location of their designated care giver at the earliest possible time.

(B) REASSIGNMENT FROM DEFICIENT FACILITIES.—The policy shall provide for uniform guidelines and procedures among the military departments for the reassignment of recovering service members from a medical or medical-related support facility determined by the Secretary of Defense to violate the standards required by section 1648 to another appropriate medical or medical-related support facility until the correction of violations of such standards at the medical or medical-related support facility from which such service members are reassigned.

(7) TRANSPORTATION AND SUBSISTENCE FOR RECOVERING SERVICE MEMBERS.—The policy shall provide for uniform standards among the military departments on the availability of appropriate transportation and subsistence for recovering service members to facilitate their obtaining needed medical care and services.

(8) WORK AND DUTY ASSIGNMENTS FOR RECOVERING SERVICE MEMBERS.—The policy shall provide for uniform criteria among the military departments for the assignment of recovering service members to work and duty assignments that are compatible with their medical conditions.

(9) ACCESS OF RECOVERING SERVICE MEMBERS TO EDUCATIONAL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND REHABILITATION.—The policy shall provide for uniform standards among the military departments on the provision of educational and vocational training and rehabilitation opportunities for recovering service members at the earliest possible point in their recovery.

(10) TRACKING OF RECOVERING SERVICE MEMBERS.—The policy shall provide for uniform procedures among the military departments on tracking recovering service members to facilitate—

(A) locating each recovering service member; and

(B) tracking medical care appointments of recovering service members to ensure timeliness and compliance of recovering service members with appointments, and other physical and evaluation timelines, and to provide any other information needed to conduct oversight of the care, management, and transition of recovering service members.

(11) REFERRALS OF RECOVERING SERVICE MEMBERS TO OTHER CARE AND SERVICES PROVIDERS.—The policy shall provide for uniform policies, procedures, and criteria among the military departments on the referral of recovering service members to the Department of Veterans Affairs and other private and public entities (including universities and rehabilitation hospitals, centers, and clinics) in order to secure the most appropriate care for recovering service members, which policies, procedures, and criteria shall take into account, but not be limited to, the medical needs of recovering service members and the geographic location of available necessary recovery care services.

(f) SERVICES FOR FAMILIES OF RECOVERING SERVICE MEMBERS.—The policy required by subsection (a) shall provide for improvements as follows with respect to services for families of recovering service members:

(1) SUPPORT FOR FAMILY MEMBERS OF RECOVERING SERVICE MEMBERS.—The policy shall provide for uniform guidelines among the military departments on the provision by the military departments of support for family members of recovering service members who are not otherwise eligible for care under section 1672 in caring for such service members during their recovery.

(2) ADVICE AND TRAINING FOR FAMILY MEMBERS OF RECOVERING SERVICE MEMBERS.—The policy shall provide for uniform requirements and standards among the military departments on the provision by the military departments of advice and training, as appropriate, to family members of recovering service members with respect to care for such service members during their recovery.

(3) MEASUREMENT OF SATISFACTION OF FAMILY MEMBERS OF RECOVERING SERVICE MEMBERS WITH QUALITY OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES.—The policy shall provide for uniform procedures among the military departments on the measurement of the satisfaction of family members of recovering service members with the quality of health care services provided to such service members during their recovery.

(4) JOB PLACEMENT SERVICES FOR FAMILY MEMBERS OF RECOVERING SERVICE MEMBERS.—The policy shall provide for procedures for application by eligible family members during a one-year period for job placement services otherwise offered by the Department of Defense.

(g) OUTREACH TO RECOVERING SERVICE MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES ON COMPREHENSIVE POLICY.—The policy required by subsection (a) shall include procedures and mechanisms to ensure that recovering service members and their families are fully informed of the policies required by this section, including policies on medical care for recovering service members, on the management and transition of recovering service members, and on the responsibilities of recovering service members and their family members throughout the continuum of care and services for recovering service members under this section.

(h) APPLICABILITY OF COMPREHENSIVE POLICY TO RECOVERING SERVICE MEMBERS ON TEMPORARY DISABILITY RETIRED LIST.—Appropriate elements of the policy required by this section shall apply to recovering service members whose names are placed on the temporary disability retired list in such manner, and subject to such terms and conditions, as the Secretary of Defense shall prescribe in regulations for purposes of this subsection.

SEC. 1612. MEDICAL EVALUATIONS AND PHYSICAL DISABILITY EVALUATIONS OF RECOVERING SERVICE MEMBERS.

(a) MEDICAL EVALUATIONS OF RECOVERING SERVICE MEMBERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than July 1, 2008, the Secretary of Defense shall develop a policy on improvements to the processes, procedures, and standards for the conduct by the military departments of medical evaluations of recovering service members.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The policy on improvements to processes, procedures, and standards required under this subsection shall include and address the following:

(A) Processes for medical evaluations of recovering service members that—

(i) apply uniformly throughout the military departments; and

(ii) apply uniformly with respect to recovering service members who are members of the regular components of the Armed Forces and recovering service members who are members of the National Guard and Reserve.

(B) Standard criteria and definitions for determining the achievement for recovering service members of the maximum medical benefit from treatment and rehabilitation.

(C) Standard timelines for each of the following:

(i) Determinations of fitness for duty of recovering service members.

(ii) Specialty care consultations for recovering service members.

(iii) Preparation of medical documents for recovering service members.

(iv) Appeals by recovering service members of medical evaluation determinations, including determinations of fitness for duty.

(D) Procedures for ensuring that—

(i) upon request of a recovering service member being considered by a medical evaluation board, a physician or other appropriate health care professional who is independent of the medical evaluation board is assigned to the service member; and

(ii) the physician or other health care professional assigned to a recovering service member under clause (i)—

(I) serves as an independent source for review of the findings and recommendations of the medical evaluation board;

(II) provides the service member with advice and counsel regarding the findings and recommendations of the medical evaluation board; and

(III) advises the service member on whether the findings of the medical evaluation board adequately reflect the complete spectrum of injuries and illness of the service member.

(E) Standards for qualifications and training of medical evaluation board personnel, including physicians, case workers, and physical disability evaluation board liaison officers, in conducting medical evaluations of recovering service members.

(F) Standards for the maximum number of medical evaluation cases of recovering service members that are pending before a medical evaluation board at any one time, and requirements for the establishment of additional medical evaluation boards in the event such number is exceeded.

(G) Standards for information for recovering service members, and their families, on the medical evaluation board process and the rights and responsibilities of recovering service members under that process, including a standard handbook on such information (which handbook shall also be available electronically).

(b) PHYSICAL DISABILITY EVALUATIONS OF RECOVERING SERVICE MEMBERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than July 1, 2008, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall develop a policy on improvements to the processes, procedures, and standards for the conduct of physical disability evaluations of recovering service members by the military departments and by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The policy on improvements to processes, procedures, and standards required under this subsection shall include and address the following:

(A) A clearly-defined process of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs for disability determinations of recovering service members.

(B) To the extent feasible, procedures to eliminate unacceptable discrepancies and improve consistency among disability ratings assigned by the military departments and the Department of Veterans Affairs, particularly in the disability evaluation of recovering service members, which procedures shall be subject to the following requirements and limitations:

(i) Such procedures shall apply uniformly with respect to recovering service members who are members of the regular components of the Armed Forces and recovering service members who are members of the National Guard and Reserve.

(ii) Under such procedures, each Secretary of a military department shall, to the extent feasible, utilize the standard schedule for rating disabilities in use by the Department of Veterans Affairs, including any applicable interpretation of such schedule by the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, in making any determination of disability of a recovering service member, except as otherwise authorized by section 1216a of title 10, United States Code (as added by section 1642 of this Act).

(C) Uniform timelines among the military departments for appeals of determinations of disability of recovering service members, including timelines for presentation, consideration, and disposition of appeals.

(D) Uniform standards among the military departments for qualifications and training of physical disability evaluation board personnel, including physical evaluation board liaison personnel, in conducting physical disability evaluations of recovering service members.

(E) Uniform standards among the military departments for the maximum number of physical disability evaluation cases of recovering service members that are pending before a physical disability evaluation board at any one time, and requirements for the establishment of additional physical disability evaluation boards in the event such number is exceeded.

(F) Uniform standards and procedures among the military departments for the provision of legal counsel to recovering service members while undergoing evaluation by a physical disability evaluation board.

(G) Uniform standards among the military departments on the roles and responsibilities of non-medical care managers under section 1611(e)(4) and judge advocates assigned to recovering service members undergoing evaluation by a physical disability board, and uniform standards on the maximum number of cases involving such service members that are to be assigned to judge advocates at any one time.

(c) ASSESSMENT OF CONSOLIDATION OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DISABILITY EVALUATION SYSTEMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the feasability and advisability of consolidating the disability evaluation systems of the military departments and the disability evaluation system of the Department of Veterans Affairs into a single disability evaluation system. The report shall be submitted together with the report required by section 1611(a).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) An assessment of the feasability and advisability of consolidating the disability evaluation systems described in paragraph (1) as specified in that paragraph.

(B) If the consolidation of the systems is considered feasible and advisable—

(i) recommendations for various options for consolidating the systems as specified in paragraph (1); and

(ii) recommendations for mechanisms to evaluate and assess any progress made in consolidating the systems as specified in that paragraph.

SEC. 1613. RETURN OF RECOVERING SERVICE MEMBERS TO ACTIVE DUTY IN THE ARMED FORCES.

The Secretary of Defense shall establish standards for determinations by the military departments on the return of recovering service members to active duty in the Armed Forces.

SEC. 1614. TRANSITION OF RECOVERING SERVICE MEMBERS FROM CARE AND TREATMENT THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO CARE, TREATMENT, AND REHABILITATION THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than July 1, 2008, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly develop and implement processes, procedures, and standards for the transition of recovering service members from care and treatment through the Department of Defense to care, treatment, and rehabilitation through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The processes, procedures, and standards required under this section shall include the following:

(1) Uniform, patient-focused procedures to ensure that the transition described in subsection (a) occurs without gaps in medical care and in the quality of medical care, benefits, and services.

(2) Procedures for the identification and tracking of recovering service members during the transition, and for the coordination of care and treatment of recovering service members during the transition, including a system of cooperative case management of recovering service members by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs during the transition.

(3) Procedures for the notification of Department of Veterans Affairs liaison personnel of the commencement by recovering service members of the medical evaluation process and the physical disability evaluation process.

(4) Procedures and timelines for the enrollment of recovering service members in applicable enrollment or application systems of the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to health care, disability, education, vocational rehabilitation, or other benefits.

(5) Procedures to ensure the access of recovering service members during the transition to vocational, educational, and rehabilitation benefits available through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(6) Standards for the optimal location of Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs liaison and case management personnel at military medical treatment facilities, medical centers, and other medical facilities of the Department of Defense.

(7) Standards and procedures for integrated medical care and management of recovering service members during the transition, including procedures for the assignment of medical personnel of the Department of Veterans Affairs to Department of Defense facilities to participate in the needs assessments of recovering service members before, during, and after their separation from military service.

(8) Standards for the preparation of detailed plans for the transition of recovering service members from care and treatment by the Department of Defense to care, treatment, and rehabilitation by the Department of Veterans Affairs, which plans shall—

(A) be based on standardized elements with respect to care and treatment requirements and other applicable requirements; and

(B) take into account the comprehensive recovery plan for the recovering service member concerned as developed under section 1611(e)(1).

(9) Procedures to ensure that each recovering service member who is being retired or separated under chapter 61 of title 10, United States Code, receives a written transition plan, prior to the time of retirement or separation, that—

(A) specifies the recommended schedule and milestones for the transition of the service member from military service;

(B) provides for a coordinated transition of the service member from the Department of Defense disability evaluation system to the Department of Veterans Affairs disability system; and

(C) includes information and guidance designed to assist the service member in understanding and meeting the schedule and milestones specified under subparagraph (A) for the service member's transition.

(10) Procedures for the transmittal from the Department of Defense to the Department of Veterans Affairs of records and any other required information on each recovering service member described in paragraph (9), which procedures shall provide for the transmission from the Department of Defense to the Department of Veterans Affairs of records and information on the service member as follows:

(A) The address and contact information of the service member.

(B) The DD–214 discharge form of the service member, which shall be transmitted under such procedures electronically.

(C) A copy of the military service record of the service member, including medical records and any results of a physical evaluation board.

(D) Information on whether the service member is entitled to transitional health care, a conversion health policy, or other health benefits through the Department of Defense under section 1145 of title 10, United States Code.

(E) A copy of any request of the service member for assistance in enrolling in, or completed applications for enrollment in, the health care system of the Department of Veterans Affairs for health care benefits for which the service member may be eligible under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

(F) A copy of any request by the service member for assistance in applying for, or completed applications for, compensation and vocational rehabilitation benefits to which the service member may be entitled under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

(11) A process to ensure that, before transmittal of medical records of a recovering service member to the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Defense ensures that the service member (or an individual legally recognized to make medical decisions on behalf of the service member) authorizes the transfer of the medical records of the service member from the Department of Defense to the Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996.

(12) Procedures to ensure that, with the consent of the recovering service member concerned, the address and contact information of the service member is transmitted to the department or agency for veterans affairs of the State in which the service member intends to reside after the retirement or separation of the service member from the Armed Forces.

(13) Procedures to ensure that, before the transmittal of records and other information with respect to a recovering service member under this section, a meeting regarding the transmittal of such records and other information occurs among the service member, appropriate family members of the service member, representatives of the Secretary of the military department concerned, and representatives of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, with at least 30 days advance notice of the meeting being given to the service member unless the service member waives the advance notice requirement in order to accelerate transmission of the service member's records and other information to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(14) Procedures to ensure that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs gives appropriate consideration to a written statement submitted to the Secretary by a recovering service member regarding the transition.

(15) Procedures to provide access for the Department of Veterans Affairs to the military health records of recovering service members who are receiving care and treatment, or are anticipating receipt of care and treatment, in Department of Veterans Affairs health care facilities, which procedures shall be consistent with the procedures and requirements in paragraphs (11) and (13).

(16) A process for the utilization of a joint separation and evaluation physical examination that meets the requirements of both the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs in connection with the medical separation or retirement of a recovering service member from military service and for use by the Department of Veterans Affairs in disability evaluations.

(17) Procedures for surveys and other mechanisms to measure patient and family satisfaction with the provision by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs of care and services for recovering service members, and to facilitate appropriate oversight by supervisory personnel of the provision of such care and services.

(18) Procedures to ensure the participation of recovering service members who are members of the National Guard or Reserve in the Benefits Delivery at Discharge Program, including procedures to ensure that, to the maximum extent feasible, services under the Benefits Delivery at Discharge Program are provided to recovering service members at—

(A) appropriate military installations;

(B) appropriate armories and military family support centers of the National Guard;

(C) appropriate military medical care facilities at which members of the Armed Forces are separated or discharged from the Armed Forces; and

(D) in the case of a member on the temporary disability retired list under section 1202 or 1205 of title 10, United States Code, who is being retired under another provision of such title or is being discharged, at a location reasonably convenient to the member.

SEC. 1615. REPORTS.

(a) REPORT ON POLICY.—Upon the development of the policy required by subsection (a) of section 1611 but not later than July 1, 2008, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the policy, including a comprehensive and detailed description of the policy and of the manner in which the policy addresses the detailed elements of the policy specified in subsections (d) through (h) of section 1611, and the findings and recommendations of the reviews under subsections (b) and (c) of section 1611.

(b) INTERIM REPORT ON POLICY.—Not later than February 1, 2008, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an interim report on the policy, which shall include a comprehensive and detailed description of the matters specified in subsection (a) current as of the date of such interim report.

(c) REPORT ON UPDATE OF POLICY.—Upon updating the policy under section 1611(a)(4), the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the update of the policy, including a comprehensive and detailed description of such update and of the reasons for such update.

(d) COMPTROLLER GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than six months after the date of the enactment of this Act and every year thereafter through 2010, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report setting forth the assessment of the Comptroller General of the progress of the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in developing and implementing the policy required by section 1611(a). Each report shall include a certification by the Comptroller General as to whether the Comptroller General has had timely access to sufficient information to enable the Comptroller General to make informed judgments on the matters covered by the report.

(2) ACCESS INFORMATION.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall facilitate the ability of the Comptroller General to conduct any review required for a report under this subsection within the time period required for such report, including prompt and complete access to such information as the Comptroller General considers necessary to perform such review.

(e) REPORT ON REDUCTION IN DISABILITY RATINGS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—Not later than February 1, 2009, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on the number of instances during the period beginning on October 7, 2001, and ending on September 30, 2006, in which a disability rating assigned to a member of the Armed Forces by an informal physical evaluation board of the Department of Defense was reduced upon appeal, and the reasons for such reduction.

SEC. 1616. ESTABLISHMENT OF A WOUNDED WARRIOR RESOURCE CENTER.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish a wounded warrior resource center (in this section referred to as the ''center'') to provide wounded warriors, their families, and their primary caregivers with a single point of contact for assistance with reporting deficiencies in covered military facilities, obtaining health care services, receiving benefits information, and any other difficulties encountered while supporting wounded warriors. The Secretary shall widely disseminate information regarding the existence and availability of the center, including contact information, to members of the Armed Forces and their dependents. In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary may use existing infrastructure and organizations but shall ensure that the center has the ability to separately keep track of calls from wounded warriors.

(b) ACCESS.—The center shall provide multiple methods of access, including at a minimum an Internet website and a toll-free telephone number (commonly referred to as a ''hot line'') at which personnel are accessible at all times to receive reports of deficiencies or provide information about covered military facilities, health care services, or military benefits.

(c) CONFIDENTIALITY.—

(1) NOTIFICATION.—Individuals who seek to provide information through the center under subsection (a) shall be notified, immediately before they provide such information, of their option to elect, at their discretion, to have their identity remain confidential.

(2) PROHIBITION ON FURTHER DISCLOSURE.—In the case of information provided through use of the toll-free telephone number by an individual who elects to maintain the confidentiality of his or her identity, any individual who, by necessity, has had access to such information for purposes of investigating or responding to the call as required

under subsection (d) may not disclose the identity of the individual who provided the information.

(d) FUNCTIONS.—The center shall perform the following functions:

(1) CALL TRACKING.—The center shall be responsible for documenting receipt of a call, referring the call to the appropriate office within a military department for answer or investigation, and tracking the formulation and notification of the response to the call.

(2) INVESTIGATION AND RESPONSE.—The center shall be responsible for ensuring that, not later than 96 hours after a call—

(A) if a report of deficiencies is received in a call—

(i) any deficiencies referred to in the call are investigated;

(ii) if substantiated, a plan of action for remediation of the deficiencies is developed and implemented; and

(iii) if requested, the individual who made the report is notified of the current status of the report; or

(B) if a request for information is received in a call—

(i) the information requested by the caller is provided by the center;

(ii) all requests for information from the call are referred to the appropriate office or offices of a military department for response; and

(iii) the individual who made the report is notified, at a minimum, of the current status of the query.

(3) FINAL NOTIFICATION.—The center shall be responsible for ensuring that, if requested, the caller is notified when the deficiency has been corrected or when the request for information has been fulfilled to the maximum extent practicable, as determined by the Secretary.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED MILITARY FACILITY.—The term ''covered military facility'' has the meaning provided in section 1648(b) of this Act.

(2) CALL.—The term ''call'' means any query or report that is received by the center by means of the toll-free telephone number or other source.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBER.—The toll-free telephone number required to be established by subsection (a), shall be fully operational not later than April 1, 2008.

(2) INTERNET WEBSITE.—The Internet website required to be established by subsection (a), shall be fully operational not later than July 1, 2008.

SEC. 1617. NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS OF HOSPITALIZATION OF COMBAT WOUNDED SERVICE MEMBERS.

(a) NOTIFICATION REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code, is further amended by inserting after section 1074k the following new section:

''§ 1074l. Notification to Congress of hospitalization of combat wounded members

''(a) NOTIFICATION REQUIRED.—The Secretary concerned shall provide notification of the hospitalization of any member of the armed forces evacuated from a theater of combat and admitted to a military treatment facility within the United States to the appropriate Members of Congress.

''(b) APPROPRIATE MEMBERS.—In this section, the term 'appropriate Members of Congress', with respect to the member of the armed forces about whom notification is being made, means the Senators representing the State, and the Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner of the House of Representatives representing the district, that includes the member's home of record or a different location as provided by the member.

''(c) CONSENT OF MEMBER REQUIRED.—The notification under subsection (a) may be provided only with the consent of the member of the armed forces about whom notification is to be made. In the case of a member who is unable to provide consent, information and consent may be provided by next of kin.''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The notification requirement under section 1074l(a) of title 10, United States Code, as added by paragraph (1), shall apply beginning 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''1074l. Notification to Congress of hospitalization of combat wounded members.''.

SEC. 1618. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ON PREVENTION, DIAGNOSIS, MITIGATION, TREATMENT, AND REHABILITATION OF, AND RESEARCH ON, TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY, POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER, AND OTHER MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS IN MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) COMPREHENSIVE STATEMENT OF POLICY.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall direct joint planning among the Department of Defense, the military departments, and the Department of Veterans Affairs for the prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, and rehabilitation of, and research on, traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other mental health conditions in members of the Armed Forces, including planning for the seamless transition of such members from care through the Department of Defense to care through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(b) COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, submit to the congressional defense committees a comprehensive plan for programs and activities of the Department of Defense to prevent, diagnose, mitigate, treat, research, and otherwise respond to traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other mental health conditions in members of the Armed Forces, including—

(1) an assessment of the current capabilities of the Department for the prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, and rehabilitation of, and research on, traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other mental health conditions in members of the Armed Forces;

(2) the identification of gaps in current capabilities of the Department for the prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, and rehabilitation of, and research on, traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other mental health conditions in members of the Armed Forces; and

(3) the identification of the resources required for the Department in fiscal years 2009 through 2013 to address the gaps in capabilities identified under paragraph (2).

(c) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—One of the programs contained in the comprehensive plan submitted under subsection (b) shall be a Department of Defense program, developed in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs, under which each member of the Armed Forces who incurs a traumatic brain injury or post-traumatic stress disorder during service in the Armed Forces—

(1) is enrolled in the program; and

(2) receives treatment and rehabilitation meeting a standard of care such that each individual who qualifies for care under the program shall—

(A) be provided the highest quality, evidence-based care in facilities that most appropriately meet the specific needs of the individual; and

(B) be rehabilitated to the fullest extent possible using up-to-date evidence-based medical technology, and physical and medical rehabilitation practices and expertise.

(d) PROVISION OF INFORMATION REQUIRED.—The comprehensive plan submitted under subsection (b) shall require the provision of information by the Secretary of Defense to members of the Armed Forces with traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, or other mental health conditions and their families about their options with respect to the following:

(1) The receipt of medical and mental health care from the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) Additional options available to such members for treatment and rehabilitation of traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other mental health conditions.

(3) The options available, including obtaining a second opinion, to such members for a referral to an authorized provider under chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code, as determined under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense.

(e) ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS OF PLAN.—The comprehensive plan submitted under subsection (b) shall include comprehensive proposals of the Department on the following:

(1) LEAD AGENT.—The designation by the Secretary of Defense of a lead agent or executive agent for the Department to coordinate development and implementation of the plan.

(2) DETECTION AND TREATMENT.—The improvement of methods and mechanisms for the detection and treatment of traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other mental health conditions in members of the Armed Forces in the field.

(3) REDUCTION OF PTSD.—The development of a plan for reducing post traumatic-stress disorder, incorporating evidence-based preventive and early-intervention measures, practices, or procedures that reduce the likelihood that personnel in combat will develop post-traumatic stress disorder or other stress-related conditions (including substance abuse conditions) into—

(A) basic and pre-deployment training for enlisted members of the Armed Forces, noncommissioned officers, and officers;

(B) combat theater operations; and

(C) post-deployment service.

(4) RESEARCH.—Requirements for research on traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other mental health conditions including (in particular) research on pharmacological and other approaches to treatment for traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, or other mental health conditions, as applicable, and the allocation of priorities among such research.

(5) DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA.—The development, adoption, and deployment of joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs evidence-based diagnostic criteria for the detection and evaluation of the range of traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other mental health conditions in members of the Armed Forces, which criteria shall be employed uniformly across the military departments in all applicable circumstances, including provision of clinical care and assessment of future deployability of members of the Armed Forces.

(6) ASSESSMENT.—The development and deployment of evidence-based means of assessing traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other mental health conditions in members of the Armed Forces, including a system of pre-deployment and post-deployment screenings of cognitive

ability in members for the detection of cognitive impairment.

(7) MANAGING AND MONITORING.—The development and deployment of effective means of managing and monitoring members of the Armed Forces with traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, or other mental health conditions in the receipt of care for traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, or other mental health conditions, as applicable, including the monitoring and assessment of treatment and outcomes.

(8) EDUCATION AND AWARENESS.—The development and deployment of an education and awareness training initiative designed to reduce the negative stigma associated with traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other mental health conditions, and mental health treatment.

(9) EDUCATION AND OUTREACH.—The provision of education and outreach to families of members of the Armed Forces with traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, or other mental health conditions on a range of matters relating to traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, or other mental health conditions, as applicable, including detection, mitigation, and treatment.

(10) RECORDING OF BLASTS.—A requirement that exposure to a blast or blasts be recorded in the records of members of the Armed Forces.

(11) GUIDELINES FOR BLAST INJURIES.—The development of clinical practice guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of blast injuries in members of the Armed Forces, including, but not limited to, traumatic brain injury.

(12) GENDER- AND ETHNIC GROUP-SPECIFIC SERVICES AND TREATMENT.—The development of requirements, as appropriate, for gender- and ethnic group-specific medical care services and treatment for members of the Armed Forces who experience mental health problems and conditions, including post-traumatic stress disorder, with specific regard to the availability of, access to, and research and development requirements of such needs.

(f) COORDINATION IN DEVELOPMENT.—The comprehensive plan submitted under subsection (b) shall be developed in coordination with the Secretary of the Army (who was designated by the Secretary of Defense as executive agent for the prevention, mitigation, and treatment of blast injuries under section 256 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109–163; 119 Stat. 3181; 10 U.S.C. 1071 note)).

Subtitle B—Centers of Excellence in the Prevention, Diagnosis, Mitigation, Treatment, and Rehabilitation of Traumatic Brain Injury, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and Eye Injuries

SEC. 1621. CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN THE PREVENTION, DIAGNOSIS, MITIGATION, TREATMENT, AND REHABILITATION OF TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish within the Department of Defense a center of excellence in the prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, and rehabilitation of traumatic brain injury, including mild, moderate, and severe traumatic brain injury, to carry out the responsibilities specified in subsection (c).

(b) PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary shall ensure that the Center collaborates to the maximum extent practicable with the Department of Veterans Affairs, institutions of higher education, and other appropriate public and private entities (including international entities) to carry out the responsibilities specified in subsection (c).

(c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Center shall have responsibilities as follows:

(1) To implement the comprehensive plan and strategy for the Department of Defense, required by section 1618 of this Act, for the prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, and rehabilitation of traumatic brain injury, including research on gender and ethnic group-specific health needs related to traumatic brain injury.

(2) To provide for the development, testing, and dissemination within the Department of best practices for the treatment of traumatic brain injury.

(3) To provide guidance for the mental health system of the Department in determining the mental health and neurological health personnel required to provide quality mental health care for members of the Armed Forces with traumatic brain injury.

(4) To establish, implement, and oversee a comprehensive program to train mental health and neurological health professionals of the Department in the treatment of traumatic brain injury.

(5) To facilitate advancements in the study of the short-term and long-term psychological effects of traumatic brain injury.

(6) To disseminate within the military medical treatment facilities of the Department best practices for training mental health professionals, including neurological health professionals, with respect to traumatic brain injury.

(7) To conduct basic science and translational research on traumatic brain injury for the purposes of understanding the etiology of traumatic brain injury and developing preventive interventions and new treatments.

(8) To develop programs and outreach strategies for families of members of the Armed Forces with traumatic brain injury in order to mitigate the negative impacts of traumatic brain injury on such family members and to support the recovery of such members from traumatic brain injury.

(9) To conduct research on the mental health needs of families of members of the Armed Forces with traumatic brain injury and develop protocols to address any needs identified through such research.

(10) To conduct longitudinal studies (using imaging technology and other proven research methods) on members of the Armed Forces with traumatic brain injury to identify early signs of Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, or other manifestations of neurodegeneration, as well as epilepsy, in such members, in coordination with the studies authorized by section 721 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2294) and other studies of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs that address the connection between exposure to combat and the development of Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and other neurodegenerative disorders, as well as epilepsy.

(11) To develop and oversee a long-term plan to increase the number of mental health and neurological health professionals within the Department in order to facilitate the meeting by the Department of the needs of members of the Armed Forces with traumatic brain injury until their transition to care and treatment from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(12) To develop a program on comprehensive pain management, including management of acute and chronic pain, to utilize current and develop new treatments for pain, and to identify and disseminate best practices on pain management related to traumatic brain injury.

(13) Such other responsibilities as the Secretary shall specify.

SEC. 1622. CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN PREVENTION, DIAGNOSIS, MITIGATION, TREATMENT, AND REHABILITATION OF POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AND OTHER MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish within the Department of Defense a center of excellence in the prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, and rehabilitation of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other mental health conditions, including mild, moderate, and severe post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health conditions, to carry out the responsibilities specified in subsection (c).

(b) PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary shall ensure that the center collaborates to the maximum extent practicable with the National Center on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder of the Department of Veterans Affairs, institutions of higher education, and other appropriate public and private entities (including international entities) to carry out the responsibilities specified in subsection (c).

(c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The center shall have responsibilities as follows:

(1) To implement the comprehensive plan and strategy for the Department of Defense, required by section 1618 of this Act, for the prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, and rehabilitation of post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health conditions, including research on gender- and ethnic group-specific health needs related to post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health conditions.

(2) To provide for the development, testing, and dissemination within the Department of best practices for the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder.

(3) To provide guidance for the mental health system of the Department in determining the mental health and neurological health personnel required to provide quality mental health care for members of the Armed Forces with post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health conditions.

(4) To establish, implement, and oversee a comprehensive program to train mental health and neurological health professionals of the Department in the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health conditions.

(5) To facilitate advancements in the study of the short-term and long-term psychological effects of post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health conditions.

(6) To disseminate within the military medical treatment facilities of the Department best practices for training mental health professionals, including neurological health professionals, with respect to post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health conditions.

(7) To conduct basic science and translational research on post-traumatic stress disorder for the purposes of understanding the etiology of post-traumatic stress disorder and developing preventive interventions and new treatments.

(8) To develop programs and outreach strategies for families of members of the Armed Forces with post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health conditions in order to mitigate the negative impacts of post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health conditions on such family members and to support the recovery of such members from post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health conditions.

(9) To conduct research on the mental health needs of families of members of the Armed Forces with post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health conditions and develop protocols to address any needs identified through such research.

(10) To develop and oversee a long-term plan to increase the number of mental health

and neurological health professionals within the Department in order to facilitate the meeting by the Department of the needs of members of the Armed Forces with post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health conditions until their transition to care and treatment from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 1623. CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN PREVENTION, DIAGNOSIS, MITIGATION, TREATMENT, AND REHABILITATION OF MILITARY EYE INJURIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish within the Department of Defense a center of excellence in the prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, and rehabilitation of military eye injuries to carry out the responsibilities specified in subsection (c).

(b) PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary shall ensure that the center collaborates to the maximum extent practicable with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, institutions of higher education, and other appropriate public and private entities (including international entities) to carry out the responsibilities specified in subsection (c).

(c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The center shall—

(A) implement a comprehensive plan and strategy for the Department of Defense, as developed by the Secretary of Defense, for a registry of information for the tracking of the diagnosis, surgical intervention or other operative procedure, other treatment, and follow up for each case of significant eye injury incurred by a member of the Armed Forces while serving on active duty;

(B) ensure the electronic exchange with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of information obtained through tracking under subparagraph (A); and

(C) enable the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to access the registry and add information pertaining to additional treatments or surgical procedures and eventual visual outcomes for veterans who were entered into the registry and subsequently received treatment through the Veterans Health Administration.

(2) DESIGNATION OF REGISTRY.—The registry under this subsection shall be known as the ''Military Eye Injury Registry'' (hereinafter referred to as the ''Registry'').

(3) CONSULTATION IN DEVELOPMENT.—The center shall develop the Registry in consultation with the ophthalmological specialist personnel and optometric specialist personnel of the Department of Defense and the ophthalmological specialist personnel and optometric specialist personnel of the Department of Veterans Affairs. The mechanisms and procedures of the Registry shall reflect applicable expert research on military and other eye injuries.

(4) MECHANISMS.—The mechanisms of the Registry for tracking under paragraph (1)(A) shall ensure that each military medical treatment facility or other medical facility shall submit to the center for inclusion in the Registry information on the diagnosis, surgical intervention or other operative procedure, other treatment, and follow up for each case of eye injury described in that paragraph as follows (to the extent applicable):

(A) Not later than 30 days after surgery or other operative intervention, including a surgery or other operative intervention carried out as a result of a follow-up examination.

(B) Not later than 180 days after the significant eye injury is reported or recorded in the medical record.

(5) COORDINATION OF CARE AND BENEFITS.—(A) The center shall provide notice to the Blind Rehabilitation Service of the Department of Veterans Affairs and to the eye care services of the Veterans Health Administration on each member of the Armed Forces described in subparagraph (B) for purposes of ensuring the coordination of the provision of ongoing eye care and visual rehabilitation benefits and services by the Department of Veterans Affairs after the separation or release of such member from the Armed Forces.

(B) A member of the Armed Forces described in this subparagraph is a member of the Armed Forces as follows:

(i) A member with a significant eye injury incurred while serving on active duty, including a member with visual dysfunction related to traumatic brain injury.

(ii) A member with an eye injury incurred while serving on active duty who has a visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the injured eye.

(iii) A member with an eye injury incurred while serving on active duty who has a loss of peripheral vision resulting in 20 degrees or less of visual field in the injured eye.

(d) UTILIZATION OF REGISTRY INFORMATION.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly ensure that information in the Registry is available to appropriate ophthalmological and optometric personnel of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs for purposes of encouraging and facilitating the conduct of research, and the development of best practices and clinical education, on eye injuries incurred by members of the Armed Forces in combat.

(e) INCLUSION OF RECORDS OF OIF/OEF VETERANS.—The Secretary of Defense shall take appropriate actions to include in the Registry such records of members of the Armed Forces who incurred an eye injury while serving on active duty on or after September 11, 2001, but before the establishment of the Registry, as the Secretary considers appropriate for purposes of the Registry.

(f) TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY POST TRAUMATIC VISUAL SYNDROME.—In carrying out the program at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, District of Columbia, on traumatic brain injury post traumatic visual syndrome, the Secretary of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs shall jointly provide for the conduct of a cooperative program for members of the Armed Forces and veterans with traumatic brain injury by military medical treatment facilities of the Department of Defense and medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs selected for purposes of this subsection for purposes of vision screening, diagnosis, rehabilitative management, and vision research, including research on prevention, on visual dysfunction related to traumatic brain injury.

SEC. 1624. REPORT ON ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.

(a) 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—

(1) the establishment of the center of excellence in prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, and rehabilitation of traumatic brain injury under section 1621;

(2) the establishment of the center of excellence in prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, and rehabilitation of post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health conditions under section 1622; and

(3) the establishment of the center of excellence in prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, and rehabilitation of military eye injuries under section 1623.

(b) MATTERS COVERED.—The report shall, for each such center—

(1) describe in detail the activities and proposed activities of such center; and

(2) assess the progress of such center in discharging the responsibilities of such center.

Subtitle C—Health Care Matters

SEC. 1631. MEDICAL CARE AND OTHER BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS AND FORMER MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WITH SEVERE INJURIES OR ILLNESSES.

(a) MEDICAL AND DENTAL CARE FOR FORMER MEMBERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Effective as of the date of the enactment of this Act and subject to regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary may authorize that any former member of the Armed Forces with a serious injury or illness may receive the same medical and dental care as a member of the Armed Forces on active duty for medical and dental care not reasonably available to such former member in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) SUNSET.—The Secretary of Defense may not provide medical or dental care to a former member of the Armed Forces under this subsection after December 31, 2012, if the Secretary has not provided medical or dental care to the former member under this subsection before that date.

(b) REHABILITATION AND VOCATIONAL BENEFITS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Effective as of the date of the enactment of this Act, a member of the Armed Forces with a severe injury or illness is entitled to such benefits (including rehabilitation and vocational benefits, but not including compensation) from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to facilitate the recovery and rehabilitation of such member as the Secretary otherwise provides to veterans of the Armed Forces receiving medical care in medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs facilities in order to facilitate the recovery and rehabilitation of such members.

(2) SUNSET.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may not provide benefits to a member of the Armed Forces under this subsection after December 31, 2012, if the Secretary has not provided benefits to the member under this subsection before that date.

SEC. 1632. REIMBURSEMENT OF TRAVEL EXPENSES OF RETIRED MEMBERS WITH COMBAT-RELATED DISABILITIES FOR FOLLOW-ON SPECIALTY CARE, SERVICES, AND SUPPLIES.

(a) TRAVEL.—Section 1074i of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following new subsection (b):

''(b) OUTREACH PROGRAM AND TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT FOR FOLLOW-ON SPECIALTY CARE AND RELATED SERVICES.—The Secretary concerned shall ensure that an outreach program is implemented for each member of the uniformed services who incurred a combat-related disability and is entitled to retired or retainer pay, or equivalent pay, so that—

''(1) the progress of the member is closely monitored; and

''(2) the member receives the travel reimbursement authorized by subsection (a) whenever the member requires follow-on specialty care, services, or supplies.''.

(b) COMBAT-RELATED DISABILITY DEFINED.—Subsection (c) of such section, as redesignated by subsection (a)(1), is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) The term 'combat-related disability' has the meaning given that term in section 1413a of this title.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (b) of section 1074i of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)(2), shall apply with respect to travel described in subsection (a) of such section that occurs on or after January 1, 2008, for follow-on specialty care, services, or supplies.

SEC. 1633. RESPITE CARE AND OTHER EXTENDED CARE BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES WHO INCUR A SERIOUS INJURY OR ILLNESS ON ACTIVE DUTY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1074(c) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(4)(A) Subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary of Defense considers appropriate, coverage comparable to that provided by the Secretary under subsections (d) and (e) of section 1079 of this title shall be provided under this subsection to members of the uniformed services who incur a serious injury or illness on active duty as defined by regulations prescribed by the Secretary.

''(B) The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe in regulations—

''(i) the individuals who shall be treated as the primary caregivers of a member of the uniformed services for purposes of this paragraph; and

''(ii) the definition of serious injury or illness for the purposes of this paragraph.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on January 1, 2008.

SEC. 1634. REPORTS.

(a) REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report describing the progress in implementing the requirements as follows:

(1) The requirements of section 721 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2294), relating to a longitudinal study on traumatic brain injury incurred by members of the Armed Forces in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

(2) The requirements of section 741 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (120 Stat. 2304), relating to pilot projects on early diagnosis and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health conditions.

(b) ANNUAL REPORTS ON EXPENDITURES FOR ACTIVITIES ON TBI AND PTSD.—

(1) REPORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than March 1, 2008, and each year thereafter through 2013, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth the amounts expended by the Department of Defense during the preceding calendar year on activities described in paragraph (2), including the amount allocated during such calendar year to the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center of the Department.

(2) COVERED ACTIVITIES.—The activities described in this paragraph are activities as follows:

(A) Activities relating to the improved diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of members of the Armed Forces with traumatic brain injury (TBI).

(B) Activities relating to the improved diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of members of the Armed Forces with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

(3) ELEMENTS.—Each report under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a description of the amounts expended as described in that paragraph, including a description of the activities for which expended;

(B) a description and assessment of the outcome of such activities;

(C) a statement of priorities of the Department in activities relating to the prevention, diagnosis, research, treatment, and rehabilitation of traumatic brain injury in members of the Armed Forces during the year in which such report is submitted and in future calendar years;

(D) a statement of priorities of the Department in activities relating to the prevention, diagnosis, research, treatment, and rehabilitation of post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health conditions in members of the Armed Forces during the year in which such report is submitted and in future calendar years; and

(E) an assessment of the progress made toward achieving the priorities stated in subparagraphs (C) and (D) in the report under paragraph (1) in the previous year, and a description of any actions planned during the year in which such report is submitted to achieve any unfulfilled priorities during such year.

SEC. 1635. FULLY INTEROPERABLE ELECTRONIC PERSONAL HEALTH INFORMATION FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly—

(1) develop and implement electronic health record systems or capabilities that allow for full interoperability of personal health care information between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

(2) accelerate the exchange of health care information between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs in order to support the delivery of health care by both Departments.

(b) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS INTERAGENCY PROGRAM OFFICE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is hereby established an interagency program office of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs (in this section referred to as the ''Office'') for the purposes described in paragraph (2).

(2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Office shall be as follows:

(A) To act as a single point of accountability for the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs in the rapid development and implementation of electronic health record systems or capabilities that allow for full interoperability of personal health care information between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(B) To accelerate the exchange of health care information between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs in order to support the delivery of health care by both Departments.

(c) LEADERSHIP.—

(1) DIRECTOR.—The Director of the Office shall be the head of the Office.

(2) DEPUTY DIRECTOR.—The Deputy Director of the Office shall be the deputy head of the Office and shall assist the Director in carrying out the duties of the Director.

(3) APPOINTMENTS.—(A) The Director shall be appointed by the Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, from among persons who are qualified to direct the development, acquisition, and integration of major information technology capabilities.

(B) The Deputy Director shall be appointed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Defense, from among employees of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs in the Senior Executive Service who are qualified to direct the development, acquisition, and integration of major information technology capabilities.

(4) ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE.—In addition to the direction, supervision, and control provided by the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Office shall also receive guidance from the Department of Veterans Affairs-Department of Defense Joint Executive Committee under section 320 of title 38, United States Code, in the discharge of the functions of the Office under this section.

(5) TESTIMONY.—Upon request by any of the appropriate committees of Congress, the Director and the Deputy Director shall testify before such committee regarding the discharge of the functions of the Office under this section.

(d) FUNCTION.—The function of the Office shall be to implement, by not later than September 30, 2009, electronic health record systems or capabilities that allow for full interoperability of personal health care information between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, which health records shall comply with applicable interoperability standards, implementation specifications, and certification criteria (including for the reporting of quality measures) of the Federal Government.

(e) SCHEDULES AND BENCHMARKS.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly establish a schedule and benchmarks for the discharge by the Office of its function under this section, including each of the following:

(1) A schedule for the establishment of the Office.

(2) A schedule and deadline for the establishment of the requirements for electronic health record systems or capabilities described in subsection (d), including coordination with the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology in the development of a nationwide interoperable health information technology infrastructure.

(3) A schedule and associated deadlines for any acquisition and testing required in the implementation of electronic health record systems or capabilities that allow for full interoperability of personal health care information between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(4) A schedule and associated deadlines and requirements for the implementation of electronic health record systems or capabilities that allow for full interoperability of personal health care information between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(f) PILOT PROJECTS.—

(1) AUTHORITY.—In order to assist the Office in the discharge of its function under this section, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may, acting jointly, carry out one or more pilot projects to assess the feasibility and advisability of various technological approaches to the achievement of the electronic health record systems or capabilities described in subsection (d).

(2) SHARING OF PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION.—For purposes of each pilot project carried out under this subsection, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, for purposes of the regulations promulgated under section 264(c) of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. 1320d–2 note), ensure the effective sharing of protected health information between the health care system of the Department of Defense and the health care system of the Department of Veterans Affairs as needed to provide all health care services and other benefits allowed by law.

(g) STAFF AND OTHER RESOURCES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall assign to the Office such personnel and other resources of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs as are

required for the discharge of its function under this section.

(2) ADDITIONAL SERVICES.—Subject to the approval of the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Director may utilize the services of private individuals and entities as consultants to the Office in the discharge of its function under this section. Amounts available to the Office shall be available for payment for such services.

(h) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1, 2009, and each year thereafter through 2014, the Director shall submit to the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and to the appropriate committees of Congress, a report on the activities of the Office during the preceding calendar year. Each report shall include, for the year covered by such report, the following:

(A) A detailed description of the activities of the Office, including a detailed description of the amounts expended and the purposes for which expended.

(B) An assessment of the progress made by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs in the full implementation of electronic health record systems or capabilities described in subsection (d).

(2) AVAILABILITY TO PUBLIC.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall make available to the public each report submitted under paragraph (1), including by posting such report on the Internet website of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, respectively, that is available to the public.

(i) COMPTROLLER GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than six months after the date of the enactment of this Act and every six months thereafter until the completion of the implementation of electronic health record systems or capabilities described in subsection (d), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report setting forth the assessment of the Comptroller General of the progress of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs in implementing electronic health record systems or capabilities described in subsection (d).

SEC. 1636. ENHANCED PERSONNEL AUTHORITIES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS FOR CARE AND TREATMENT OF WOUNDED AND INJURED MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1599c of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"§ 1599c. Health care professionals: enhanced appointment and compensation authority for personnel for care and treatment of wounded and injured members of the armed forces

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense may, at the discretion of the Secretary, exercise any authority for the appointment and pay of health care personnel under chapter 74 of title 38 for purposes of the recruitment, employment, and retention of civilian health care professionals for the Department of Defense if the Secretary determines that the exercise of such authority is necessary in order to provide or enhance the capacity of the Department to provide care and treatment for members of the armed forces who are wounded or injured on active duty in the armed forces and to support the ongoing patient care and medical readiness, education, and training requirements of the Department of Defense.

''(b) RECRUITMENT OF PERSONNEL.—(1) The Secretaries of the military departments shall each develop and implement a strategy to disseminate among appropriate personnel of the military departments authorities and best practices for the recruitment of medical and health professionals, including the authorities under subsection (a).

''(2) Each strategy under paragraph (1) shall—

''(A) assess current recruitment policies, procedures, and practices of the military department concerned to assure that such strategy facilitates the implementation of efficiencies which reduce the time required to fill vacant positions for medical and health professionals; and

''(B) clearly identify processes and actions that will be used to inform and educate military and civilian personnel responsible for the recruitment of medical and health professionals.

''(c) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority of the Secretary of Defense to exercise authorities available under chapter 74 of title 38 for purposes of the recruitment, employment, and retention of civilian health care professionals for the Department of Defense expires September 30, 2010.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 81 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 1599c and inserting the following new item:

''1599c. Health care professionals: enhanced appointment and compensation authority for personnel for care and treatment of wounded and injured members of the armed forces.''.

(c) REPORTS ON STRATEGIES ON RECRUITMENT OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH PROFESSIONALS.—Not later than six months after the date of the enactment of this Act, each Secretary of a military department shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth the strategy developed by such Secretary under section 1599c(b) of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

SEC. 1637. CONTINUATION OF TRANSITIONAL HEALTH BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES PENDING RESOLUTION OF SERVICE-RELATED MEDICAL CONDITIONS.

Section 1145(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking ''Transitional health care'' and inserting ''Except as provided in paragraph (6), transitional health care''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(6)(A) A member who has a medical condition relating to service on active duty that warrants further medical care that has been identified during the member's 180-day transition period, which condition can be resolved within 180 days as determined by a Department of Defense physician, shall be entitled to receive medical and dental care for that medical condition, and that medical condition only, as if the member were a member of the armed forces on active duty for 180 days following the diagnosis of the condition.

''(B) The Secretary concerned shall ensure that the Defense Enrollment and Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) is continually updated in order to reflect the continuing entitlement of members covered by subparagraph (A) to the medical and dental care referred to in that subparagraph.''.

Subtitle D—Disability Matters

SEC. 1641. UTILIZATION OF VETERANS' PRESUMPTION OF SOUND CONDITION IN ESTABLISHING ELIGIBILITY OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES FOR RETIREMENT FOR DISABILITY.

(a) RETIREMENT OF REGULARS AND MEMBERS ON ACTIVE DUTY FOR MORE THAN 30 DAYS.—Clause (i) of section 1201(b)(3)(B) of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(i) the member has six months or more of active military service and the disability was not noted at the time of the member's entrance on active duty (unless compelling evidence or medical judgment is such to warrant a finding that the disability existed before the member's entrance on active duty);''.

(b) SEPARATION OF REGULARS AND MEMBERS ON ACTIVE DUTY FOR MORE THAN 30 DAYS.—Section 1203(b)(4)(B) of such title is amended by striking ''and the member has at least eight years of service computed under section 1208 of this title'' and inserting '', the member has six months or more of active military service, and the disability was not noted at the time of the member's entrance on active duty (unless evidence or medical judgment is such to warrant a finding that the disability existed before the member's entrance on active duty)''.

SEC. 1642. REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DETERMINATIONS OF DISABILITY WITH RESPECT TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 61 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1216 the following new section:

"§ 1216a. Determinations of disability: requirements and limitations on determinations

''(a) UTILIZATION OF VA SCHEDULE FOR RATING DISABILITIES IN DETERMINATIONS OF DISABILITY.—(1) In making a determination of disability of a member of the armed forces for purposes of this chapter, the Secretary concerned—

''(A) shall, to the extent feasible, utilize the schedule for rating disabilities in use by the Department of Veterans Affairs, including any applicable interpretation of the schedule by the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims; and

''(B) except as provided in paragraph (2), may not deviate from the schedule or any such interpretation of the schedule.

''(2) In making a determination described in paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned may utilize in lieu of the schedule described in that paragraph such criteria as the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may jointly prescribe for purposes of this subsection if the utilization of such criteria will result in a determination of a greater percentage of disability than would be otherwise determined through the utilization of the schedule.

''(b) CONSIDERATION OF ALL MEDICAL CONDITIONS.—In making a determination of the rating of disability of a member of the armed forces for purposes of this chapter, the Secretary concerned shall take into account all medical conditions, whether individually or collectively, that render the member unfit to perform the duties of the member's office, grade, rank, or rating.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 61 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1216 the following new item:

''1216a. Determinations of disability: requirements and limitations on determinations.''.

SEC. 1643. REVIEW OF SEPARATION OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES SEPARATED FROM SERVICE WITH A DISABILITY RATING OF 20 PERCENT DISABLED OR LESS.

(a) BOARD REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 79 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1554 the following new section:

"§ 1554a. Review of separation with disability rating of 20 percent disabled or less

''(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) The Secretary of Defense shall establish within the Office of the Secretary of Defense a board of review to review the disability determinations of covered individuals by Physical Evaluation Boards. The board shall be known as the 'Physical Disability Board of Review'.

''(2) The Physical Disability Board of Review shall consist of not less than three members appointed by the Secretary.

''(b) COVERED INDIVIDUALS.—For purposes of this section, covered individuals are members and former members of the armed forces who, during the period beginning on September 11, 2001, and ending on December 31, 2009—

''(1) are separated from the armed forces due to unfitness for duty due to a medical condition with a disability rating of 20 percent disabled or less; and

''(2) are found to be not eligible for retirement.

''(c) REVIEW.—(1) Upon the request of a covered individual, or a surviving spouse, next of kin, or legal representative of a covered individual, the Physical Disability Board of Review shall review the findings and decisions of the Physical Evaluation Board with respect to such covered individual. Subject to paragraph (3), upon its own motion, the Physical Disability Board of Review may review the findings and decisions of the Physical Evaluation Board with respect to a covered individual.

''(2) The review by the Physical Disability Board of Review under paragraph (1) shall be based on the records of the armed force concerned and such other evidence as may be presented to the Physical Disability Board of Review. A witness may present evidence to the Board by affidavit or by any other means considered acceptable by the Secretary of Defense.

''(3) If the Physical Disability Board of Review proposes to review, upon its own motion, the findings and decisions of the Physical Evaluation Board with respect to a covered individual, the Physical Disability Board of Review shall notify the covered individual, or a surviving spouse, next of kin, or legal representative of the covered individual, of the proposed review and obtain the consent of the covered individual or a surviving spouse, next of kin, or legal representative of the covered individual before proceeding with the review.

''(4) With respect to any review by the Physical Disability Board of Review of the findings and decisions of the Physical Evaluation Board with respect to a covered individual, whether initiated at the request of the covered individual or a surviving spouse, next of kin, or legal representative of the covered individual or initiated by the Physical Disability Board of Review, the Physical Disability Board of Review shall notify the covered individual or a surviving spouse, next of kin, or legal representative of the covered individual that, as a result of the request or consent, the covered individual or a surviving spouse, next of kin, or legal representative of the covered individual may not seek relief from the Board for Correction of Military Records operated by the Secretary concerned.

''(d) AUTHORIZED RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Physical Disability Board of Review may, as a result of its findings under a review under subsection (c), recommend to the Secretary concerned the following (as applicable) with respect to a covered individual:

''(1) No recharacterization of the separation of such individual or modification of the disability rating previously assigned such individual.

''(2) The recharacterization of the separation of such individual to retirement for disability.

''(3) The modification of the disability rating previously assigned such individual by the Physical Evaluation Board concerned, which modified disability rating may not be a reduction of the disability rating previously assigned such individual by that Physical Evaluation Board.

''(4) The issuance of a new disability rating for such individual.

''(e) CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS.—(1) The Secretary concerned may correct the military records of a covered individual in accordance with a recommendation made by the Physical Disability Board of Review under subsection (d). Any such correction may be made effective as of the effective date of the action taken on the report of the Physical Evaluation Board to which such recommendation relates.

''(2) In the case of a member previously separated pursuant to the findings and decision of a Physical Evaluation Board together with a lump-sum or other payment of back pay and allowances at separation, the amount of pay or other monetary benefits to which such member would be entitled based on the member's military record as corrected shall be reduced to take into account receipt of such lump-sum or other payment in such manner as the Secretary of Defense considers appropriate.

''(3) If the Physical Disability Board of Review makes a recommendation not to correct the military records of a covered individual, the action taken on the report of the Physical Evaluation Board to which such recommendation relates shall be treated as final as of the date of such action.

''(f) REGULATIONS.—(1) This section shall be carried out in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense.

''(2) The regulations under paragraph (1) shall specify reasonable deadlines for the performance of reviews required by this section.

''(3) The regulations under paragraph (1) shall specify the effect of a determination or pending determination of a Physical Evaluation Board on considerations by boards for correction of military records under section 1552 of this title.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 79 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1554 the following new item:

''1554a. Review of separation with disability rating of 20 percent disabled or less.''.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish the board of review required by section 1554a of title 10, United States Code (as added by subsection (a)), and prescribe the regulations required by such section, not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 1644. AUTHORIZATION OF PILOT PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE THE DISABILITY EVALUATION SYSTEM FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) PILOT PROGRAMS.—

(1) PROGRAMS AUTHORIZED.—For the purposes set forth in subsection (c), the Secretary of Defense may establish and conduct pilot programs with respect to the system of the Department of Defense for the evaluation of the disabilities of members of the Armed Forces who are being separated or retired from the Armed Forces for disability under chapter 61 of title 10, United States Code (in this section referred to as the ''disability evaluation system'').

(2) TYPES OF PILOT PROGRAMS.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary of Defense may conduct one or more of the pilot programs described in paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (b) or such other pilot programs as the Secretary of Defense considers appropriate.

(3) CONSULTATION.—In establishing and conducting any pilot program under this section, the Secretary of Defense shall consult with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

(b) SCOPE OF PILOT PROGRAMS.—

(1) DISABILITY DETERMINATIONS BY DOD UTILIZING VA ASSIGNED DISABILITY RATING.—Under one of the pilot programs authorized by subsection (a), for purposes of making a determination of disability of a member of the Armed Forces under section 1201(b) of title 10, United States Code, for the retirement, separation, or placement of the member on the temporary disability retired list under chapter 61 of such title, upon a determination by the Secretary of the military department concerned that the member is unfit to perform the duties of the member's office, grade, rank, or rating because of a physical disability as described in section 1201(a) of such title—

(A) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may—

(i) conduct an evaluation of the member for physical disability; and

(ii) assign the member a rating of disability in accordance with the schedule for rating disabilities utilized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs based on all medical conditions (whether individually or collectively) that render the member unfit for duty; and

(B) the Secretary of the military department concerned may make the determination of disability regarding the member utilizing the rating of disability assigned under subparagraph (A)(ii).

(2) DISABILITY DETERMINATIONS UTILIZING JOINT DOD/VA ASSIGNED DISABILITY RATING.—Under one of the pilot programs authorized by subsection (a), in making a determination of disability of a member of the Armed Forces under section 1201(b) of title 10, United States Code, for the retirement, separation, or placement of the member on the temporary disability retired list under chapter 61 of such title, the Secretary of the military department concerned may, upon determining that the member is unfit to perform the duties of the member's office, grade, rank, or rating because of a physical disability as described in section 1201(a) of such title—

(A) provide for the joint evaluation of the member for disability by the Secretary of the military department concerned and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, including the assignment of a rating of disability for the member in accordance with the schedule for rating disabilities utilized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs based on all medical conditions (whether individually or collectively) that render the member unfit for duty; and

(B) make the determination of disability regarding the member utilizing the rating of disability assigned under subparagraph (A).

(3) ELECTRONIC CLEARING HOUSE.—Under one of the pilot programs authorized by subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense may establish and operate a single Internet website for the disability evaluation system of the Department of Defense that enables participating members of the Armed Forces to fully utilize such system through the Internet, with such Internet website to include the following:

(A) The availability of any forms required for the utilization of the disability evaluation system by members of the Armed Forces under the system.

(B) Secure mechanisms for the submission of such forms by members of the Armed

Forces under the system, and for the tracking of the acceptance and review of any forms so submitted.

(C) Secure mechanisms for advising members of the Armed Forces under the system of any additional information, forms, or other items that are required for the acceptance and review of any forms so submitted.

(D) The continuous availability of assistance to members of the Armed Forces under the system (including assistance through the caseworkers assigned to such members of the Armed Forces) in submitting and tracking such forms, including assistance in obtaining information, forms, or other items described by subparagraph (C).

(E) Secure mechanisms to request and receive personnel files or other personnel records of members of the Armed Forces under the system that are required for submission under the disability evaluation system, including the capability to track requests for such files or records and to determine the status of such requests and of responses to such requests.

(4) OTHER PILOT PROGRAMS.—The pilot programs authorized by subsection (a) may also provide for the development, evaluation, and identification of such practices and procedures under the disability evaluation system as the Secretary considers appropriate for purposes set forth in subsection (c).

(c) PURPOSES.—A pilot program established under subsection (a) may have one or more of the following purposes:

(1) To provide for the development, evaluation, and identification of revised and improved practices and procedures under the disability evaluation system in order to—

(A) reduce the processing time under the disability evaluation system of members of the Armed Forces who are likely to be retired or separated for disability, and who have not requested continuation on active duty, including, in particular, members who are severely wounded;

(B) identify and implement or seek the modification of statutory or administrative policies and requirements applicable to the disability evaluation system that—

(i) are unnecessary or contrary to applicable best practices of civilian employers and civilian healthcare systems; or

(ii) otherwise result in hardship, arbitrary, or inconsistent outcomes for members of the Armed Forces, or unwarranted inefficiencies and delays;

(C) eliminate material variations in policies, interpretations, and overall performance standards among the military departments under the disability evaluation system; and

(D) determine whether it enhances the capability of the Department of Veterans Affairs to receive and determine claims from members of the Armed Forces for compensation, pension, hospitalization, or other veterans benefits.

(2) In conjunction with the findings and recommendations of applicable Presidential and Department of Defense study groups, to provide for the eventual development of revised and improved practices and procedures for the disability evaluation system in order to achieve the objectives set forth in paragraph (1).

(d) UTILIZATION OF RESULTS IN UPDATES OF COMPREHENSIVE POLICY ON CARE, MANAGEMENT, AND TRANSITION OF RECOVERING SERVICE MEMBERS.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, acting jointly, may incorporate responses to any findings and recommendations arising under the pilot programs conducted under subsection (a) in updating the comprehensive policy on the care and management of covered service members under section 1611(a)(4).

(e) CONSTRUCTION WITH OTHER AUTHORITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), in carrying out a pilot program under subsection (a)—

(A) the rules and regulations of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs relating to methods of determining fitness or unfitness for duty and disability ratings for members of the Armed Forces shall apply to the pilot program only to the extent provided in the report on the pilot program under subsection (g)(1); and

(B) the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may waive any provision of title 10, 37, or 38, United States Code, relating to methods of determining fitness or unfitness for duty and disability ratings for members of the Armed Forces if the Secretaries determine in writing that the application of such provision would be inconsistent with the purpose of the pilot program.

(2) LIMITATION.—Nothing in paragraph (1) shall be construed to authorize the waiver of any provision of section 1216a of title 10, United States Code, as added by section 1642 of this Act.

(f) DURATION.—Each pilot program conducted under subsection (a) shall be completed not later than one year after the date of the commencement of such pilot program under that subsection.

(g) REPORTS.—

(1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on each pilot program that has been commenced as of that date under subsection (a). The report shall include—

(A) a description of the scope and objectives of the pilot program;

(B) a description of the methodology to be used under the pilot program to ensure rapid identification under such pilot program of revised or improved practices under the disability evaluation system in order to achieve the objectives set forth in subsection (c)(1); and

(C) a statement of any provision described in subsection (e)(1)(B) that will not apply to the pilot program by reason of a waiver under that subsection.

(2) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the submittal of the report required by paragraph (1) with respect to a pilot program, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing the current status of the pilot program.

(3) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the completion of all of the pilot programs conducted under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report setting forth a final evaluation and assessment of the pilot programs. The report shall include such recommendations for legislative or administrative action as the Secretary considers appropriate in light of such pilot programs.

SEC. 1645. REPORTS ON ARMY ACTION PLAN IN RESPONSE TO DEFICIENCIES IN THE ARMY PHYSICAL DISABILITY EVALUATION SYSTEM.

(a) REPORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than June 1, 2008, and June 1, 2009, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the implementation of corrective measures by the Department of Defense with respect to the Physical Disability Evaluation System (PDES) in response to the following:

(1) The report of the Inspector General of the Army on that system of March 6, 2007.

(2) The report of the Independent Review Group on Rehabilitation Care and Administrative Processes at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and National Naval Medical Center.

(3) The report of the Department of Veterans Affairs Task Force on Returning Global War on Terror Heroes.

(b) ELEMENTS OF REPORT.—Each report under subsection (a) shall include current information on the following:

(1) The total number of cases, and the number of cases involving combat disabled service members, pending resolution before the Medical and Physical Disability Evaluation Boards of the Army, including information on the number of members of the Army who have been in a medical hold or holdover status for more than each of 100, 200, and 300 days.

(2) The status of the implementation of modifications to disability evaluation processes of the Department of Defense in response to the following:

(A) The report of the Inspector General on such processes dated March 6, 2007.

(B) The report of the Independent Review Group on Rehabilitation Care and Administrative Processes at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and National Naval Medical Center.

(C) The report of the Department of Veterans Affairs Task Force on Returning Global War on Terror Heroes.

(c) POSTING ON INTERNET.—Not later than 24 hours after submitting a report under subsection (a), the Secretary shall post such report on the Internet website of the Department of Defense that is available to the public.

SEC. 1646. ENHANCEMENT OF DISABILITY SEVERANCE PAY FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1212 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking ''his years of service, but not more than 12, computed under section 1208 of this title'' in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) and inserting ''the member's years of service computed under section 1208 of this title (subject to the minimum and maximum years of service provided for in subsection (c))'';

(2) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection (c):

''(c)(1) The minimum years of service of a member for purposes of subsection (a)(1) shall be as follows:

''(A) Six years in the case of a member separated from the armed forces for a disability incurred in line of duty in a combat zone (as designated by the Secretary of Defense for purposes of this subsection) or incurred during the performance of duty in combat-related operations as designated by the Secretary of Defense.

''(B) Three years in the case of any other member.

''(2) The maximum years of service of a member for purposes of subsection (a)(1) shall be 19 years.''.

(b) NO DEDUCTION FROM COMPENSATION OF SEVERANCE PAY FOR DISABILITIES INCURRED IN COMBAT ZONES.—Subsection (d) of such section, as redesignated by subsection (a)(2) of this section, is further amended—

(1) by inserting ''(1)'' after ''(d)'';

(2) by striking the second sentence; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

''(2) No deduction may be made under paragraph (1) in the case of disability severance pay received by a member for a disability incurred in line of duty in a combat zone or incurred during performance of duty in combat-related operations as designated by the Secretary of Defense.

''(3) No deduction may be made under paragraph (1) from any death compensation to

which a member's dependents become entitled after the member's death.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, and shall apply with respect to members of the Armed Forces separated from the Armed Forces under chapter 61 of title 10, United States Code, on or after that date.

SEC. 1647. ASSESSMENTS OF CONTINUING UTILITY AND FUTURE ROLE OF TEMPORARY DISABILITY RETIRED LIST.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report containing—

(1) a statistical history since January 1, 2000, of the numbers of members of the Armed Forces who are returned to duty or separated following a tenure on the temporary disability retired list and, in the case of members who were separated, how many of the members were granted disability separation or retirement and what were their disability ratings;

(2) the results of the assessments required by subsection (b); and

(3) such recommendations for the modification or improvement of the temporary disability retired list as the Secretary considers appropriate in response to the assessments.

(b) REQUIRED ASSESSMENTS.—The assessments required to be conducted as part of the report under subsection (a) are the following:

(1) An assessment of the continuing utility of the temporary disability retired list in satisfying the purposes for which the temporary disability retired list was established.

(2) An assessment of the need to require that the condition of a member be permanent and stable before the member is separated with less than a 30 percent disability rating prior to exceeding the maximum tenure allowed on the temporary disability retired list.

(3) An assessment of the future role of the temporary disability retired list in the Disability Evaluation System of the Department of Defense and the changes in policy and law required to fulfill the future role of the temporary disability retire list.

SEC. 1648. STANDARDS FOR MILITARY MEDICAL TREATMENT FACILITIES, SPECIALTY MEDICAL CARE FACILITIES, AND MILITARY QUARTERS HOUSING PATIENTS AND ANNUAL REPORT ON SUCH FACILITIES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARDS.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish for the military facilities of the Department of Defense and the military departments referred to in subsection (b) standards with respect to the matters set forth in subsection (c). To the maximum extent practicable, the standards shall—

(1) be uniform and consistent for all such facilities; and

(2) be uniform and consistent throughout the Department of Defense and the military departments.

(b) COVERED MILITARY FACILITIES.—The military facilities covered by this section are the following:

(1) Military medical treatment facilities.

(2) Specialty medical care facilities.

(3) Military quarters or leased housing for patients.

(c) SCOPE OF STANDARDS.—The standards required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Generally accepted standards for the accreditation of medical facilities, or for facilities used to quarter individuals that may require medical supervision, as applicable, in the United States.

(2) To the extent not inconsistent with the standards described in paragraph (1), minimally acceptable conditions for the following:

(A) Appearance and maintenance of facilities generally, including the structure and roofs of facilities.

(B) Size, appearance, and maintenance of rooms housing or utilized by patients, including furniture and amenities in such rooms.

(C) Operation and maintenance of primary and back-up facility utility systems and other systems required for patient care, including electrical systems, plumbing systems, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, communications systems, fire protection systems, energy management systems, and other systems required for patient care.

(D) Compliance of facilities, rooms, and grounds, to the maximum extent practicable, with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.).

(E) Such other matters relating to the appearance, size, operation, and maintenance of facilities and rooms as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(d) COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS.—

(1) DEADLINE.—In establishing standards under subsection (a), the Secretary shall specify a deadline for compliance with such standards by each facility referred to in subsection (b). The deadline shall be at the earliest date practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, and shall, to the maximum extent practicable, be uniform across the facilities referred to in subsection (b).

(2) INVESTMENT.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall also establish guidelines for investment to be utilized by the Department of Defense and the military departments in determining the allocation of financial resources to facilities referred to in subsection (b) in order to meet the deadline specified under paragraph (1).

(e) REPORT ON DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF STANDARDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 1, 2008, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the actions taken to carry out subsection (a).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) The standards established under subsection (a).

(B) An assessment of the appearance, condition, and maintenance of each facility referred to in subsection (b), including—

(i) an assessment of the compliance of the facility with the standards established under subsection (a); and

(ii) a description of any deficiency or noncompliance in each facility with the standards.

(C) A description of the investment to be allocated to address each deficiency or noncompliance identified under subparagraph (B)(ii).

(f) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than the date on which the President submits the budget for a fiscal year to Congress pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the adequacy, suitability, and quality of each facility referred to in subsection (b). The Secretary shall include in each report information regarding—

(1) any deficiencies in the adequacy, quality, or state of repair of medical-related support facilities raised as a result of information received during the period covered by the report through the toll-free hot line required by section 1616; and

(2) the investigations conducted and plans of action prepared under such section to respond to such deficiencies.

SEC. 1649. REPORTS ON ARMY MEDICAL ACTION PLAN IN RESPONSE TO DEFICIENCIES IDENTIFIED AT WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter until March 1, 2009, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the implementation of the Army Medical Action Plan to correct deficiencies identified in the condition of facilities and patient administration.

SEC. 1650. REQUIRED CERTIFICATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH CLOSURE OF WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

(a) CERTIFICATIONS.—In implementing the decision to close Walter Reed Army Medical Center, District of Columbia, required as a result of the 2005 round of defense base closure and realignment under the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (part A of title XXIX of Public Law 101–510; U.S.C. 2687 note), the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a certification of each of the following:

(1) That a transition plan has been developed, and resources have been committed, to ensure that patient care services, medical operations, and facilities are sustained at the highest possible level at Walter Reed Army Medical Center until facilities to replace Walter Reed Army Medical Center are staffed and ready to assume at least the same level of care previously provided at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

(2) That the closure of Walter Reed Army Medical Center will not result in a net loss of capacity in the major medical centers in the National Capitol Region in terms of total bed capacity or staffed bed capacity.

(3) That the capacity of medical hold and out-patient lodging facilities operating at Walter Reed Army Medical Center as of the date of the certification will be available in sufficient quantities at the facilities designated to replace Walter Reed Army Medical Center by the date of the closure of Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

(b) TIME FOR SUBMITTAL.—The Secretary shall submit the certifications required by subsection (a) not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act. If the Secretary is unable to make one or more of the certifications by the end of the 90-day period, the Secretary shall notify the congressional defense committees of the delay and the reasons for the delay.

SEC. 1651. HANDBOOK FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES ON COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS AVAILABLE FOR SERIOUS INJURIES AND ILLNESSES.

(a) INFORMATION ON AVAILABLE COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS.—Not later than October 1, 2008, the Secretary of Defense shall develop and maintain, in handbook and electronic form, a comprehensive description of the compensation and other benefits to which a member of the Armed Forces, and the family of such member, would be entitled upon the separation or retirement of the member from the Armed Forces as a result of a serious injury or illness. The handbook shall set forth the range of such compensation and benefits based on grade, length of service, degree of disability at separation or retirement, and such other factors affecting such compensation and benefits as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(b) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary of Defense shall develop and maintain the comprehensive description required by subsection (a), including the handbook and electronic form of the description, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Commissioner of Social Security.

(c) UPDATE.—The Secretary of Defense shall update the comprehensive description required by subsection (a), including the handbook and electronic form of the description, on a periodic basis, but not less often than annually.

(d) PROVISION TO MEMBERS.—The Secretary of the military department concerned shall provide the descriptive handbook under subsection (a) to each member of the Armed Forces described in that subsection as soon as practicable following the injury or illness qualifying the member for coverage under such subsection.

(e) PROVISION TO REPRESENTATIVES.—If a member is incapacitated or otherwise unable to receive the descriptive handbook to be provided under subsection (a), the handbook shall be provided to the next of kin or a legal representative of the member, as determined in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the military department concerned for purposes of this section.

Subtitle E—Studies and Reports

SEC. 1661. STUDY ON PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH AND OTHER READJUSTMENT NEEDS OF MEMBERS AND FORMER MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WHO DEPLOYED IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM AND OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM AND THEIR FAMILIES.

(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences for a study on the physical and mental health and other readjustment needs of members and former members of the Armed Forces who deployed in Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom and their families as a result of such deployment.

(b) PHASES.—The study required under subsection (a) shall consist of two phases:

(1) A preliminary phase, to be completed not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act—

(A) to identify preliminary findings on the physical and mental health and other readjustment needs described in subsection (a) and on gaps in care for the members, former members, and families described in that subsection; and

(B) to determine the parameters of the second phase of the study under paragraph (2).

(2) A second phase, to be completed not later than three years after the date of the enactment of this Act, to carry out a comprehensive assessment, in accordance with the parameters identified under the preliminary report required by paragraph (1), of the physical and mental health and other readjustment needs of members and former members of the Armed Forces who deployed in Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom and their families as a result of such deployment, including, at a minimum—

(A) an assessment of the psychological, social, and economic impacts of such deployment on such members and former members and their families;

(B) an assessment of the particular impacts of multiple deployments in Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom on such members and former members and their families;

(C) an assessment of the full scope of the neurological, psychiatric, and psychological effects of traumatic brain injury on members and former members of the Armed Forces, including the effects of such effects on the family members of such members and former members, and an assessment of the efficacy of current treatment approaches for traumatic brain injury in the United States and the efficacy of screenings and treatment approaches for traumatic brain injury within the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs;

(D) an assessment of the effects of undiagnosed injuries such as post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury, an estimate of the long-term costs associated with such injuries, and an assessment of the efficacy of screenings and treatment approaches for post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health conditions within the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs;

(E) an assessment of the gender- and ethnic group-specific needs and concerns of members of the Armed Forces and veterans;

(F) an assessment of the particular needs and concerns of children of members of the Armed Forces, taking into account differing age groups, impacts on development and education, and the mental and emotional well being of children;

(G) an assessment of the particular educational and vocational needs of such members and former members and their families, and an assessment of the efficacy of existing educational and vocational programs to address such needs;

(H) an assessment of the impacts on communities with high populations of military families, including military housing communities and townships with deployed members of the National Guard and Reserve, of deployments associated with Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, and an assessment of the efficacy of programs that address community outreach and education concerning military deployments of community residents;

(I) an assessment of the impacts of increasing numbers of older and married members of the Armed Forces on readjustment requirements;

(J) the development, based on such assessments, of recommendations for programs, treatments, or policy remedies targeted at preventing, minimizing, or addressing the impacts, gaps, and needs identified; and

(K) the development, based on such assessments, of recommendations for additional research on such needs.

(c) POPULATIONS TO BE STUDIED.—The study required under subsection (a) shall consider the readjustment needs of each population of individuals as follows:

(1) Members of the regular components of the Armed Forces who are returning, or have returned, to the United States from deployment in Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom.

(2) Members of the National Guard and Reserve who are returning, or have returned, to the United States from deployment in Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom.

(3) Veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom.

(4) Family members of the members and veterans described in paragraphs (1) through (3).

(d) ACCESS TO INFORMATION.—The National Academy of Sciences shall have access to such personnel, information, records, and systems of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs as the National Academy of Sciences requires in order to carry out the study required under subsection (a).

(e) PRIVACY OF INFORMATION.—The National Academy of Sciences shall maintain any personally identifiable information accessed by the Academy in carrying out the study required under subsection (a) in accordance with all applicable laws, protections, and best practices regarding the privacy of such information, and may not permit access to such information by any persons or entities not engaged in work under the study.

(f) REPORTS BY NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.—Upon the completion of each phase of the study required under subsection (a), the National Academy of Sciences shall submit to the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the congressional defense committees a report on such phase of the study.

(g) DOD AND VA RESPONSE TO NAS REPORTS.—Not later than 90 days after the receipt of a report under subsection (f) on each phase of the study required under subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall develop a final joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs response to the findings and recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences contained in such report.

SEC. 1662. ACCESS OF RECOVERING SERVICE MEMBERS TO ADEQUATE OUTPATIENT RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES.

(a) REQUIRED INSPECTIONS OF FACILITIES.—All quarters of the United States and housing facilities under the jurisdiction of the Armed Forces that are occupied by recovering service members shall be inspected on a semiannual basis for the first two years after the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter by the inspectors general of the regional medical commands.

(b) INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORTS.—The inspector general for each regional medical command shall—

(1) submit a report on each inspection of a facility conducted under subsection (a) to the post commander at such facility, the commanding officer of the hospital affiliated with such facility, the surgeon general of the military department that operates such hospital, the Secretary of the military department concerned, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, and the congressional defense committees; and

(2) post each such report on the Internet website of such regional medical command.

SEC. 1663. STUDY AND REPORT ON SUPPORT SERVICES FOR FAMILIES OF RECOVERING SERVICE MEMBERS.

(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense shall conduct a study of the provision of support services for families of recovering service members.

(b) MATTERS COVERED.—The study under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A determination of the types of support services, including job placement services, that are currently provided by the Department of Defense to eligible family members, and the cost of providing such services.

(2) A determination of additional types of support services that would be feasible for the Department to provide to such family members, and the costs of providing such services, including the following types of services:

(A) The provision of medical care at military medical treatment facilities.

(B) The provision of additional employment services, and the need for employment protection, of such family members who are placed on leave from employment or otherwise displaced from employment while caring for a recovering service member for more than 45 days during a one-year period.

(C) The provision of meals without charge at military medical treatment facilities.

(3) A survey of military medical treatment facilities to estimate the number of family members to whom the support services would be provided.

(4) A determination of any discrimination in employment that such family members experience, including denial of retention in employment, promotion, or any benefit of employment by an employer on the basis of

the person's absence from employment, and a determination, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, of the options available for such family members.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the results of the study, with such findings and recommendations as the Secretary considers appropriate.

SEC. 1664. REPORT ON TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY CLASSIFICATIONS.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs jointly shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report describing the changes undertaken within the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure that traumatic brain injury victims receive a medical designation concomitant with their injury rather than a medical designation that assigns a generic classification (such as ''organic psychiatric disorder'').

SEC. 1665. EVALUATION OF THE POLYTRAUMA LIAISON OFFICER/NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER PROGRAM.

(a) EVALUATION REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense shall conduct an evaluation of the Polytrauma Liaison Officer/Non-Commissioned Officer program, which is the program operated by each of the military departments and the Department of Veterans Affairs for the purpose of—

(1) assisting in the seamless transition of members of the Armed Forces from the Department of Defense health care system to the Department of Veterans Affairs system; and

(2) expediting the flow of information and communication between military treatment facilities and the Veterans Affairs Polytrauma Centers.

(b) MATTERS COVERED.—The evaluation of the Polytrauma Liaison Officer/Non-Commissioned Officer program shall include an evaluation of the following:

(1) The program's effectiveness in the following areas:

(A) Handling of military patient transfers.

(B) Ability to access military records in a timely manner.

(C) Collaboration with Polytrauma Center treatment teams.

(D) Collaboration with veteran service organizations.

(E) Functioning as the Polytrauma Center's subject-matter expert on military issues.

(F) Supporting and assisting family members.

(G) Providing education, information, and referrals to members of the Armed Forces and their family members.

(H) Functioning as uniformed advocates for members of the Armed Forces and their family members.

(I) Inclusion in Polytrauma Center meetings.

(J) Completion of required administrative reporting.

(K) Ability to provide necessary administrative support to all members of the Armed Forces.

(2) Manpower requirements to effectively carry out all required functions of the Polytrauma Liaison Officer/Non-Commissioned Officer program given current and expected case loads.

(3) Expansion of the program to incorporate Navy and Marine Corps officers and senior enlisted personnel.

(c) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—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—

(1) the results of the evaluation; and

(2) recommendations for any improvements in the program.

Subtitle F—Other Matters

SEC. 1671. PROHIBITION ON TRANSFER OF RESOURCES FROM MEDICAL CARE.

Neither the Secretary of Defense nor the Secretaries of the military departments may transfer funds or personnel from medical care functions to administrative functions within the Department of Defense in order to comply with the new administrative requirements imposed by this title or the amendments made by this title.

SEC. 1672. MEDICAL CARE FOR FAMILIES OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES RECOVERING FROM SERIOUS INJURIES OR ILLNESSES.

(a) MEDICAL CARE AT MILITARY MEDICAL FACILITIES.—

(1) MEDICAL CARE.—A family member of a recovering service member who is not otherwise eligible for medical care at a military medical treatment facility may be eligible for such care at such facilities, on a space-available basis, if the family member is—

(A) on invitational orders while caring for the service member;

(B) a non-medical attendee caring for the service member; or

(C) receiving per diem payments from the Department of Defense while caring for the service member.

(2) SPECIFICATION OF FAMILY MEMBERS.—The Secretary of Defense may prescribe in regulations the family members of recovering service members who shall be considered to be a family member of a service member for purposes of this subsection.

(3) SPECIFICATION OF CARE.—The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe in regulations the medical care that may be available to family members under this subsection at military medical treatment facilities.

(4) RECOVERY OF COSTS.—The United States may recover the costs of the provision of medical care under this subsection as follows (as applicable):

(A) From third-party payers, in the same manner as the United States may collect costs of the charges of health care provided to covered beneficiaries from third-party payers under section 1095 of title 10, United States Code.

(B) As if such care was provided under the authority of section 1784 of title 38, United States Code.

(b) MEDICAL CARE AT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL FACILITIES.—

(1) MEDICAL CARE.—When a recovering service member is receiving hospital care and medical services at a medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may provide medical care for eligible family members under this section when that care is readily available at that Department facility and on a space-available basis.

(2) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall prescribe in regulations the medical care that may be available to family members under this subsection at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 1673. IMPROVEMENT OF MEDICAL TRACKING SYSTEM FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES DEPLOYED OVERSEAS.

(a) PROTOCOL FOR ASSESSMENT OF COGNITIVE FUNCTIONING.—

(1) PROTOCOL REQUIRED.—Subsection (b) of section 1074f of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(C) An assessment of post-traumatic stress disorder.''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3)(A) The Secretary shall establish for purposes of subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (2) a protocol for the predeployment assessment and documentation of the cognitive (including memory) functioning of a member who is deployed outside the United States in order to facilitate the assessment of the postdeployment cognitive (including memory) functioning of the member.

''(B) The protocol under subparagraph (A) shall include appropriate mechanisms to permit the differential diagnosis of traumatic brain injury in members returning from deployment in a combat zone.''.

(2) PILOT PROJECTS.—(A) In developing the protocol required by paragraph (3) of section 1074f(b) of title 10, United States Code (as amended by paragraph (1) of this subsection), for purposes of assessments for traumatic brain injury, the Secretary of Defense shall conduct up to three pilot projects to evaluate various mechanisms for use in the protocol for such purposes. One of the mechanisms to be so evaluated shall be a computer-based assessment tool which shall, at a minimum, include the following:

(i) Administration of computer-based neurocognitive assessment.

(ii) Pre-deployment assessments to establish a neurocognitive baseline for members of the Armed Forces for future treatment.

(B) Not later than 60 days after the completion of the pilot projects conducted under this paragraph, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the pilot projects. The report shall include—

(i) a description of the pilot projects so conducted;

(ii) an assessment of the results of each such pilot project; and

(iii) a description of any mechanisms evaluated under each such pilot project that will be incorporated into the protocol.

(C) Not later than 180 days after completion of the pilot projects conducted under this paragraph, the Secretary shall establish a means for implementing any mechanism evaluated under such a pilot project that is selected for incorporation in the protocol.

(b) QUALITY ASSURANCE.—Subsection (d)(2) of section 1074f of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(F) The diagnosis and treatment of traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder.''.

(c) STANDARDS FOR DEPLOYMENT.—Subsection (f) of such section is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by striking ''MENTAL HEALTH''; and

(2) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking ''or'' and inserting '', traumatic brain injury, or''.

SEC. 1674. GUARANTEED FUNDING FOR WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

(a) MINIMUM FUNDING.—The amount of funds available for the commander of Walter Reed Army Medical Center, District of Columbia, for a fiscal year shall be not less than the amount expended by the commander of Walter Reed Army Medical Center in fiscal year 2006 until the first fiscal year beginning after the date on which the Secretary of Defense submits to the congressional defense committees a plan for the provision of health care for military beneficiaries and their dependents in the National Capital Region.

(b) MATTERS COVERED.—The plan under subsection (a) shall at a minimum include—

(1) the manner in which patients, staff, bed capacity, and functions will move from the

Walter Reed Army Medical Center to expanded facilities;

(2) a timeline, including milestones, for such moves;

(3) projected budgets, including planned budget transfers, for military treatment facilities within the region;

(4) the management or disposition of real property of military treatment facilities within the region; and

(5) staffing projections for the region.

(c) CERTIFICATION.—After submission of the plan under subsection (a) to the congressional defense committees, the Secretary shall certify to such committees on a quarterly basis that patients, staff, bed capacity, functions, or parts of functions at Walter Reed Army Medical Center have not been moved or disestablished until the expanded facilities at the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland, and DeWitt Army Community Hospital, Fort Belvoir, Virginia, are completed, equipped, and staffed with sufficient capacity to accept and provide, at a minimum, the same level of and access to care as patients received at Walter Reed Army Medical Center during fiscal year 2006.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term ''expanded facilities'' means the other two military hospitals/medical centers within the National Capital Region, namely—

(A) the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland (or its successor resulting from implementation of the recommendations of the 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission); and

(B) the DeWitt Army Community Hospital, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

(2) The term ''National Capital Region'' has the meaning given that term in section 2674(f) of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 1675. USE OF LEAVE TRANSFER PROGRAM BY WOUNDED VETERANS WHO ARE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6333(b) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

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

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(2)(A) The requirement under paragraph (1) relating to exhaustion of annual and sick leave shall not apply in the case of a leave recipient who—

''(i) sustains a combat-related disability while a member of the armed forces, including a reserve component of the armed forces; and

''(ii) is undergoing medical treatment for that disability.

''(B) Subparagraph (A) shall apply to a member described in such subparagraph only so long as the member continues to undergo medical treatment for the disability, but in no event for longer than 5 years from the start of such treatment.

''(C) For purposes of this paragraph—

''(i) the term 'combat-related disability' has the meaning given such term by section 1413a(e) of title 10; and

''(ii) the term 'medical treatment' has such meaning as the Office of Personnel Management shall by regulation prescribe.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, except that, in the case of a leave recipient who is undergoing medical treatment on such date of enactment, section 6333(b)(2)(B) of title 5, United States Code (as amended by this section) shall be applied as if it had been amended by inserting ''or the date of the enactment of this subsection, whichever is later'' after ''the start of such treatment''.

SEC. 1676. MORATORIUM ON CONVERSION TO CONTRACTOR PERFORMANCE OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FUNCTIONS AT MILITARY MEDICAL FACILITIES.

(a) MORATORIUM.—No study or competition may be begun or announced pursuant to section 2461 of title 10, United States Code, or otherwise pursuant to Office of Management and Budget circular A-76, relating to the possible conversion to performance by a contractor of any Department of Defense function carried out at a military medical facility until the Secretary of Defense—

(1) submits the certification required by subsection (b) to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives together with a description of the steps taken by the Secretary in accordance with the certification; and

(2) submits the report required by subsection (c).

(b) CERTIFICATION.—The certification referred to in paragraph (a)(1) is a certification that the Secretary has taken appropriate steps to ensure that neither the quality of military medical care nor the availability of qualified personnel to carry out Department of Defense functions related to military medical care will be adversely affected by either—

(1) the process of considering a Department of Defense function carried out at a military medical facility for possible conversion to performance by a contractor; or

(2) the conversion of such a function to performance by a contractor.

(c) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a report on the public-private competitions being conducted for Department of Defense functions carried out at military medical facilities as of the date of the enactment of this Act by each military department and defense agency. Such report shall include—

(1) for each such competition—

(A) the cost of conducting the public-private competition;

(B) the number of military personnel and civilian employees of the Department of Defense affected;

(C) the estimated savings identified and the savings actually achieved;

(D) an evaluation whether the anticipated and budgeted savings can be achieved through a public-private competition; and

(E) the effect of converting the performance of the function to performance by a contractor on the quality of the performance of the function; and

(2) an assessment of whether any method of business reform or reengineering other than a public-private competition could, if implemented in the future, achieve any anticipated or budgeted savings.

TITLE XVII—VETERANS MATTERS

Sec. 1701. Sense of Congress on Department of Veterans Affairs efforts in the rehabilitation and reintegration of veterans with traumatic brain injury.
Sec. 1702. Individual rehabilitation and community reintegration plans for veterans and others with traumatic brain injury.
Sec. 1703. Use of non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities for implementation of rehabilitation and community reintegration plans for traumatic brain injury.
Sec. 1704. Research, education, and clinical care program on traumatic brain injury.
Sec. 1705. Pilot program on assisted living services for veterans with traumatic brain injury.
Sec. 1706. Provision of age-appropriate nursing home care.
Sec. 1707. Extension of period of eligibility for health care for veterans of combat service during certain periods of hostilities and war.
Sec. 1708. Service-connection and assessments for mental health conditions in veterans.
Sec. 1709. Modification of requirements for furnishing outpatient dental services to veterans with service-connected dental conditions or disabilities.
Sec. 1710. Clarification of purpose of outreach services program of Department of Veterans Affairs.
Sec. 1711. Designation of fiduciary or trustee for purposes of Traumatic Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance.

SEC. 1701. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EFFORTS IN THE REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION OF VETERANS WITH TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Department of Veterans Affairs is a leader in the field of traumatic brain injury care and coordination of such care;

(2) the Department of Veterans Affairs should have the capacity and expertise to provide veterans who have a traumatic brain injury with patient-centered health care, rehabilitation, and community integration services that are comparable to or exceed similar care and services available to persons with such injuries in the academic and private sector;

(3) rehabilitation for veterans who have a traumatic brain injury should be individualized, comprehensive, and interdisciplinary with the goals of optimizing the independence of such veterans and reintegrating them into their communities;

(4) family support is integral to the rehabilitation and community reintegration of veterans who have sustained a traumatic brain injury, and the Department should provide the families of such veterans with education and support;

(5) the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs have made efforts to provide a smooth transition of medical care and rehabilitative services to individuals as they transition from the health care system of the Department of Defense to that of the Department of Veterans Affairs, but more can be done to assist veterans and their families in the continuum of the rehabilitation, recovery, and reintegration of wounded or injured veterans into their communities;

(6) in planning for rehabilitation and community reintegration of veterans who have a traumatic brain injury, it is necessary for the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide a system for life-long case management for such veterans; and

(7) in such system for life-long case management, it is necessary to conduct outreach and to tailor specialized traumatic brain injury case management and outreach to the unique needs of veterans with traumatic brain injury who reside in urban and nonurban settings.

SEC. 1702. INDIVIDUAL REHABILITATION AND COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION PLANS FOR VETERANS AND OTHERS WITH TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1710B the following new sections:

"§ 1710C. Traumatic brain injury: plans for rehabilitation and reintegration into the community

''(a) PLAN REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall, for each individual who is a veteran or member of the Armed Forces who receives inpatient or outpatient rehabilitative hospital care or medical services provided by the Department for a traumatic brain injury—

''(1) develop an individualized plan for the rehabilitation and reintegration of the individual into the community; and

''(2) provide such plan in writing to the individual—

''(A) in the case of an individual receiving inpatient care, before the individual is discharged from inpatient care or after the individual's transition from serving on active duty as a member of the Armed Forces to receiving outpatient care provided by the Department; or

''(B) as soon as practicable following a diagnosis of traumatic brain injury by a Department health care provider.

''(b) CONTENTS OF PLAN.—Each plan developed under subsection (a) shall include, for the individual covered by such plan, the following:

''(1) Rehabilitation objectives for improving the physical, cognitive, and vocational functioning of the individual with the goal of maximizing the independence and reintegration of such individual into the community.

''(2) Access, as warranted, to all appropriate rehabilitative components of the traumatic brain injury continuum of care, and where appropriate, to long-term care services.

''(3) A description of specific rehabilitative treatments and other services to achieve the objectives described in paragraph (1), which shall set forth the type, frequency, duration, and location of such treatments and services.

''(4) The name of the case manager designated in accordance with subsection (d) to be responsible for the implementation of such plan.

''(5) Dates on which the effectiveness of such plan will be reviewed in accordance with subsection (f).

''(c) COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT.—(1) Each plan developed under subsection (a) shall be based on a comprehensive assessment, developed in accordance with paragraph (2), of—

''(A) the physical, cognitive, vocational, and neuropsychological and social impairments of the individual; and

''(B) the family education and family support needs of the individual after the individual is discharged from inpatient care or at the commencement of and during the receipt of outpatient care and services.

''(2) The comprehensive assessment required under paragraph (1) with respect to an individual is a comprehensive assessment of the matters set forth in that paragraph by a team, composed by the Secretary for purposes of the assessment, of individuals with expertise in traumatic brain injury, including any of the following:

''(A) A neurologist.

''(B) A rehabilitation physician.

''(C) A social worker.

''(D) A neuropsychologist.

''(E) A physical therapist.

''(F) A vocational rehabilitation specialist.

''(G) An occupational therapist.

''(H) A speech language pathologist.

''(I) A rehabilitation nurse.

''(J) An educational therapist.

''(K) An audiologist.

''(L) A blind rehabilitation specialist.

''(M) A recreational therapist.

''(N) A low vision optometrist.

''(O) An orthotist or prosthetist.

''(P) An assistive technologist or rehabilitation engineer.

''(Q) An otolaryngology physician.

''(R) A dietician.

''(S) An ophthalmologist.

''(T) A psychiatrist.

''(d) CASE MANAGER.—(1) The Secretary shall designate a case manager for each individual described in subsection (a) to be responsible for the implementation of the plan developed for that individual under that subsection and the coordination of the individual's medical care.

''(2) The Secretary shall ensure that each case manager has specific expertise in the care required by the individual for whom the case manager is designated, regardless of whether the case manager obtains such expertise through experience, education, or training.

''(e) PARTICIPATION AND COLLABORATION IN DEVELOPMENT OF PLANS.—(1) The Secretary shall involve each individual described in subsection (a), and the family or legal guardian of such individual, in the development of the plan for such individual under that subsection to the maximum extent practicable.

''(2) The Secretary shall collaborate in the development of a plan for an individual under subsection (a) with a State protection and advocacy system if—

''(A) the individual covered by the plan requests such collaboration; or

''(B) in the case of such an individual who is incapacitated, the family or guardian of the individual requests such collaboration.

''(3) In the case of a plan required by subsection (a) for a member of the Armed Forces who is serving on active duty, the Secretary shall collaborate with the Secretary of Defense in the development of such plan.

''(4) In developing vocational rehabilitation objectives required under subsection (b)(1) and in conducting the assessment required under subsection (c), the Secretary shall act through the Under Secretary for Health in coordination with the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

''(f) EVALUATION.—

''(1) PERIODIC REVIEW BY SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall periodically review the effectiveness of each plan developed under subsection (a). The Secretary shall refine each such plan as the Secretary considers appropriate in light of such review.

''(2) REQUEST FOR REVIEW BY VETERANS.—In addition to the periodic review required by paragraph (1), the Secretary shall conduct a review of the plan for an individual under paragraph (1) at the request of the individual, or in the case of an individual who is incapacitated, at the request of the guardian or designee of the individual.

''(g) STATE DESIGNATED PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SYSTEM DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'State protection and advocacy system' means a system established in a State under subtitle C of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15041 et seq.) to protect and advocate for the rights of persons with development disabilities.

"§ 1710D. Traumatic brain injury: comprehensive program for long-term rehabilitation

''(a) COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM.—In developing plans for the rehabilitation and reintegration of individuals with traumatic brain injury under section 1710C of this title, the Secretary shall develop and carry out a comprehensive program of long-term care for post-acute traumatic brain injury rehabilitation that includes residential, community, and home-based components utilizing interdisciplinary treatment teams.

''(b) LOCATION OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall carry out the program developed under subsection (a) in each Department polytrauma rehabilitation center designated by the Secretary.

''(c) ELIGIBILITY.—A veteran is eligible for care under the program developed under subsection (a) if the veteran is otherwise eligible to receive hospital care and medical services under section 1710 of this title and—

''(1) served on active duty in a theater of combat operations (as determined by the Secretary in consultation with the Secretary of Defense) during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War, or in combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities (as defined in section 1712A(a)(2)(B) of this title) after November 11, 1998;

''(2) is diagnosed as suffering from moderate to severe traumatic brain injury; and

''(3) is unable to manage routine activities of daily living without supervision or assistance, as determined by the Secretary.

''(d) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report containing the following information:

''(1) A description of the operation of the program.

''(2) The number of veterans provided care under the program during the year preceding such report.

''(3) The cost of operating the program during the year preceding such report.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1710B the following new items:

''1710C. Traumatic brain injury: plans for rehabilitation and reintegration into the community.

''1710D. Traumatic brain injury: comprehensive plan for long-term rehabilitation.''.

SEC. 1703. USE OF NON-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FACILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF REHABILITATION AND COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION PLANS FOR TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1710D, as added by section 1702, the following new section:

"§ 1710E. Traumatic brain injury: use of non-Department facilities for rehabilitation

''(a) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary, in implementing and carrying out a plan developed under section 1710C of this title, may provide hospital care and medical services through cooperative agreements with appropriate public or private entities that have established long-term neurobehavioral rehabilitation and recovery programs.

''(b) AUTHORITIES OF STATE PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SYSTEMS.—Nothing in subtitle C of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 shall be construed as preventing a State protection and advocacy system (as defined in section 1710C(g) of this title) from exercising the authorities described in such subtitle with respect to individuals provided rehabilitative treatment or services under section 1710C of this title in a non-Department facility.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1710D, as added by section 1702, the following new item:

''1710E. Traumatic brain injury: use of non-Departmental facilities for rehabilitation.''.

SEC. 1704. RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND CLINICAL CARE PROGRAM ON TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—To improve the provision of health care by the Department of Veterans Affairs to veterans with traumatic

brain injuries, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—

(1) conduct research, including—

(A) research on the sequelae of mild to severe forms of traumatic brain injury;

(B) research on visually-related neurological conditions;

(C) research on seizure disorders;

(D) research on means of improving the diagnosis, rehabilitative treatment, and prevention of such sequelae;

(E) research to determine the most effective cognitive and physical therapies for such sequelae;

(F) research on dual diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury;

(G) research on improving facilities of the Department concentrating on traumatic brain injury care; and

(H) research on improving the delivery of traumatic brain injury care by the Department;

(2) educate and train health care personnel of the Department in recognizing and treating traumatic brain injury; and

(3) develop improved models and systems for the furnishing of traumatic brain injury care by the Department.

(b) COLLABORATION.—In carrying out research under subsection (a), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall collaborate with—

(1) facilities that conduct research on rehabilitation for individuals with traumatic brain injury;

(2) facilities that receive grants for such research from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research of the Department of Education; and

(3) the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center of the Department of Defense and other relevant programs of the Federal Government (including Centers of Excellence).

(c) DISSEMINATION OF USEFUL INFORMATION.—The Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Health shall ensure that information produced by the research, education and training, and clinical activities conducted under this section that may be useful for other activities of the Veterans Health Administration is disseminated throughout the Veterans Health Administration.

(d) TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY REGISTRY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish and maintain a registry to be known as the ''Traumatic Brain Injury Veterans Health Registry'' (in this section referred to as the ''Registry'').

(2) DESCRIPTION.—The Registry shall include the following information:

(A) A list containing the name of each individual who served as a member of the Armed Forces in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom who exhibits symptoms associated with traumatic brain injury, as determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and who—

(i) applies for care and services furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code; or

(ii) files a claim for compensation under chapter 11 of such title on the basis of any disability which may be associated with such service.

(B) Any relevant medical data relating to the health status of an individual described in subparagraph (A) and any other information the Secretary considers relevant and appropriate with respect to such an individual if the individual—

(i) grants permission to the Secretary to include such information in the Registry; or

(ii) is deceased at the time such individual is listed in the Registry.

(3) NOTIFICATION.—When possible, the Secretary shall notify each individual listed in the Registry of significant developments in research on the health consequences of military service in the Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom theaters of operations.

SEC. 1705. PILOT PROGRAM ON ASSISTED LIVING SERVICES FOR VETERANS WITH TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM.—Beginning not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in collaboration with the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center of the Department of Defense, shall carry out a five-year pilot program to assess the effectiveness of providing assisted living services to eligible veterans to enhance the rehabilitation, quality of life, and community integration of such veterans.

(b) PROGRAM LOCATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The pilot program shall be carried out at locations selected by the Secretary for purposes of the pilot program. Of the locations so selected—

(A) at least one location shall be in each health care region of the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs that contains a polytrauma center of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

(B) any location other than a location described in subparagraph (A) shall be in an area that contains a high concentration of veterans with traumatic brain injuries, as determined by the Secretary.

(2) SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR VETERANS IN RURAL AREAS.—The Secretary shall give special consideration to providing veterans in rural areas with an opportunity to participate in the pilot program.

(c) PROVISION OF ASSISTED LIVING SERVICES.—

(1) AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary may enter into agreements for the provision of assisted living services on behalf of eligible veterans with a provider participating under a State plan or waiver under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.).

(2) STANDARDS.—The Secretary may not place, transfer, or admit a veteran to any facility for assisted living services under the pilot program unless the Secretary determines that the facility meets such standards as the Secretary may prescribe for purposes of the pilot program. Such standards shall, to the extent practicable, be consistent with the standards of Federal, State, and local agencies charged with the responsibility of licensing or otherwise regulating or inspecting such facilities.

(d) CONTINUATION OF CASE MANAGEMENT AND REHABILITATION SERVICES.—In carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary shall—

(1) continue to provide each veteran who is receiving assisted living services under the pilot program with rehabilitative services; and

(2) designate employees of the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs to furnish case management services for veterans participating in the pilot program.

(e) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the completion of the pilot program, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on the pilot program.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A description of the pilot program.

(B) An assessment of the utility of the activities under the pilot program in enhancing the rehabilitation, quality of life, and community reintegration of veterans with traumatic brain injury.

(C) Such recommendations as the Secretary considers appropriate regarding the extension or expansion of the pilot program.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term ''assisted living services'' means services of a facility in providing room, board, and personal care for and supervision of residents for their health, safety, and welfare.

(2) The term ''case management services'' includes the coordination and facilitation of all services furnished to a veteran by the Department of Veterans Affairs, either directly or through a contract, including assessment of needs, planning, referral (including referral for services to be furnished by the Department, either directly or through a contract, or by an entity other than the Department), monitoring, reassessment, and followup.

(3) The term ''eligible veteran'' means a veteran who—

(A) is enrolled in the patient enrollment system of the Department of Veterans Affairs under section 1705 of title 38, United States Code;

(B) has received hospital care or medical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs for a traumatic brain injury;

(C) is unable to manage routine activities of daily living without supervision and assistance, as determined by the Secretary; and

(D) could reasonably be expected to receive ongoing services after the end of the pilot program under this section under another program of the Federal Government or through other means, as determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 1706. PROVISION OF AGE-APPROPRIATE NURSING HOME CARE.

(a) FINDING.—Congress finds that young veterans who are injured or disabled through military service and require long-term care should have access to age-appropriate nursing home care.

(b) REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE AGE-APPROPRIATE NURSING HOME CARE.—Section 1710A of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection (c):

''(c) The Secretary shall ensure that nursing home care provided under subsection (a) is provided in an age-appropriate manner.''.

SEC. 1707. EXTENSION OF PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY FOR HEALTH CARE FOR VETERANS OF COMBAT SERVICE DURING CERTAIN PERIODS OF HOSTILITIES AND WAR.

Subparagraph (C) of section 1710(e)(3) of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(C) in the case of care for a veteran described in paragraph (1)(D) who—

''(i) is discharged or released from the active military, naval, or air service after the date that is five years before the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, after a period of five years beginning on the date of such discharge or release; or

''(ii) is so discharged or released more than five years before the date of the enactment of that Act and who did not enroll in the patient enrollment system under section 1705 of this title before such date, after a period of three years beginning on the date of the enactment of that Act; and''.

SEC. 1708. SERVICE-CONNECTION AND ASSESSMENTS FOR MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS IN VETERANS.

(a) PRESUMPTION OF SERVICE-CONNECTION FOR MENTAL ILLNESS IN PERSIAN GULF WAR VETERANS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1702 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by inserting ''(a) PSYCHOSIS.—'' before ''For the purposes''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(b) MENTAL ILLNESS.—For purposes of this chapter, any veteran of the Persian Gulf War who develops an active mental illness (other than psychosis) shall be deemed to have incurred such disability in the active military, naval, or air service if such veteran develops such disability—

''(1) within two years after discharge or release from the active military, naval, or air service; and

''(2) before the end of the two-year period beginning on the last day of the Persian Gulf War.''.

(2) HEADING AMENDMENT.—The heading of such section is amended to read as follows:

''§ 1702. Presumptions: psychosis after service in World War II and following periods of war; mental illness after service in the Persian Gulf War''.

(3) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 17 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 1702 and inserting the following new item:

''1702. Presumptions: psychosis after service in World War II and following periods of war; mental illness following service in the Persian Gulf War.''.

(b) PROVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS FOR CERTAIN VETERANS.—Section 1712A(a) of such title is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(B), by adding at the end the following new clause:

''(iii) Any veteran who served on active duty—

''(I) in a theater of combat operations (as determined by the Secretary in consultation with the Secretary of Defense) during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War; or

''(II) in combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities (as defined in paragraph (2)(B)) after November 11, 1998.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) Upon request of a veteran described in paragraph (1)(B)(iii), the Secretary shall provide the veteran a preliminary general mental health assessment as soon as practicable after receiving the request, but not later than 30 days after receiving the request.''.

SEC. 1709. MODIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS FOR FURNISHING OUTPATIENT DENTAL SERVICES TO VETERANS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DENTAL CONDITIONS OR DISABILITIES.

Section 1712(a)(1)(B)(iii) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''90 days after such discharge'' and inserting ''180 days after such discharge'';

(2) by striking ''90 days from the date of such veteran's subsequent discharge'' and inserting ''180 days from the date of such veteran's subsequent discharge''; and

(3) by striking ''90 days after the date of correction'' and inserting ''180 days after the date of correction''.

SEC. 1710. CLARIFICATION OF PURPOSE OF OUTREACH SERVICES PROGRAM OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) CLARIFICATION OF INCLUSION OF MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE IN PROGRAM.—Subsection (a)(1) of section 6301 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting '', or from a reserve component,'' after ''active military, naval, or air service''.

(b) DEFINITION OF OUTREACH.—Subsection (b) of such section is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively; and

(2) by inserting before paragraph (2) the following new paragraph (1):

''(1) the term 'outreach' means the act or process of reaching out in a systematic manner to proactively provide information, services, and benefits counseling to veterans, and to the spouses, children, and parents of veterans who may be eligible to receive benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary, to ensure that such individuals are fully informed about, and receive assistance in applying for, such benefits;''.

SEC. 1711. DESIGNATION OF FIDUCIARY OR TRUSTEE FOR PURPOSES OF TRAUMATIC SERVICEMEMBERS' GROUP LIFE INSURANCE.

Section 1980A of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(k) DESIGNATION OF FIDUCIARY OR TRUSTEE.—(1) The Secretary concerned, in consultation with the Secretary, shall develop a process for the designation of a fiduciary or trustee of a member of the uniformed services who is insured against traumatic injury under this section. The fiduciary or trustee so designated would receive a payment for a qualifying loss under this section if the member is medically incapacitated (as determined pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Secretary concerned in consultation with the Secretary) or experiencing an extended loss of consciousness.

''(2) The process under paragraph (1) may require each member of the uniformed services who is insured under this section to—

''(A) designate an individual as the member's fiduciary or trustee for purposes of subsection (a); or

''(B) elect that a court of proper jurisdiction designate an individual as the member's fiduciary or trustee for purposes of subsection (a) in the event that the member becomes medically incapacitated or experiences an extended loss of consciousness.''.

TITLE XVIII—NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU MATTERS AND RELATED MATTERS

Sec. 1801. Short title.

Subtitle A—National Guard Bureau

Sec. 1811. Appointment, grade, duties, and retirement of the Chief of the National Guard Bureau.
Sec. 1812. Establishment of National Guard Bureau as joint activity of the Department of Defense.
Sec. 1813. Enhancement of functions of the National Guard Bureau.
Sec. 1814. Requirement for Secretary of Defense to prepare plan for response to natural disasters and terrorist events.
Sec. 1815. Determination of Department of Defense civil support requirements.

Subtitle B—Additional Reserve Component Enhancement

Sec. 1821. United States Northern Command.
Sec. 1822. Council of Governors.
Sec. 1823. Plan for Reserve Forces Policy Board.
Sec. 1824. High-level positions authorized or required to be held by reserve component general or flag officers.
Sec. 1825. Retirement age and years of service limitations on certain reserve general and flag officers.
Sec. 1826. Additional reporting requirements relating to National Guard equipment.

SEC. 1801. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''National Guard Empowerment Act of 2007''.

Subtitle A—National Guard Bureau

SEC. 1811. APPOINTMENT, GRADE, DUTIES, AND RETIREMENT OF THE CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU.

(a) APPOINTMENT.—Subsection (a) of section 10502 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraphs (1) through (3) and inserting the following new paragraphs:

''(1) are recommended for such appointment by their respective Governors or, in the case of the District of Columbia, the commanding general of the District of Columbia National Guard;

''(2) are recommended for such appointment by the Secretary of the Army or the Secretary of the Air Force;

''(3) have had at least 10 years of federally recognized commissioned service in an active status in the National Guard;

''(4) are in a grade above the grade of brigadier general;

''(5) are determined by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in accordance with criteria and as a result of a process established by the Chairman, to have significant joint duty experience;

''(6) are determined by the Secretary of Defense to have successfully completed such other assignments and experiences so as to possess a detailed understanding of the status and capabilities of National Guard forces and the missions of the National Guard Bureau as set forth in section 10503 of this title;

''(7) have a level of operational experience in a position of significant responsibility, professional military education, and demonstrated expertise in national defense and homeland defense matters that are commensurate with the advisory role of the Chief of the National Guard Bureau; and

''(8) possess such other qualifications as the Secretary of Defense shall prescribe for purposes of this section.''.

(b) GRADE.—Subsection (d) of such section is amended by striking ''lieutenant general'' and inserting ''general''.

(c) REPEAL OF AGE 64 LIMITATION ON SERVICE.—Subsection (b) of such section is amended by striking ''An officer may not hold that office after becoming 64 years of age.''.

(d) ADVISORY DUTIES.—Subsection (c) of such section is amended to read as follows:

''(c) ADVISOR ON NATIONAL GUARD MATTERS.—The Chief of the National Guard Bureau is—

''(1) a principal advisor to the Secretary of Defense, through the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, on matters involving non-federalized National Guard forces and on other matters as determined by the Secretary of Defense; and

''(2) the principal adviser to the Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Staff of the Army, and to the Secretary of the Air Force and the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, on matters relating to the National Guard, the Army National Guard of the United States, and the Air National Guard of the United States.''.

SEC. 1812. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU AS JOINT ACTIVITY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) JOINT ACTIVITY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—Subsection (a) of section 10501 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''joint bureau of the Department of the Army and the Department of the Air Force'' and inserting ''joint activity of the Department of Defense''.

(b) JOINT MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1011 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 10508. National Guard Bureau: general provisions

''The manpower requirements of the National Guard Bureau as a joint activity of the Department of Defense shall be determined in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is

amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''10508. National Guard Bureau: general provisions.''.

SEC. 1813. ENHANCEMENT OF FUNCTIONS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU.

(a) ADDITIONAL GENERAL FUNCTIONS.—Section 10503 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (12) as paragraph (14) and inserting before such paragraph (14) the following new paragraph (13):

''(13)(A) Assisting the Secretary of Defense in facilitating and coordinating with the entities listed in subparagraph (B) the use of National Guard personnel and resources for operations conducted under title 32, or in support of State missions.

''(B) The entities listed in this subparagraph for purposes of subparagraph (A) are the following:

''(i) Other Federal agencies.

''(ii) The Adjutants General of the States.

''(iii) The United States Joint Forces Command.

''(iv) The combatant command the geographic area of responsibility of which includes the United States.'';

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (11) as paragraphs (3) through (12), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph (2):

''(2) The role of the National Guard Bureau in support of the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of the Air Force.''.

(b) CHARTER DEVELOPED AND PRESCRIBED BY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.—Section 10503 of such title is further amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''The Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of the Air Force shall jointly develop'' and inserting ''The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Secretary of the Army, and the Secretary of the Air Force, shall develop''; and

(B) by striking ''cover'' in the second sentence and inserting ''reflect the full scope of the duties and activities of the Bureau, including''; and

(2) in paragraph (14), as redesignated by subsection (a)(1), by striking ''the Secretaries'' and inserting ''the Secretary of Defense''.

(c) CONFORMING AND CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The heading of section 10503 of such title is amended to read as follows:

''§ 10503. Functions of National Guard Bureau: charter''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 1011 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 10503 and inserting the following new item:

''10503. Functions of National Guard Bureau: charter.''.

SEC. 1814. REQUIREMENT FOR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE TO PREPARE PLAN FOR RESPONSE TO NATURAL DISASTERS AND TERRORIST EVENTS.

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than June 1, 2008, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the commander of the United States Northern Command, and the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, shall prepare and submit to Congress a plan for coordinating the use of the National Guard and members of the Armed Forces on active duty when responding to natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters as identified in the national planning scenarios described in subsection (e).

(2) UPDATE.—Not later than June 1, 2010, the Secretary, in consultation with the persons consulted under paragraph (1), shall submit to Congress an update of the plan required under paragraph (1).

(b) INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED TO SECRETARY.—To assist the Secretary of Defense in preparing the plan, the National Guard Bureau, pursuant to its purpose as channel of communications as set forth in section 10501(b) of title 10, United States Code, shall provide to the Secretary information gathered from Governors, adjutants general of States, and other State civil authorities responsible for homeland preparation and response to natural and man-made disasters.

(c) TWO VERSIONS.—The plan shall set forth two versions of response, one using only members of the National Guard, and one using both members of the National Guard and members of the regular components of the Armed Forces.

(d) MATTERS COVERED.—The plan shall cover, at a minimum, the following:

(1) Protocols for the Department of Defense, the National Guard Bureau, and the Governors of the several States to carry out operations in coordination with each other and to ensure that Governors and local communities are properly informed and remain in control in their respective States and communities.

(2) An identification of operational procedures, command structures, and lines of communication to ensure a coordinated, efficient response to contingencies.

(3) An identification of the training and equipment needed for both National Guard personnel and members of the Armed Forces on active duty to provide military assistance to civil authorities and for other domestic operations to respond to hazards identified in the national planning scenarios.

(e) NATIONAL PLANNING SCENARIOS.—The plan shall provide for response to the following hazards:

(1) Nuclear detonation, biological attack, biological disease outbreak/pandemic flu, the plague, chemical attack-blister agent, chemical attack-toxic industrial chemicals, chemical attack-nerve agent, chemical attack-chlorine tank explosion, major hurricane, major earthquake, radiological attack-radiological dispersal device, explosives attack-bombing using improvised explosive device, biological attack-food contamination, biological attack-foreign animal disease and cyber attack.

(2) Any other hazards identified in a national planning scenario developed by the Homeland Security Council.

SEC. 1815. DETERMINATION OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CIVIL SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS.

(a) DETERMINATION OF REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall determine the military-unique capabilities needed to be provided by the Department of Defense to support civil authorities in an incident of national significance or a catastrophic incident.

(b) PLAN FOR FUNDING CAPABILITIES.—

(1) PLAN.—The Secretary of Defense shall develop and implement a plan, in coordination with the Secretaries of the military departments and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, for providing the funds and resources necessary to develop and maintain the following:

(A) The military-unique capabilities determined under subsection (a).

(B) Any additional capabilities determined by the Secretary to be necessary to support the use of the active components and the reserve components of the Armed Forces for homeland defense missions, domestic emergency responses, and providing military support to civil authorities.

(2) TERM OF PLAN.—The plan required under paragraph (1) shall cover at least five years.

(c) BUDGET.—The Secretary of Defense shall include in the materials accompanying the budget submitted for each fiscal year a request for funds necessary to carry out the plan required under subsection (b) during the fiscal year covered by the budget. The defense budget materials shall delineate and explain the budget treatment of the plan for each component of each military department, each combatant command, and each affected Defense Agency.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term ''military-unique capabilities'' means those capabilities that, in the view of the Secretary of Defense—

(A) cannot be provided by other Federal, State, or local civilian agencies; and

(B) are essential to provide support to civil authorities in an incident of national significance or a catastrophic incident.

(2) The term ''defense budget materials'', with respect to a fiscal year, means the materials submitted to Congress by the Secretary of Defense in support of the budget for that fiscal year.

(e) STRATEGIC PLANNING GUIDANCE.—Section 113(g)(2) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''contingency plans'' at the end of the first sentence and inserting the following: ''contingency plans, including plans for providing support to civil authorities in an incident of national significance or a catastrophic incident, for homeland defense, and for military support to civil authorities''.

Subtitle B—Additional Reserve Component Enhancement

SEC. 1821. UNITED STATES NORTHERN COMMAND.

(a) MANPOWER REVIEW.—

(1) REVIEW BY CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall submit to the Secretary of Defense a review of the civilian and military positions, job descriptions, and assignments within the United States Northern Command with the goal of determining the feasibility of significantly increasing the number of members of a reserve component assigned to, and civilians employed by, the United States Northern Command who have experience in the planning, training, and employment of forces for homeland defense missions, domestic emergency response, and providing military support to civil authorities.

(2) SUBMISSION OF RESULTS OF REVIEW.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary of Defense receives the results of the review under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a copy of the results of the review, together with such recommendations as the Secretary considers appropriate to achieve the objectives of the review.

(b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''United States Northern Command'' means the combatant command the geographic area of responsibility of which includes the United States.

SEC. 1822. COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS.

The President shall establish a bipartisan Council of Governors to advise the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the White House Homeland Security Council on matters related to the National Guard and civil support missions.

SEC. 1823. PLAN FOR RESERVE FORCES POLICY BOARD.

(a) PLAN.—The Secretary of Defense shall develop a plan to implement revisions that the Secretary determines necessary in the designation, organization, membership, functions, procedures, and legislative framework

of the Reserve Forces Policy Board. The plan—

(1) shall be consistent with the findings, conclusions, and recommendations included in Part III E of the Report of the Commission on the National Guard and Reserves of March 1, 2007; and

(2) to the extent possible, shall take into account the views and recommendations of civilian and military leaders, past chairmen of the Reserve Forces Policy Board, private organizations with expertise and interest in Department of Defense organization, and other individuals or groups in the discretion of the Secretary.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than July 1, 2008, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the plan developed under subsection (a), including such recommendations for legislation as the Secretary considers necessary.

SEC. 1824. HIGH-LEVEL POSITIONS AUTHORIZED OR REQUIRED TO BE HELD BY RESERVE COMPONENT GENERAL OR FLAG OFFICERS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that, whenever officers of the Armed Forces are considered for promotion to the grade of lieutenant general, or vice admiral in the case of the Navy, on the active duty list, officers in the reserve components of the Armed Forces who are eligible for promotion to such grade should be considered for promotion to such grade.

(b) NATIONAL GUARD OFFICER AS DEPUTY COMMANDER OF UNITED STATES NORTHERN COMMAND.—Section 164(e) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(4) At least one deputy commander of the combatant command the geographic area of responsibility of which includes the United States shall be a qualified officer of the National Guard who is eligible for promotion to the grade of O–9, unless a National Guard officer is serving as commander of that combatant command.''.

(c) INCREASE IN NUMBER OF UNIFIED AND SPECIFIED COMBATANT COMMAND POSITIONS FOR RESERVE COMPONENT OFFICERS.—Section 526(b)(2)(A) of such title is amended by striking ''10 general and flag officer positions on the staffs of the commanders of'' and inserting ''15 general and flag officer positions in''.

SEC. 1825. RETIREMENT AGE AND YEARS OF SERVICE LIMITATIONS ON CERTAIN RESERVE GENERAL AND FLAG OFFICERS.

(a) RETIREMENT FOR AGE.—

(1) INCLUSION OF RESERVE GENERALS AND ADMIRALS.—Section 14511 of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 14511. Separation at age 64: officers in grade of major general or rear admiral and above

''(a) SEPARATION REQUIRED.—Unless retired, transferred to the Retired Reserve, or discharged at an earlier date, each reserve officer of the Army, Air Force, or Marine Corps in the grade of major general or above and each reserve officer of the Navy in the grade of rear admiral or above shall be separated in accordance with section 14515 of this title on the last day of the month in which the officer becomes 64 years of age.

''(b) EXCEPTION FOR OFFICERS SERVING IN O–9 AND O–10 POSITIONS.—The retirement of a reserve officer of the Army, Air Force, or Marine Corps in the grade of lieutenant general or general, or a reserve officer of the Navy in the grade of vice admiral or admiral, under subsection (a) may be deferred—

''(1) by the President, but such a deferment may not extend beyond the first day of the month following the month in which the officer becomes 68 years of age; or

''(2) by the Secretary of Defense, but such a deferment may not extend beyond the first day of the month following the month in which the officer becomes 66 years of age.

''(c) EXCEPTION FOR OFFICERS HOLDING CERTAIN OFFICES.—This section does not apply to an officer covered by section 14512 of this title.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 1407 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 14511 and inserting the following new item:

''14511. Separation at age 64: officers in grade of major general or rear admiral and above.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS AND RESERVE OFFICERS HOLDING CERTAIN OTHER OFFICES.—Section 14512 of such title is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)—

(A) by striking subparagraph (A); and

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (B), (C), and (D) as subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C), respectively; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by inserting ''(1)'' before ''The Secretary''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(2) The Secretary of Defense may defer the retirement of a reserve officer serving in the position of Chief of the Navy Reserve or Commander of the Marine Forces Reserve, but such deferment may not extend beyond the first day of the month following the month in which the officer becomes 66 years of age. A deferment under this paragraph shall not count toward the limitation on the total number of officers whose retirement may be deferred at any one time under paragraph (1).''.

(c) IMPOSITION OF YEARS OF SERVICE LIMITATION.—

(1) IMPOSITION OF LIMITATION.—Section 14508 of such title is amended by inserting after subsection (c), as added by section 513, the following new subsection:

''(d) FORTY YEARS OF SERVICE FOR GENERALS AND ADMIRALS.—Unless retired, transferred to the Retired Reserve, or discharged at an earlier date, each reserve officer of the Army, Air Force, or Marine Corps in the grade of general and each reserve officer of the Navy in the grade of admiral shall be separated in accordance with section 14514 of this title on the first day of the first month beginning after the date of the fifth anniversary of the officer's appointment to that grade or 30 days after the date on which the officer completes 40 years of commissioned service, whichever is later.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Subsection (b) of section 10502 of such title, as amended by section 1811, is further amended—

(A) by inserting ''(1)'' before the first sentence; and

(B) by striking ''While holding that office'' and inserting the following:

''(2) Except as provided in section 14508(d) of this title, while holding the office of Chief of the National Guard Bureau''.

SEC. 1826. ADDITIONAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO NATIONAL GUARD EQUIPMENT.

Section 10541 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(d) Each report under this section concerning equipment of the National Guard shall also include the following:

''(1) A statement of the accuracy of the projections required by subsection (b)(5)(D) contained in earlier reports under this section, and an explanation, if the projection was not met, of why the projection was not met.

''(2) A certification from the Chief of the National Guard Bureau setting forth an inventory for the preceding fiscal year of each item of equipment—

''(A) for which funds were appropriated;

''(B) which was due to be procured for the National Guard during that fiscal year; and

''(C) which has not been received by a National Guard unit as of the close of that fiscal year.''.

DIVISION B—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATIONS

SEC. 2001. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the ''Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008''.

SEC. 2002. EXPIRATION OF AUTHORIZATIONS AND AMOUNTS REQUIRED TO BE SPECIFIED BY LAW.

(a) EXPIRATION OF AUTHORIZATIONS AFTER THREE YEARS.—Except as provided in subsection (b), all authorizations contained in titles XXI through XXVII and in title XXIX for military construction projects, land acquisition, family housing projects and facilities, and contributions to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program (and authorizations of appropriations therefor) shall expire on the later of—

(1) October 1, 2010; or

(2) the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2011.

(b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to authorizations for military construction projects, land acquisition, family housing projects and facilities, and contributions to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program (and authorizations of appropriations therefor), for which appropriated funds have been obligated before the later of—

(1) October 1, 2010; or

(2) the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for fiscal year 2011 for military construction projects, land acquisition, family housing projects and facilities, or contributions to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program.

TITLE XXI—ARMY

Sec. 2101. Authorized Army construction and land acquisition projects.
Sec. 2102. Family housing.
Sec. 2103. Improvements to military family housing units.
Sec. 2104. Authorization of appropriations, Army.
Sec. 2105. Termination of authority to carry out fiscal year 2007 Army projects for which funds were not appropriated.
Sec. 2106. Technical amendments to Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007.
Sec. 2107. Modification of authority to carry out certain fiscal year 2006 project.
Sec. 2108. Extension of authorization of certain fiscal year 2005 project.
Sec. 2109. Ground lease, SOUTHCOM headquarters facility, Miami-Doral, Florida.

SEC. 2101. AUTHORIZED ARMY CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS.

(a) INSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2104(a)(1), the Secretary of the Army may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the installations or locations inside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Army: Inside the United States

State	Installation or Location	Amount
Alabama	Anniston Army Depot	$26,000,000
	Redstone Arsenal	$22,000,000
Alaska	Fort Richardson	$92,800,000
	Fort Wainwright	$114,500,000
Arizona	Fort Huachuca	$129,600,000
California	Fort Irwin	$24,000,000
	Presidio, Monterey	$28,000,000
Colorado	Fort Carson	$156,200,000
Delaware	Dover Air Force Base	$17,500,000
Florida	Miami Doral	$237,000,000
Georgia	Fort Benning	$189,500,000
	Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Air Field	$123,500,000
Hawaii	Fort Shafter	$31,000,000
	Kahuku Training Area	$10,200,000
	Schofield Barracks	$88,000,000
	Wheeler Army Air Field	$51,000,000
Illinois	Rock Island Arsenal	$3,350,000
Kansas	Fort Leavenworth	$102,400,000
	Fort Riley	$140,200,000
Kentucky	Fort Campbell	$113,600,000
	Fort Knox	$6,700,000
Louisiana	Fort Polk	$15,900,000
Maryland	Aberdeen Proving Ground	$12,200,000
Michigan	Detroit Arsenal	$18,500,000
Missouri	Fort Leonard Wood	$136,050,000
Nevada	Hawthorne Army Ammunition Plant	$11,800,000
New Jersey	Picatinny Arsenal	$9,900,000
New Mexico	White Sands Missile Range	$71,000,000
New York	Fort Drum	$311,200,000
North Carolina	Fort Bragg	$287,200,000
Oklahoma	Fort Sill	$7,500,000
South Carolina	Fort Jackson	$85,000,000
Texas	Camp Bullis	$1,600,000
	Corpus Christi	$11,200,000
	Fort Bliss	$118,400,000
	Fort Hood	$163,400,000
	Fort Sam Houston	$19,150,000
	Red River Army Depot	$9,200,000
Virginia	Fort Belvoir	$13,000,000
	Fort Eustis	$75,000,000
	Fort Lee	$22,600,000
	Fort Myer	$20,800,000
Washington	Fort Lewis	$178,500,000
	Yakima Training Center	$29,000,000

(b) OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2104(a)(2), the Secretary of the Army may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the installations or locations outside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Army: Outside the United States

Country	Installation or Location	Amount
Afghanistan	Afghanistan	$13,800,000
Bulgaria	Nevo Selo FOS	$61,000,000
Germany	Grafenwoehr	$62,000,000
Honduras	Various locations	$2,550,000
Italy	Aviano	$12,100,000
	Vicenza	$160,900,000
Korea	Camp Humphreys	$57,000,000
Romania	Mihail Kogalniceanu FOS	$12,600,000

SEC. 2102. FAMILY HOUSING.

(a) CONSTRUCTION AND ACQUISITION.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2104(a)(5)(A), the Secretary of the Army may construct or acquire family housing units (including land acquisition and supporting facilities) at the installations or locations, in the number of units, and in the amounts set forth in the following table:

Army: Family Housing

State or Country	Installation or Location	Units	Amount
Utah	Dugway Proving Ground	28	$5,000,000
Germany	Ansbach	138	$52,000,000

(b) PLANNING AND DESIGN.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2104(a)(5)(A), the Secretary of the Army may carry out architectural and engineering services and construction design activities with respect to the construction or improvement of family housing units in an amount not to exceed $2,000,000.

SEC. 2103. IMPROVEMENTS TO MILITARY FAMILY HOUSING UNITS.

Subject to section 2825 of title 10, United States Code, and using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2104(a)(5)(A), the Secretary of the Army may improve existing military family housing units in an amount not to exceed $365,400,000.

SEC. 2104. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS, ARMY.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years beginning after September 30, 2007, for military construction, land acquisition, and military family housing functions of the Department of the Army in the total amount of $5,106,703,000 as follows:

(1) For military construction projects inside the United States authorized by section 2101(a), $3,198,150,000.

(2) For military construction projects outside the United States authorized by section 2101(b), $254,950,000.

(3) For unspecified minor military construction projects authorized by section 2805 of title 10, United States Code, $25,900,000.

(4) For architectural and engineering services and construction design under section 2807 of title 10, United States Code, $321,983,000.

(5) For military family housing functions:

(A) For construction and acquisition, planning and design, and improvement of military family housing and facilities, $424,400,000.

(B) For support of military family housing (including the functions described in section 2833 of title 10, United States Code), $731,920,000.

(6) For the construction of increment 2 of a barracks complex at Fort Lewis, Washington, authorized by section 2101(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (division B of Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2445), as amended by section 20814 of the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (division B of Public Law 109–289), as added by section 2 of the Revised Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (Public Law 110–5; 121 Stat. 41), $102,000,000.

(7) For the construction of increment 3 of a barracks complex at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, authorized by section 2101(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (division B of Public Law 109–163; 119 Stat. 3485), $47,400,000.

(b) LIMITATION ON TOTAL COST OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.—Notwithstanding the cost variations authorized by section 2853 of title 10, United States Code, and any other cost variation authorized by law, the total cost of all projects carried out under section 2101 of this Act may not exceed the sum of the following:

(1) The total amount authorized to be appropriated under paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a).

(2) $137,000,000 (the balance of the amount authorized under section 2101(a) for construction of the United States Southern Command Headquarters, Miami, Florida).

(3) $63,500,000 (the balance of the amount authorized under section 2101(b) for construction of a brigade complex operations support facility at Vicenza, Italy).

(4) $63,500,000 (the balance of the amount authorized under section 2101(b) for construction of a brigade complex barracks and community support facility at Vicenza, Italy).

SEC. 2105. TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT FISCAL YEAR 2007 ARMY PROJECTS FOR WHICH FUNDS WERE NOT APPROPRIATED.

(a) TERMINATION OF INSIDE THE UNITED STATES PROJECTS.—The table in section 2101(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (division B of Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2445), as amended by section 20814 of the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (division B of Public Law 109–289), as added by section 2 of the Revised Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (Public Law 110–5), is further amended—

(1) by striking the item relating to Redstone Arsenal, Alabama;

(2) by striking the item relating to Fort Wainwright, Alaska;

(3) in the item relating to Fort Irwin, California, by striking ''$18,200,000'' in the amount column and inserting ''$10,000,000'';

(4) in the item relating to Fort Carson, Colorado, by striking ''$30,800,000'' in the amount column and inserting ''$24,000,000'';

(5) in the item relating to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, by striking ''$23,200,000'' in the amount column and inserting ''$15,000,000'';

(6) in the item relating to Fort Riley, Kansas, by striking ''$47,400,000'' in the amount column and inserting ''$37,200,000'';

(7) in the item relating to Fort Campbell, Kentucky, by striking ''$135,300,000'' in the amount column and inserting ''$115,400,000'';

(8) by striking the item relating to Fort Polk, Louisiana;

(9) by striking the item relating to Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland;

(10) by striking the item relating to Fort Detrick, Maryland;

(11) by striking the item relating to Detroit Arsenal, Michigan;

(12) in the item relating to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, by striking ''$34,500,000'' in the amount column and inserting ''$17,000,000'';

(13) by striking the item relating to Picatinny Arsenal, New Jersey;

(14) in the item relating to Fort Drum, New York, by striking ''$218,600,000'' in the amount column and inserting ''$209,200,000'';

(15) in the item relating to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, by striking ''$96,900,000'' in the amount column and inserting ''$89,000,000'';

(16) by striking the item relating to Letterkenny Depot, Pennsylvania;

(17) by striking the item relating to Corpus Christi Army Depot, Texas;

(18) by striking the item relating to Fort Bliss, Texas;

(19) in the item relating to Fort Hood, Texas, by striking ''$93,000,000'' in the amount column and inserting ''$75,000,000'';

(20) by striking the item relating to Red River Depot, Texas; and

(21) by striking the item relating to Fort Lee, Virginia.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 2104(a) of such Act (120 Stat. 2447) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''$3,518,450,000'' and inserting ''$3,275,700,000''; and

(2) in paragraph (1), by striking ''$1,362,200,000'' and inserting ''$1,119,450,000''.

SEC. 2106. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007.

(a) LOCATION OF PROJECT IN ROMANIA.—The table in section 2101(b) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for 2007 (division B of Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2446) is amended by striking ''Babadag Range'' and inserting ''Mihail Kogalniceanu Air Base''.

(b) SPELLING ERROR RELATING TO ARMY FAMILY HOUSING.—The table in section 2102(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for 2007 (division B of Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2446) is amended by striking ''Fort McCoyine'' and inserting ''Fort McCoy''.

SEC. 2107. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2006 PROJECT.

(a) MODIFICATION.—The table in section 2101(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (division B of Public Law 109–163; 119 Stat. 3485) is amended in the item relating to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, by striking ''$301,250,000'' in the amount column and inserting ''$308,250,000''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 2104(b)(5) of that Act (119 Stat. 3488) is amended by striking ''$77,400,000'' and inserting ''$84,400,000''.

SEC. 2108. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2005 PROJECT.

(a) EXTENSION AND RENEWAL.—Notwithstanding section 2701 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (division B of Public Law 108–375; 118 Stat. 2116), the authorization set forth in the table in subsection (b), as provided in section 2101 of that Act (118 Stat. 2101), shall remain in effect until October 1, 2008, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2009, whichever is later.

(b) TABLE.—The table referred to in subsection (a) is as follows:

Army: Extension of 2005 Project Authorization

Installation or Location	Project	Amount
Schofield Barracks, Hawaii	Training facility	$35,542,000

SEC. 2109. GROUND LEASE, SOUTHCOM HEADQUARTERS FACILITY, MIAMI-DORAL, FLORIDA.

(a) GROUND LEASE AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of the Army may utilize the State of Florida property as described in sublease number 4489–01, entered into between the State of Florida and the United States (in this section referred to as the ''ground lease''), for the purpose of constructing a consolidated headquarters facility for the United States Southern Command (SOUTHCOM).

(b) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary of the Army may carry out the project to construct a new headquarters on property leased from the State of Florida when the following conditions have been met regarding the lease for the property:

(1) The United States Government shall have the right to use the property without interruption until at least December 31, 2055.

(2) The United States Government shall have the right to use the property for general administrative purposes in the event the United States Southern Command relocates or vacates the property.

(c) AUTHORITY TO OBTAIN GROUND LEASE OF ADJACENT PROPERTY.—The Secretary may obtain the ground lease of additional real property owned by the State of Florida that is adjacent to the real property leased under the ground lease for purposes of completing the construction of the SOUTHCOM headquarters facility, as long as the additional terms of the ground lease required by subsection (b) apply to such adjacent property.

(d) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may not obligate or expend funds appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2104(a)(1) for the construction of the SOUTHCOM headquarters facility authorized under section 2101(a) until the Secretary

transmits to the congressional defense committees a modification to the ground lease signed by the United States Government and the State of Florida in accordance with subsection (b).

TITLE XXII—NAVY

Sec. 2201. Authorized Navy construction and land acquisition projects.
Sec. 2202. Family housing.
Sec. 2203. Improvements to military family housing units.
Sec. 2204. Authorization of appropriations, Navy.
Sec. 2205. Termination of authority to carry out fiscal year 2007 Navy projects for which funds were not appropriated.
Sec. 2206. Modification of authority to carry out certain fiscal year 2005 project.
Sec. 2207. Repeal of authorization for construction of Navy Outlying Landing Field, Washington County, North Carolina.

SEC. 2201. AUTHORIZED NAVY CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS.

(a) INSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2204(a)(1), the Secretary of the Navy may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the installations or locations inside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Navy: Inside the United States

State	Installation or Location	Amount
Alabama	Outlying Field Evergreen	$9,560,000
Arizona	Marine Corps Air Station, Yuma	$33,720,000
California	Marine Corps Air Station, Miramar	$26,760,000
	Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton	$264,360,000
	Marine Corps Base, Twentynine Palms	$142,619,000
	Naval Station, San Diego	$3,000,000
	Naval Support Activity, Monterey	$9,780,000
	Submarine Base, San Diego	$23,630,000
Connecticut	Submarine Base, New London	$21,160,000
Florida	Marine Corps Logistics Base, Blount Island	$10,240,000
	Naval Support Activity, Cape Canaveral	$9,900,000
	Naval Surface Warfare Center, Panama City	$13,870,000
	Naval Training Center, Corry Field	$3,140,000
Georgia	Marine Corps Logistics Base	$9,980,000
Hawaii	Marine Corps Air Station, Kaneohe	$37,961,000
	Naval Base, Pearl Harbor	$99,860,000
	Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Wahiawa	$65,410,000
	Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard	$30,200,000
Illinois	Naval Training Center, Great Lakes	$10,221,000
Indiana	Naval Support Activity, Crane	$23,800,000
Maine	Portsmouth Naval Shipyard	$9,700,000
Maryland	Naval Air Warfare Center, Patuxent River	$38,360,000
	Naval Surface Warfare Center, Indian Head	$9,450,000
Mississippi	Naval Air Station, Meridian	$6,770,000
Nevada	Naval Air Station, Fallon	$11,460,000
New Jersey	Naval Air Warfare Center, Lakehurst	$4,100,000
North Carolina	Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point	$28,610,000
	Marine Corps Air Station, New River	$58,700,000
	Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune	$248,930,000
Rhode Island	Naval Station, Newport	$13,760,000
South Carolina	Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort	$10,300,000
	Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island	$55,282,000
Texas	Naval Air Station, Corpus Christi	$14,290,000
Virginia	Marine Corps Base, Quantico	$50,519,000
	Naval Station, Norfolk	$79,560,000
	Naval Support Activity, Chesapeake	$8,450,000
	Naval Surface Warfare Center, Dahlgren	$10,000,000
Washington	Naval Air Station, Whidbey Island	$34,520,000
	Naval Station, Bremerton	$190,960,000
	Naval Station, Everett	$10,940,000
	Naval Station, Kitsap	$6,130,000

(b) OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2204(a)(2), the Secretary of the Navy may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the installations or locations outside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Navy: Outside the United States

Country	Installation or Location	Amount
Bahrain	Southwest Asia	$35,500,000
Diego Garcia	Naval Support Facility, Diego Garcia	$7,150,000
Djibouti	Camp Lemonier	$22,390,000
Guam	Naval Activities, Guam	$278,818,000

(c) UNSPECIFIED WORLDWIDE.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2204(a)(3), the Secretary of the Navy may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for unspecified installations or locations in the amount set forth in the following table:

Navy: Unspecified Worldwide

Location	Installation or Location	Amount
Worldwide Unspecified	Wharf Utilities Upgrade	$8,900,000

SEC. 2202. FAMILY HOUSING.

(a) CONSTRUCTION AND ACQUISITION.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2204(a)(6)(A), the Secretary of the Navy may construct or acquire family housing units (including land acquisition and supporting facilities) at the installations, in the number of units, and in the amounts set forth in the following table:

Navy: Family Housing

Location	Installation	Units	Amount
California	Twentynine Palms	N/A	$4,800,000
Mariana Islands	Naval Activities, Guam	73	$57,167,000

(b) PLANNING AND DESIGN.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2204(a)(6)(A), the Secretary of the Navy may carry out architectural and engineering services and construction design activities with respect to the construction or improvement of military family housing units in an amount not to exceed $3,172,000.

SEC. 2203. IMPROVEMENTS TO MILITARY FAMILY HOUSING UNITS.

Subject to section 2825 of title 10, United States Code, and using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2204(a)(6)(A), the Secretary of the Navy may improve existing military family housing units in an amount not to exceed $237,990,000.

SEC. 2204. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS, NAVY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years beginning after September 30, 2007, for military construction, land acquisition, and military family housing functions of the Department of the Navy in the total amount of $2,885,317,000, as follows:

(1) For military construction projects inside the United States authorized by section 2201(a), $1,628,762,000.

(2) For military construction projects outside the United States authorized by section 2201(b), $292,946,000.

(3) For military construction projects at unspecified worldwide locations authorized by section 2201(c), $11,600,000.

(4) For unspecified minor military construction projects authorized by section 2805 of title 10, United States Code, $10,000,000.

(5) For architectural and engineering services and construction design under section 2807 of title 10, United States Code, $113,017,000.

(6) For military family housing functions:

(A) For construction and acquisition, planning and design, and improvement of military family housing and facilities, $293,129,000.

(B) For support of military family housing (including functions described in section 2833 of title 10, United States Code), $371,404,000.

(7) For the construction of increment 2 of the construction of an addition to the National Maritime Intelligence Center, Suitland, Maryland, authorized by section 2201(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (division B of Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2448), $52,069,000.

(8) For the construction of increment 3 of recruit training barracks infrastructure upgrade at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Illinois, authorized by section 2201(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (division B of Public Law 109–163; 119 Stat. 3490), $16,650,000.

(9) For the construction of increment 3 of wharf upgrades at Yokosuka, Japan, authorized by section 2201(b) of the Military Construction Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2006 (division B of Public Law 109–163; 119 Stat. 3490), $8,750,000.

(10) For the construction of increment 2 of the Bachelor Enlisted Quarters Homeport Ashore Program at Bremerton, Washington (formerly referred to as a project at Naval Station, Everett), authorized by section 2201(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2006 (division B of Public Law 109–163; 119 Stat. 3490), $47,240,000.

(11) For the construction of increment 4 of the limited area production and storage complex at Naval Submarine Base, Kitsap, Bangor, Washington (formerly referred to as a project at the Strategic Weapons Facility Pacific, Bangor), authorized by section 2201(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2005 (division B of Public Law 108–375; 118 Stat. 2105), as amended by section 2206 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (division B of Public Law 109–163; 119 Stat. 3493), $39,750,000.

(b) LIMITATION ON TOTAL COST OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.—Notwithstanding the cost variations authorized by section 2853 of title 10, United States Code, and any other cost variation authorized by law, the total cost of all projects carried out under section 2201 of this Act may not exceed the sum of the following:

(1) The total amount authorized to be appropriated under paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (a).

(2) $50,000,000 (the balance of the amount authorized under section 2201(a) for a submarine drive-in magnetic silencing facility in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii).

(3) $50,912,000 (the balance of the amount authorized under section 2201(b) for construction of a wharf extension in Apra Harbor, Guam).

(4) $71,200,000 (the balance of the amount authorized under section 2201(a) for a nuclear aircraft carrier maintenance pier at Naval Station Bremerton, Washington).

SEC. 2205. TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT FISCAL YEAR 2007 NAVY PROJECTS FOR WHICH FUNDS WERE NOT APPROPRIATED.

(a) TERMINATION OF INSIDE THE UNITED STATES PROJECTS.—The table in section 2201(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (division B of Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2449) is amended—

(1) in the item relating to Marine Corps Base, Twentynine Palms, California, by striking ''$27,217,000'' in the amount column and inserting ''$8,217,000'';

(2) by striking the item relating to Naval Support Activity, Monterey, California;

(3) by striking the item relating to Naval Submarine Base, New London, Connecticut;

(4) by striking the item relating to Cape Canaveral, Florida;

(5) in the item relating to Marine Corps Logistics Base, Albany, Georgia, by striking ''$70,540,000'' in the amount column and inserting ''$62,000,000'';

(6) by striking the item relating to Naval Magazine, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii;

(7) by striking the item relating to Naval Shipyard, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii;

(8) by striking the item relating to Naval Support Activity, Crane, Indiana;

(9) by striking the item relating to Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Maine;

(10) by striking the item relating to Naval Air Station, Meridian, Mississippi;

(11) by striking the item relating to Naval Air Station, Fallon, Nevada;

(12) by striking the item relating to Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, North Carolina;

(13) by striking the item relating to Naval Station, Newport, Rhode Island;

(14) in the item relating to Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort, South Carolina, by striking ''$25,575,000'' in the amount column and inserting ''$22,225,000'';

(15) by striking the item relating to Naval Special Weapons Center, Dahlgren, Virginia;

(16) in the item relating to Naval Support Activity, Norfolk, Virginia, by striking ''$41,712,000'' in the amount column and inserting ''$28,462,000'';

(17) in the item relating to Naval Air Station, Whidbey Island, Washington, by striking ''$67,303,000'' in the amount column and inserting ''$57,653,000''; and

(18) in the item relating to Naval Base, Kitsap, Washington, by striking ''$17,617,000'' in the amount column and inserting ''$13,507,000''.

(b) TERMINATION OF MILITARY FAMILY HOUSING PROJECTS.—Section 2204(a)(6)(A) of such Act (120 Stat. 2450) is amended by striking ''$308,956,000'' and inserting ''$305,256,000''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 2204(a) of such Act (120 Stat. 2450) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''$2,109,367,000'' and inserting ''$1,946,867,000''; and

(2) in paragraph (1), by striking ''$832,982,000'' and inserting ''$674,182,000''.

SEC. 2206. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2005 PROJECT.

(a) MODIFICATION.—The table in section 2201(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (division B of Public Law 108–375; 118 Stat. 2105), as amended by section 2206 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (division B of Public Law 109–163; 119 Stat. 3493) and section 2205 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (division B of Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2452), is amended—

(1) in the item relating to Strategic Weapons Facility Pacific, Bangor, Washington, by striking ''$147,760,000'' in the amount column and inserting ''$295,000,000''; and

(2) by striking the amount identified as the total in the amount column and inserting ''$972,719,000''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 2204 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (division B of Public Law 108–375; 118 Stat. 2107), as amended by section 2206 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (division B of Public Law 109–163; 119 Stat. 3493) and section 2205 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (division B of Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2453), is amended in subsection (b)(6), by striking ''$95,320,000'' and inserting ''$259,320,000''.

SEC. 2207. REPEAL OF AUTHORIZATION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NAVY OUTLYING LANDING FIELD, WASHINGTON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA.

(a) REPEAL OF AUTHORIZATION.—The table in section 2201(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004

(division B of Public Law 108–136; 117 Stat. 1704) is amended by striking the item relating to Navy Outlying Landing Field, Washington County, North Carolina, as added by section 2205(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (division B of Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2452).

(b) REPEAL OF INCREMENTAL FUNDING AUTHORITY.—Section 2204(b) of that Act (117 Stat. 1706) is amended by striking paragraph (6).

(c) EFFECT OF REPEAL.—The amendments made by this section do not affect the expenditure of funds obligated, before the effective date of this title, for the construction of the Navy Outlying Landing Field, Washington County, North Carolina, or the acquisition of real property to facilitate such construction.

TITLE XXIII—AIR FORCE

Sec. 2301. Authorized Air Force construction and land acquisition projects.
Sec. 2302. Family housing.
Sec. 2303. Improvements to military family housing units.
Sec. 2304. Authorization of appropriations, Air Force.
Sec. 2305. Termination of authority to carry out fiscal year 2007 Air Force projects for which funds were not appropriated.
Sec. 2306. Modification of authority to carry out certain fiscal year 2006 projects.
Sec. 2307. Extension of authorizations of certain fiscal year 2005 projects.
Sec. 2308. Extension of authorizations of certain fiscal year 2004 projects.

SEC. 2301. AUTHORIZED AIR FORCE CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS.

(a) INSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2304(1), the Secretary of the Air Force may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the installations or locations inside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Air Force: Inside the United States

State	Installation or Location	Amount
Alaska	Elmendorf Air Force Base	$83,180,000
Arizona	Davis-Monthan Air Force Base	$11,200,000
	Luke Air Force Base	$5,500,000
Arkansas	Little Rock Air Force Base	$19,600,000
California	Travis Air Force Base	$37,400,000
Colorado	Fort Carson	$13,500,000
	Schriever Air Force Base	$24,500,000
	United States Air Force Academy	$15,000,000
District of Columbia	Bolling Air Force Base	$2,500,000
Florida	Eglin Air Force Base	$158,300,000
	MacDill Air Force Base	$60,500,000
	Patrick Air Force Base	$11,854,000
	Tyndall Air Force Base	$52,514,000
Georgia	Moody Air Force Base	$7,500,000
	Robins Air Force Base	$19,700,000
Hawaii	Hickam Air Force Base	$31,971,000
Illinois	Scott Air Force Base	$24,900,000
Kansas	Fort Riley	$12,515,000
	McConnell Air Force Base	$6,300,000
Massachusetts	Hanscom Air Force Base	$12,800,000
Mississippi	Columbus Air Force Base	$9,800,000
Missouri	Whiteman Air Force Base	$11,400,000
Montana	Malmstrom Air Force Base	$7,000,000
Nebraska	Offutt Air Force Base	$16,952,000
Nevada	Nellis Air Force Base	$4,950,000
New Mexico	Cannon Air Force Base	$1,688,000
	Kirtland Air Force Base	$15,100,000
North Dakota	Grand Forks Air Force Base	$13,000,000
	Minot Air Force Base	$18,200,000
Oklahoma	Altus Air Force Base	$2,000,000
	Tinker Air Force Base	$34,600,000
	Vance Air Force Base	$7,700,000
South Carolina	Charleston Air Force Base	$11,000,000
	Shaw Air Force Base	$9,300,000
South Dakota	Ellsworth Air Force Base	$16,600,000
Texas	Goodfellow Air Force Base	$5,800,000
	Lackland Air Force Base	$14,000,000
	Laughlin Air Force Base	$5,200,000
	Randolph Air Force Base	$2,950,000
	Shepard Air Force Base	$7,000,000
Utah	Hill Air Force Base	$25,999,000
Washington	Fairchild Air Force Base	$6,200,000
Wyoming	Francis E. Warren Air Force Base	$14,600,000

(b) OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2304(2), the Secretary of the Air Force may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the installations or locations outside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Air Force: Outside the United States

Country	Installation or Location	Amount
Germany	Ramstein Air Base	$48,209,000
Guam	Andersen Air Force Base	$15,816,000
Qatar	Al Udeid Air Base	$22,300,000
Spain	Moron Air Base	$1,800,000
United Kingdom	Royal Air Force Lakenheath	$17,300,000
	Royal Air Force Menwith Hill Station	$41,000,000

(c) UNSPECIFIED WORLDWIDE.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2304(3), the Secretary of the Air Force may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for unspecified installations or locations in the amount set forth in the following table:

Air Force: Unspecified Worldwide

Location	Installation or Location	Amount
Worldwide Classified	Classified Project	$1,500,000
	Classified-Special Evaluation Program	$12,328,000

SEC. 2302. FAMILY HOUSING.

(a) CONSTRUCTION AND ACQUISITION.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2304(6)(A), the Secretary of the Air Force may construct or acquire family housing units (including land acquisition and supporting facilities) at the installations or locations, in the number of units, and in the amounts set forth in the following table:

Air Force: Family Housing

State or Country	Installation or Location	Units	Amount
Germany	Ramstein Air Base	117	$56,275,000

(b) PLANNING AND DESIGN.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2304(6)(A), the Secretary of the Air Force may carry out architectural and engineering services and construction design activities with respect to the construction or improvement of military family housing units in an amount not to exceed $12,210,000.

SEC. 2303. IMPROVEMENTS TO MILITARY FAMILY HOUSING UNITS.

Subject to section 2825 of title 10, United States Code, and using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2304(6)(A), the Secretary of the Air Force may improve existing military family housing units in an amount not to exceed $259,262,000.

SEC. 2304. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS, AIR FORCE.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years beginning after September 30, 2007, for military construction, land acquisition, and military family housing functions of the Department of the Air Force in the total amount of $2,175,829,000, as follows:

(1) For military construction projects inside the United States authorized by section 2301(a), $872,273,000.

(2) For military construction projects outside the United States authorized by section 2301(b), $146,425,000.

(3) For the military construction projects at unspecified worldwide locations authorized by section 2301(c), $13,828,000.

(4) For unspecified minor military construction projects authorized by section 2805 of title 10, United States Code, $15,000,000.

(5) For architectural and engineering services and construction design under section 2807 of title 10, United States Code, $43,721,000.

(6) For military family housing functions:

(A) For construction and acquisition, planning and design, and improvement of military family housing and facilities, $327,747,000.

(B) For support of military family housing (including functions described in section 2833 of title 10, United States Code), $688,335,000.

(7) For the construction of increments 3 and 4 of the main base runway at Edwards Air Force Base, California, authorized by section 2301(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (division B of Public Law 109–163; 119 Stat. 3494), $43,500,000.

(8) For the construction of increment 3 of the CENTCOM Joint Intelligence Center at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, authorized by section 2301(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (division B of Public Law 109–163; 119 Stat. 3494), as amended by section 2305 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (division B of Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2456), $25,000,000.

SEC. 2305. TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT FISCAL YEAR 2007 AIR FORCE PROJECTS FOR WHICH FUNDS WERE NOT APPROPRIATED.

(a) TERMINATION OF INSIDE THE UNITED STATES PROJECTS.—The table in section 2301(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (division B of Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2453) is amended—

(1) in the item relating to Elmendorf, Alaska, by striking ''$68,100,000'' in the amount column and inserting ''$56,100,000'';

(2) in the item relating to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona, by striking ''$11,800,000'' in the amount column and inserting ''$4,600,000'';

(3) by striking the item relating to Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas;

(4) in the item relating to Travis Air Force Base, California, by striking ''$85,800,000'' in the amount column and inserting ''$73,900,000'';

(5) by striking the item relating to Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado;

(6) in the item relating to Dover Air Force, Delaware, by striking ''$30,400,000'' in the amount column and inserting ''$26,400,000'';

(7) in the item relating to Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, by striking ''$30,350,000'' in the amount column and inserting ''$19,350,000'';

(8) in the item relating to Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida, by striking ''$8,200,000'' in the amount column and inserting ''$1,800,000'';

(9) in the item relating to Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, by striking ''$59,600,000'' in the amount column and inserting ''$38,600,000'';

(10) in the item relating to Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, by striking ''$28,200,000'' in the amount column and inserting ''$20,000,000'';

(11) by striking the item relating to McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas;

(12) by striking the item relating to Hanscom Air Force Base, Massachusetts;

(13) by striking the item relating to Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri;

(14) by striking the item relating to Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana;

(15) in the item relating to McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey, by striking ''$28,500,000'' in the amount column and inserting ''$15,500,000'';

(16) by striking the item relating to Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico;

(17) by striking the item relating to Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota;

(18) in the item relating to Altus Air Force Base, Oklahoma, by striking ''$9,500,000'' in the amount column and inserting ''$1,500,000'';

(19) by striking the item relating to Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma;

(20) by striking the item relating to Charleston Air Force Base, South Carolina;

(21) in the item relating to Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, by striking ''$31,500,000'' in the amount column and inserting ''$22,200,000'';

(22) by striking the item relating to Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota;

(23) by striking the item relating to Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas;

(24) by striking the item relating to Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas;

(25) in the item relating to Hill Air Force Base, Utah, by striking ''$63,400,000'' in the amount column and inserting ''$53,400,000''; and

(26) by striking the item relating to Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 2304(a) of such Act (120 Stat. 2455) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''$3,231,442,000'' and inserting ''$3,005,817,000''; and

(2) in paragraph (1), by striking ''$962,286,000'' and inserting ''$736,661,000''.

(c) EXCEPTION.—The termination of the authorization of a military construction project or land acquisition as a result of the amendment made by subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to a military construction project or land acquisition—

(1) that was authorized by section 2301(a) of such Act; and

(2) for which a contract for the construction or acquisition was entered into before October 1, 2007.

SEC. 2306. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2006 PROJECTS.

(a) FURTHER MODIFICATION OF INSIDE THE UNITED STATES PROJECT.—The table in section 2301(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (division B of Public Law 109–163; 119 Stat. 3494), as amended by section 2305(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (division B of Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2456), is further amended—

(1) in the item relating to Edwards Air Force Base, California, by striking ''$103,000,000'' in the amount column and inserting ''$111,500,000''; and

(2) in the item relating to MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, by striking ''$101,500,000'' in the amount column and inserting ''$126,500,000''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 2304(b) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (division B of Public Law 109–163; 119 Stat. 3496), as amended by section 2305(b) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (division B of Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2456), is further amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking ''$66,000,000'' and inserting ''$74,500,000''; and

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking ''$23,300,000'' and inserting ''$48,300,000''.

SEC. 2307. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATIONS OF CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2005 PROJECTS.

(a) EXTENSION AND RENEWAL.—Notwithstanding section 2701 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (division B of Public Law 108–375; 118 Stat. 2116), the authorizations set forth in the table in subsection (b), as provided in section 2302 of that Act (118 Stat. 2110), shall remain in effect until October 1, 2008, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2009, whichever is later.

(b) TABLE.—The table referred to in subsection (a) is as follows:

Air Force: Extension of 2005 Project Authorizations

Installation or location	Project	Amount
Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona	Family housing (250 units)	$48,500,000
Vandenberg Air Force Base, California	Family housing (120 units)	$30,906,000
MacDill Air Force Base, Florida	Family housing (61 units)	$21,723,000
	Housing maintenance facility	$1,250,000
Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi	Housing management facility	$711,000
Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri	Family housing (160 units)	$37,087,000
Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina	Family housing (167 units)	$32,693,000
Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas	Family housing (127 units)	$20,604,000
Ramstein Air Base, Germany	USAFE Theater Aerospace Operations Support Center	$24,024,000

SEC. 2308. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATIONS OF CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2004 PROJECTS.

(a) EXTENSION.—Notwithstanding section 2701 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (division B of Public Law 108–136; 117 Stat. 1716), authorizations set forth in the table in subsection (b), as provided in section 2302 of that Act (117 Stat. 1710) and extended by section 2702 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (division B of Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2464), shall remain in effect until October 1, 2008, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2009, whichever is later.

(b) TABLE.—The table referred to in subsection (a) is as follows:

Air Force: Extension of 2004 Project Authorizations

Installation or location	Project	Amount
Travis Air Force Base, California	Family housing (56 units)	$12,723,000
Eglin Air Force Base, Florida	Family housing (279 units)	$32,166,000

TITLE XXIV—DEFENSE AGENCIES

Sec. 2401. Authorized Defense Agencies construction and land acquisition projects.
Sec. 2402. Energy conservation projects.
Sec. 2403. Authorization of appropriations, Defense Agencies.
Sec. 2404. Termination or modification of authority to carry out certain fiscal year 2007 Defense Agencies projects.
Sec. 2405. Munitions demilitarization facilities, Blue Grass Army Depot, Kentucky, and Pueblo Chemical Activity, Colorado.
Sec. 2406. Extension of authorizations of certain fiscal year 2005 projects.

SEC. 2401. AUTHORIZED DEFENSE AGENCIES CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS.

(a) INSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2403(a)(1), the Secretary of Defense may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the installations or locations inside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following tables:

Defense Education Activity

State	Installation or location	Amount
North Carolina	Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune	$2,014,000

Defense Intelligence Agency

State	Installation or location	Amount
District of Columbia	Bolling Air Force Base	$1,012,000

Defense Logistics Agency

State	Installation or location	Amount
California	Port Loma Annex	$140,000,000
Florida	Naval Air Station, Key West	$1,874,000
Hawaii	Hickam Air Force Base	$11,900,000
New Mexico	Kirtland Air Force Base	$1,800,000
Ohio	Defense Supply Center, Columbus	$4,000,000
Pennsylvania	Defense Distribution Depot, New Cumberland	$21,000,000
Virginia	Fort Belvoir	$5,000,000

National Security Agency

State	Installation or location	Amount
Maryland	Fort Meade	$11,901,000

Special Operations Command

State	Installation or location	Amount
California	Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton	$20,030,000
	Naval Amphibious Base, Coronodo	$12,000,000

Special Operations Command—Continued

State	Installation or location	Amount
Florida	Hurlburt Field	$29,111,000
	MacDill Air Force Base	$47,700,000
Georgia	Fort Benning	$35,000,000
	Hunter Army Air Field	$13,800,000
Kentucky	Fort Campbell	$53,500,000
Mississippi	Stennis Space Center	$10,200,000
New Mexico	Cannon Air Force Base	$7,500,000
North Carolina	Fort Bragg	$47,250,000
	Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune	$28,210,000
Virginia	Dam Neck	$113,800,000
	Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek	$48,000,000
Washington	Fort Lewis	$77,000,000

TRICARE Management Activity

State	Installation or location	Amount
Florida	MacDill Air Force Base	$5,000,000
Illinois	Naval Hospital, Great Lakes	$99,000,000
New York	Fort Drum	$41,000,000
Texas	Camp Bullis	$7,400,000
Virginia	Naval Station, Norfolk	$6,450,000
Washington	Fort Lewis	$21,000,000

(b) OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2403(a)(2), the Secretary of Defense may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the installations or locations outside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following tables:

Defense Education Activity

Country	Installation or location	Amount
Belgium	Sterrebeek	$5,992,000
Germany	Ramstein Air Base	$5,393,000
	Wiesbaden Air Base	$20,472,000

Special Operations Command

Country	Installation or location	Amount
Bahrain	Southwest Asia	$19,000,000
Qatar	Al Udeid AB	$52,852,000

TRICARE Management Activity

Country	Installation or location	Amount
Germany	Spangdahlem Air Base	$30,100,000

(c) UNSPECIFIED WORLDWIDE.—Using the amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2403(a)(3), the Secretary of Defense may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for unspecified installations or locations in the amount set forth in the following table:

Defense Agencies: Unspecified Worldwide

Location	Installation or location	Amount
Worldwide Classified	Classified Project	$1,887,000

SEC. 2402. ENERGY CONSERVATION PROJECTS.

Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2403(a)(7), the Secretary of Defense may carry out energy conservation projects under chapter 173 of title 10, United States Code, in the amount of $70,000,000.

SEC. 2403. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS, DEFENSE AGENCIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years beginning after September 30, 2007, for military construction, land acquisition, and military family housing functions of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments) in the total amount of $1,763,120,000 as follows:

(1) For military construction projects inside the United States authorized by section 2401(a), $791,902,000.

(2) For military construction projects outside the United States authorized by section 2401(b), $133,809,000.

(3) For the military construction projects at unspecified worldwide locations authorized by section 2301(c), $1,887,000.

(4) For unspecified minor military construction projects under section 2805 of title 10, United States Code, $23,711,000.

(5) For contingency construction projects of the Secretary of Defense under section 2804 of title 10, United States Code, $5,000,000.

(6) For architectural and engineering services and construction design under section 2807 of title 10, United States Code, $155,569,000.

(7) For energy conservation projects authorized by section 2402 of this Act, $70,000,000.

(8) For military family housing functions:

(A) For support of military family housing (including functions described in section 2833 of title 10, United States Code), $48,848,000.

(B) For credit to the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund established by section 2883(a)(1) of title 10, United States Code, $500,000.

(9) For the construction of increment 3 of the regional security operations center at Kunia, Hawaii, authorized by section 2401(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2006 (division B of Public Law 109–163; 119 Stat. 3497), as amended by section 7017 of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006 (Public Law 109–234; 120 Stat. 485), $136,318,000.

(10) For the construction of increment 3 of the regional security operations center at Augusta, Georgia, authorized by section 2401(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2006 (division B of Public Law 109–163; 119 Stat. 3497), as amended by section 7016 of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006 (Public Law 109–234; 120 Stat. 485), $100,000,000.

(11) For the construction of increment 2 of the health clinic replacement at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, authorized by section 2401(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2007 (division B of Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2457), $41,400,000.

(12) For the construction of increment 2 of the replacement of the Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases at Fort Detrick, Maryland, authorized by section 2401(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2007 (division B of Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2457), $150,000,000.

(13) For the construction of increment 9 of a munitions demilitarization facility at Pueblo Chemical Activity, Colorado, authorized by section 2401(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1997 (division B of Public Law 104–201; 110 Stat. 2775), as amended by section 2406 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 (division B of Public Law 106–65; 113 Stat. 839) and section 2407 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (division B of Public Law 107–314; 116 Stat. 2698), $35,159,000.

(14) For the construction of increment 8 of a munitions demilitarization facility at Blue Grass Army Depot, Kentucky, authorized by section 2401(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 (division B of Public Law 106–65; 113 Stat. 835), as amended by section 2405 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (division B of Public Law 107–107; 115 Stat. 1298) and section 2405 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (division B of Public Law 107–314; 116 Stat. 2698), $69,017,000.

(b) LIMITATION ON TOTAL COST OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.—Notwithstanding the cost variations authorized by section 2853 of title 10, United States Code, and any other cost variation authorized by law, the total cost of all projects carried out under section 2401 of this Act may not exceed the sum of the following:

(1) The total amount authorized to be appropriated under paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (a).

(2) $84,300,000 (the balance of the amount authorized for the Defense Logistics Agency under section 2401(a) for the replacement of fuel storage facilities, Point Loma Annex, California).

(3) $47,250,000 (the balance of the amount authorized for the Special Operations Command under section 2401(a) for a special operations forces operations facility at Dam Neck, Virginia).

SEC. 2404. TERMINATION OR MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2007 DEFENSE AGENCIES PROJECTS.

(a) TERMINATION OF PROJECTS FOR WHICH FUNDS WERE NOT APPROPRIATED.—The table relating to Special Operations Command in section 2401(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (division B of Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2457) is amended—

(1) by striking the item relating to Stennis Space Center, Mississippi; and

(2) in the item relating to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, by striking ''$51,768,000'' in the amount column and inserting ''$44,868,000''.

(b) MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT ACTIVITIES.—Section 2405(a)(7) of that Act (120 Stat. 2460) is amended by striking ''$191,220,000'' and inserting ''$252,279,000''.

(c) MODIFICATION OF MUNITIONS DEMILITARIZATION FACILITY PROJECT.—Section 2405(a)(15) of that Act (120 Stat. 2461) is amended by striking ''$99,157,000'' and inserting ''$89,157,000''.

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 2405(a) of that Act (120 Stat. 2460) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''$7,163,431,000'' and inserting ''$7,197,390,000''; and

(2) in paragraph (1), by striking ''$533,099,000'' and inserting ''$515,999,000''.

SEC. 2405. MUNITIONS DEMILITARIZATION FACILITIES, BLUE GRASS ARMY DEPOT, KENTUCKY, AND PUEBLO CHEMICAL ACTIVITY, COLORADO.

(a) MUNITIONS DEMILITARIZATION FACILITY, BLUE GRASS ARMY DEPOT.—

(1) AUTHORITY TO INCREASE AMOUNT FOR CONSTRUCTION.—Consistent with the total project amount authorized for the construction a munitions demilitarization facility at Blue Grass Army Depot, Kentucky, by section 2401(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 (division B of Public Law 106–65; 113 Stat. 836), as amended by section 2405 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (division B of Public Law 107–107; 115 Stat. 1298) and section 2405 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (division B of Public Law 107–314; 116 Stat. 2698), the Secretary of Defense may transfer amounts of authorizations made available by section 2403(a)(1) of this Act to increase amounts available for the construction of increment 8 of such munitions demilitarization facility.

(2) AGGREGATE LIMIT.—The aggregate amount of authorizations that the Secretary may transfer under the authority of this subsection may not exceed $17,300,000.

(b) MUNITIONS DEMILITARIZATION FACILITY, PUEBLO CHEMICAL ACTIVITY.—

(1) AUTHORITY TO INCREASE AMOUNT FOR CONSTRUCTION.—Consistent with the total project amount authorized for the construction a munitions demilitarization facility at Pueblo Chemical Activity, Colorado, by section 2401(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1997 (Public Law 104–201; 110 Stat. 2775), as amended by section 2406 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 (division B of Public Law 106–65; 113 Stat. 839) and section 2407 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (division B of Public Law 107–314; 116 Stat. 2698), the Secretary of Defense may transfer amounts of authorizations made available by section 2403(a)(1) of this Act to increase amounts available for the construction of increment 9 of such munitions demilitarization facility.

(2) AGGREGATE LIMIT.—The aggregate amount of authorizations that the Secretary may transfer under the authority of this subsection may not exceed $32,000,000.

(c) CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—Before exercising the authority provided in subsection (a) or (b), the Secretary of Defense shall provide to the congressional defense committees—

(1) a certification that the transfer under such subsection of amounts authorized to be appropriated is in the best interest of national security; and

(2) a statement that the increased amount authorized to be appropriated will be used to carry out authorized military construction activities.

SEC. 2406. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATIONS OF CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2005 PROJECTS.

(a) EXTENSION AND RENEWAL.—Notwithstanding section 2701 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (division B of Public Law 108–375; 118 Stat. 2116), the authorizations set forth in the table in subsection (b), as provided in section 2401 of that Act (118 Stat. 2112), shall remain in effect until October 1, 2008, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2009, whichever is later.

(b) TABLE.—The table referred to in subsection (a) is as follows:

Defense Agencies: Extension of 2005 Project Authorizations

Installation or Location	Agency and Project	Amount
Naval Air Station, Oceana, Virginia	DLA bulk fuel storage tank	$3,589,000
Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Florida	TMA hospital project	$28,438,000

TITLE XXV—NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION SECURITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM

Sec. 2501. Authorized NATO construction and land acquisition projects.
Sec. 2502. Authorization of appropriations, NATO.

SEC. 2501. AUTHORIZED NATO CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS.

The Secretary of Defense may make contributions for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program as provided in section 2806 of title 10, United States Code, in an amount not to exceed the sum of the amount authorized to be appropriated for this purpose in section 2502 and the amount collected from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization as a result of construction previously financed by the United States.

SEC. 2502. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS, NATO.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years beginning after September 30, 2007, for contributions by the Secretary of Defense under section 2806 of title 10, United States Code, for the share of the United States of the cost of projects for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program authorized by section 2501, in the amount of $201,400,000.

TITLE XXVI—GUARD AND RESERVE FORCES FACILITIES

Sec. 2601. Authorized Army National Guard construction and land acquisition projects.
Sec. 2602. Authorized Army Reserve construction and land acquisition projects.
Sec. 2603. Authorized Navy Reserve and Marine Corps Reserve construction and land acquisition projects.

Sec. 2604. Authorized Air National Guard construction and land acquisition projects.
Sec. 2605. Authorized Air Force Reserve construction and land acquisition projects.
Sec. 2606. Authorization of appropriations, National Guard and Reserve.
Sec. 2607. Termination of authority to carry out fiscal year 2007 Guard and Reserve projects for which funds were not appropriated.
Sec. 2608. Modification of authority to carry out fiscal year 2006 Air Force Reserve construction and acquisition projects.
Sec. 2609. Extension of authorizations of certain fiscal year 2005 projects.
Sec. 2610. Extension of authorizations of certain Fiscal Year 2004 projects.

SEC. 2601. AUTHORIZED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS.

Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2606(1)(A), the Secretary of the Army may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the Army National Guard locations, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Army National Guard

State	Location	Amount
Alabama	Springville	$3,300,000
Arizona	Florence	$10,870,000
Arkansas	Camp Robinson	$25,823,000
California	Camp Roberts	$2,850,000
	Sacramento Army Depot	$21,000,000
Connecticut	Niantic	$13,600,000
Florida	Camp Blanding	$15,524,000
	Jacksonville	$12,200,000
Idaho	Gowen Field	$7,615,000
	Orchard Training Area	$1,700,000
Illinois	St. Clair County	$8,100,000
Indiana	Muscatatuck	$4,996,000
Iowa	Iowa City	$13,186,000
Kentucky	London	$2,427,000
Michigan	Camp Grayling	$2,450,000
	Lansing	$4,239,000
Minnesota	Camp Ripley	$17,450,000
Mississippi	Camp Shelby	$4,000,000
Missouri	Whiteman Air Force Base	$30,000,000
North Carolina	Asheville	$3,733,000
North Dakota	Camp Grafton	$33,416,000
Oregon	Ontario	$11,000,000
Pennsylvania	Carlisle	$7,800,000
	East Fallowfield Township	$8,300,000
	Fort Indiantown Gap	$9,500,000
	Gettysburg	$6,300,000
	Graterford	$7,300,000
	Hanover	$5,500,000
	Hazelton	$5,600,000
	Holidaysburg	$9,400,000
	Huntingdon	$7,500,000
	Kutztown	$6,800,000
	Lebanon	$7,800,000
	Philadelphia	$13,650,000
	Waynesburg	$9,000,000
Rhode Island	East Greenwich	$8,200,000
	North Kingstown	$33,000,000
Texas	Camp Bowie	$1,500,000
	Fort Wolters	$2,100,000
Utah	North Salt Lake	$12,200,000
Vermont	Ethan Allen Range	$1,996,000
Virginia	Fort Pickett	$26,211,000
	Winchester	$3,113,000
West Virginia	Camp Dawson	$9,400,000
Wyoming	Camp Guernsey	$2,650,000

SEC. 2602. AUTHORIZED ARMY RESERVE CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS.

Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2606(1)(B), the Secretary of the Army may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the Army Reserve locations, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Army Reserve

State	Location	Amount
California	BT Collins	$6,874,000
	Fort Hunter Liggett	$7,035,000
	Garden Grove	$25,440,000
Montana	Butte	$7,629,000
New Jersey	Fort Dix	$22,900,000
New York	Fort Drum	$15,923,000
Texas	Ellington Field	$15,000,000
	Fort Worth	$15,076,000
Wisconsin	Ellsworth	$9,100,000
	Fort McCoy	$8,523,000

SEC. 2603. AUTHORIZED NAVY RESERVE AND MARINE CORPS RESERVE CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS.

Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2606(a)(2), the Secretary of the Navy may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the Navy Reserve and Marine Corps Reserve locations, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Navy Reserve and Marine Corps Reserve

State	Location	Amount
California	Miramar	$5,580,000
Michigan	Selfridge	$4,030,000
Ohio	Wright-Patterson Air Force Base	$10,277,000
Oregon	Portland	$1,900,000
South Dakota	Sioux Falls	$3,730,000
Texas	Austin	$6,490,000
	Fort Worth	$27,484,000
Virginia	Quantico	$2,410,000

SEC. 2604. AUTHORIZED AIR NATIONAL GUARD CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS.

Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2606(3)(A), the Secretary of the Air Force may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the Air National Guard locations, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Air National Guard

State	Location	Amount
Colorado	Buckley Air National Guard Base	$7,300,000
Delaware	New Castle	$10,800,000
Florida	Jacksonville International Airport	$6,000,000
Georgia	Savannah International Airport	$9,000,000
Indiana	Hulman Regional Airport	$7,700,000
Kansas	Smoky Hill Air National Guard Range	$9,000,000
Louisiana	Camp Beauregard	$1,800,000
Massachusetts	Otis Air National Guard Base	$1,800,000
	Barnes Air National Guard Base	$7,300,000
Mississippi	Key Field	$6,100,000
Nebraska	Lincoln	$8,900,000
Nevada	Reno-Tahoe International Airport	$5,200,000
New Hampshire	Pease Air National Guard Base	$8,900,000
New Jersey	Atlantic City	$9,800,000
New York	Gabreski Airport	$8,400,000
	Griffiss	$6,600,000
	Hancock Field	$5,100,000
North Carolina	Charlotte	$4,000,000
Ohio	Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base	$7,600,000
Pennsylvania	Fort Indiantown Gap	$12,700,000
	Harrisburg	$1,000,000
Rhode Island	Quonset State Airport	$5,000,000
South Dakota	Joe Foss Field	$7,900,000
Tennessee	Lovell Field	$8,200,000
	McGhee-Tyson Airport	$3,200,000
	Memphis International Airport	$11,376,000
Texas	Ellington Field	$7,200,000
Vermont	Burlington	$6,600,000
West Virginia	Eastern WV Regional Airport	$50,776,000
	Yeager	$17,300,000
Wisconsin	Truax Field	$7,000,000

SEC. 2605. AUTHORIZED AIR FORCE RESERVE CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS.

Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2606(3)(B), the Secretary of the Air Force may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the Air Force Reserve locations, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Air Force Reserve

State	Location	Amount
Alaska	Elmendorf Air Force Base	$14,950,000
Utah	Hill Air Force Base	$3,200,000

SEC. 2606. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS, NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years beginning after September 30, 2007, for the costs of acquisition, architectural and engineering services, and construction of facilities for the Guard and Reserve Forces, and for contributions therefor, under chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code (including the cost of acquisition of land for those facilities), in the following amounts:

(1) For the Department of the Army—

(A) for the Army National Guard of the United States, $536,656,000; and

(B) for the Army Reserve, $148,133,000.

(2) For the Department of the Navy, for the Navy and Marine Corps Reserve, $64,430,000.

(3) For the Department of the Air Force—

(A) for the Air National Guard of the United States, $287,537,000; and

(B) for the Air Force Reserve, $28,359,000.

SEC. 2607. TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT FISCAL YEAR 2007 GUARD AND RESERVE PROJECTS FOR WHICH FUNDS WERE NOT APPROPRIATED.

Section 2601 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (division B of Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2463) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''$561,375,000'' and inserting ''$476,697,000''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''$190,617,000'' and inserting ''$167,987,000'';

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''49,998,000'' and inserting ''$43,498,000''; and

(3) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''$294,283,000'' and inserting ''$133,983,000''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''$56,836,000'' and inserting ''$47,436,000''.

SEC. 2608. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT FISCAL YEAR 2006 AIR FORCE RESERVE CONSTRUCTION AND ACQUISITION PROJECTS.

Section 2601(3)(B) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (division B of Public Law 109–163; 119 Stat. 3501) is amended by striking ''$105,883,000'' and inserting ''$102,783,000''.

SEC. 2609. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATIONS OF CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2005 PROJECTS.

(a) EXTENSION AND RENEWAL.—Notwithstanding section 2701 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (division B of Public Law 108–375; 118 Stat. 2116), the authorizations set forth in the tables in subsection (b), as provided in section 2601 of that Act (118 Stat. 2115), shall remain in effect until October 1, 2008, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2009, whichever is later.

(b) TABLES.—The tables referred to in subsection (a) are as follows:

Army National Guard: Extension of 2005 Project Authorizations

Installation or location	Project	Amount
Dublin, California	Readiness center	$11,318,000
Gary, Indiana	Reserve center	9,380,000

Army Reserve: Extension of 2005 Project Authorization

Installation or location	Project	Amount
Corpus Christi (Robstown), Texas	Storage facility	$9,038,000

SEC. 2610. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATIONS OF CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2004 PROJECTS.

(a) EXTENSION.—Notwithstanding section 2701 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (division B of Public Law 108–136; 117 Stat. 1716), the authorizations set forth in the table in subsection (b), as provided in section 2601 of that Act (117 Stat. 1715) and extended by section 2702 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (division B of Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2464), shall remain in effect until October 1, 2008, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2009, whichever is later.

(b) TABLE.—The table referred to in subsection (a) is as follows:

Army National Guard: Extension of 2004 Project Authorizations

Installation or location	Project	Amount
Albuquerque, New Mexico	Readiness center	$2,533,000
Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania	Multi-purpose training range	15,338,000

TITLE XXVII—BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT ACTIVITIES

Sec. 2701. Authorization of appropriations for base closure and realignment activities funded through Department of Defense Base Closure Account 1990.
Sec. 2702. Authorized base closure and realignment activities funded through Department of Defense Base Closure Account 2005.
Sec. 2703. Authorization of appropriations for base closure and realignment activities funded through Department of Defense Base Closure Account 2005.
Sec. 2704. Authorized cost and scope of work variations for military construction and military family housing projects related to base closures and realignments.
Sec. 2705. Transfer of funds from Department of Defense Base Closure Account 2005 to Department of Defense Housing Funds.
Sec. 2706. Comprehensive accounting of funding required to ensure timely implementation of 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission recommendations.
Sec. 2707. Relocation of units from Roberts United States Army Reserve Center and Navy-Marine Corps Reserve Center, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
Sec. 2708. Acquisition of real property, Fort Belvoir, Virginia, as part of the realignment of the installation.
Sec. 2709. Report on availability of traffic infrastructure and facilities to support base realignment.

SEC. 2701. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT ACTIVITIES FUNDED THROUGH DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE ACCOUNT 1990.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years beginning after September 30, 2007, for base closure and realignment activities, including real property acquisition and military construction projects, as authorized by the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (part A of title XXIX of Public Law 101–510; 10 U.S.C. 2687 note) and funded through the Department of Defense Base Closure Account 1990 established by section 2906 of such Act, in the total amount of $295,689,000, as follows:

(1) For the Department of the Army, $98,716,000.

(2) For the Department of the Navy, $50,000,000.

(3) For the Department of the Air Force, $143,260,000.

(4) For the Defense Agencies, $3,713,000.

SEC. 2702. AUTHORIZED BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT ACTIVITIES FUNDED THROUGH DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE ACCOUNT 2005.

Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2703, the Secretary of Defense may carry out base closure and realignment activities, including real property acquisition and military construction projects, as authorized by the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (part A of title XXIX of Public Law 101–510; 10 U.S.C. 2687 note) and funded through the Department of Defense Base Closure Account 2005 established by section 2906A of such Act, in the amount of $8,718,988,000.

SEC. 2703. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT ACTIVITIES FUNDED THROUGH DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE ACCOUNT 2005.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years beginning after September 30, 2007, for base closure and realignment activities, including real property acquisition and military construction projects, as authorized by the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (part A of title XXIX of Public Law 101–510; 10 U.S.C. 2687 note) and funded through the Department of Defense Base Closure Account 2005 established by section 2906A of such Act, in the total amount of $8,040,401,000, as follows:

(1) For the Department of the Army, $4,015,746,000.

(2) For the Department of the Navy, $733,695,000.

(3) For the Department of the Air Force, $1,183,812,000.

(4) For the Defense Agencies, $2,241,062,000.

(b) GENERAL REDUCTION.—The amount otherwise authorized to be appropriated by subsection (a) is reduced by $133,914,000.

SEC. 2704. AUTHORIZED COST AND SCOPE OF WORK VARIATIONS FOR MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND MILITARY FAMILY HOUSING PROJECTS RELATED TO BASE CLOSURES AND REALIGNMENTS.

(a) VARIATIONS AUTHORIZED.—Section 2905A of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment

Act of 1990 (part A of title XXIX of Public Law 101–510; 10 U.S.C. 2687 note) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(f) AUTHORIZED COST AND SCOPE OF WORK VARIATIONS.—(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), the cost authorized for a military construction project or military family housing project to be carried out using funds in the Account may not be increased or reduced by more than 20 percent or $2,000,000, whichever is greater, of the amount specified for the project in the conference report to accompany the Military Construction Authorization Act authorizing the project. The scope of work for such a project may not be reduced by more than 25 percent from the scope specified in the most recent budget documents for the projects listed in such conference report.

''(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a military construction project or military family housing project to be carried out using funds in the Account with an estimated cost of less than $5,000,000, unless the project has not been previously identified in any budget submission for the Account and exceeds the applicable minor construction threshold under section 2805 of title 10, United States Code.

''(3) The limitation on cost or scope variation in paragraph (1) shall not apply if the Secretary of Defense makes a determination that an increase or reduction in cost or a reduction in the scope of work for a military construction project or military family housing project to be carried out using funds in the Account needs to be made for the sole purpose of meeting unusual variations in cost or scope. If the Secretary makes such a determination, the Secretary shall notify the congressional defense committees of the variation in cost or scope not later than 21 days before the date on which the variation is made in connection with the project or, if the notification is provided in an electronic medium pursuant to section 480 of title 10, United States Code, not later than 14 days before the date on which the variation is made. The Secretary shall include the reasons for the variation in the notification.''.

(b) REPORT ON EXISTING PROJECTS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report specifying all military construction projects and military family housing projects carried out using funds in the Department of Defense Base Closure Account 2005 for which a cost or scope of work variation was made before that date that would have been subject to subsection (f) of section 2905A of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990, as added by this section, if such subsection had been in effect when the cost or scope of work variation was made. The Secretary shall include a description of each variation covered by the report and the reasons for the variation.

SEC. 2705. TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE ACCOUNT 2005 TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HOUSING FUNDS.

(a) TRANSFER AUTHORITY.—Subsection (c) of section 2883 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(G) Subject to subsection (f), any amounts that the Secretary of Defense transfers to that Fund from amounts in the Department of Defense Base Closure Account 2005.''; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(G) Subject to subsection (f), any amounts that the Secretary of Defense transfers to that Fund from amounts in the Department of Defense Base Closure Account 2005.''.

(b) NOTIFICATION AND JUSTIFICATION FOR TRANSFER.—Subsection (f) of such section is amended—

(1) by striking ''paragraph (1)(B) or (2)(B)'' and inserting ''subparagraph (B) or (G) of paragraph (1) or subparagraph (B) or (G) of paragraph (2)''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new sentence: ''In addition, the notice required in connection with a transfer under subparagraph (G) of paragraph (1) or subparagraph (G) of paragraph (2) shall include a certification that the amounts to be transferred from the Department of Defense Base Closure Account 2005 were specified in the conference report to accompany the most recent Military Construction Authorization Act.''.

SEC. 2706. COMPREHENSIVE ACCOUNTING OF FUNDING REQUIRED TO ENSURE TIMELY IMPLEMENTATION OF 2005 DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS.

The Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress with the budget materials for fiscal year 2009 a comprehensive accounting of the funding required to ensure that the plan for implementing the final recommendations of the 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission remains on schedule for completion by September 15, 2011, as required by section 2904(c)(5) of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (part A of title XXIX of Public Law 101–510; 10 U.S.C. 2687 note).

SEC. 2707. RELOCATION OF UNITS FROM ROBERTS UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE CENTER AND NAVY-MARINE CORPS RESERVE CENTER, BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA.

The Secretary of the Army may use funds appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 2703 for the purpose of siting an Army Reserve Center and Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center on land under the control of the State of Louisiana adjacent to, or in the vicinity of, the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at a location determined by the Secretary to be in the best interest of national security and in the public interest.

SEC. 2708. ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY, FORT BELVOIR, VIRGINIA, AS PART OF THE REALIGNMENT OF THE INSTALLATION.

(a) ACQUISITION AUTHORITY.—Pursuant to section 2905(a)(1)(A) of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (part A of title XXIX of Public Law 101–510; 10 U.S.C. 2687 note), the relocation of members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of Defense who are scheduled to be relocated to Fort Belvoir, Virginia, shall be limited to the following locations:

(1) Fort Belvoir.

(2) A parcel of real property consisting of approximately 69.5 acres, under the administrative jurisdiction of the Administrator of General Services (in this section referred to as the ''Administrator'') and containing warehouse facilities in Springfield, Virginia (in this section referred to as the ''GSA Property'').

(3) Any other parcels of land (using including any improvement thereon) that are acquired, using competitive procedures, in fee in the vicinity of Fort Belvoir.

(b) ACQUISITION SELECTION CRITERIA.—The Secretary of the Army shall select the site to be used under subsection (a) based on the best value to the Government, and, in making that determination, the Secretary shall consider cost and schedule.

(c) GSA PROPERTY TRANSFER AUTHORIZED.—Pursuant to the relocation alternative authorized by subsection (a)(2), the Administrator may transfer the GSA Property to the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Army for the purpose of permitting the Secretary to construct facilities on the property to support administrative functions to be located at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION OF GSA PROPERTY TRANSFER.—

(1) CONSIDERATION.—As consideration for the transfer of the GSA Property under subsection (c), the Secretary of the Army shall—

(A) pay all reasonable costs to move personnel, furnishings, equipment, and other material related to the relocation of functions identified by the Administrator; and

(B) if determined to be necessary by the Administrator—

(i) transfer to the administrative jurisdiction of the Administrator a parcel of property in the National Capital Region under the jurisdiction of the Secretary and determined to be suitable by the Administrator;

(ii) design and construct storage facilities, utilities, security measures, and access to a road infrastructure on the parcel transferred under clause (i) to meet the requirements of the Administrator; and

(iii) enter into a memorandum of agreement with the Administrator for support services and security at the new facilities constructed pursuant to clause (ii).

(2) EQUAL VALUE TRANSFER.—As a condition of the transfer of the GSA Property under subsection (c), the transfer agreement shall provide that the fair market value of the GSA Property and the consideration provided under paragraph (1) shall be equal or, if not equal, shall be equalized through the use of a cash equalization payment.

(3) DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the GSA Property shall be determined by surveys satisfactory to the Administrator and the Secretary of the Army.

(4) CONGRESSIONAL NOTICE.—Before undertaking an activity under subsection (c) that would require approval of a prospectus under section 3307 of title 40, United States Code, the Administrator shall provide to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate, and the congressional defense committees a written notice containing a description of the activity to be undertaken.

(5) NO EFFECT ON COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS.—Nothing in this section or subsection (c) may be construed to affect or limit the application of or obligation to comply with any environmental law, including section 120(h) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9620(h)).

(6) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Administrator and the Secretary of the Army may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the GSA Property transfer as the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary, determines appropriate to protect the interests of the United States and further the purposes of this section.

(e) ADMINISTRATION OF TRANSFERRED OR ACQUIRED PROPERTY.—Upon completion of any property transfer or acquisition authorized by subsection (a), the property shall be administered by the Secretary of the Army as a part of Fort Belvoir.

(f) STATUS REPORT.—Not later than March 1, 2008, the Secretary of the Army shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the status and estimated costs of implementing subsection (a).

SEC. 2709. REPORT ON AVAILABILITY OF TRAFFIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES TO SUPPORT BASE REALIGNMENT.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—

(1) DESIGNATION OF DEFENSE ACCESS ROADS.—It is the sense of Congress that roads leading onto Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and other military installations that will be significantly impacted by an increase in the number of members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of Defense assigned to the installation as a result of the 2005 round of defense base closures and realignments under the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (part A of title XXIX of Public Law 101–510; 10 U.S.C. 2687 note) or any other significant impact resulting from a realignment of forces should be considered for designation as defense access roads for purposes of section 210 of title 23, United States Code.

(2) FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Defense should seek to ensure that the permanent facilities and infrastructure necessary to support the mission of the Armed Forces and the quality of life needs of members of the Armed Forces, civilian employees, and their families are ready for use at receiving locations before units are transferred to such locations as a result of the 2005 round of defense base closures and realignments.

(b) STUDY OF MILITARY INFRASTRUCTURE AND SURFACE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE.—Not later than April 1, 2008, the Comptroller General shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report with regard to each military installation that will be significantly impacted by an increase in assigned forces or civilian personnel, as described in subsection (a), for the purpose of determining whether—

(1) military facility requirements (including quality of life projects) will be met before the arrival of assigned forces; and

(2) the Department of Defense has programmed sufficient funding to mitigate community traffic congestion in accordance with the defense access roads program under section 210 of title 23, United States Code.

TITLE XXVIIII—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION GENERAL PROVISIONS

Subtitle A—Military Construction Program and Military Family Housing Changes

Sec. 2801. Authority to use operation and maintenance funds for construction projects outside the United States.
Sec. 2802. Clarification of requirement for authorization of military construction.
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Sec. 2805. Extension of authority to accept equalization payments for facility exchanges.
Sec. 2806. Modifications of authority to lease military family housing.
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Subtitle B—Real Property and Facilities Administration

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Subtitle D—Energy Security

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Sec. 2876. Repeal of moratorium on improvements at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico.
Sec. 2877. Establishment of national military working dog teams monument on suitable military installation.
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Sec. 2879. Report on condition of schools under jurisdiction of Department of Defense Education Activity.
Sec. 2880. Report on facilities and operations of Darnall Army Medical Center, Fort Hood Military Reservation, Texas.
Sec. 2881. Report on feasibility of establishing a regional disaster response center at Kelly Air Field, San Antonio, Texas.
Sec. 2882. Naming of housing facility at Fort Carson, Colorado, in honor of the Honorable Joel Hefley, a former member of the United States House of Representatives.
Sec. 2883. Naming of Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center at Rock Island, Illinois, in honor of the Honorable Lane Evans, a former member of the United States House of Representatives.
Sec. 2884. Naming of research laboratory at Air Force Rome Research Site, Rome, New York, in honor of the Honorable Sherwood L. Boehlert, a former member of the United States House of Representatives.
Sec. 2885. Naming of administration building at Joint Systems Manufacturing Center, Lima, Ohio, in honor of the Honorable Michael G. Oxley, a former member of the United States House of Representatives.
Sec. 2886. Naming of Logistics Automation Training Facility, Army Quartermaster Center and School, Fort Lee, Virginia, in honor of General Richard H. Thompson.
Sec. 2887. Authority to relocate Joint Spectrum Center to Fort Meade, Maryland.

Subtitle A—Military Construction Program and Military Family Housing Changes

SEC. 2801. AUTHORITY TO USE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FUNDS FOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.

(a) ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY.—Subsection (a) of section 2808 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (division B of Public Law 108–136; 117 Stat. 1723), as amended by section 2810 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (division B of Public Law 108–375; 118 Stat. 2128), section 2809 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (division B of Public Law 109–163; 119 Stat. 3508), and section 2802 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (division B of Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2466), is further amended by striking ''2007'' and inserting ''2008''.

(b) PRENOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—Subsection (b) of such section is amended by striking the first sentence and inserting the following new sentences: ''Before using appropriated funds available for operation and maintenance to carry out a construction project outside the United States that has an estimated cost in excess of the amounts authorized for unspecified minor military construction projects under section 2805(c) of title 10, United States Code, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional committees specified in subsection (f) a notice regarding the construction project. The project may be carried out only after the end of the 10-day period beginning on the date the notice is received by the committees or, if earlier, the end of the 7-day period beginning on the date on which a copy of the notification is provided in an electronic medium pursuant to section 480 of title 10, United States Code.''.

(c) ANNUAL LIMITATION ON USE OF AUTHORITY.—Subsection (c) of such section is amended to read as follows:

''(c) ANNUAL LIMITATION ON USE OF AUTHORITY.—The total cost of the construction projects carried out under the authority of this section using, in whole or in part, appropriated funds available for operation and maintenance shall not exceed $200,000,000 in a fiscal year.''.

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (g) of such section is amended by striking ''notice of the'' and inserting ''advance notice of the proposed''.

(e) RATIFICATION OF PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS USING FISCAL YEAR 2007 OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FUNDS.—The nine construction projects outside the United States proposed to be carried out using funds appropriated to the Department of Defense for operation and maintenance for fiscal year 2007, but for which the obligation or expenditure of funds was prohibited by subsection (g) of section 2808 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (division B of Public Law 108–136; 117 Stat. 1723), as added by section 2809 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (division B of Public Law 109–163; 119 Stat. 3508), may be carried out using such funds after the date of the enactment of this Act notwithstanding such subsection (g).

SEC. 2802. CLARIFICATION OF REQUIREMENT FOR AUTHORIZATION OF MILITARY CONSTRUCTION.

(a) CLARIFICATION OF REQUIREMENT FOR AUTHORIZATION.—Section 2802(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after ''military construction projects'' the following: '', land acquisitions, and defense access road projects (as described under section 210 of title 23)''.

(b) CLARIFICATION OF DEFINITION.—Section 2801(a) of such title is amended by inserting after ''permanent requirements'' the following: '', or any acquisition of land or construction of a defense access road (as described in section 210 of title 23)''.

SEC. 2803. INCREASE IN THRESHOLDS FOR UNSPECIFIED MINOR MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

Section 2805(a)(1) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''$1,500,000'' and inserting ''$2,000,000''.

SEC. 2804. TEMPORARY AUTHORITY TO SUPPORT REVITALIZATION OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE LABORATORIES THROUGH UNSPECIFIED MINOR MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

(a) LABORATORY REVITALIZATION.—Section 2805 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection (d):

''(d) LABORATORY REVITALIZATION.—(1) For the revitalization and recapitalization of laboratories owned by the United States and under the jurisdiction of the Secretary concerned, the Secretary concerned may obligate and expend—

''(A) from appropriations available to the Secretary concerned for operation and maintenance, amounts necessary to carry out an unspecified minor military construction project costing not more than $2,000,000; or

''(B) from appropriations available to the Secretary concerned for military construction not otherwise authorized by law, amounts necessary to carry out an unspecified minor military construction project costing not more than $4,000,000.

''(2) For an unspecified minor military construction project conducted pursuant to this subsection, $2,000,000 shall be deemed to be the amount specified in subsection (b)(1) regarding when advance approval of the project by the Secretary concerned and congressional notification is required. The Secretary of Defense shall establish procedures for the review and approval of requests from the Secretary of a military department to carry out a construction project under this subsection.

''(3) For purposes of this subsection, the total amount allowed to be applied in any one fiscal year to projects at any one laboratory shall be limited to the larger of the amounts applicable under paragraph (1).

''(4) Not later than February 1, 2010, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the use of the authority provided by this subsection. The report shall include a list and description of the construction projects carried out under this subsection, including the location and cost of each project.

''(5) In this subsection, the term 'laboratory' includes—

''(A) a research, engineering, and development center; and

''(B) a test and evaluation activity.

''(6) The authority to carry out a project under this subsection expires on September 30, 2012.''.

(b) STYLISTIC AMENDMENTS.—Such section is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting ''AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT UNSPECIFIED MINOR MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.—'' after ''(a)'';

(2) in subsection (b), by inserting ''APPROVAL AND CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—'' after ''(b)'';

(3) in subsection (c), by inserting ''USE OF OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FUNDS.—'' after ''(c)''; and

(4) in subsection (e), as redesignated by subsection (a)(1), by inserting ''PROHIBITION ON USE FOR NEW HOUSING UNITS.—'' after ''(e)''.

SEC. 2805. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT EQUALIZATION PAYMENTS FOR FACILITY EXCHANGES.

Section 2809(c)(5) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (division B of Public Law 108–375; 118 Stat. 2127) is amended by striking ''September 30, 2007'' and inserting ''September 30, 2010''.

SEC. 2806. MODIFICATIONS OF AUTHORITY TO LEASE MILITARY FAMILY HOUSING.

(a) INCREASED MAXIMUM LEASE AMOUNT APPLICABLE TO CERTAIN DOMESTIC ARMY FAMILY HOUSING LEASES.—Subsection (b) of section 2828 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking ''paragraphs (3) and (4)'' and inserting ''paragraphs (3), (4), and (7)'';

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking ''paragraphs (2) and (3)'' and inserting ''paragraphs (2), (3), and (7)''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(7)(A) Not more than 600 housing units may be leased by the Secretary of the Army under subsection (a) for which the expenditure for the rental of such units (including the cost of utilities, maintenance, and operation) exceeds the maximum amount per unit per year in effect under paragraph (2) but does not exceed $18,620 per unit per year, as adjusted from time to time under paragraph (5).

''(B) The maximum lease amount provided in subparagraph (A) shall apply only to Army family housing in areas designated by the Secretary of the Army.

''(C) The term of a lease under subparagraph (A) may not exceed 2 years.''.

(b) FOREIGN MILITARY FAMILY HOUSING LEASES.—Subsection (e)(2) of such section is amended by striking ''the Secretary of the Navy may lease not more than 2,800 units of family housing in Italy, and the Secretary of the Army may lease not more than 500 units of family housing in Italy'' and inserting ''the Secretaries of the military departments may lease not more than 3,300 units of family housing in Italy''.

(c) INCREASED THRESHOLD FOR CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION FOR FOREIGN MILITARY FAMILY HOUSING LEASES.—Subsection (f) of such section is amended by striking ''$500,000'' and inserting ''$1,000,000''.

(d) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than March 1, 2008, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the rental of family housing in foreign countries (including the costs of utilities, maintenance, and operations) that exceed $60,000 per unit per year. The report shall include a list and description of rental units (including total gross square feet and number of bedrooms), location, rental cost, the requirement for the rental, and the options that the Secretary has available to decrease the costs associated with the rentals.

SEC. 2807. EXPANSION OF AUTHORITY TO EXCHANGE RESERVE COMPONENT FACILITIES.

Section 18240(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''with a State'' in the first sentence and inserting ''with an Executive agency (as defined in section 105 of title 5), the United States Postal Service, or a State''.

SEC. 2808. LIMITATION ON USE OF ALTERNATIVE AUTHORITY FOR ACQUISITION AND IMPROVEMENT OF MILITARY HOUSING FOR PRIVATIZATION OF TEMPORARY LODGING FACILITIES.

(a) LIMITATION ON PRIVATIZATION OF TEMPORARY LODGING FACILITIES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of subchapter IV of chapter 169 of title 10, United States Code, the privatization of temporary lodging facilities under such subchapter is limited to the military installations authorized in subsection (b) until 120 days after the date on which the report described in subsection (d)(1) is submitted.

(b) AUTHORIZED INSTALLATIONS.—The military installations at which the privatization of temporary lodging facilities may proceed under subsection (a) are the following:

(1) Redstone Arsenal, Alabama.
(2) Fort Rucker, Alabama.
(3) Yuma Proving Ground, Arizona.
(4) Fort McNair, District of Columbia.
(5) Fort Shafter, Hawaii.
(6) Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii.
(7) Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.
(8) Fort Riley, Kansas.
(9) Fort Polk, Louisiana.
(10) Fort Sill, Oklahoma.
(11) Fort Hood, Texas.
(12) Fort Sam Houston, Texas.
(13) Fort Myer, Virginia.

(c) EFFECT OF LIMITATION.—The limitation imposed by subsection (a) prohibits the

issuance of contract solicitations for the privatization of temporary lodging facilities at any military installation not specified in subsection (b).

(d) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) REPORT BY SECRETARY OF THE ARMY.—Not earlier than eight months after the date on which the notice of transfer associated with the military installations specified in subsection (b) is issued, the Secretary of the Army shall submit to the congressional defense committees and the Comptroller General a report that—

(A) describes the implementation of the privatization of temporary lodging facilities at the installations specified in subsection (b);

(B) evaluates the efficiency of the program; and

(C) contains such recommendations as the Secretary considers appropriate regarding expansion of the program.

(2) REPORT BY COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after receiving the report under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General shall submit to the congressional defense committees a review of both the privatization of temporary lodging facilities and the report of the Secretary.

SEC. 2809. TWO-YEAR EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY PROGRAM TO USE MINOR MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS.

(a) EXTENSION.—Subsection (e) of section 2810 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (division B of Public Law 109–163; 119 Stat. 3510) is amended by striking ''September 30, 2007'' and inserting ''September 30, 2009''.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Subsection (d) of such section is amended by striking ''March 1, 2007'' and inserting ''March 1, 2009''.

SEC. 2810. REPORT ON HOUSING PRIVATIZATION INITIATIVES.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than March 31, 2008, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report containing—

(1) a list of all housing privatization transactions carried out by the Department of Defense that, as of such date, are behind schedule or in default; and

(2) recommendations regarding the opportunities for the Federal Government to ensure that all terms of each housing privatization transaction are completed according to the original schedule and budget.

(b) SPECIFIC INFORMATION REGARDING EACH TRANSACTION.—For each housing privatization transaction included in the report required by subsection (a), the report shall provide a description of the following:

(1) The reasons for schedule delays, cost overruns, or default.

(2) How solicitations and competitions were conducted for the project.

(3) How financing, partnerships, legal arrangements, leases, or contracts in relation to the project were structured.

(4) Which entities, including Federal entities, are bearing financial risk for the project, and to what extent.

(5) The remedies available to the Federal Government to restore the transaction to schedule or ensure completion of the terms of the transaction in question at the earliest possible time.

(6) The extent to which the Federal Government has the ability to affect the performance of various parties involved in the project.

(7) The remedies available to subcontractors to recoup liens in the case of default, non-payment by the developer or other party to the transaction or lease agreement, or restructuring.

(8) The remedies available to the Federal Government to affect receivership actions or transfer of ownership of the project.

(9) The names of the developers for the project and any history of previous defaults or bankruptcies by these developers or their affiliates.

(c) HOUSING PRIVATIZATION TRANSACTION DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''housing privatization transaction'' means any contract or other transaction for the construction or acquisition of military family housing or military unaccompanied housing entered into under the authority of subchapter IV of chapter 169 of title 10, United States Code.

Subtitle B—Real Property and Facilities Administration

SEC. 2821. REQUIREMENT TO REPORT REAL PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS RESULTING IN ANNUAL COSTS OF MORE THAN $750,000.

(a) INCLUSION OF TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING DEFENSE AGENCIES.—

(1) REQUIREMENT TO REPORT.—Subsection (a) of section 2662 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking '', or his designee,'' and inserting ''or, with respect to a Defense Agency, the Secretary of Defense''; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by inserting after ''military department'' the following: ''or the Secretary of Defense''.

(2) ANNUAL REPORT REGARDING MINOR TRANSACTIONS.—Subsection (b) of such section is amended by inserting after ''military department'' the following: ''and, with respect to Defense Agencies, the Secretary of Defense''.

(3) EXCEPTIONS.—Subsection (g) of such section is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(4) In this subsection, the term 'Secretary concerned' includes, with respect to Defense Agencies, the Secretary of Defense.''.

(b) INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL TRANSACTION.—Subsection (a)(1) of such section is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(G) Any transaction or contract action that results in, or includes, the acquisition or use by, or the lease or license to, the United States of real property, if the estimated annual rental or cost for the use of the real property is more than $750,000.''.

SEC. 2822. CONTINUED CONSOLIDATION OF REAL PROPERTY PROVISIONS WITHOUT SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE.

(a) CONSOLIDATION.—Section 2663 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(h) LAND ACQUISITION OPTIONS IN ADVANCE OF MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.—(1) The Secretary of a military department may acquire an option on a parcel of real property before or after its acquisition is authorized by law, if the Secretary considers it suitable and likely to be needed for a military project of the military department under the jurisdiction of the Secretary.

''(2) As consideration for an option acquired under paragraph (1), the Secretary may pay, from funds available to the military department under the jurisdiction of the Secretary for real property activities, an amount that is not more than 12 percent of the appraised fair market value of the property.''.

(b) REPEAL OF SUPERSEDED PROVISION.—

(1) REPEAL.—Section 2677 of such title is repealed.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 159 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 2677.

SEC. 2823. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO LEASE NON-EXCESS PROPERTY OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS.

(a) ELIMINATION OF AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT FACILITIES OPERATION SUPPORT AS IN-KIND CONSIDERATION.—Subsection (c)(1) of section 2667 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (F); and

(2) by striking subparagraph (D) and inserting the following new subparagraphs:

''(D) Provision or payment of utility services for the Secretary concerned.

''(E) Provision of real property maintenance services for the Secretary concerned.''.

(b) ELIMINATION OF AUTHORITY TO USE RENTAL AND CERTAIN OTHER PROCEEDS FOR FACILITIES OPERATION SUPPORT.—Subsection (e)(1)(C) of such section is amended—

(1) by adjusting the margins of clauses (ii) and (iii) to conform to the margin of clause (i); and

(2) by striking clause (iv) and inserting the following new clauses:

''(iv) Payment of utility services.

''(v) Real property maintenance services.''.

(c) USE OF COMPETITIVE PROCEDURES FOR SELECTION OF CERTAIN LESSEES.—Subsection (h) of such section is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''exceeds one year, and the fair market value of the lease'' and inserting ''exceeds one year, or the fair market value of the lease'';

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

(3) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following new paragraphs:

''(2) Paragraph (1) does not apply if the Secretary concerned determines that—

''(A) a public interest will be served as a result of the lease; and

''(B) the use of competitive procedures for the selection of certain lessees is unobtainable or not compatible with the public benefit served under subparagraph (A).

''(3) Not later than 45 days before entering into a lease described in paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall submit to Congress written notice describing the terms of the proposed lease and—

''(A) the competitive procedures used to select the lessee; or

''(B) in the case of a lease involving the public benefit exception authorized by paragraph (2), a description of the public benefit to be served by the lease.''.

(d) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS RELATED TO PRIOR-YEAR AMENDMENT.—Subsection (e) of such section is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(B)(ii), by striking ''paragraph (4), (5), or (6)'' and inserting ''paragraph (3), (4), or (5)''; and

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (4), (5), and (6) as paragraphs (3), (4), and (5).

SEC. 2824. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT AUTHORITY FOR MANAGEMENT OF CULTURAL RESOURCES ON CERTAIN SITES OUTSIDE MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.

(a) EXPANDED AUTHORITY.—Section 2684 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''on military installations'' and inserting ''located on a site authorized by subsection (b)'';

(2) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after subsection (a) the following new subsection (b):

''(b) AUTHORIZED CULTURAL RESOURCES SITES.—To be covered by a cooperative agreement under subsection (a), cultural resources must be located—

''(1) on a military installation; or

''(2) on a site outside of a military installation, but only if the cooperative agreement will directly relieve or eliminate current or

anticipated restrictions that would or might restrict, impede, or otherwise interfere, whether directly or indirectly, with current or anticipated military training, testing, or operations on a military installation.''.

(b) CULTURAL RESOURCE DEFINED.—Subsection (d) of such section, as redesignated by subsection (a)(2), is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(5) An Indian sacred site, as defined in section 1(b)(iii) of Executive Order No. 13007.''.

SEC. 2825. AGREEMENTS TO LIMIT ENCROACHMENTS AND OTHER CONSTRAINTS ON MILITARY TRAINING, TESTING, AND OPERATIONS.

(a) MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES OF ACQUIRED PROPERTY.—Subsection (d) of section 2684a of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (3), (4), (5), and (6) as paragraphs (4), (5), (6), and (7), respectively; and

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

''(3) An agreement with an eligible entity under this section may provide for the management of natural resources on real property in which the Secretary concerned acquires any right, title, or interest in accordance with this subsection and for the payment by the United States of all or a portion of the costs of such natural resource management if the Secretary concerned determines that there is a demonstrated need to preserve or restore habitat for the purpose described in subsection (a)(2).''.

(b) LIMITATION ON PORTION OF ACQUISITION COSTS BORNE BY UNITED STATES.—Paragraph (4) of such subsection, as redesignated by subsection (a)(1), is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (E);

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''equal to the fair market value'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''equal to, at the discretion of the Secretary concerned—

''(i) the fair market value of any property or interest in property to be transferred to the United States upon the request of the Secretary concerned under paragraph (5); or

''(ii) the cumulative fair market value of all properties or interests to be transferred to the United States under paragraph (5) pursuant to an agreement under subsection (a).''; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following new subparagraph:

''(D) The portion of acquisition costs borne by the United States under subparagraph (A) may exceed the amount determined under subparagraph (C), but only if—

''(i) the Secretary concerned provides written notice to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives containing—

''(I) a certification by the Secretary that the military value to the United States of the property or interest to be acquired justifies a payment in excess of the fair market value of the property or interest; and

''(II) a description of the military value to be obtained; and

''(ii) the contribution toward the acquisition costs of the property or interest is not made until at least 14 days after the date on which the notice is submitted under clause (i) or, if earlier, at least 10 days after the date on which a copy of the notice is provided in an electronic medium pursuant to section 480 of this title.''.

SEC. 2826. EXPANSION TO ALL MILITARY DEPARTMENTS OF ARMY PILOT PROGRAM FOR PURCHASE OF CERTAIN MUNICIPAL SERVICES FOR MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.

(a) EXPANSION OF PILOT PROGRAM.—Section 325 of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (Public Law 108–375; 10 U.S.C. 2461 note) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**ARMY**'' and inserting ''**MILITARY**'';

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking ''Secretary of the Army'' and inserting ''Secretary of a military department''; and

(B) by striking ''an Army installation'' and inserting ''a military installation under the jurisdiction of the Secretary''; and

(3) in subsection (d), by striking ''The Secretary'' and inserting ''The Secretary of a military department''.

(b) PARTICIPATING INSTALLATIONS.—Subsection (c) of such section is amended by striking ''two Army installations'' and inserting ''three military installations from each military service''.

(c) EXTENSION OF DURATION OF PROGRAM.—Such section is further amended by striking subsections (e) and (f) and inserting the following new subsection:

''(e) TERMINATION OF PILOT PROGRAM.—The pilot program shall terminate on September 30, 2012. Any contract entered into under the pilot program shall terminate not later than that date.''.

SEC. 2827. PROHIBITION ON COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS INTO SELFRIDGE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE.

The Secretary of Defense shall prohibit the use of Selfridge Air National Guard Base by commercial service aircraft.

SEC. 2828. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ACTIONS TO PROTECT INSTALLATIONS, RANGES, AND MILITARY AIRSPACE FROM ENCROACHMENT.

(a) FINDINGS.—In light of the initial report of the Department of Defense submitted pursuant to section 2684a(g) of title 10, United States Code, and of the RAND Corporation report entitled ''The Thin Green Line: An Assessment of DoD's Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative to Buffer Installation Encroachment'', Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Development and loss of habitat in the vicinity of, or in areas ecologically related to, military installations, ranges, and airspace pose a continuing and significant threat to the readiness of the Armed Forces.

(2) The Range Sustainability Program (RSP) of the Department of Defense, and in particular the Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI) involving agreements pursuant to section 2684a of title 10, United States Code, have been effective in addressing this threat to readiness with regard to a number of important installations, ranges, and airspace.

(3) The opportunities to take effective action to protect installations, ranges, and airspace from encroachment is in many cases transient, and delay in taking action will result in either higher costs or permanent loss of the opportunity effectively to address encroachment.

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

(1) develop additional policy guidance on the further implementation of the Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI), to include additional emphasis on protecting biodiversity and on further refining procedures;

(2) give greater emphasis to effective cooperation and collaboration on matters of mutual concern with other Federal agencies charged with managing Federal land; and

(3) ensure that each military department takes full advantage of the authorities provided by section 2684a of title 10, United States Code, in addressing encroachment adversely affecting, or threatening to adversely affect, the installations, ranges, and military airspace of the department.

(c) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall review Chapter 6 of the initial report submitted to Congress under section 2684a(g) of title 10, United States Code, and report to the congressional defense committees on the specific steps, if any, that the Secretary plans to take, or recommends that Congress take, to address the issues raised in such chapter.

SEC. 2829. REPORTS ON ARMY AND MARINE CORPS OPERATIONAL RANGES.

(a) REPORT ON UTILIZATION AND POTENTIAL EXPANSION OF ARMY OPERATIONAL RANGES.—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 containing an assessment of the Army operational ranges used to support training and range activities of the Army. The report shall include the following information:

(1) The size, description, and mission-essential tasks supported by each Army operational range during fiscal year 2003.

(2) A description of the projected changes in Army operational range requirements, including the size, characteristics, and attributes for mission-essential activities at each Army operational range and the extent to which any changes in requirements are a result of—

(A) decisions made as part of the 2005 round of defense base closure and realignment under the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (part A of title XXIX of Public Law 101–510; 10 U.S.C. 2687 note);

(B) the conversion of Army brigades to a modular format;

(C) the Integrated Global Presence and Basing Strategy;

(D) the proposal contained in the budget justification materials submitted in support of the Department of Defense budget for fiscal year 2008 to increase the size of the active component of the Army to 547,400 personnel by the end of fiscal year 2012 and any modification or acceleration contemplated in the budget submission for fiscal year 2009; or

(E) high operational tempos or surge requirements.

(3) The projected deficit or surplus of land at each Army operational range, and a description of the Army's plan to address that projected deficit or surplus of land as well as the upgrade of range attributes at each existing Army operational range.

(4) A description of the Army's prioritization process and investment strategy to address the potential expansion or upgrade of Army operational ranges.

(5) An analysis of alternatives to the expansion of Army operational ranges, including an assessment of the joint use of operational ranges under the jurisdiction, custody, or control of the Secretary of another military department.

(6) An analysis of the cost of, potential military value of, and potential legal or practical impediments to, the expansion of the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, Louisiana, through the acquisition of additional land adjacent to or in the vicinity of the installation.

(7) An analysis of the impact of the proposal described in paragraph (2)(D) on the

plan developed prior to such proposal to relocate forces from Germany to the United States and vacate installations in Germany as part of the Integrated Global Presence and Basing Strategy, including a comparative analysis of—

(A) the projected utilization of the three combat training centers of the Army if all of the six light infantry brigades proposed to be added to the active component of the Army would be based in the United States; and

(B) the projected utilization of such ranges if at least one of those brigades would be based in Germany or if one of the brigades proposed to be relocated pursuant to the plan in paragraph (a)(2)(C) is retained in Germany.

(8) If the analysis required by paragraph (7) indicates that the Joint Multi-National Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany, or the Army's training complex at Grafenwoehr, Germany, would not be fully utilized under the basing scenarios analyzed, an estimate of the cost to replicate the training capability at that center in another location.

(b) REPORT ON POTENTIAL EXPANSION OF MARINE CORPS OPERATIONAL RANGES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Navy shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report containing an assessment of Marine Corps operational ranges used to support training and range activities of the Marine Corps. The report required shall include the following information:

(1) The size, description, and mission-essential tasks supported by each major Marine Corps operational range during fiscal year 2003.

(2) A description of the projected changes in Marine Corps operational range requirements, including the size, characteristics, and attributes for mission-essential activities at each range and the extent to which any changes in requirements are a result of the proposal contained in the fiscal year 2008 budget request to increase the size of the active component of the Marine Corps to 202,000 personnel by the end of fiscal year 2012 and any modification or acceleration contemplated in the budget submission for fiscal year 2009.

(3) The projected deficit or surplus of land at each major Marine Corps operational range, and a description of the Secretary's plan to address that projected deficit or surplus of land as well as the upgrade of range attributes at each existing Marine Corps operational range.

(4) A description of the Secretary's prioritization process and investment strategy to address the potential expansion or upgrade of Marine Corps operational ranges.

(5) An analysis of alternatives to the expansion of Marine Corps operational ranges, including an assessment of the joint use of operational ranges under the jurisdiction, custody, or control of the Secretary of another military department.

(6) An analysis of the cost of, potential military value of, and potential legal or practical impediments to, the expansion of Marine Corps Base, Twentynine Palms, California, through the acquisition of additional land adjacent to or in the vicinity of that installation that is under the control of the Bureau of Land Management.

(c) SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the second of the two reports required by subsections (a) and (b) is submitted, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report containing the following information:

(1) A description of initiatives by the Secretary of Defense to coordinate the range expansion activities of the Army and Marine Corps in order to gain efficiencies in investment and resource allocation.

(2) An analysis of training requirements for the Army and the Marine Corps that could be accomplished through joint use of existing ranges.

(3) An analysis of the responses provided by the Secretary of the Army under subsection (a)(5) and the Secretary of the Navy subsection (b)(5).

(4) Any other matter that the Secretary of Defense considers to be of importance to ensure the effective and timely expansion of ranges to meet Army and Marine Corps training requirements.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term ''Army operational range'' has the meaning given the term ''operational range'' in section 101(e)(3) of title 10, United States Code, except that the term is limited to operational ranges under the jurisdiction, custody, or control of the Secretary of the Army.

(2) The term ''Marine Corps operational range'' has the meaning given the term ''operational range'' in section 101(e)(3) of such title, except that the term is limited to operational ranges under the jurisdiction, custody, or control of the Secretary of the Navy that are used by or available for use by the Marine Corps.

(3) The term ''range activities'' has the meaning given that term in section 101(e)(2) of such title.

SEC. 2830. NIAGARA AIR RESERVE BASE, NEW YORK, BASING REPORT.

Not later than March 1, 2008, the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report containing a detailed plan of the current and future aviation assets that the Secretary expects will be based at Niagara Air Reserve Base, New York. The report shall include a description of all of the aviation assets that will be impacted by the series of relocations to be made to or from Niagara Air Reserve Base and the timeline for such relocations.

SEC. 2831. REPORT ON THE PINON CANYON MANEUVER SITE, COLORADO.

(a) REPORT ON THE PINON CANYON MANEUVER SITE.—

(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—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 on the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site (referred to in this section as ''the Site'').

(2) CONTENT.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) An analysis of whether existing training facilities at Fort Carson, Colorado, and the Site are sufficient to support the training needs of units stationed or planned to be stationed at Fort Carson, including the following:

(i) A description of any new training requirements or significant developments affecting training requirements for units stationed or planned to be stationed at Fort Carson since the 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission found that the base has ''sufficient capacity'' to support four brigade combat teams and associated support units at Fort Carson.

(ii) A study of alternatives for enhancing training facilities at Fort Carson and the Site within their current geographic footprint, including whether these additional investments or measures could support additional training activities.

(iii) A description of the current training calendar and training load at the Site, including—

(I) the number of brigade-sized and battalion-sized military exercises held at the Site since its establishment;

(II) an analysis of the maximum annual training load at the Site, without expanding the Site; and

(III) an analysis of the training load and projected training calendar at the Site when all brigades stationed or planned to be stationed at Fort Carson are at home station.

(B) A report of need for any proposed addition of training land to support units stationed or planned to be stationed at Fort Carson, including the following:

(i) A description of additional training activities, and their benefits to operational readiness, which would be conducted by units stationed at Fort Carson if, through leases or acquisition from consenting landowners, the Site were expanded to include—

(I) the parcel of land identified as ''Area A'' in the Potential PCMS Land expansion map;

(II) the parcel of land identified as ''Area B'' in the Potential PCMS Land expansion map;

(III) the parcels of land identified as ''Area A'' and ''Area B'' in the Potential PCMS Land expansion map;

(IV) acreage sufficient to allow simultaneous exercises of a light infantry brigade and a heavy infantry brigade at the Site;

(V) acreage sufficient to allow simultaneous exercises of two heavy infantry brigades at the Site;

(VI) acreage sufficient to allow simultaneous exercises of a light infantry brigade and a battalion at the Site; and

(VII) acreage sufficient to allow simultaneous exercises of a heavy infantry brigade and a battalion at the Site.

(ii) An analysis of alternatives for acquiring or utilizing training land at other installations in the United States to support training activities of units stationed at Fort Carson.

(iii) An analysis of alternatives for utilizing other federally owned land to support training activities of units stationed at Fort Carson.

(C) An analysis of alternatives for enhancing economic development opportunities in southeastern Colorado at the current Site or through any proposed expansion, including the consideration of the following alternatives:

(i) The leasing of land on the Site or any expansion of the Site to ranchers for grazing.

(ii) The leasing of land from private landowners for training.

(iii) The procurement of additional services and goods, including biofuels and beef, from local businesses.

(iv) The creation of an economic development fund to benefit communities, local governments, and businesses in southeastern Colorado.

(v) The establishment of an outreach office to provide technical assistance to local businesses that wish to bid on Department of Defense contracts.

(vi) The establishment of partnerships with local governments and organizations to expand regional tourism through expanded access to sites of historic, cultural, and environmental interest on the Site.

(vii) An acquisition policy that allows willing sellers to minimize the tax impact of a sale.

(viii) Additional investments in Army missions and personnel, such as stationing an active duty unit at the Site, including—

(I) an analysis of anticipated operational benefits; and

(II) an analysis of economic impacts to surrounding communities.

(3) POTENTIAL PCMS LAND EXPANSION MAP DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''Potential PCMS Land expansion map'' means the June 2007 map entitled ''Potential PCMS Land expansion''.

(b) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW OF REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the Secretary of Defense submits the report required under subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a review of the report and of the justification of the Army for expansion at the Site.

(c) PUBLIC COMMENT.—After the report required under subsection (b) is submitted to Congress, the Army shall solicit public comment on the report for a period of not less than 90 days. Not later than 30 days after the public comment period has closed, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a written summary of comments received.

Subtitle C—Land Conveyances

SEC. 2841. MODIFICATION OF CONVEYANCE AUTHORITY, MARINE CORPS BASE, CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA.

Section 2851(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (division B of Public Law 105–261; 112 Stat. 2219) is amended by striking '', notwithstanding any provision of State law to the contrary,'', as added by section 2867 of Public Law 107–107 (115 Stat. 1334).

SEC. 2842. GRANT OF EASEMENT, EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA.

(a) GRANT AUTHORIZED.—Secretary of the Air Force may use the authority provided by section 2668 of title 10, United States Code, to grant to the Mid Bay Bridge Authority an easement for a roadway right-of-way over such land at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, as the Secretary determines necessary to facilitate the construction of a road connecting the northern landfall of the Mid Bay Bridge to Florida State Highway 85.

(b) CONSIDERATION.—As consideration for the grant of the easement under subsection (a), the Mid Bay Bridge Authority shall pay to the Secretary an amount equal to the fair-market-value of the easement, as determined by the Secretary.

(c) COSTS OF PROJECT.—As a condition of the grant of the easement under subsection (a), the Mid Bay Bridge Authority shall be responsible for all costs associated with the highway project described in such subsection, including all costs the Secretary determines to be necessary to address any impacts that the project may have on the defense missions at Eglin Air Force Base.

SEC. 2843. LAND CONVEYANCE, LYNN HAVEN FUEL DEPOT, LYNN HAVEN, FLORIDA.

(a) CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of the Air Force may convey to Florida State University (in this section referred to as the ''University'') all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of real property, including improvements thereon, consisting of approximately 40 acres located at the Lynn Haven Fuel Depot in Lynn Haven, Florida, as a public benefit conveyance for the purpose of permitting the University to develop the property as a new satellite campus.

(b) CONSIDERATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For the conveyance of the property under subsection (a), the University shall provide the United States with consideration in an amount that is acceptable to the Secretary, whether in the form of cash payment, in-kind consideration, or a combination thereof.

(2) REDUCED TUITION RATES.—The Secretary may accept as in-kind consideration under paragraph (1) reduced tuition rates or scholarships for military personnel at the University.

(c) PAYMENT OF COSTS OF CONVEYANCES.—

(1) PAYMENT REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall require the University to cover costs to be incurred by the Secretary, or to reimburse the Secretary for costs incurred by the Secretary, to carry out the conveyance under subsection (a), including survey costs, appraisal costs, and other costs related to the conveyance. If amounts are collected from the University in advance of the Secretary incurring the actual costs, and the amount collected exceeds the costs actually incurred by the Secretary to carry out the conveyance, the Secretary shall refund the excess amount to the University.

(2) TREATMENT OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED.—Amounts received under paragraph (1) as reimbursement for costs incurred by the Secretary to carry out the conveyance under subsection (a) shall be credited to the fund or account that was used to cover the costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out the conveyance. Amounts so credited shall be merged with amounts in such fund or account and shall be available for the same purposes, and subject to the same conditions and limitations, as amounts in such fund or account.

(d) USE OF PROPERTY FOR OTHER THAN INTENDED PURPOSES.—If the Secretary determines at any time that the real property conveyed under subsection (a) is not being used in accordance with the purposes of the conveyance specified in such subsection, the University shall pay to the United States an amount equal to the fair market value of the property, as of the time of such determination. The fair market value of the property, excluding the value of any improvements made to the property by the University, shall be determined by the Secretary in accordance with Federal appraisal standards and procedures.

(e) DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the real property to be conveyed under subsection (a) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary.

(f) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance under subsection (a) as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

SEC. 2844. MODIFICATION OF LEASE OF PROPERTY, NATIONAL FLIGHT ACADEMY AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NAVAL AVIATION, NAVAL AIR STATION, PENSACOLA, FLORIDA.

Section 2850(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (division B of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (as enacted into law by Public Law 106–398; 114 Stat. 1654A–428)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''naval aviation and'' and inserting ''naval aviation,''; and

(2) by inserting before the period at the end the following: '', and, as of January 1, 2008, to teach the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines that have an impact on and relate to aviation''.

SEC. 2845. LAND EXCHANGE, DETROIT, MICHIGAN.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of General Services.

(2) CITY.—The term ''City'' means the City of Detroit, Michigan.

(3) CITY LAND.—The term ''City land'' means the approximately 0.741 acres of real property, including any improvement thereon, as depicted on the exchange maps, that is commonly identified as 110 Mount Elliott Street, Detroit, Michigan.

(4) COMMANDANT.—The term ''Commandant'' means the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard.

(5) EDC.—The term ''EDC'' means the Economic Development Corporation of the City of Detroit.

(6) EXCHANGE MAPS.—The term ''exchange maps'' means the maps entitled ''Atwater Street Land Exchange Maps'' prepared pursuant to subsection (f).

(7) FEDERAL LAND.—The term ''Federal land'' means approximately 1.26 acres of real property, including any improvements thereon, as depicted on the exchange maps, that is commonly identified as 2660 Atwater Street, Detroit, Michigan, and under the administrative control of the United States Coast Guard.

(8) SECTOR DETROIT.—The term ''Sector Detroit'' means Coast Guard Sector Detroit of the Ninth Coast Guard District.

(b) CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard, in coordination with the Administrator, may convey to the EDC all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Federal land.

(c) CONSIDERATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As consideration for the conveyance under subsection (b)—

(A) the City shall convey to the United States all right, title, and interest in and to the City land; and

(B) the EDC shall construct a facility and parking lot acceptable to the Commandant of the Coast Guard.

(2) EQUALIZATION PAYMENT OPTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant may, upon the agreement of the City and the EDC, waive the requirement to construct a facility and parking lot under paragraph (1)(B) and accept in lieu thereof an equalization payment from the City equal to the difference between the value, as determined by the Administrator at the time of transfer, of the Federal land and the City land.

(B) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Any amounts received pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall be available to the Commandant, without further appropriation and until expended, to construct, expand, or improve facilities related to Sector Detroit's aids to navigation or vessel maintenance.

(d) CONDITIONS OF EXCHANGE.—

(1) COVENANTS.—All conditions placed within the deeds of title shall be construed as covenants running with the land.

(2) AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT QUITCLAIM DEED.—The Commandant may accept a quitclaim deed for the City land and may convey the Federal land by quitclaim deed.

(3) ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION.—Prior to the time of the exchange, the Coast Guard and the EDC shall remediate any and all contaminants existing on their respective properties to levels required by applicable State and Federal law. The Commandant and, as a condition of the exchange, the EDC shall make available for review and inspection any record relating to hazardous materials on the land to be exchanged under this section. The costs of remedial actions relating to hazardous materials on exchanged land shall be paid by those entities responsible for costs under applicable law.

(e) AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO LICENSE OR LEASE.—The Commandant may enter into a license or lease agreement with the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy for the use of a portion of the Federal land for the Detroit Riverfront Walk. Such license or lease shall be at no cost to the City and upon such other terms that are acceptable to the Commandant, and shall terminate upon the completion of the exchange authorized by this section, or the date specified in subsection (h), whichever occurs earlier.

(f) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS OF LAND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall file with the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives the maps, entitled ''Atwater Street Land Exchange Maps'', which depict

the Federal land and the City lands and provide a legal description of each property to be exchanged.

(2) FORCE OF LAW.—The maps and legal descriptions filed under paragraph (1) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Commandant may correct typographical errors in the maps and each legal description.

(3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Each map and legal description filed under paragraph (1) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Coast Guard and the City.

(g) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Commandant may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the exchange under this section as the Commandant considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(h) EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY TO CONVEY.—The authority to enter into the exchange authorized by this section shall expire three years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 2846. TRANSFER OF JURISDICTION, FORMER NIKE MISSILE SITE, GROSSE ILE, MICHIGAN.

(a) TRANSFER.—Administrative jurisdiction over the property described in subsection (b) is hereby transferred from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) PROPERTY DESCRIBED.—The property referred to in subsection (a) is the former Nike missile site located at the southern end of Grosse Ile, Michigan, as depicted on the map entitled ''07–CE'' on file with the Environmental Protection Agency and dated May 16, 1984.

(c) ADMINISTRATION OF PROPERTY.—Subject to subsection (d), the Secretary of the Interior shall administer the property described in subsection (b)—

(1) acting through the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;

(2) as part of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge; and

(3) for use as a habitat for fish and wildlife and as a recreational property for outdoor education and environmental appreciation.

(d) MANAGEMENT OF REMEDIATION.—The Secretary of Defense, acting through the Army Corps of Engineers, shall manage and carry out environmental remediation activities with respect to the property described in subsection (b) that, at a minimum, achieve the standard sufficient to allow the property to be used as provided in subsection (c)(3). Such remediation activities, with the exception of long-term monitoring, shall be completed to achieve that standard not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act. The Secretary of Defense may use amounts made available from the account established by section 2703(a)(5) of title 10, United States Code, to carry out such remediation.

(e) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect or limit the application of, or any obligation to comply with, any environmental law, including the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.) and the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.).

SEC. 2847. MODIFICATION TO LAND CONVEYANCE AUTHORITY, FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA.

(a) REQUIREMENT TO CONVEY TRACT NO. 404–1 PROPERTY WITHOUT CONSIDERATION.—Section 2836 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998 (division B of Public Law 105–85; 111 Stat. 2005) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3), by striking ''at fair market value'' and inserting ''without consideration'';

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

''(2) The conveyances under paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (a) shall be subject to the condition that the County develop and use the conveyed properties for educational purposes and the construction of public school structures.''; and

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

''(2) If the Secretary determines at any time that the real property conveyed under paragraph (2) or paragraph (3) of subsection (a) is not being used in accordance with subsection (b)(2), all right, title, and interest in and to the property conveyed under such paragraph, including any improvements thereon, shall revert, at the option of the Secretary, to the United States, and the United States shall have the right of immediate entry thereon.''.

(b) PAYMENT OF COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—Such section is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(f) PAYMENT OF COSTS OF CONVEYANCE OF TRACT NO. 404–1 PROPERTY.—

''(1) PAYMENT REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall require the County to cover costs to be incurred by the Secretary, or to reimburse the Secretary for costs incurred by the Secretary, to carry out the conveyance under subsection (a)(3), including survey costs, costs related to environmental documentation, and other administrative costs related to the conveyance. If amounts are collected from the County in advance of the Secretary incurring the actual costs, and the amount collected exceeds the costs actually incurred by the Secretary to carry out the conveyance, the Secretary shall refund the excess amount to the County.

''(2) TREATMENT OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED.—Amounts received as reimbursement under paragraph (1) shall be credited to the fund or account that was used to cover the costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out the conveyance. Amounts so credited shall be merged with amounts in such fund or account, and shall be available for the same purposes, and subject to the same conditions and limitations, as amounts in such fund or account.''.

SEC. 2848. LAND CONVEYANCE, LEWIS AND CLARK UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE CENTER, BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA.

(a) CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of the Army may convey, without consideration, to the United Tribes Technical College all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of real property, including improvements thereon, consisting of approximately 2 acres located at the Lewis and Clark United States Army Reserve Center, 3319 University Drive, Bismarck, North Dakota, for the purpose of supporting education at the United Tribes Technical College.

(b) REVERSIONARY INTEREST.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), if the Secretary determines at any time that the real property conveyed under subsection (a) is not being used in accordance with the purposes of the conveyance specified in such subsection, all right, title, and interest in and to the property shall revert, at the option of the Secretary, to the United States, and the United States shall have the right of immediate entry onto the property. Any determination of the Secretary under this subsection shall be made on the record after an opportunity for a hearing.

(2) EXPIRATION.—The reversionary interest under paragraph (1) shall expire upon satisfaction of the following conditions:

(A) The real property conveyed under subsection (a) is used in accordance with the purposes of the conveyance specified in such subsection for a period of not less than 30 years following the date of the conveyance.

(B) After the end of period specified in subparagraph (A), the United Tribes Technical College applies to the Secretary for the release of the reversionary interest.

(C) The Secretary certifies, in a manner that can be filed with the appropriate land recordation office, that the condition under subparagraph (A) has been satisfied.

(c) PAYMENT OF COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—

(1) PAYMENT REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall require the United Tribes Technical College to cover costs to be incurred by the Secretary, or to reimburse the Secretary for costs incurred by the Secretary, to carry out the conveyance under subsection (a), including survey costs, costs related to environmental documentation, and other administrative costs related to the conveyance. If amounts are collected from the United Tribes Technical College in advance of the Secretary incurring the actual costs, and the amount collected exceeds the costs actually incurred by the Secretary to carry out the conveyance, the Secretary shall refund the excess amount to the United Tribes Technical College.

(2) TREATMENT OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED.—Amounts received as reimbursements under paragraph (1) shall be credited to the fund or account that was used to cover the costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out the conveyance. Amounts so credited shall be merged with amounts in such fund or account and shall be available for the same purposes, and subject to the same conditions and limitations, as amounts in such fund or account.

(d) DESCRIPTION OF REAL PROPERTY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the real property to be conveyed under subsection (a) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary.

(e) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance under subsection (a) as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

SEC. 2849. LAND EXCHANGE, FORT HOOD, TEXAS.

(a) EXCHANGE AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of the Army may convey to the City of Copperas Cove, Texas (in this section referred to as the ''City''), all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of real property, including any improvements thereon, consisting of approximately 200 acres at Fort Hood, Texas, for the purpose of permitting the City to improve arterial transportation routes in the community.

(b) CONSIDERATION.—As consideration for the conveyance under subsection (a), the City shall convey to the Secretary all right, title, and interest of the City in and to one or more parcels of real property that are acceptable to the Secretary. The fair market value of the real property acquired by the Secretary under this subsection shall be at least equal to the fair market value of the real property conveyed under subsection (a), as determined by appraisals acceptable to the Secretary.

(c) DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the real property to be exchanged under this section shall be determined by surveys satisfactory to the Secretary.

(d) PAYMENT OF COSTS OF CONVEYANCES.—

(1) PAYMENT REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall require the City to cover costs to be incurred by the Secretary, or to reimburse the Secretary for costs incurred by the Secretary, to carry out the conveyances under this section, including survey costs related to the conveyances. If amounts are collected

from the City in advance of the Secretary incurring the actual costs, and the amount collected exceeds the costs actually incurred by the Secretary to carry out the conveyances, the Secretary shall refund the excess amount to the City.

(2) TREATMENT OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED.—Amounts received under paragraph (1) as reimbursement for costs incurred by the Secretary to carry out the conveyances under this section shall be credited to the fund or account that was used to cover the costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out the conveyances. Amounts so credited shall be merged with amounts in such fund or account and shall be available for the same purposes, and subject to the same conditions and limitations, as amounts in such fund or account.

(e) ADDITIONAL TERM AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyances under this section as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

Subtitle D—Energy Security

SEC. 2861. REPEAL OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT REGARDING CANCELLATION CEILING FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ENERGY SAVINGS PERFORMANCE CONTRACTS.

Section 2913 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (e).

SEC. 2862. DEFINITION OF ALTERNATIVE FUELED VEHICLE.

Section 301(3) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13211(3)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''(3) the term'' and inserting the following:

''(3) ALTERNATIVE FUELED VEHICLE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term 'alternative fueled vehicle' includes—

''(i) a new qualified fuel cell motor vehicle (as defined in section 30B(b)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986);

''(ii) a new advanced lean burn technology motor vehicle (as defined in section 30B(c)(3) of that Code);

''(iii) a new qualified hybrid motor vehicle (as defined in section 30B(d)(3) of that Code); and

''(iv) any other type of vehicle that the Administrator demonstrates to the Secretary would achieve a significant reduction in petroleum consumption.''.

SEC. 2863. USE OF ENERGY EFFICIENT LIGHTING FIXTURES AND BULBS IN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FACILITIES.

(a) CONSTRUCTION AND ALTERATION OF BUILDINGS.—Each building constructed or significantly altered by the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of a military department shall be equipped, to the maximum extent feasible as determined by the Secretary concerned, with lighting fixtures and bulbs that are energy efficient.

(b) MAINTENANCE OF BUILDINGS.—Each lighting fixture or bulb that is replaced in the normal course of maintenance of buildings under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of a military department shall be replaced, to the maximum extent feasible as determined by the Secretary concerned, with a lighting fixture or bulb that is energy efficient.

(c) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making a determination under this section concerning the feasibility of installing a lighting fixture or bulb that is energy efficient, the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of a military department shall consider—

(1) the life cycle cost effectiveness of the fixture or bulb;

(2) the compatibility of the fixture or bulb with existing equipment;

(3) whether use of the fixture or bulb could result in interference with productivity;

(4) the aesthetics relating to use of the fixture or bulb; and

(5) such other factors as the Secretary concerned determines appropriate.

(d) ENERGY STAR.—A lighting fixture or bulb shall be treated as being energy efficient for purposes of this section if—

(1) the fixture or bulb is certified under the Energy Star program established by section 324A of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6294a); or

(2) the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of a military department has otherwise determined that the fixture or bulb is energy efficient.

(e) SIGNIFICANT ALTERATIONS.—A building shall be treated as being significantly altered for purposes of subsection (a) if the alteration is subject to congressional authorization under section 2802 of title 10, United States Code.

(f) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Defense may waive the requirements of this section if the Secretary determines that such a waiver is necessary to protect the national security interests of the United States.

(g) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The requirements of subsections (a) and (b) shall take effect one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 2864. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY USE BY DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO MEET DEPARTMENT ELECTRICITY NEEDS.

(a) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report containing the following information:

(1) The extent to which energy from renewable energy sources is used to meet the electricity needs of the Department of Defense, to be stated as a percentage of total facility electricity use for the previous fiscal year.

(2) The extent to which energy from renewable energy sources was procured through alternative financing methods, to be stated as a percentage of total renewable energy procurement and as a dollar amount for the previous fiscal year.

(3) The extent to which energy from renewable energy sources was procured through the use of appropriated funds, to be stated as a percentage of total renewable energy procurement and as a dollar amount for the previous fiscal year.

(4) A graphical illustration of energy use from renewable energy sources by the Department as a percentage of total facility electricity use over time, starting no later than fiscal year 2000 and running through fiscal year 2025, including projected future trends in renewable energy consumption through fiscal year 2025 in order to meet the goals for renewable energy set forth in section 2911(e) of title 10, United States Code, or other goals, as appropriate.

(b) SUBSEQUENT REPORTS.—For fiscal year 2008 and each fiscal year thereafter, the information required by paragraphs (1) through (4) of subsection (a) shall be included in the Annual Energy Management Report prepared by the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics.

(c) RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''renewable energy sources'' has the meaning given that term in section 203(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15852(b)).

Subtitle E—Other Matters

SEC. 2871. REVISED DEADLINE FOR TRANSFER OF ARLINGTON NAVAL ANNEX TO ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY.

Subsection (h) of section 2881 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 (division B of Public Law 106–65; 113 Stat. 879), as amended by section 2863 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (division B of Public Law 107–107; 115 Stat. 1330), section 2851 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (division B of Public Law 107–314; 116 Stat. 2726), and section 2881 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (division B of Public Law 108–375; 115 Stat. 2153), is further amended by striking paragraphs (1) and (2) and inserting the following new paragraphs:

''(1) January 1, 2011;

''(2) the date on which the Navy Annex property is no longer required (as determined by the Secretary of Defense) for use as temporary office space; or

''(3) one year after the date on which the Secretary of the Army notifies the Secretary of Defense that the Navy Annex property is needed for the expansion of Arlington National Cemetery.''.

SEC. 2872. TRANSFER OF JURISDICTION OVER AIR FORCE MEMORIAL TO DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE.

(a) TRANSFER OF JURISDICTION.—Notwithstanding section 2881 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 (division B of Public Law 106–65; 113 Stat. 879) and section 2863 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (division B of Public Law 107–107; 115 Stat. 1330; 40 U.S.C. 1003 note), the Secretary of the Army may transfer administrative jurisdiction, custody, and control of the parcel of Federal land described in subsection (b)(1) of such section 2863 to the Secretary of the Air Force.

(b) LIMITATION ON PAYMENT OF EXPENSES.—If the Air Force Memorial is transferred to the Secretary of the Air Force as authorized by subsection (a), the United States shall not pay any costs incurred for the maintenance and repair of the Air Force Memorial.

SEC. 2873. REPORT ON PLANS TO REPLACE THE MONUMENT AT THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWNS AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY, VIRGINIA.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly submit to Congress a report setting forth the following:

(1) The current plans of the Secretaries with respect to—

(A) replacing the monument at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia; and

(B) disposing of the current monument at the Tomb of the Unknowns, if it were removed and replaced.

(2) An assessment of the feasibility and advisability of repairing the monument at the Tomb of the Unknowns rather than replacing it.

(3) A description of the current efforts of the Secretaries to maintain and preserve the monument at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

(4) An explanation of why no attempt has been made since 1989 to repair the monument at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

(5) A comprehensive estimate of the cost of replacement of the monument at the Tomb of the Unknowns and the cost of repairing such monument.

(6) An assessment of the structural integrity of the monument at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

(b) LIMITATION ON ACTION.—The Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of Veterans

Affairs may not take any action to replace the monument at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia, until 180 days after the date of the receipt by Congress of the report required by subsection (a).

(c) EXCEPTION.—The limitation in subsection (b) shall not prevent the Secretary of the Army or the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from repairing the current monument at the Tomb of the Unknowns or from acquiring any blocks of marble for uses related to such monument, subject to the availability of appropriations for those purposes.

SEC. 2874. INCREASED AUTHORITY FOR REPAIR, RESTORATION, AND PRESERVATION OF LAFAYETTE ESCADRILLE MEMORIAL, MARNES-LA-COQUETTE, FRANCE.

Section 1065 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (Public Law 107–107; 115 Stat. 1233) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2), by striking ''$2,000,000'' and inserting ''$2,500,000''; and

(2) in subsection (e), by striking ''under section 301(a)(4)''.

SEC. 2875. ADDITION OF WOONSOCKET LOCAL PROTECTION PROJECT.

Section 2866 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (division B of Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2499) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(d) WOONSOCKET LOCAL PROTECTION PROJECT.—

''(1) ASSUMPTION OF RESPONSIBILITY.—The Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, shall assume responsibility for the annual operation and maintenance of the Woonsocket local protection project authorized by section 10 of the Act of December 22, 1944 (commonly known as the Flood Control Act of 1944; 58 Stat. 892, chapter 665), including by acquiring, in accordance with paragraph (2), any interest of the city of Woonsocket, Rhode Island, in and to land and structures required for the continued operation and maintenance, repair, replacement, rehabilitation, and structural integrity of the project, as identified by the city, in coordination with the Secretary.

''(2) ACQUISITION.—As a condition on the Secretary's assumption of responsibility for the Woonsocket local protection project under paragraph (1), the city of Woonsocket shall convey, not later than one year after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, to the Secretary of the Army, by quitclaim deed and without consideration, all right, title, and interest of the city in and to the Woonsocket local protection project, including any interest of the city in and to land and structures required for the continued operation and maintenance, repair, replacement, rehabilitation, and structural integrity of the project, as identified by the city.''.

SEC. 2876. REPEAL OF MORATORIUM ON IMPROVEMENTS AT FORT BUCHANAN, PUERTO RICO.

Section 1507 of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (as enacted into law by Public Law 106–398; 114 Stat. 1654A–355) is repealed.

SEC. 2877. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL MILITARY WORKING DOG TEAMS MONUMENT ON SUITABLE MILITARY INSTALLATION.

(a) AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH MONUMENT.—The Secretary of Defense may permit the National War Dogs Monument, Inc., to establish and maintain, at a suitable location at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, or another military installation in the United States, a national monument to honor the sacrifice and service of United States Armed Forces working dog teams that have participated in the military operations of the United States.

(b) LOCATION AND DESIGN OF MONUMENT.—The actual location and final design of the monument authorized by subsection (a) shall be subject to the approval of the Secretary. In selecting the military installation and site on such installation to serve as the location for the monument, the Secretary shall seek to maximize access to the resulting monument for both visitors and their dogs.

(c) MAINTENANCE.—The maintenance of the monument authorized by subsection (a) by the National War Dogs Monument, Inc., shall be subject to such conditions regarding access to the monument, and such other conditions, as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(d) LIMITATION ON PAYMENT OF EXPENSES.—The United States Government shall not pay any expense for the establishment or maintenance of the monument authorized by subsection (a).

SEC. 2878. REPORT REQUIRED PRIOR TO REMOVAL OF MISSILES FROM 564TH MISSILE SQUADRON.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the feasibility of establishing an association between the 120th Fighter Wing of the Montana Air National Guard and active duty personnel stationed at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana. In preparing the report, the Secretary shall include the following evaluations:

(1) An evaluation of the requirement of the Air Force for additional F–15 aircraft active or reserve component force structure.

(2) An evaluation of the airspace training opportunities in the immediate airspace around Great Falls International Airport Air Guard Station.

(3) An evaluation of the impact of civilian operations on military operations at Great Falls International Airport.

(4) An evaluation of the level of civilian encroachment on the facilities and airspace of the 120th Fighter Wing.

(5) An evaluation of the support structure available, including active military bases nearby.

(6) An evaluation of opportunities for additional association between the Montana National Guard and the 341st Space Wing.

(b) LIMITATION ON REMOVAL PENDING REPORT.—Not more than 40 missiles may be removed from the 564th Missile Squadron until 15 days after the report required in subsection (a) has been submitted.

SEC. 2879. REPORT ON CONDITION OF SCHOOLS UNDER JURISDICTION OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than March 1, 2008, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the conditions of schools under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense Education Activity.

(b) CONTENT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A description of each school under the control of the Secretary, including the location, year constructed, grades of attending children, maximum capacity, and current capacity of the school.

(2) A description of the standards and processes used by the Secretary to assess the adequacy of the size of school facilities, the ability of facilities to support school programs, and the current condition of facilities.

(3) A description of the conditions of the facility or facilities at each school, including the level of compliance with the standards described in paragraph (2), any existing or projected facility deficiencies or inadequate conditions at each facility, and whether any of the facilities listed are temporary structures.

(4) An investment strategy planned for each school to correct deficiencies identified in paragraph (3), including a description of each project to correct such deficiencies, cost estimates, and timelines to complete each project.

(5) A description of requirements for new schools to be constructed over the next 10 years as a result of changes to the population of military personnel.

(c) USE OF REPORT AS MASTER PLAN FOR REPAIR, UPGRADE, AND CONSTRUCTION OF SCHOOLS.—The Secretary shall use the report required under subsection (a) as a master plan for the repair, upgrade, and construction of schools in the Department of Defense system that support dependents of members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of Defense.

SEC. 2880. REPORT ON FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS OF DARNALL ARMY MEDICAL CENTER, FORT HOOD MILITARY RESERVATION, TEXAS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report assessing the facilities and operations of the Darnall Army Medical Center at Fort Hood Military Reservation, Texas.

(b) CONTENT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A specific determination of whether the facilities currently housing Darnall Army Medical Center meet Department of Defense standards for Army medical centers.

(2) A specific determination of whether the existing facilities adequately support the operations of Darnall Army Medical Center, including the missions of medical treatment, medical hold, medical holdover, and Warriors in Transition.

(3) A specific determination of whether the existing facilities provide adequate physical space for the number of personnel that would be required for Darnall Army Medical Center to function as a full-sized Army medical center.

(4) A specific determination of whether the current levels of medical and medical-related personnel at Darnall Army Medical Center are adequate to support the operations of a full-sized Army medical center.

(5) A specific determination of whether the current levels of graduate medical education and medical residency programs currently in place at Darnall Army Medical Center are adequate to support the operations of a full-sized Army medical center.

(6) A description of any and all deficiencies identified by the Secretary.

(7) A proposed investment plan and timeline to correct such deficiencies.

SEC. 2881. REPORT ON FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A REGIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE CENTER AT KELLY AIR FIELD, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Federal response to Hurricane Katrina demonstrated the need for greater coordination and planning capability at the Federal, State, and local levels of government.

(2) Coordination of State and local assets can be more effectively accomplished if such assets are organized on a regional basis similar to the manner in which the Federal Emergency Management Agency organizes its efforts.

(3) Despite the obvious need for experienced and routinely exercised operational headquarters skilled in disaster response, no such headquarters have been established.

(4) Such a headquarters would be appropriately located on available Federal property in Region VI of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which includes Texas,

Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and New Mexico, and is a region subject to forest fires, floods, hurricanes, and tornadoes.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than March 31, 2008, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall submit to Congress a report on the feasibility of establishing at Kelly Air Field in San Antonio, Texas, a permanent, regionally oriented disaster response center responsible for planning, coordinating, and directing the Federal, State, and local response to man-made and natural disasters that occur in Region VI of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(c) CONTENT.—The report required under subsection (b) shall include the following:

(1) A determination of how the regional disaster response center, if established at Kelly Air Field, would organize and leverage capabilities of the following currently co-located organizations, facilities, and forces located in San Antonio, Texas:

(A) Lackland Air Force Base.

(B) Fort Sam Houston.

(C) Brooke Army Medical Center.

(D) Wilford Hall Medical Center.

(E) City of San Antonio/Bexar County Emergency Operations Center.

(F) Audie Murphy Veterans Administration Medical Center.

(G) 433rd Airlift Wing C–5 Heavy Lift Aircraft.

(H) 149 Fighter Wing and Texas Air National Guard F–16 fighter aircraft.

(I) Army Northern Command.

(J) The three level 1 trauma centers of the National Trauma Institute.

(K) Texas Medical Rangers.

(L) San Antonio Metro Health Department.

(M) The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

(N) The Air Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance Agency at Lackland Air Force Base.

(O) The United States Air Force Security Police Training Department at Lackland Air Force Base.

(P) The large manpower pools and blood donor pools from the more than 6,000 trainees at Lackland Air Force Base.

(2) A determination of the number of military and civilian personnel who would have to be mobilized to run the logistics, planning, and maintenance of the regional disaster response center, if established at Kelly Air Field, during a time of disaster recovery.

(3) A determination of the number of military and civilian personnel who would be required to run the logistics, planning, and maintenance of the regional disaster response center during a time when no disaster is occurring.

(4) A determination of the cost of improving the current infrastructure at Kelly Air Field to meet the needs of displaced victims of a disaster equivalent to that of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita or a natural or man-made disaster of similar scope, including adequate beds, food stores, and decontamination stations to triage radiation or other chemical or biological agent contamination victims.

(5) An evaluation of the current capability of the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security to respond to these mission requirements and an assessment of any additional capabilities that are required.

(6) An assessment of the costs and benefits of adding such capabilities at Kelly Air Field to the costs and benefits of other locations.

SEC. 2882. NAMING OF HOUSING FACILITY AT FORT CARSON, COLORADO, IN HONOR OF THE HONORABLE JOEL HEFLEY, A FORMER MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Representative Joel Hefley was elected to represent Colorado's 5th Congressional district in 1986 and served in the House of Representatives until the end of the 109th Congress in 2007 with distinction, class, integrity, and honor.

(2) Representative Hefley served on the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives for 18 years, including service as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Military Installations and Facilities from 1995 through 2000 and, from 2001 until 2007, as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Readiness.

(3) Representative Hefley was a fair and effective lawmaker who worked for the national interest while never forgetting his Western roots.

(4) Representative Hefley's efforts on the Committee on Armed Services were instrumental to the military value of, and quality of life at, installations in the State of Colorado, including Fort Carson, Cheyenne Mountain, Peterson Air Force Base, Schriever Air Force Base, Buckley Air Force Base, and the United States Air Force Academy.

(5) Representative Hefley was a leader in efforts to retain and expand Fort Carson as an essential part of the national defense system during the Defense Base Closure and Realignment process.

(6) Representative Hefley consistently advocated for providing members of the Armed Forces and their families with quality, safe, and affordable housing and supportive communities.

(7) Representative Hefley spearheaded the Military Housing Privatization Initiative to eliminate inadequate housing on military installations, with the first pilot program located at Fort Carson.

(8) Representative Hefley's leadership on the Military Housing Privatization Initiative allowed for the privatization of more than 121,000 units of military family housing, which brought meaningful improvements to living conditions for thousands of members of the Armed Forces and their spouses and children at installations throughout the United States.

(9) It is fitting and proper that an appropriate military family housing area or structure at Fort Carson be designated in honor of Representative Hefley.

(b) DESIGNATION.—Notwithstanding Army Regulation AR 1–33, the Secretary of the Army shall designate one of the military family housing areas or facilities constructed for Fort Carson, Colorado, using the authority provided by subchapter IV of chapter 169 of title 10, United States Code, as the ''Joel Hefley Village''.

SEC. 2883. NAMING OF NAVY AND MARINE CORPS RESERVE CENTER AT ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS, IN HONOR OF THE HONORABLE LANE EVANS, A FORMER MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Representative Lane Evans was elected to the House of Representatives in 1982 and served in the House of Representatives until the end of the 109th Congress in 2007 representing the people of Illinois' 17th Congressional district.

(2) As a member of the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives, Representative Evans worked to bring common sense priorities to defense spending and strengthen the military's conventional readiness.

(3) Representative Evans was a tireless advocate for military veterans, ensuring that veterans receive the medical care they need and advocating for individuals suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and Gulf War Syndrome.

(4) Representative Evans' efforts to improve the transition of individuals from military service to the care of the Department of Veterans Affairs will continue to benefit generations of veterans long into the future.

(5) Representative Evans was credited with bringing new services to veterans living in his Congressional district, including outpatient clinics in the Quad Cities and Quincy and the Quad-Cities Vet Center.

(6) Representative Evans worked with local leaders to promote the Rock Island Arsenal, and it earned new jobs and missions through his support.

(7) In honor of his service in the Marine Corps and to his district and the United States, it is fitting and proper that the Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center at Rock Island Arsenal be named in honor of Representative Evans.

(b) DESIGNATION.—The Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center at Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois, shall be known and designated as the ''Lane Evans Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center''. Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center at Rock Island Arsenal shall be deemed to be a reference to the Lane Evans Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center.

SEC. 2884. NAMING OF RESEARCH LABORATORY AT AIR FORCE ROME RESEARCH SITE, ROME, NEW YORK, IN HONOR OF THE HONORABLE SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT, A FORMER MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The new laboratory building at the Air Force Rome Research Site, Rome, New York, shall be known and designated as the ''Sherwood Boehlert Center of Excellence for Information Science and Technology''. Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to such laboratory facility shall be deemed to be a reference to the Sherwood Boehlert Center of Excellence for Information Science and Technology.

SEC. 2885. NAMING OF ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AT JOINT SYSTEMS MANUFACTURING CENTER, LIMA, OHIO, IN HONOR OF THE HONORABLE MICHAEL G. OXLEY, A FORMER MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The administration building under construction at the Joint Systems Manufacturing Center in Lima, Ohio, shall be known and designated as the ''Michael G. Oxley Administration and Technology Center''. Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to such building shall be deemed to be a reference to the Michael G. Oxley Administration and Technology Center.

SEC. 2886. NAMING OF LOGISTICS AUTOMATION TRAINING FACILITY, ARMY QUARTERMASTER CENTER AND SCHOOL, FORT LEE, VIRGINIA, IN HONOR OF GENERAL RICHARD H. THOMPSON.

Notwithstanding Army Regulation AR 1–33, the Logistics Automation Training Facility of the Army Quartermaster Center and School at Fort Lee, Virginia, shall be known and designated as the ''General Richard H. Thompson Logistics Automation Training Facility'' in honor of General Richard H. Thompson, the only quartermaster to have risen from private to full general. Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to such facility shall be deemed to be a reference to the General Richard H. Thompson Logistics Automation Training Facility.

SEC. 2887. AUTHORITY TO RELOCATE JOINT SPECTRUM CENTER TO FORT MEADE, MARYLAND.

(a) AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT RELOCATION AGREEMENT.—The Secretary of Defense may

carry out an agreement to relocate the Joint Spectrum Center, a geographically separated unit of the Defense Information Systems Agency, from Annapolis, Maryland, to Fort Meade, Maryland, or another military installation if—

(1) the Secretary determines that the relocation of the Joint Spectrum Center is in the best interest of national security and the physical protection of personnel and missions of the Department of Defense; and

(2) the agreement between the lease holder and the Department of Defense provides equitable and appropriate terms to facilitate the relocation.

(b) AUTHORIZATION.—Any facility, road, or infrastructure constructed or altered on a military installation as a result of the agreement referred to in subsection (a) is deemed to be authorized in accordance with section 2802 of title 10, United States Code.

(c) TERMINATION OF EXISTING LEASE.—Upon completion of the relocation of the Joint Spectrum Center, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the existing lease for the Joint Spectrum Center shall be terminated, as contemplated under Condition 29.B of the lease.

TITLE XXIX—WAR-RELATED AND EMERGENCY MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATIONS

Sec. 2901. Authorized Army construction and land acquisition projects.
Sec. 2902. Authorized Navy construction and land acquisition projects.
Sec. 2903. Authorized Air Force construction and land acquisition projects.
Sec. 2904. Authorized Defense Agencies construction and land acquisition projects.
Sec. 2905. Authorized base closure and realignment activities funded through Department of Defense Base Closure Account 2005 and related authorization of appropriations.

SEC. 2901. AUTHORIZED ARMY CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS.

(a) INSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in subsection (c)(1), the Secretary of the Army may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the installations or locations inside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Army: Inside the United States

State	Installation or Location	Amount
Colorado	Fort Carson	$8,100,000
Georgia	Fort Stewart	$6,000,000
Kansas	Fort Riley	$50,000,000
Kentucky	Fort Campbell	$7,400,000
Louisiana	Fort Polk	$4,900,000
New York	Fort Drum	$38,000,000
Texas	Fort Hood	$9,100,000

(b) OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in subsection (c)(2), the Secretary of the Army may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the installations or locations outside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Army: Outside the United States

Country	Installation or Location	Amount
Afghanistan	Bagram Air Base	$249,600,000
	Ghazni	$5,000,000
	Kabul	$36,000,000
Iraq	Camp Adder	$80,650,000
	Al Asad	$92,600,000
	Camp Anaconda	$53,500,000
	Camp Constitution	$11,700,000
	Camp Cropper	$9,500,000
	Fallujah	$880,000
	Camp Marez	$880,000
	Mosul	$43,000,000
	Q-West	$26,000,000
	Camp Ramadi	$880,000
	Scania	$14,200,000
	Camp Speicher	$83,900,000
	Camp Taqqadum	$880,000
	Tikrit	$43,000,000
	Camp Victory	$65,400,000
	Camp Warrior	$880,000
	Various Locations	$207,000,000
Kuwait	Camp Arifjan	$30,000,000

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years beginning after September 30, 2007, for military construction, land acquisition, and military family housing functions of the Department of the Army in the total amount of $1,257,750,000 as follows:

(1) For military construction projects inside the United States authorized by subsection (a), $123,500,000.

(2) For military construction projects outside the United States authorized by subsection (b), $1,055,450,000.

(3) For architectural and engineering services and construction design under section 2807 of title 10, United States Code, $78,800,000.

(d) REPORT REQUIRED BEFORE COMMENCING CERTAIN PROJECTS.—Funds may not be obligated for the projects authorized by subsection (b) for Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, or Camp Cropper, Iraq, until 14 days after the date on which the Secretary of Defense submits to the congressional defense committees a report, in either unclassified or classified form, containing a detailed justification for the project, including the overall intent of the requested construction, host-nation views, longevity of the site selected, and timelines for completion. The Secretary shall submit the report not later than January 15, 2008.

SEC. 2902. AUTHORIZED NAVY CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS.

(a) INSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in subsection (d)(1), the Secretary of the Navy may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the installations or locations inside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Navy: Inside the United States

State	Installation or Location	Amount
California	Camp Pendleton	$102,034,000
	Twentynine Palms	$4,440,000
North Carolina	Camp Lejeune	$43,340,000

(b) OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in subsection (d)(2), the Secretary of the Navy may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the installations or locations outside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Navy: Outside the United States

Country	Installation or Location	Amount
Djibouti	Camp Lemonier	$25,410,000

(c) FAMILY HOUSING.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in subsection (d)(4), the Secretary of the Navy may construct or acquire family housing units (including land acquisition and supporting facilities) at the installations or locations, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Navy: Family Housing

State	Installation or Location	Amount
California	Camp Pendleton	$10,692,000
	Twentynine Palms	$1,074,000

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Subject to section 2825 of title 10, United States Code, funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years beginning after September 30, 2007, for military construction, land acquisition, and military family housing functions of the Department of the Navy in the total amount of $198,781,000, as follows:

(1) For military construction projects inside the United States authorized by subsection (a), $149,814,000.

(2) For military construction projects outside the United States authorized by subsection (a), $25,410,000.

(3) For architectural and engineering services and construction design under section 2807 of title 10, United States Code, $11,791,000.

(4) For construction and acquisition, planning and design, and improvement of military family housing and facilities, $11,766,000.

SEC. 2903. AUTHORIZED AIR FORCE CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS.

(a) OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in subsection (b)(1), the Secretary of the Air Force may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the installations or locations outside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Air Force: Outside the United States

Country	Installation or Location	Amount
Afghanistan	Bagram Air Base	$108,800,000
	Kandahar	$26,300,000
Iraq	Balad Air Base	$58,300,000
Kyrgyzstan	Manas Air Base	$30,300,000

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years beginning after September 30, 2007, for military construction, land acquisition, and military family housing functions of the Department of the Air Force in the total amount of $258,700,000, as follows:

(1) For military construction projects outside the United States authorized by subsection (a), $223,700,000.

(2) For architectural and engineering services and construction design under section 2807 of title 10, United States Code, $35,000,000.

SEC. 2904. AUTHORIZED DEFENSE AGENCIES CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS.

(a) INSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in subsection (c)(1), the Secretary of Defense may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the installations or locations inside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Defense Agencies: Inside the United States

State	Installation or Location	Amount
Texas	Fort Sam Houston	$21,000,000

(b) OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in subsection (c)(2), the Secretary of Defense may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the installations or locations outside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Defense Agencies: Outside the United States

Country	Installation or Location	Amount
Qatar	Al Udeid	$6,600,000

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years beginning after September 30, 2007, for military construction, land acquisition, and military family housing functions of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments) in the total amount of $27,600,000 as follows:

(1) For military construction projects inside the United States authorized by subsection (a), $21,000,000.

(2) For military construction projects outside the United States authorized by subsection (a), $6,600,000.

SEC. 2905. AUTHORIZED BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT ACTIVITIES FUNDED THROUGH DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE ACCOUNT 2005 AND RELATED AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) AUTHORIZED BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT ACTIVITIES FUNDED THROUGH DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE ACCOUNT 2005.—Using amounts authorized appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in subsection (b), the Secretary of Defense may carry out base closure and realignment activities otherwise authorized by section 2702 of this Act, including real property acquisition and military construction projects, as authorized by the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (part A of title XXIX of Public Law 101–510; 10 U.S.C. 2687 note) and funded through the Department of Defense Base Closure Account 2005 established by section 2906A of

such Act, in the amount of $423,650,000. Such amount is in addition to the amount specified for such base closure and realignment activities in section 2702 of this Act.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years beginning after September 30, 2007, for base closure and realignment activities authorized by subsection (a) and funded through the Department of Defense Base Closure Account 2005 in the total amount of $415,910,000.

DIVISION C—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL SECURITY AUTHORIZATIONS AND OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS

TITLE XXXI—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAMS

Subtitle A—National Security Programs Authorizations

Sec. 3101. National Nuclear Security Administration.
Sec. 3102. Defense environmental cleanup.
Sec. 3103. Other defense activities.
Sec. 3104. Defense nuclear waste disposal.
Sec. 3105. Energy security and assurance.

Subtitle B—Program Authorizations, Restrictions, and Limitations

Sec. 3111. Reliable Replacement Warhead program.
Sec. 3112. Nuclear test readiness.
Sec. 3113. Modification of reporting requirement.
Sec. 3114. Limitation on availability of funds for Fissile Materials Disposition program.
Sec. 3115. Modification of limitations on availability of funds for Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant.
Sec. 3116. Modification of sunset date of the Office of the Ombudsman of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program.
Sec. 3117. Technical amendments.

Subtitle C—Other Matters

Sec. 3121. Study on using existing pits for the Reliable Replacement Warhead program.
Sec. 3122. Report on retirement and dismantlement of nuclear warheads.
Sec. 3123. Plan for addressing security risks posed to nuclear weapons complex.
Sec. 3124. Department of Energy protective forces.
Sec. 3125. Evaluation of National Nuclear Security Administration strategic plan for advanced computing.
Sec. 3126. Sense of Congress on the nuclear nonproliferation policy of the United States and the Reliable Replacement Warhead program.
Sec. 3127. Department of Energy report on plan to strengthen and expand International Radiological Threat Reduction program.
Sec. 3128. Department of Energy report on plan to strengthen and expand Materials Protection, Control, and Accounting program.
Sec. 3129. Agreements and reports on nuclear forensics capabilities.
Sec. 3130. Report on status of environmental management initiatives to accelerate the reduction of environmental risks and challenges posed by the legacy of the Cold War.

Subtitle D—Nuclear Terrorism Prevention

Sec. 3131. Definitions.
Sec. 3132. Sense of Congress on the prevention of nuclear terrorism.
Sec. 3133. Minimum security standard for nuclear weapons and formula quantities of strategic special nuclear material.
Sec. 3134. Annual report.

Subtitle A—National Security Programs Authorizations

SEC. 3101. NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Energy for fiscal year 2008 for the activities of the National Nuclear Security Administration in carrying out programs necessary for national security in the amount of $9,576,095,000, to be allocated as follows:

(1) For weapons activities, $6,465,574,000.

(2) For defense nuclear nonproliferation activities, $1,902,646,000.

(3) For naval reactors, $808,219,000.

(4) For the Office of the Administrator for Nuclear Security, $399,656,000.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF NEW PLANT PROJECTS.—From funds referred to in subsection (a) that are available for carrying out plant projects, the Secretary of Energy may carry out new plant projects for the National Nuclear Security Administration as follows:

(1) For readiness in technical base and facilities, the following new plant projects:

Project 08–D–801, High pressure fire loop, Pantex Plant, Amarillo, Texas, $7,000,000.

Project 08–D–802, High explosive pressing facility, Pantex Plant, Amarillo, Texas, $25,300,000.

Project 08–D–804, Technical Area 55 reinvestment project, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico, $6,000,000.

(2) For facilities and infrastructure recapitalization, the following new plant projects:

Project 08–D–601, Mercury highway, Nevada Test Site, Nevada, $7,800,000.

Project 08–D–602, Potable water system upgrades, Y–12 Plant, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, $22,500,000.

(3) For safeguards and security, the following new plant project:

Project 08–D–701, Nuclear materials safeguards and security upgrade, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico, $49,496,000.

(4) For naval reactors, the following new plant projects:

Project 08–D–901, Shipping and receiving and warehouse complex, Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania, $9,000,000.

Project 08–D–190, Project engineering and design, Expended Core Facility M–290 Recovering Discharge Station, Naval Reactors Facility, Idaho Falls, Idaho, $550,000.

SEC. 3102. DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Energy for fiscal year 2008 for defense environmental cleanup activities in carrying out programs necessary for national security in the amount of $5,367,905,000.

(b) AUTHORIZATION FOR NEW PLANT PROJECT.—From funds referred to in subsection (a) that are available for carrying out plant projects, the Secretary of Energy may carry out, for defense environmental cleanup activities, the following new plant project:

Project 08–D–414, Project engineering and design, Plutonium Vitrification Facility, various locations, $9,000,000.

SEC. 3103. OTHER DEFENSE ACTIVITIES.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Energy for fiscal year 2008 for other defense activities in carrying out programs necessary for national security in the amount of $763,974,000.

SEC. 3104. DEFENSE NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Energy for fiscal year 2008 for defense nuclear waste disposal for payment to the Nuclear Waste Fund established in section 302(c) of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (42 U.S.C. 10222(c)) in the amount of $292,046,000.

SEC. 3105. ENERGY SECURITY AND ASSURANCE.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Energy for fiscal year 2008 for energy security and assurance programs necessary for national security in the amount of $5,860,000.

Subtitle B—Program Authorizations, Restrictions, and Limitations

SEC. 3111. RELIABLE REPLACEMENT WARHEAD PROGRAM.

No funds appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 3101(a)(1) or otherwise made available for weapons activities of the National Nuclear Security Administration for fiscal year 2008 may be obligated or expended for activities under the Reliable Replacement Warhead program under section 4204a of the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2524a) beyond phase 2A activities.

SEC. 3112. NUCLEAR TEST READINESS.

(a) REPEAL OF REQUIREMENTS ON READINESS POSTURE.—Section 3113 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (Public Law 108–136; 117 Stat. 1743; 50 U.S.C. 2528a) is repealed.

(b) REPORTS ON NUCLEAR TEST READINESS POSTURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 4208 of the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2528) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 4208. REPORTS ON NUCLEAR TEST READINESS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 1, 2009, and every odd-numbered year thereafter, the Secretary of Energy shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the nuclear test readiness of the United States.

"(b) ELEMENTS.—Each report under subsection (a) shall include, current as of the date of such report, the following:

"(1) An estimate of the period of time that would be necessary for the Secretary of Energy to conduct an underground test of a nuclear weapon once directed by the President to conduct such a test.

"(2) A description of the level of test readiness that the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, determines to be appropriate.

"(3) A list and description of the workforce skills and capabilities that are essential to carrying out an underground nuclear test at the Nevada Test Site.

"(4) A list and description of the infrastructure and physical plant that are essential to carrying out an underground nuclear test at the Nevada Test Site.

"(5) An assessment of the readiness status of the skills and capabilities described in paragraph (3) and the infrastructure and physical plant described in paragraph (4).

"(c) FORM.—Each report under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.".

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The item relating to section 4208 in the table of contents for such Act is amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 4208. Reports on nuclear test readiness.".

SEC. 3113. MODIFICATION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENT.

Section 3111 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109–163; 119 Stat. 3539) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as (d) and (e), respectively;

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

''(c) FORM.—The report required by subsection (b) shall be submitted in classified form, and shall include a detailed unclassified summary.''; and

(3) in subsection (e), as so redesignated, by striking ''(c)'' and inserting ''(d)''.

SEC. 3114. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR FISSILE MATERIALS DISPOSITION PROGRAM.

(a) LIMITATION PENDING REPORT ON USE OF PRIOR FISCAL YEAR FUNDS.—No more than 75 percent of the fiscal year 2008 Fissile Materials Disposition program funds may be obligated for the Fissile Materials Disposition program until the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Administrator for Nuclear Security, submits to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth a plan for obligating and expending funds made available for that program in fiscal years before fiscal year 2008 that remain available for obligation or expenditure as of January 1, 2005, and for fiscal year 2008.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF UNUTILIZED FUNDS UNDER CERTIFICATION OF PARTIAL USE.—Any funds identified in the plan required in subsection (a) that are not planned to be obligated by the end of fiscal year 2009 shall also be available for any defense nuclear nonproliferation activities (other than the Fissile Materials Disposition program) for which amounts are authorized to be appropriated by section 3101(a)(2).

(c) FISCAL YEAR 2008 FISSILE MATERIALS DISPOSITION PROGRAM FUNDS DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''fiscal year 2008 Fissile Materials Disposition program funds'' means amounts authorized to be appropriated by section 3101(a)(2) and available for the Fissile Materials Disposition program.

SEC. 3115. MODIFICATION OF LIMITATIONS ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR WASTE TREATMENT AND IMMOBILIZATION PLANT.

Paragraph (2) of section 3120(a) of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2510) is amended—

(1) by striking ''the Defense Contract Management Agency has recommended for acceptance'' and inserting ''an independent entity has reviewed''; and

(2) by inserting ''and that the system has been certified by the Secretary for use by a construction contractor at the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant'' after ''Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant''.

SEC. 3116. MODIFICATION OF SUNSET DATE OF THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN OF THE ENERGY EMPLOYEES OCCUPATIONAL ILLNESS COMPENSATION PROGRAM.

Section 3686(g) of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 7385s–15(g)) is amended by striking ''on the date that is 3 years after the date of the enactment of this section'' and inserting ''October 28, 2012''.

SEC. 3117. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.

The Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2521 et seq.) is amended as follows:

(1) The heading of section 4204a (50 U.S.C. 2524a) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 4204A. RELIABLE REPLACEMENT WARHEAD PROGRAM.''.

(2) The table of contents for that Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 4204 the following new item:

''Sec. 4204A. Reliable Replacement Warhead program.''.

Subtitle C—Other Matters

SEC. 3121. STUDY ON USING EXISTING PITS FOR THE RELIABLE REPLACEMENT WARHEAD PROGRAM.

(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Administrator for Nuclear Security, in consultation with the Nuclear Weapons Council, shall carry out a study analyzing the feasibility of using existing pits in the Reliable Replacement Warhead program.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later six months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the results of the study. The report shall be in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(2) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The report shall contain the assessment of the Administrator of the results of the study, including—

(A) an assessment of—

(i) whether using existing pits in the program is technically feasible;

(ii) whether using existing pits in the program is more advantageous than using newly manufactured pits in the program;

(iii) the number of existing pits suitable for such use;

(iv) whether proceeding to use existing pits in the program before using newly manufactured pits in the program is desirable; and

(v) the extent to which using existing pits, as compared to using newly manufactured pits, in the program would reduce future requirements for new pit production, and how such use of existing pits would affect the schedule and scope for new pit production; and

(B) a comparison of the requirements for certifying—

(i) reliable replacement warheads using existing pits;

(ii) reliable replacement warheads using newly manufactured pits; and

(iii) warheads maintained by the Stockpile Life Extension Program.

(c) FUNDING.—Of the amounts made available pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 3101(a)(1), such funds as may be necessary shall be available to carry out this section.

SEC. 3122. REPORT ON RETIREMENT AND DISMANTLEMENT OF NUCLEAR WARHEADS.

Not later than March 1, 2008, the Administrator for Nuclear Security, in consultation with the Nuclear Weapons Council, shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the retirement and dismantlement of the nuclear warheads that will not be part of the enduring stockpile as of December 31, 2012, but that have not yet been retired or dismantled. The report shall include—

(1) the existing plan and schedule for retiring and dismantling those warheads;

(2) an assessment of the capacity of the nuclear weapons complex to accommodate an accelerated schedule for retiring and dismantling those warheads, taking into account the full range of capabilities in the complex; and

(3) an identification of the resources needed to accommodate such an accelerated schedule for retiring and dismantling those warheads.

SEC. 3123. PLAN FOR ADDRESSING SECURITY RISKS POSED TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS COMPLEX.

Section 3253(b) of the National Nuclear Security Administration Act (50 U.S.C. 2453(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(6) A plan, developed in consultation with the Director of the Office of Health, Safety, and Security of the Department of Energy, for the research and development, deployment, and lifecycle sustainment of the technologies employed within the nuclear weapons complex to address physical and cyber security threats during the applicable five-fiscal year period, together with—

''(A) for each site in the nuclear weapons complex, a description of the technologies deployed to address the physical and cyber security threats posed to that site;

''(B) for each site and for the nuclear weapons complex, the methods used by the National Nuclear Security Administration to establish priorities among investments in physical and cyber security technologies; and

''(C) a detailed description of how the funds identified for each program element specified pursuant to paragraph (1) in the budget for the Administration for each fiscal year during that five-fiscal year period will help carry out that plan.''.

SEC. 3124. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY PROTECTIVE FORCES.

(a) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT ON DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY PROTECTIVE FORCE MANAGEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a report on the management of the protective forces of the Department of Energy.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report shall include the following:

(A) An identification of each Department of Energy site with Category I nuclear materials.

(B) For each site identified under subparagraph (A)—

(i) a description of the management and contractual structure for protective forces at the site;

(ii) a statement of the number and category of protective force members at the site;

(iii) a description of the manner in which the site is moving to a tactical response force as required by the policy of the Department of Energy and an assessment of the issues or problems, if any, involved in moving to such a force;

(iv) a description of the extent to which the protective force at the site has been assigned or is responsible for law enforcement or law-enforcement related activities;

(v) an assessment of the ability of the protective force at the site to fulfill any such law enforcement or law enforcement-related responsibilities; and

(vi) an assessment of whether the protective force at the site is adequately staffed, trained, and equipped to comply with the requirements of the Design Basis Threat issued by the Department of Energy in November 2005 and, if not, when it is projected to be.

(C) An analysis comparing the management, training, pay, benefits, duties, responsibilities, and assignments of the protective force at each site identified under subparagraph (A) with the management, training, pay, benefits, duties, responsibilities, and assignments of the Federal transportation security force of the Department of Energy.

(D) A statement of options for managing the protective force at sites identified under subparagraph (A) in a more uniform manner, an analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of each option, and an assessment of the approximate cost of each option when compared with the costs associated with the existing management of the protective force at such sites.

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

(b) DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES FOR MANAGING AND DEPLOYING PROTECTIVE FORCES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the report is submitted under subsection (a), the Secretary of

Energy, in conjunction with the Administrator for Nuclear Security and the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a report on the management of the protective forces of the Department of Energy.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report shall include the following:

(A) Each of the matters specified in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of subsection (a)(2).

(B) Each of the matters specified in subparagraph (D) of subsection (a)(2), except that—

(i) the options analyzed shall include each of the options included in the report submitted under subsection (a), as well as any other options identified by the Secretary; and

(ii) the analysis and assessment shall also include an analysis of the role played by incentives inherent in the use of private contractors to provide protective forces in the performance of those protective forces.

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

SEC. 3125. EVALUATION OF NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION STRATEGIC PLAN FOR ADVANCED COMPUTING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy shall—

(1) enter into an agreement with an independent entity to conduct an evaluation of the strategic plan for advanced computing of the National Nuclear Security Administration; and

(2) not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, submit to the congressional defense committees a report containing the results of the evaluation described in paragraph (1).

(b) ELEMENTS.—The evaluation described in subsection (a)(1) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of—

(A) the adequacy of the strategic plan in supporting the Stockpile Stewardship Program;

(B) the role of research into, and development of, high-performance computing supported by the National Nuclear Security Administration in fulfilling the mission of the National Nuclear Security Administration and in maintaining the leadership of the United States in high-performance computing; and

(C) the impacts of changes in investment levels or research and development strategies on fulfilling the missions of the National Nuclear Security Administration.

(2) An assessment of the efforts of the Department of Energy to—

(A) coordinate high-performance computing work within the Department, in particular between the National Nuclear Security Administration and the Office of Science;

(B) develop joint strategies with other Federal agencies and private industry groups for the development of high-performance computing; and

(C) share high-performance computing developments with private industry and capitalize on innovations in private industry in high-performance computing.

SEC. 3126. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE RELIABLE REPLACEMENT WARHEAD PROGRAM.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States should maintain its commitment to Article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, done at Washington, London, and Moscow July 1, 1968, and entered into force March 5, 1970 (in this section referred to as the ''Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty'');

(2) the United States should initiate talks with Russia to reduce the number of nonstrategic nuclear weapons and further reduce the number of strategic nuclear weapons in the respective nuclear weapons stockpiles of the United States and Russia in a transparent and verifiable fashion and in a manner consistent with the security of the United States;

(3) the United States and other declared nuclear weapons state parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, together with weapons states that are not parties to the Treaty, should work to reduce the total number of nuclear weapons in the respective stockpiles and related delivery systems of such states;

(4) the United States, Russia, and other states should work to negotiate, and then sign and ratify, a treaty setting forth a date for the cessation of the production of fissile material;

(5) the United States should sustain the science-based stockpile stewardship program, which provides the basis for certifying the United States nuclear deterrent and maintaining the moratorium on underground nuclear weapons testing;

(6) the United States should commit to dismantle as soon as possible all retired warheads or warheads that are planned to be retired from the United States nuclear weapons stockpile;

(7) the United States, along with the other declared nuclear weapons state parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, should participate in transparent discussions regarding their nuclear weapons programs and plans, including plans for any new weapons or warheads, and how such programs and plans relate to their obligations as nuclear weapons state parties under the Treaty;

(8) the United States and the declared nuclear weapons state parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty should work to decrease reliance on, and the importance of, nuclear weapons; and

(9) the United States should formulate any decision on whether to manufacture or deploy a reliable replacement warhead within the broader context of the progress made by the United States toward achieving each of the goals described in paragraphs (1) through (8).

SEC. 3127. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY REPORT ON PLAN TO STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND INTERNATIONAL RADIOLOGICAL THREAT REDUCTION PROGRAM.

Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy shall submit to Congress a report that sets forth a specific plan for strengthening and expanding the Department of Energy International Radiological Threat Reduction (IRTR) program within the Global Threat Reduction Initiative. The plan shall address concerns raised and recommendations made by the Government Accountability Office in its report of March 13, 2007, titled ''Focusing on the Highest Priority Radiological Sources Could Improve DOE's Efforts to Secure Sources in Foreign Countries'', and shall specifically include actions to—

(1) improve the Department's coordination with the Department of State and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission;

(2) improve information-sharing between the Department and the International Atomic Energy Agency;

(3) with respect to hospitals and clinics containing radiological sources that receive security upgrades, give high priority to those determined to be the highest risk;

(4) accelerate efforts to remove as many radioisotope thermoelectric generators (RTGs) in the Russian Federation as practicable;

(5) develop a long-term sustainability plan for security upgrades that includes, among other things, future resources required to implement such a plan; and

(6) develop a long-term operational plan that ensures sufficient funding for the IRTR program and ensures sufficient funding to identify, recover, and secure all vulnerable high-risk radiological sources worldwide as quickly and effectively as possible.

SEC. 3128. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY REPORT ON PLAN TO STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND MATERIALS PROTECTION, CONTROL, AND ACCOUNTING PROGRAM.

Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy shall submit to Congress a specific plan for strengthening and expanding the Department of Energy Materials Protection, Control, and Accounting (MPC&A) program. The plan shall address concerns raised and recommendations made by the Government Accountability Office in its report of February 2007, titled ''Progress Made in Improving Security at Russian Nuclear Sites, but the Long-Term Sustainability of U.S. Funded Security Upgrades is Uncertain'', and shall specifically include actions to—

(1) strengthen program management and the effectiveness of the Department's efforts to improve security at weapons-usable nuclear material and warhead sites in the Russian Federation and other countries by—

(A) revising the metrics used to measure MPC&A program progress to better reflect the level of security upgrade completion at buildings reported as ''secure'';

(B) actively working with other countries, in coordination with the Secretary of State, to develop an appropriate access plan for each country; and

(C) developing a management information system to track the Department's progress in providing Russia with a sustainable MPC&A system by 2013; and

(2) develop a long-term operational plan that ensures sufficient funding for the MPC&A program, including for National Programs and Sustainability, and ensures sufficient funding to secure all weapons-usable nuclear material and warhead sites as quickly and effectively as possible.

SEC. 3129. AGREEMENTS AND REPORTS ON NUCLEAR FORENSICS CAPABILITIES.

(a) INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Title XLIII of the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2561 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 4307. INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS DATA.

''The Secretary of Energy may, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State and in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Director of National Intelligence, enter into agreements with countries or international organizations to conduct data collection and analysis to determine accurately and in a timely manner the source of any components of, or fissile material used or attempted to be used in, a nuclear device or weapon.

''SEC. 4308. INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS ON INFORMATION ON RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS.

''The Secretary of Energy may, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State and in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Director of National Intelligence, enter into agreements with countries or international organizations—

''(1) to acquire for the materials information program of the Department of Energy

validated information on the physical characteristics of radioactive material produced, used, or stored at various locations, in order to facilitate the ability to determine accurately and in a timely manner the source of any components of, or fissile material used or attempted to be used in, a nuclear device or weapon; and

''(2) to obtain access to information described in paragraph (1) in the event of—

''(A) a nuclear detonation; or

''(B) the interdiction or discovery of a nuclear device or weapon or nuclear material.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents at the beginning of such Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 4306A the following:

''Sec. 4307. International agreements on nuclear weapons data.

''Sec. 4308. International agreements on information on radioactive materials.''.

(b) REPORT ON AGREEMENTS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy shall, in coordination with the Secretary of State, submit to Congress a report identifying—

(1) the countries or international organizations with which the Secretary has sought to make agreements pursuant to sections 4307 and 4308 of the Atomic Energy Defense Act, as added by subsection (a);

(2) any countries or international organizations with which such agreements have been finalized and the measures included in such agreements; and

(3) any major obstacles to completing such agreements with other countries and international organizations.

(c) REPORT ON STANDARDS AND CAPABILITIES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to Congress a report—

(1) setting forth standards and procedures to be used in determining accurately and in a timely manner any country or group that knowingly or negligently provides to another country or group—

(A) a nuclear device or weapon;

(B) a major component of a nuclear device or weapon; or

(C) fissile material that could be used in a nuclear device or weapon;

(2) assessing the capability of the United States to collect and analyze nuclear material or debris in a manner consistent with the standards and procedures described in paragraph (1); and

(3) including a plan and proposed funding for rectifying any shortfalls in the nuclear forensics capabilities of the United States by September 30, 2010.

SEC. 3130. REPORT ON STATUS OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES TO ACCELERATE THE REDUCTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS AND CHALLENGES POSED BY THE LEGACY OF THE COLD WAR.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30, 2008, the Secretary of Energy shall submit to the congressional defense committees and the Comptroller General of the United States a report on the status of the environmental management initiatives undertaken to accelerate the reduction of the environmental risks and challenges that, as a result of the legacy of the Cold War, are faced by the Department of Energy, contractors of the Department, and applicable Federal and State agencies with regulatory jurisdiction.

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

(1) A discussion and assessment of the progress made in reducing the environmental risks and challenges described in subsection (a) in each of the following areas:

(A) Acquisition strategy and contract management.

(B) Regulatory agreements.

(C) Interim storage and final disposal of high-level waste, spent nuclear fuel, transuranic waste, and low-level waste.

(D) Closure and transfer of environmental remediation sites.

(E) Achievements in innovation by contractors of the Department with respect to accelerated risk reduction and cleanup.

(F) Consolidation of special nuclear materials and improvements in safeguards and security.

(2) An assessment of whether legislative changes or clarifications would improve or accelerate environmental management activities.

(3) A listing of the major mandatory milestones and commitments by site, by type of agreement, and by year to the extent that they are currently defined, together with a summary of the major mandatory milestones by site that are projected to be missed or are in jeopardy of being missed, with categories to explain the reason for non-compliance.

(4) An estimate of the life cycle cost of the current scope of the environmental management program as of October 1, 2007, by project baseline summary and summarized by site, including assumptions impacting cost projections and descriptions of the work to be done at each site.

(5) For environmental cleanup liabilities and excess facilities projected to be transferred to the environmental management program, a description of the process for nomination and acceptance of new work scope into the program, a listing of pending nominations, and life cycle cost estimates and schedules to address them.

(c) REVIEW BY COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—Not later than March 30, 2009, the Comptroller General shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report containing a review of the report required by subsection (a).

Subtitle D—Nuclear Terrorism Prevention

SEC. 3131. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) The term ''Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material'' means the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, signed at New York and Vienna March 3, 1980.

(2) The term ''formula quantities of strategic special nuclear material'' means uranium–235 (contained in uranium enriched to 20 percent or more in the U–235 isotope), uranium–233, or plutonium in any combination in a total quantity of 5,000 grams or more computed by the formula, grams = (grams contained U–235) + 2.5 (grams U–233 + grams plutonium), as set forth in the definitions of ''formula quantity'' and ''strategic special nuclear material'' in section 73.2 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations.

(3) The term ''Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty'' means the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, done at Washington, London, and Moscow July 1, 1968, and entered into force March 5, 1970 (21 UST 483).

(4) The term ''nuclear weapon'' means any device utilizing atomic energy, exclusive of the means for transporting or propelling the device (where such means is a separable and divisible part of the device), the principal purpose of which is for use as, or for the development of, a weapon, a weapon prototype, or a weapon test device.

SEC. 3132. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR TERRORISM.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the President should make the prevention of a nuclear terrorist attack on the United States a high priority;

(2) the President should accelerate programs, requesting additional funding as appropriate, to prevent nuclear terrorism, including combating nuclear smuggling, securing and accounting for nuclear weapons, and eliminating, removing, or securing and accounting for formula quantities of strategic special nuclear material wherever such quantities may be;

(3) the United States, together with the international community, should take a comprehensive approach to reducing the danger of nuclear terrorism, including by making additional efforts to identify and eliminate terrorist groups that aim to acquire nuclear weapons, to ensure that nuclear weapons worldwide are secure and accounted for and that formula quantities of strategic special nuclear material worldwide are eliminated, removed, or secure and accounted for to a degree sufficient to defeat the threat that terrorists and criminals have shown they can pose, and to increase the ability to find and stop terrorist efforts to manufacture nuclear explosives or to transport nuclear explosives and materials anywhere in the world;

(4) within such a comprehensive approach, a high priority must be placed on ensuring that all nuclear weapons worldwide are secure and accounted for and that all formula quantities of strategic special nuclear material worldwide are eliminated, removed, or secure and accounted for; and

(5) the International Atomic Energy Agency should be funded appropriately to fulfill its role in coordinating international efforts to protect nuclear material and to combat nuclear smuggling.

SEC. 3133. MINIMUM SECURITY STANDARD FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND FORMULA QUANTITIES OF STRATEGIC SPECIAL NUCLEAR MATERIAL.

(a) POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States to work with the international community to take all possible steps to ensure that all nuclear weapons around the world are secure and accounted for and that all formula quantities of strategic special nuclear material are eliminated, removed, or secure and accounted for to a level sufficient to defeat the threats posed by terrorists and criminals.

(b) INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY STANDARD.—It is the sense of Congress that, in furtherance of the policy described in subsection (a), and consistent with the requirement for ''appropriate effective'' physical protection contained in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004), as well as the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, the President, in consultation with relevant Federal departments and agencies, should seek the broadest possible international agreement on a global standard for nuclear security that—

(1) ensures that nuclear weapons and formula quantities of strategic special nuclear material are secure and accounted for to a sufficient level to defeat the threats posed by terrorists and criminals;

(2) takes into account the limitations of equipment and human performance; and

(3) includes steps to provide confidence that the needed measures have in fact been implemented.

(c) INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS.—It is the sense of Congress that, in furtherance of the policy described in subsection (a), the President, in consultation with relevant Federal departments and agencies, should—

(1) work with other countries and the International Atomic Energy Agency to assist as appropriate, and if necessary work to convince, the governments of any and all countries in possession of nuclear weapons or formula quantities of strategic special nuclear material to ensure that security is upgraded to meet the standard described in subsection (b) as rapidly as possible and in a manner that—

(A) accounts for the nature of the terrorist and criminal threat in each such country; and

(B) ensures that any measures to which the United States and any such country agree are sustained after United States and other international assistance ends;

(2) ensure that United States financial and technical assistance is available, as appropriate, to countries for which the provision of such assistance would accelerate the implementation of, or improve the effectiveness of, such security upgrades; and

(3) work with the governments of other countries to ensure that effective nuclear security rules, accompanied by effective regulation and enforcement, are put in place to govern all nuclear weapons and formula quantities of strategic special nuclear material around the world.

SEC. 3134. ANNUAL REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 1 of each year through 2012, the President, in consultation with relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall submit to Congress a report on the security of nuclear weapons and related equipment and formula quantities of strategic special nuclear material outside of the United States.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A section on the programs for the security and accounting of nuclear weapons and the elimination, removal, and security and accounting of formula quantities of strategic special nuclear material, established under section 3132(b) of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (50 U.S.C. 2569(b)), which shall include the following:

(A) A survey of the facilities and sites worldwide that contain nuclear weapons or related equipment, or formula quantities of strategic special nuclear material.

(B) A list of such facilities and sites determined to be of the highest priority for security and accounting of nuclear weapons and related equipment, or the elimination, removal, or security and accounting of formula quantities of strategic special nuclear material, taking into account risk of theft from such facilities and sites, and organized by level of priority.

(C) A prioritized plan, including measurable milestones, metrics, estimated timetables, and estimated costs of implementation, on the following:

(i) The security and accounting of nuclear weapons and related equipment and the elimination, removal, or security and accounting of formula quantities of strategic special nuclear material at such facilities and sites worldwide.

(ii) Ensuring that security upgrades and accounting reforms implemented at such facilities and sites worldwide, using the financial and technical assistance of the United States, are effectively sustained after such assistance ends.

(iii) The role that international agencies and the international community have committed to play, together with a plan for securing international contributions.

(D) An assessment of the progress made in implementing the plan described in subparagraph (C), including a description of the efforts of foreign governments to secure and account for nuclear weapons and related equipment and to eliminate, remove, or secure and account for formula quantities of strategic special nuclear material.

(2) A section on efforts to establish and implement the international nuclear security standard described in section 3133(b) and related policies.

(c) FORM.—The report may be submitted in classified form but shall include a detailed unclassified summary.

TITLE XXXII—WAR-RELATED NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATIONS

Sec. 3201. Additional war-related authorization of appropriations for National Nuclear Security Administration.

SEC. 3201. ADDITIONAL WAR-RELATED AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2008 to the Department of Energy for the National Nuclear Security Administration for defense nuclear nonproliferation in the amount of $50,000,000, of which $30,000,000 is for the International Nuclear Materials Protection and Cooperation program and $20,000,000 is for the Global Threat Reduction Initiative.

(b) TREATMENT AS ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION.—The amounts authorized to be appropriated by this section are in addition to amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated by this Act.

TITLE XXXIII—DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

Sec. 3301. Authorization.

SEC. 3301. AUTHORIZATION.

There are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2008, $22,499,000 for the operation of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board under chapter 21 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2286 et seq.).

TITLE XXXIV—NAVAL PETROLEUM RESERVES

Sec. 3401. Authorization of appropriations.
Sec. 3402. Remedial action at Moab uranium milling site.

SEC. 3401. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) AMOUNT.—There are hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Energy $17,301,000 for fiscal year 2008 for the purpose of carrying out activities under chapter 641 of title 10, United States Code, relating to the naval petroleum reserves.

(b) PERIOD OF AVAILABILITY.—Funds appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in subsection (a) shall remain available until expended.

SEC. 3402. REMEDIAL ACTION AT MOAB URANIUM MILLING SITE.

Section 3405(i) of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (Public Law 105–261; 10 U.S.C. 7420 note) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(6)(A) Not later than October 1, 2019, the Secretary of Energy shall complete remediation at the Moab site and removal of the tailings to the Crescent Junction site in Utah.

''(B) In the event the Secretary of Energy is unable to complete remediation at the Moab Site by October 1, 2019, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a plan setting forth the projected completion date and the estimated funding to meet the revised date. The Secretary shall submit the plan, if required, to Congress not later than October 2, 2019.''.

TITLE XXXV—MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

Subtitle A—Maritime Administration Reauthorization

Sec. 3501. Authorization of appropriations for fiscal year 2008.
Sec. 3502. Temporary authority to transfer obsolete combatant vessels to Navy for disposal.
Sec. 3503. Vessel disposal program.

Subtitle B—Programs

Sec. 3511. Commercial vessel chartering authority.
Sec. 3512. Maritime Administration vessel chartering authority.
Sec. 3513. Chartering to State and local governmental instrumentalities.
Sec. 3514. Disposal of obsolete Government vessels.
Sec. 3515. Vessel transfer authority.
Sec. 3516. Sea trials for Ready Reserve Force.
Sec. 3517. Review of applications for loans and guarantees.

Subtitle C—Technical Corrections

Sec. 3521. Personal injury to or death of seamen.
Sec. 3522. Amendments to Chapter 537 based on Public Law 109–163.
Sec. 3523. Additional amendments based on Public Law 109–163.
Sec. 3524. Amendments based on Public Law 109–171.
Sec. 3525. Amendments based on Public Law 109–241.
Sec. 3526. Amendments based on Public Law 109–364.
Sec. 3527. Miscellaneous amendments.
Sec. 3528. Application of sunset provision to codified provision.
Sec. 3529. Additional technical corrections.

Subtitle A—Maritime Administration Reauthorization

SEC. 3501. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2008, to be available without fiscal year limitation if so provided in appropriations Acts, for the use of the Department of Transportation for the Maritime Administration as follows:

(1) For expenses necessary for operations and training activities, $124,303,000, of which—

(A) $63,958,000 shall remain available until expended for expenses and capital improvements at the United States Merchant Marine Academy; and

(B) $11,500,000 which shall remain available until expended for maintenance and repair of school ships at the State Maritime Academies.

(2) For expenses to maintain and preserve a United States-flag merchant fleet to serve the national security needs of the United States under chapter 531 of title 46, United States Code, $156,000,000.

(3) For paying reimbursement under section 3517 of the Maritime Security Act of 2003 (46 U.S.C. 53101 note), $19,500,000.

(4) For assistance to small shipyards and maritime communities under section 54101 of title 46, United States Code, $25,000,000.

(5) For expenses to dispose of obsolete vessels in the National Defense Reserve Fleet, including provision of assistance under section 7 of Public Law 92–402, $20,000,000.

(6) For the cost (as defined in section 502(5) of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C 661a(5)) of loan guarantees under the program authorized by chapter 537 of title 46, United States Code, $30,000,000.

(7) For administrative expenses related to the implementation of the loan guarantee program under chapter 537 of title 46, United States Code, administrative expenses related to implementation of the reimbursement program under section 3517 of the Maritime Security Act of 2003 (46 U.S.C. 53101 note), and administrative expenses related to the implementation of the small shipyards and maritime communities assistance program under section 54101 of title 46, United States Code, $6,000,000.

SEC. 3502. TEMPORARY AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER OBSOLETE COMBATANT VESSELS TO NAVY FOR DISPOSAL.

The Secretary of Transportation shall, subject to the availability of appropriations and consistent with section 1535 of title 31, United States Code, popularly known as the Economy Act, transfer to the Secretary of

the Navy during fiscal year 2008 for disposal by the Navy, no fewer than 3 combatant vessels in the nonretention fleet of the Maritime Administration that are acceptable to the Secretary of the Navy.

SEC. 3503. VESSEL DISPOSAL PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Within 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall convene a working group to review and make recommendations on best practices for the storage and disposal of obsolete vessels owned or operated by the Federal Government. The Secretary shall invite senior representatives from the Maritime Administration, the Coast Guard, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the United States Navy to participate in the working group. The Secretary may request the participation of senior representatives of any other Federal department or agency, as appropriate, and may also request participation from concerned State environmental agencies.

(b) SCOPE.—Among the vessels to be considered by the working group are Federally owned or operated vessels that are—

(1) to be scrapped or recycled;

(2) to be used as artificial reefs; or

(3) to be used for the Navy's SINKEX program.

(c) PURPOSE.—The working group shall—

(1) examine current storage and disposal policies, procedures, and practices for obsolete vessels owned or operated by Federal agencies;

(2) examine Federal and State laws and regulations governing such policies, procedures, and practices and any applicable environmental laws; and

(3) within 90 days after the date of enactment of the Act, submit a plan to the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives to improve and harmonize practices for storage and disposal of such vessels, including the interim transportation of such vessels.

(d) CONTENTS OF PLAN.—The working group shall include in the plan submitted under subsection (c)(3)—

(1) a description of existing measures for the storage, disposal, and interim transportation of obsolete vessels owned or operated by Federal agencies in compliance with Federal and State environmental laws in a manner that protects the environment;

(2) a description of Federal and State laws and regulations governing the current policies, procedures, and practices for the storage, disposal, and interim transportation of such vessels;

(3) recommendations for environmental best practices that meet or exceed, and harmonize, the requirements of Federal environmental laws and regulations applicable to the storage, disposal, and interim transportation of such vessels;

(4) recommendations for environmental best practices that meet or exceed the requirements of State laws and regulations applicable to the storage, disposal, and interim transportation of such vessels;

(5) procedures for the identification and remediation of any environmental impacts caused by the storage, disposal, and interim transportation of such vessels; and

(6) recommendations for necessary steps, including regulations if appropriate, to ensure that best environmental practices apply to all such vessels.

(e) IMPLEMENTATION OF PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of the Act, the head of each Federal department or agency participating in the working group, in consultation with the other Federal departments and agencies participating in the working group, shall take such action as may be necessary, including the promulgation of regulations, under existing authorities to ensure that the implementation of the plan provides for compliance with all Federal and State laws and for the protection of the environment in the storage, interim transportation, and disposal of obsolete vessels owned or operated by Federal agencies.

(2) ARMED SERVICES VESSELS.—The Secretary and the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall each ensure that environmental best practices are observed with respect to the storage, disposal, and interim transportation of obsolete vessels owned or operated by the Department of Defense.

(f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to supersede, limit, modify, or otherwise affect any other provision of law, including environmental law.

Subtitle B—Programs

SEC. 3511. COMMERCIAL VESSEL CHARTERING AUTHORITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 575 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 57533. Vessel chartering authority

"The Secretary of Transportation may enter into contracts or other agreements on behalf of the United States to purchase, charter, operate, or otherwise acquire the use of any vessels documented under chapter 121 of this title and any other related real or personal property. The Secretary is authorized to use this authority as the Secretary deems appropriate.".

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The chapter analysis for chapter 575 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following: "57533. Vessel chartering authority".

SEC. 3512. MARITIME ADMINISTRATION VESSEL CHARTERING AUTHORITY.

Section 50303 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by—

(1) inserting "vessels," after "piers,"; and

(2) by striking "control;" in subsection (a)(1) and inserting "control, except that the prior consent of the Secretary of Defense for such use shall be required with respect to any vessel in the Ready Reserve Force or in the National Defense Reserve Fleet which is maintained in a retention status for the Department of Defense;".

SEC. 3513. CHARTERING TO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL INSTRUMENTALITIES.

Section 11(b) of the Merchant Ship Sales Act of 1946 (50 U.S.C. App. 1744(b)), is amended—

(1) by striking "or" after the semicolon in paragraph (3);

(2) by striking "Defense." in paragraph (4) and inserting "Defense; or"; and

(3) by adding at the end thereof the following:

"(5) on a reimbursable basis, for charter to the government of any State, locality, or Territory of the United States, except that the prior consent of the Secretary of Defense for such use shall be required with respect to any vessel in the Ready Reserve Force or in the National Defense Reserve Fleet which is maintained in a retention status for the Department of Defense.".

SEC. 3514. DISPOSAL OF OBSOLETE GOVERNMENT VESSELS.

Section 6(c)(1) of the National Maritime Heritage Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 5405(c)(1)) is amended—

(1) by inserting "(either by sale or purchase of disposal services)" after "shall dispose"; and

(2) by striking subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

"(A) in accordance with a priority system for disposing of vessels, as determined by the Secretary, which shall include provisions requiring the Maritime Administration to—

"(i) dispose of all deteriorated high priority ships that are available for disposal, within 12 months of their designation as such; and

"(ii) give priority to the disposition of those vessels that pose the most significant danger to the environment or cost the most to maintain;".

SEC. 3515. VESSEL TRANSFER AUTHORITY.

Section 50304 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following:

"(d) VESSEL CHARTERS TO OTHER DEPARTMENTS.—On a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis, as determined by the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary may charter or otherwise make available a vessel under the jurisdiction of the Secretary to any other department, upon the request by the Secretary of the Department that receives the vessel. The prior consent of the Secretary of Defense for such use shall be required with respect to any vessel in the Ready Reserve Force or in the National Defense Reserve Fleet which is maintained in a retention status for the Department of Defense.".

SEC. 3516. SEA TRIALS FOR READY RESERVE FORCE.

Section 11(c)(1)(B) of the Merchant Ship Sales Act of 1946 (50 U.S.C. App. 1744(c)(1)(B)) is amended to read as follows:

"(B) activate and conduct sea trials on each vessel at least once every 30 months;".

SEC. 3517. REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS FOR LOANS AND GUARANTEES.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The maritime loan guarantee program was established by the Congress through the Merchant Marine Act, 1936 to encourage domestic shipbuilding by making available federally backed loan guarantees for new construction to ship owners and operators.

(2) The maritime loan guarantee program has a long and successful history of ship construction with a low historical default rate.

(3) The current process for review of applications for maritime loans in the Department of Transportation has effectively discontinued the program as envisioned by the Congress.

(4) The President has requested no funding for the loan guarantee program despite the stated national policy to foster the development and encourage the maintenance of a merchant marine in section 50101 of title 46, United States Code.

(5) United States commercial shipyards were placed at a competitive disadvantage in the world shipbuilding market by government subsidized foreign commercial shipyards.

(6) The maritime loan guarantee program has the potential to modernize shipyards and the ships of the United States coastwise trade and restore a competitive position in the world shipbuilding market for United States shipyards.

(7) The maritime loan guarantee program is a useful tool to encourage domestic shipbuilding, preserving a vital industrial capacity critical to the security of the United States.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Within 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Maritime Administration shall

develop and implement a comprehensive plan for the review of applications for loan guarantees under chapter 537 of title 46, United States Code.

(2) DEADLINE FOR ACTION ON APPLICATION.—

(A) TRADITIONAL APPLICATIONS.—In the comprehensive plan the Administrator will ensure that within the 90-day period following receipt of all pertinent documentation required for review of a traditional loan application, the application shall be either accepted or rejected.

(B) NONTRADITIONAL APPLICATIONS.—In the comprehensive plan the Administrator will ensure that within the 180-day period following receipt of all pertinent documentation required for review of a nontraditional loan application, the application shall be either accepted or rejected.

(c) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—The Administrator shall submit a copy of the comprehensive plan to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives within 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) TRADITIONAL APPLICATION.—The term ''traditional application'' means an application for a loan, guarantee, or commitment to guarantee submitted pursuant to chapter 537 of title 46, United States Code, that involves a market, technology, and financial structure of a type that has proven successful in previous applications and does not present an unreasonable risk to the United States, as determined by the Administrator of the Maritime Administration.

(2) NONTRADITIONAL APPLICATION.—The term ''nontraditional application'' means an application for a loan, guarantee, or commitment to guarantee submitted pursuant to chapter 537 of title 46, United States Code, that is not a traditional application, as determined by the Administrator of the Maritime Administration.

Subtitle C—Technical Corrections

SEC. 3521. PERSONAL INJURY TO OR DEATH OF SEAMEN.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Section 30104 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''(a) CAUSE OF ACTION.—''; and

(2) by repealing subsection (b).

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall be effective as if included in the enactment of Public Law 109–304.

SEC. 3522. AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 537 BASED ON PUBLIC LAW 109–163.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Title 46, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(1) Section 53701 is amended by—

(A) redesignating paragraphs (2) through (13) as paragraphs (3) through (14), respectively;

(B) inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''(2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term 'Administrator' means the Administrator of the Maritime Administration.''; and

(C) striking paragraph (13) (as redesignated) and inserting the following:

''(13) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of Commerce with respect to fishing vessels and fishery facilities.''.

(2) Section 53706(c) is amended to read as follows:

''(c) PRIORITIES FOR CERTAIN VESSELS.—

''(1) VESSELS.—In guaranteeing or making a commitment to guarantee an obligation under this chapter, the Administrator shall give priority to—

''(A) a vessel that is otherwise eligible for a guarantee and is constructed with assistance under subtitle D of the Maritime Security Act of 2003 (46 U.S.C. 53101 note); and

''(B) after applying subparagraph (A), a vessel that is otherwise eligible for a guarantee and that the Secretary of Defense determines—

''(i) is suitable for service as a naval auxiliary in time of war or national emergency; and

''(ii) meets a shortfall in sealift capacity or capability.

''(2) TIME FOR DETERMINATION.—The Secretary of Defense shall determine whether a vessel satisfies paragraph (1)(B) not later than 30 days after receipt of a request from the Administrator for such a determination.''.

(3) Section 53707 is amended—

(A) by inserting ''or Administrator'' in subsections (a) and (d) after ''Secretary'' each place it appears;

(B) by striking ''Secretary of Transportation'' in subsection (b) and inserting ''Administrator'';

(C) by striking ''of Commerce'' in subsection (c); and

(D) in subsection (d)(2), by—

(i) inserting ''if the Secretary or Administrator considers necessary,'' before ''the waiver''; and

(ii) striking ''the increased'' and inserting ''any significant increase in''.

(4) Section 53708 is amended—

(A) by striking ''SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION'' in the heading of subsection (a) and inserting ''ADMINISTRATOR'';

(B) by striking ''Secretary'' and ''Secretary of Transportation'' each place they appear in subsection (a) and inserting ''Administrator'';

(C) by striking ''OF COMMERCE'' in the heading of subsection (b);

(D) by striking ''of Commerce'' in subsections (b) and (c);

(E) in subsection (d), by—

(i) inserting ''or Administrator'' after ''Secretary'' the first place it appears; and

(ii) striking ''financial structures, or other risk factors identified by the Secretary. Any independent analysis conducted under this subsection shall be performed by a party chosen by the Secretary.'' and inserting ''or financial structures. A third party independent analysis conducted under this subsection shall be performed by a private sector expert in assessing such risk factors who is selected by the Secretary or Administrator.''; and

(F) in subsection (e), by—

(i) inserting ''or Administrator'' after ''Secretary'' the first place it appears; and

(ii) striking ''financial structures, or other risk factors identified by the Secretary'' and inserting ''or financial structures''.

(5) Section 53710(b)(1) is amended by striking ''Secretary's'' and inserting ''Administrator's''.

(6) Section 53712(b) is amended by striking the last sentence and inserting ''If the Secretary or Administrator has waived a requirement under section 53707(d) of this title, the loan agreement shall include requirements for additional payments, collateral, or equity contributions to meet the waived requirement upon the occurrence of verifiable conditions indicating that the obligor's financial condition enables the obligor to meet the waived requirement.''.

(7) Subsections (c) and (d) of section 53717 are each amended—

(A) by striking ''OF COMMERCE'' in the subsection heading; and

(B) by striking ''of Commerce'' each place it appears.

(8) Section 53732(e)(2) is amended by inserting ''of Defense'' after ''Secretary'' the second place it appears.

(9) The following provisions are amended by striking ''Secretary'' and ''Secretary of Transportation'' and inserting ''Administrator'':

(A) Section 53710(b)(2)(A)(i).

(B) Section 53717(b) each place it appears in a heading and in text.

(C) Section 53718.

(D) Section 53731 each place it appears, except where ''Secretary'' is followed by ''of Energy''.

(E) Section 53732 (as amended by paragraph (8)) each place it appears, except where ''Secretary'' is followed by ''of the Treasury'', ''of State'', or ''of Defense''.

(F) Section 53733 each place it appears.

(10) The following provisions are amended by inserting ''or Administrator'' after ''Secretary'' each place it appears in headings and text, except where ''Secretary'' is followed by ''of Transportation'' or ''of the Treasury'':

(A) The items relating to sections 53722 and 53723 in the chapter analysis for chapter 537.

(B) Sections 53701(1), (4), and (9) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)(A)), 53702(a), 53703, 53704, 53706(a)(3)(B)(iii), 53709(a)(1), (b)(1) and (2)(A), and (d), 53710(a) and (c), 53711, 53712 (except in the last sentence of subsection (b) as amended by paragraph (6)), 53713 to 53716, 53721 to 53725, and 53734.

(11) Sections 53715(d)(1), 53716(d)(3), 53721(c), 53722(a)(1) and (b)(1)(B), and 53724(b) are amended by inserting ''or Administrator's'' after ''Secretary's''.

(b) REPEAL OF SUPERSEDED AMENDMENTS.—Section 3507 (except subsection (c)(4)) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109–163) is repealed.

SEC. 3523. ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS BASED ON PUBLIC LAW 109–163.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Title 46, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(1) Chapters 513 and 515 are amended by striking ''Naval Reserve'' each place it appears in analyses, headings, and text and inserting ''Navy Reserve''.

(2) Section 51504(f) is amended to read as follows:

''(f) FUEL COSTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary shall pay to each State maritime academy the costs of fuel used by a vessel provided under this section while used for training.

''(2) MAXIMUM AMOUNTS.—The amount of the payment to a State maritime academy under paragraph (1) may not exceed—

''(A) $100,000 for fiscal year 2006;

''(B) $200,000 for fiscal year 2007; and

''(C) $300,000 for fiscal year 2008 and each fiscal year thereafter.''.

(3) Section 51505(b)(2)(B) is amended by striking ''$200,000'' and inserting ''$300,000 for fiscal year 2006, $400,000 for fiscal year 2007, and $500,000 for fiscal year 2008 and each fiscal year thereafter''.

(4) Section 51701(a) is amended by striking ''of the United States.'' and inserting ''of the United States and to perform functions to assist the United States merchant marine, as determined necessary by the Secretary.''.

(5)(A) Section 51907 is amended to read as follows:

''§ 51907. Provision of decorations, medals, and replacements

''The Secretary of Transportation may provide—

''(1) the decorations and medals authorized by this chapter and replacements for those decorations and medals; and

''(2) replacements for decorations and medals issued under a prior law.''.

(B) The item relating to section 51907 in the chapter analysis for chapter 519 is amended to read as follows:

''51907. Provision of decorations, medals, and replacements''.

(6)(A) The following new chapter is inserted after chapter 539:

"CHAPTER 541—MISCELLANEOUS

''Sec
''54101. Assistance for small shipyards and maritime communities''.

(B) Section 3506 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (46 U.S.C. 53101 note) is transferred to and redesignated as section 54101 of title 46, United States Code, to appear at the end of chapter 541 of title 46, as inserted by subparagraph (A).

(C) The heading of such section, as transferred by subparagraph (B), is amended to read as follows:

"§ 54101. Assistance for small shipyards and maritime communities".

(D) Paragraph (1) of subsection (h) of such section, as transferred by subparagraph (B), is amended by striking ''(15 U.S.C. 632);'' and inserting ''(15 U.S.C. 632));''.

(E) The table of chapters at the beginning of subtitle V is amended by inserting after the item relating to chapter 539 the following new item:

"541. Miscellaneous ..... 54101".

(b) REPEAL OF SUPERSEDED AMENDMENTS.—Sections 515(g)(2), 3502, 3509, and 3510 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109–163) are repealed.

SEC. 3524. AMENDMENTS BASED ON PUBLIC LAW 109–171.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 60301 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''2 cents per ton (but not more than a total of 10 cents per ton per year)'' in subsection (a) and inserting ''4.5 cents per ton, not to exceed a total of 22.5 cents per ton per year, for fiscal years 2006 through 2010, and 2 cents per ton, not to exceed a total of 10 cents per ton per year, for each fiscal year thereafter,''; and

(2) by striking ''6 cents per ton (but not more than a total of 30 cents per ton per year)'' in subsection (b) and inserting ''13.5 cents per ton, not to exceed a total of 67.5 cents per ton per year, for fiscal years 2006 through 2010, and 6 cents per ton, not to exceed a total of 30 cents per ton per year, for each fiscal year thereafter,''.

(b) REPEAL OF SUPERSEDED AMENDMENTS.—Section 4001 of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–171) is repealed.

SEC. 3525. AMENDMENTS BASED ON PUBLIC LAW 109–241.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Title 46, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(1) Section 12111 is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) ACTIVITIES INVOLVING MOBILE OFFSHORE DRILLING UNITS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Only a vessel for which a certificate of documentation with a registry endorsement is issued may engage in—

''(A) the setting, relocation, or recovery of the anchors or other mooring equipment of a mobile offshore drilling unit that is located over the outer Continental Shelf (as defined in section 2(a) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331(a))); or

''(B) the transportation of merchandise or personnel to or from a point in the United States from or to a mobile offshore drilling unit located over the outer Continental Shelf that is not attached to the seabed.

''(2) COASTWISE TRADE NOT AUTHORIZED.—Nothing in paragraph (1) authorizes the employment in the coastwise trade of a vessel that does not meet the requirements of section 12112 of this title.''.

(2) Section 12139(a) is amended by striking ''and charterers'' and inserting ''charterers, and mortgagees''.

(3) Section 51307 is amended—

(A) by striking ''and'' at the end of paragraph (2);

(B) by striking ''organizations.'' in paragraph (3) and inserting ''organizations; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) on any other vessel considered by the Secretary to be necessary or appropriate or in the national interest.''.

(4) Section 55105(b)(3) is amended by striking ''Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating'' and inserting ''Secretary of Homeland Security''.

(5) Section 70306(a) is amended by striking ''Not later than February 28 of each year, the Secretary shall submit a report'' and inserting ''The Secretary shall submit an annual report''.

(6) Section 70502(d)(2) is amended to read as follows:

''(2) RESPONSE TO CLAIM OF REGISTRY.—The response of a foreign nation to a claim of registry under paragraph (1)(A) or (C) may be made by radio, telephone, or similar oral or electronic means, and is proved conclusively by certification of the Secretary of State or the Secretary's designee.''.

(b) REPEAL OF SUPERSEDED AMENDMENTS.—Sections 303, 307, 308, 310, 901(q), and 902(o) of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–241) are repealed.

SEC. 3526. AMENDMENTS BASED ON PUBLIC LAW 109–364.

(a) UPDATING OF CROSS REFERENCES.—Section 1017(b)(2) of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364, 10 U.S.C. 2631 note) is amended by striking ''section 27 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1920 (46 U.S.C. 883), section 12106 of title 46, United States Code, and section 2 of the Shipping Act, 1916 (46 U.S.C. App. 802)'' and inserting ''sections 12112, 50501, and 55102 of title 46, United States Code''.

(b) SECTION 51306(e).—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 51306 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) ALTERNATIVE SERVICE.—

''(1) SERVICE AS COMMISSIONED OFFICER.—An individual who, for the 5-year period following graduation from the Academy, serves as a commissioned officer on active duty in an armed force of the United States or as a commissioned officer of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the Public Health Service shall be excused from the requirements of paragraphs (3) through (5) of subsection (a).

''(2) MODIFICATION OR WAIVER.—The Secretary may modify or waive any of the terms and conditions set forth in subsection (a) through the imposition of alternative service requirements.''.

(2) APPLICATION.—Section 51306(e) of title 46, United States Code, as added by paragraph (1), applies only to an individual who enrolls as a cadet at the United States Merchant Marine Academy, and signs an agreement under section 51306(a) of title 46, after October 17, 2006.

(c) SECTION 51306(f).—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 51306 of title 46, United States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) SERVICE OBLIGATION PERFORMANCE REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to any otherwise applicable restrictions on disclosure in section 552a of title 5, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service—

''(A) shall report the status of obligated service of an individual graduate of the Academy upon request of the Secretary; and

''(B) may, in their discretion, notify the Secretary of any failure of the graduate to perform the graduate's duties, either on active duty or in the Ready Reserve component of their respective service, or as a commissioned officer of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the Public Health Service, respectively.

''(2) INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED.—A report or notice under paragraph (1) shall identify any graduate determined to have failed to comply with service obligation requirements and provide all required information as to why such graduate failed to comply.

''(3) CONSIDERED AS IN DEFAULT.—Upon receipt of such a report or notice, such graduate may be considered to be in default of the graduate's service obligations by the Secretary, and subject to all remedies the Secretary may have with respect to such a default.''.

(2) APPLICATION.—Section 51306(f) of title 46, United States Code, as added by paragraph (1), does not apply with respect to an agreement entered into under section 51306(a) of title 46, United States Code, before October 17, 2006.

(d) SECTION 51509(c).—Section 51509(c) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''MIDSHIPMAN AND'' in the subsection heading and ''midshipman and'' in the text; and

(2) inserting ''or the Coast Guard Reserve'' after ''Reserve)''.

(e) SECTION 51908(a).—Section 51908(a) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking ''under this chapter'' and inserting ''by this chapter or the Secretary of Transportation''.

(f) SECTION 53105(e)(2).—Section 53105(e)(2) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking ''section 2 of the Shipping Act, 1916 (46 U.S.C. App. 802),'' and inserting ''section 50501 of this title''.

(g) REPEAL OF SUPERSEDED AMENDMENTS.—Sections 3505, 3506, 3508, and 3510(a) and (b) of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364) are repealed.

SEC. 3527. MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS.

(a) DELETION OF OBSOLETE REFERENCE TO CANTON ISLAND.—Section 55101(b) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''or'' after the semicolon at the end of paragraph (2);

(2) by striking paragraph (3); and

(3) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (3).

(b) IMPROVEMENT OF HEADING.—Title 46, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(1) The heading of section 55110 is amended by inserting ''**valueless material or**'' before ''**dredged material**''.

(2) The item for section 55110 in the analysis for chapter 551 is amended by inserting ''valueless material or'' before ''dredged material''.

SEC. 3528. APPLICATION OF SUNSET PROVISION TO CODIFIED PROVISION.

For purposes of section 303 of the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–27, 26 U.S.C. 1 note), the amendment made by section 301(a)(2)(E) of that Act shall be deemed to have been made to section 53511(f)(2) of title 46, United States Code.

SEC. 3529. ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 46.—Title 46, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(1) The analysis for chapter 21 is amended by striking the item relating to section 2108.

(2) Section 12113(g) is amended by inserting ''and'' after ''Conservation''.

(3) Section 12131 is amended by striking ''commmand'' and inserting ''command''.

(b) AMENDMENTS TO PUBLIC LAW 109–304.—

(1) AMENDMENTS.—Public Law 109–304 is amended as follows:

(A) Section 15(10) is amended by striking ''46 App. U.S.C.'' and inserting ''46 U.S.C. App.''.

(B) Section 15(30) is amended by striking ''Shipping Act, 1936'' and inserting ''Shipping Act, 1916''.

(C) The schedule of Statutes at Large repealed in section 19, as it relates to the Act of June 29, 1936, is amended by—

(i) striking the second section ''1111'' (relating to 46 U.S.C. App. 1279f) and inserting section ''1113''; and

(ii) striking the second section ''1112'' (relating to 46 U.S.C. App. 1279g) and inserting section ''1114''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall be effective as if included in the enactment of Public Law 109–304.

(c) REPEAL OF DUPLICATIVE OR UNEXECUTABLE AMENDMENTS.—

(1) REPEAL.—Sections 9(a), 15(21) and (33)(A) through (D)(i), and 16(c)(2) of Public Law 109–304 are repealed.

(2) INTENDED EFFECT.—The provisions repealed by paragraph (1) shall be treated as if never enacted.

(d) LARGE PASSENGER VESSEL CREW REQUIREMENTS.—Section 8103(k)(3)(C)(iv) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''and section 252 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1282)'' after ''of such section''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill that is now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in strong support of the National Defense Authorization Act for the Fiscal Year 2008, a bill which we will today consider for the third time on the House floor and which has been revised to address the objections expressed by the President. I strongly believe, Madam Speaker, that this bill is one of the most important pieces of legislation passed by this Congress and I must say one of the very best, if not the best, defense authorization bills that I can recall during my time in Congress. And I am so extremely proud, Madam Speaker, of all the members of the Armed Services Committee as well as all those who have worked hard in and out of our committee to make it happen.

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A special thanks to our wonderful staff, our crack staff, for the hard work that they have done to get us where we are today, with a bill that will be signed by the President, and the recipients of the benefits of this bill will be those young men and young women in uniform.

Last night, we disposed of the President's veto of an earlier version of this bill. That veto was a surprise, frankly, to all of us. Today, we move on. We send a final version to the President that his aides have indicated he will sign. The changes to the conference report, which we passed in the House by a vote of 370–49, and passed the Senate by 90–3, are minimal. Only one section, section 1083, dealing with claims against countries that are or have been state sponsors of terrorism, caused a problem for the administration that led to this veto.

This bill before us includes a compromise on that provision we worked out on a bipartisan basis with the body on the other side of the Capitol, as well as with the White House, and it allows the President to waive the application of the section under consideration to the government of Iraq, while also expressing the sense of the Congress that the President should negotiate with the government of Iraq to satisfy the legitimate claims that American citizens have against that country and its former leader, Saddam Hussein.

The only other changes made to the bill were those required to make retroactive the pay increases and many benefit improvements provided for the military servicemembers as well as their families. Those provisions will be made effective under this bill as of January 1 of this year, as would have been the case had the President signed the original bill that was before you.

This is a good bill. I think it's the best defense bill in decades that this Congress has put forward. It's good for our troops, good for their families, it will help improve the readiness of our Armed Forces, and it will bring significant oversight to the Department of Defense in much needed areas where oversight was so needed in the past.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SAXTON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to very sincerely thank my good friend from Missouri for his leadership in bringing this revised edition of the National Defense Authorization Act to the floor in an expedited manner. It's unfortunate that we find ourselves in this position, but through Mr. SKELTON and Mr. HUNTER's leadership, we were able to find a mutually agreeable compromise in an expeditious manner.

On December 12, the House passed the National Defense Authorization Act, as my good friend just pointed out, by a vote of 370–49. This amended version is a good bipartisan bill, with very few changes from the original legislation. In section 1083, we ensure terrorism victims have the legal redress against state sponsors of terrorism, while granting the President the waiver authority to protect our relationship with the new government of Iraq. This provision was the crux of the issue that brought this bill back to the House after we sent it to the President, and it's something that is near and dear to many of our hearts, and some of us worked very closely with Members of the other body, in particular Senator LAUTENBERG, over several years to bring the language that we had in the original bill to the attention of the House and inclusion in the NDAA bill.

The new version simply gives the President the ability to waive the totality of this pertinent section as to claims against Iraq for terrorism acts that occurred before or on the date of enactment of the fiscal year 2008 NDAA bill. As my good friend, Mr. SKELTON, just pointed out, this is perhaps a better way to write this because certainly we can't or shouldn't hold the current government of Iraq responsible for things done by its predecessor, Saddam Hussein. And so this is a good compromise and a good effort. We also make some other provisions. We make the 3.5 percent across-the-board pay raise and targeted pay raises retroactive to ensure American servicemembers are not penalized due to this delay.

Overall, the defense bill takes care of the brave men and women serving our country at home and abroad. It authorizes $506.9 billion in budget authority for the Department of Defense and the national security programs of the Department of Energy. Additionally, it supports current operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere in the global war on terrorism by authorizing $189.4 billion in supplemental funding for operational costs, personnel expenses, and procurement of new equipment for fiscal year 2008.

Once again, I want to acknowledge the leadership of Chairman IKE SKELTON and Ranking Member DUNCAN HUNTER for their hard work in shepherding this vital legislation expeditiously through their chamber. Through their work, this bill guarantees that our service men and women will get what they need, and when they need it.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to a longstanding and hardworking member of our Armed Services Committee, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS).

(Mr. ANDREWS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ANDREWS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for yielding time.

I rise in strong support of this legislation. The slogan that we should support our troops is given life and reality by this bill, by paying them well, by equipping them well, and by supporting them in every respect. This bill deserves the support of each and every Member of this body.

I also echo the remarks of my friend from New Jersey with respect to the

hard work that has been done to be sure that Americans who have been victimized by the state-sponsored terrorism have adequate means of redress in our courts. This is the issue that gave rise to the Presidential veto. I happen to agree that the compromise in front of us makes imminent sense.

The general rule in American law is that when you sue someone, you don't have the right to freeze their assets or go after their assets unless you win a judgment. We make an exception to that general rule in the case of assets owned by states which are involved in state-sponsored terrorism. It is the wisdom of the compromise here that that provision remains in effect for all of the other states that are involved in state-sponsored terrorism, with the exception of Iraq, which was under the regime of Saddam Hussein. It leaves to the discretion of the President a waiver to determine whether claims against that regime under Saddam Hussein should go forward, and how they should go forward.

This is an issue that I think the Congress ought to reconsider and revisit in 2008 and beyond. I, frankly, believe that an American who has been the victim of improper or illegal conduct under the old regime should not go without legal redress. That is a lingering question that is as a result of this compromise, but it's a wise and necessary compromise that would permit us to do what we should have done a long time ago for the men and women who serve this country so well.

So I congratulate the chairman and Ranking Member HUNTER as authors of the compromise. I appreciate their hard work in bringing this bill back to life. Happily, I will support it, and look forward to doing even greater things in 2008.

Mr. SAXTON. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH).

Mr. MCHUGH. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, let me begin by admitting right up front, this is not a perfect approach, but it is by far the best approach that we have available to us. I want to echo the words of my friend who just spoke, the gentleman from New Jersey, and add my words of appreciation and deep compliments to the distinguished chairman of the full committee, Chairman SKELTON, the distinguished ranking member, Chairman HUNTER, the great staff on both sides, and all the members who have worked so very hard to bring this moment to reality.

Frankly, we are dealing with an issue that is a product of the challenge that did not begin in this House. It came through the general authorization process, a provision that started in the Senate, that, as we have heard here today, and I certainly endorse, we in concept all agree with. All of us believe that American citizens who have been aggrieved by any state sponsor of terrorism, including the previous Iraqi Government, deserve every possible means of redress available to them.

We believe that in the context of the challenge before us, this bill continues and preserves that right, and does it in a way that, most importantly, understands that the primary objective of this bill is bringing to those brave men and women in uniform who are serving so ably across this planet, particularly in theaters of conflict like Iraq and Afghanistan, the immediate added benefits that are derived from this piece of legislation.

The distinguished chairman could not be more correct in his observation that this is not just a good bill, it is bordering on a great bill. The pay increases, the increases in various benefits are something that we cannot put in jeopardy by choosing another course other than by voting for and feeling very positive about this piece of legislation.

Like all the speakers before, I join with them in hoping that each and every Member of this House will take advantage of this opportunity, rise to the challenge that has been presented to us, and vote ''aye,'' in the affirmative, for this legislation, and preserve the rights and lead a path toward justice that those aggrieved people of state sponsors of terrorism so richly deserve, and at the same time provide the wealth of benefits that are embodied in this great piece of legislation.

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to my friend, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH).

Mr. KUCINICH. I thank the gentleman.

This is a 1,513-page document which was completed today at 11:12 a.m., and delivered most recently to the Clerk's desk. I am sure many Members are familiar with some of the aspects of it, but perhaps not all.

My good friend, Mr. SKELTON, whose work I am always grateful for, your commitment to this country is very admirable. It takes a lot of work to do what you do, and I stand here today to express reservations to, and opposition to, this bill; and the reservations I have are of course that this bill will continue to fund the war in Iraq.

I have offered Congress an alternative, which is that we can end the occupation, close the bases, bring the troops home, set in motion a parallel process of an international security and peacekeeping force that would move in as our troops leave. We all want to protect our troops. I think the best way to defend and protect them is to bring them home. So that is one of the first concerns I have.

The second concern I have is section 229 of the bill relates to protection of U.S. and allies from the Iranian ballistic missile. One of the things in the bill that I am very concerned about, Mr. Chairman, is that it says that Iran maintains a nuclear program. Now the National Intelligence Agency, which made information available to this Congress, would assert otherwise. I think that we have to be very cautious about building out an entire part of our defense, planning for an attack from Iran, when we haven't even made an effort to break down the walls that have been built up over 29 years and use diplomacy. Yet, we are actually defining and making a connection between a nuclear capability that Iran clearly doesn't have at this moment and ballistic missiles. And by creating that linkage, we are actually creating an architecture of fear. I don't think that is a sensible way for the greatest Nation of the world to be pursuing its policy. In connection with that, it creates increased tensions for Europe.

I am concerned that we keep building these missile interceptors in Alaska that in a sense helps to frame an interceptor system that has not even been proved to be technologically feasible; that we are getting into nanotechnology without any serious discussion of what it means when you start using nanotechnology and marry it to weapons production.

□ 1615

The discussion in this bill about a Space Posture Review speaks of the United States policies in space as space control, space superiority, targeting objects on Earth from outer space. Now, that doesn't sound like the America that many of us would want to participate in when we think that we are going into kind of a Buck Rogers scenario here.

Another section deals with continuing and encouraging the School of the Americas, something a number of Members have opposed.

Mr. Chairman, I have gone over a good part of this bill, as much as I could with this short a period of time, and I think when we, on the one hand, accept the judgment of Members of Congress that we don't want a permanent presence in Iraq, and on the other hand give $80 million for one base, $86 million for another, $88 million for a third, and $103 million for a fourth, that sounds like a permanent presence to me. Either that or it is the most expensive trailers in the history of humanity.

So there are so many factors in here that really I think need to cause us to be cautious. Also the one about Pakistan, because I think we are setting the stage for sending U.S. troops to Pakistan, something the American people do not want to do.

I want to thank my friend, nevertheless, for his commitment to our troops. We agree that we should protect our troops.

Mr. SAXTON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would just like to say to my friend from Cleveland, who speaks very articulately on this bill, as I am sure he did on the original bill, the gentleman made some points that he believes I am sure very much that there

are some things in the bill that he disagrees with, and the gentleman and 48 other people voted against the original bill, and I am sure for many of the same reasons.

In fact, it would be surprising if they weren't the same reasons, because the 1,513 pages that the gentleman has under his arm that he referred to are almost identical to the original bill which is here, which has been available since December 6 of last year. And the 1,513 pages that my friend referred to had one single change from the copy that I have in my hand that has been available since December 6. And that change, both the ranking member and I took care to explain, I think we explained it well, had to do with terrorism, had to do with Iraq, had to do with not holding the current government in Iraq responsible for acts committed by the previous regime. And we also of course added the second provision that had to do with back pay.

So, this is a good bill that passed by 370–49 previously.

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, will my friend yield?

Mr. SAXTON. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, one of the things that I just want to call to your attention, to my friend, I am concerned about that section 229 about Iran, especially in light of the new development that may have happened since this was drafted and the draft that you cite about the National Intelligence Estimate. I am not sure that that discussion about the National Intelligence Estimate has really been given weight with respect to the language in section 229 which essentially says that Iran maintains a nuclear program. When you say that Iran maintains a nuclear program and it is in that legislation, I think we set the stage for some problems.

I want to thank the gentleman for being so kind to yield to me.

Mr. SAXTON. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to my colleague from the Armed Services Committee, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SESTAK).

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise with great respect for Mr. SKELTON, but I did want to express my real hesitation and my real concern over what is occurring.

When I have gone and sat through this with lawyers, a lien is not a hold, and we are actually not freezing these assets. My concern is this, that here men and women who have worn the cloth of this Nation and have actually been tortured, successfully won a judgment, are now precluded by a President because the Iraqi Government, to whom we are providing $12 billion a month in terms of our natural resources, has threatened to pull out of the United States' trillion dollars of markets $25 billion. I don't think this is right.

There are a lot of good things in this bill that need to pass, the pay raise to the readiness. But I honestly believe the President has not taken care of those who sacrificed the most for this Nation, and I would like us to look upon ourselves as to what we are doing here today.

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, if I may, let me add to the comments today the importance of this legislation. Under our Constitution, it is up to the Congress of the United States to raise and maintain the military and provide the rules and regulations therefore. We do that by means of a defense authorization bill that comes from the Armed Services Committee.

We worked long and hard, and we were able to pass such a bill from our committee back in May and the Senate passed one back in September. And we, of course, had conference with the Senate, and we were finally able to reach an agreement on a conference report that is a piece of legislation that embodies both the House and the Senate provisions.

The people at the White House had the opportunity to look at it and give comments on various sections of the proposed legislation, which they did. We looked at them and worked with them and passed a good piece of legislation. Like I said before, 370 Members of this House and 90 Members of the other body voted for it. However, the President chose to veto over this provision—that to me was a surprise—that it rose to the level of a veto. Nevertheless, it is what happened, and that is why we are here.

There seems to be a rather interesting intellectual discussion as to the type of veto. If I remember correctly, the veto message that was read to us yesterday here in this Chamber, the President's remarks made reference to the fact that it was a pocket veto for the reason that we were not in session and also that it was a regular veto. To me it sounded as if there were two vetoes wrapped up in one message.

Nevertheless, regarding the issue as to whether it was a pocket veto or not, the 1974 case Kennedy v. Sampson, which was a D.C. Circuit Court case, said that the ability to receive a veto message, which we had, under our adjournment resolution, Madam Speaker, we had language that allowed the Clerk of the House to receive any messages which, of course, on December 28 was the veto message from the President. The Speaker designated the Clerk to receive it. As we saw, it was a regular veto as opposed to a pocket veto. I hope that puts that issue to rest for the days ahead.

Let me briefly also mention, Madam Speaker, that besides the pay raise and the family benefits and the fact that we prevent the increase in fees for pharmaceuticals and TRICARE for the troops and their families, we provide for taking care of the problems that were raised in the Walter Reed situation a good number of months ago where our injured and wounded soldiers were not receiving the best care. We knew that and discussed it. As a matter of fact, on this floor, in the Wounded Warriors Act, we included that in toto in this legislation; also, outstanding sections on contract reform regarding the possibility of fraud, the reform of acquisition, we touched on many areas such as that.

I was so pleased with the outcome of this, including, of course, most importantly readiness, which we need to keep up, allowing additional troops for the Army and the Marine Corps.

I have been on the Armed Services Committee most of my career in Congress, and I just can't think of any more comprehensive and far-reaching authorization bill that we have ever had. I have to really give credit to our committee for the hard work they did. I just can't say enough about our crack staff on the committee. They are just first rate, and we appreciate them, rely on their hard work so very, very much, and I want to again pay tribute to them.

With that, Madam Speaker, I will reserve the balance of my time. If my friend has some further comments to make, we would appreciate them.

Mr. HALL of New York. Madam Speaker, regarding H.R. 4986, the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008, I am disappointed that changes have been made from the bill passed in December which will weaken the ability of Americans tortured by Saddam Hussein to collect an award determined in federal court for the abuses of his regime. I am hopeful that this unfortunate circumstance will be remedied and that Congress and the President will find a way to ensure that these brave troops are able to pursue justice.

Mr. SAXTON. Madam Speaker, we have no further speakers on our side, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SKELTON. If the gentleman from New Jersey yields back, I yield back.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4986.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 369, nays 46, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 11]

YEAS—369

Abercrombie	Bachmann	Becerra
Ackerman	Bachus	Berman
Aderholt	Baird	Berry
Akin	Baker	Biggert
Alexander	Barrett (SC)	Bilbray
Allen	Barrow	Bilirakis
Altmire	Bartlett (MD)	Bishop (GA)
Andrews	Barton (TX)	Bishop (NY)
Arcuri	Bean	Bishop (UT)

Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carter
Castle
Castor
Chabot
Chandler
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeGette
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Donnelly
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Edwards
Ehlers
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Fallin
Farr
Feeney
Ferguson
Flake
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Hooley
Hoyer
Hulshof
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Marchant
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Obey
Ortiz
Pascrell
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Space
Spratt
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tancredo
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tsongas
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—46

Baldwin
Capuano
Clarke
Clay
Conyers
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
Delahunt
Doggett
Duncan
Ellison
Fattah
Filner
Frank (MA)
Goode
Grijalva
Holt
Jackson (IL)
Kucinich
Lee
Lewis (GA)
Markey
McDermott
McGovern
Miller, George
Moore (WI)
Oberstar
Olver
Pallone
Pastor
Payne
Petri
Schakowsky
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Stark
Tierney
Towns
Velázquez
Waters
Watson
Welch (VT)
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—15

Baca
Berkley
Culberson
Forbes
Fossella
Honda
Hunter
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Kingston
Lantos
Miller, Gary
Paul
Shimkus
Tanner

□ 1651

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Messrs. GEORGE MILLER of California, SERRANO, HOLT, OLVER, Ms. WOOLSEY and Ms. WATSON changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Messrs. CANTOR, NEUGEBAUER and WALBERG changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I mistakenly voted "yea" on rollcall vote 11. While I support many provisions in H.R. 4986, I do not support this legislation because of the authorization for war funding in Iraq. I intended to vote "nay" on rollcall 11.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, if I were present today, January 16, 2008, I would have voted the following way:

"Yea"—H. Res. 912—Condemning the assassination of former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and reaffirming the commitment of the United States to assist the people of Pakistan in combating terrorist activity and promoting a free and democratic Pakistan (Rep. ACKERMAN—Foreign Affairs) Suspension bill.

"Yea"—H. Res. 921—Providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 4253, with an amendment—Military Reservist and Veteran Small Business Reauthorization and Opportunity Act of 2007—(Rep. VELÁZQUEZ—Small Business) Suspension bill.

"Yea"—H.R. 4986—The National Defense Authorization Act (Rep. SKELTON—Armed Services).

"Yea"—H.R. 2768—S–Miner Act (Rep. GEORGE MILLER—Education and Labor) (Subject to a Rule).

PROVIDING FOR AN ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, I send to the desk a privileged concurrent resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 279

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

That when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Wednesday, January 23, 2008, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, January 28, 2008, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Tuesday, January 29, 2008, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Wednesday, February 6, 2008, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Speaker or her designee, after consultation with the Minority Leader, shall notify the Members of the House to reassemble at such place and time as she may designate if, in her opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATING FAIRFIELDS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

(Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Fairfields Volunteer Fire Department of Northumberland County, Virginia. I join a grateful community in extending my appreciation as they celebrate 60 years of service to our community.

The Fairfields Volunteer Fire Department began serving the community on January 30, 1947. It was at that time that R.L. Haynie, the department's founder, gathered together 17 original members to provide much needed fire and rescue service to the Reedville community.

In the beginning, the department housed its fire truck at a service station. Over the years, the department has grown and expanded, adding a Glebe Point substation in 1957 and a new Reedville firehouse in 1985.

The Fairfields Volunteer Fire Department now boasts 44 members with a fleet of eight vehicles.

I would like to extend my appreciation to all of the current and former

members of the Fairfields Volunteer Fire Department for their dedication and outstanding service to our community. I would also like to thank them for their patience and understanding in my absence at their 60th anniversary celebration.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3524, HOPE VI IMPROVEMENT AND REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

Ms. SUTTON, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110–509) on the resolution (H. Res. 922) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3524) to reauthorize the HOPE VI program for revitalization of severely distressed public housing, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIRES). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

AMERICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE IS ABYSMAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the commission which Congress created during the enactment of the surface transportation, the SAFETEA–LU bill, reported its results to the Congress in terms of the state of the Nation's infrastructure. The short version is that the state of the Nation's infrastructure is abysmal. We are seeing dramatically increased congestion. We are seeing bridges collapse. We are losing ground. We are not even maintaining the investment made by the Eisenhower generation in the Nation's interstate system let alone other vital national needs. It needs immediate attention.

And, of course, investment in our infrastructure will produce jobs. Large numbers of jobs will be produced should we go ahead with this needed construction, not only construction jobs but suppliers, small businesses, communities will benefit. The economy as a whole will benefit in terms of our economic productivity and competitiveness with just-in-time delivery and other concerns. And the American people will benefit in terms of more time at home, less time in commutes, less fuel wasted in congestion and backups in traffic. These are investments that need to be made.

The commission, a bipartisan commission, by a large majority said we need to be investing between $220 and $335 billion a year from all sources, Federal, State, local, and private, in the Nation's transportation infrastructure.

□ 1700

And today we're investing about $87 billion, about a third of the minimum they think is necessary. This is a wake-up call that's long overdue to this Congress, to this administration, and to the country about how we're losing ground. We're headed toward Third World status in terms of our Nation's transportation infrastructure. That is not acceptable.

Unfortunately, the Bush administration, the headquarters of the head in the sand folks, are saying no additional Federal investment is necessary; that all of that $220 billion can come from privatizing the Nation's highways; tolling and pricing people off the roads will help mitigate congestion. Yes, they want to toll existing highways, paid for by taxpayers, they want to put extortionate tolls on where they would charge more at rush hour. Now, if you happen to live on the east side of town and work on the west side and have to travel a congested highway, from George Bush and Mary Peters, Secretary of Transportation, the message is, quit your job, move, or tough luck, suck it up. That's not acceptable for America. We are not going to solve this problem through the fantasies of this administration. You're not going to solve it with the privatization of our existing network.

Now, in certain areas, tolling, congestion pricing and private-public partnerships, done properly, protecting the public interest, can contribute a small amount. The estimates are, generously, maybe 10 percent. But the Bush administration is saying that can do 100 percent because they're saying they will never ever support any increase in any taxes to increase any investment in the national transportation infrastructure. That's a shame. That's an incredible shame. And it is doing an amazing disservice to the future of our economy.

And as we stagger in this recession created by the policies of this administration, one of the best ways that we can begin to build out of it and to make ourselves more productive in the future and prevent future recessions is investment in our infrastructure. You can justify borrowing money to build things that are going to last 30, 50, 100 years and benefit all of the American people and our economy. They want to borrow money to give more tax cuts to the few rich people, many of whom have done fabulously well, some of whom lost their shirts with speculation in this recent market. Other sides of the speculators made hundreds of millions and billions of dollars by speculating on the collapse of the housing market, while the Bush administration and Alan Greenspan and everybody watched the bubble grow and grow and grow and grow and did nothing.

We need a concrete investment for the future, an investment in our transportation infrastructure, despite what Mary Peters and George Bush think is one of the best ways to promote the long-term health and competitiveness of the United States of America. We should begin to make those investments.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIRES). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PAUL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING RICHARD HENRY ''DICK'' WHITE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, as we begin our work in the new year, I want to take a few moments to reflect on the passing of a good friend of mine. Richard Henry ''Dick'' White, Jr., a fixture in Washington for four decades, lost his fight against cancer on December 21, and his death took a whole lot of sunshine from the world.

Like many who came to Washington, Dick White expected to stay in Washington for a very short period of time. A 1955 journalism graduate of the University of Oklahoma, Dick arrived here in 1965 as a correspondent for the Tulsa Tribune. But rather than return home, he moved to public service, and that work caused him to become a congressional staff member over the next 14 years. He was the top staffer for Ed Edmonson of Oklahoma and Dale Milford of Texas.

He left the Hill in the late 1970s to serve as Washington representative on a number of farm-related issues. He later served as the vice president for the Tobacco Institute, and most recently maintained a small public affairs consulting business.

Mr. Speaker, it has regrettably become vogue in politics to suggest that lobbying, that is, representing the American people in Washington, is less than an honorable profession. Well, anyone who knew Dick White would strongly disagree. He represented his clients, small businesses, tens of thousands of farmers, hundreds of thousands of workers, with integrity, humanity and a wealth of knowledge. His service helped thousands of Americans be treated fairly when Congress considered policy changes that would affect their livelihoods.

I came to know Dick White as a friend after his marriage in 1991 to one of my senior staff members, Letitia Hoadley. To say this pair was a devoted couple is putting it mildly. For the past 15 years they have been inseparable and tenderly have cared for each other through good times and bad.

Dick White was always welcome in my office as a member of our extended

staff family. But his optimism and good humor made him welcome anywhere he went. He always added a bit of sunshine on any visit, and left everyone feeling more positive towards the day.

Beyond his public affairs interests, Dick was an avid follower of college sports, including Oklahoma football. He loved to travel, especially to the Caribbean. But his greatest joy was to spend time at his weekend cottage in Southern Maryland where he enjoyed boating, gardening and swimming. He loved to entertain. He would revel in a swimming pool full of kids. He was a great listener, and was considered a great grandpa by every boy and girl who was lucky enough to spend time with him.

Even as Dick battled cancer in the last few years, he maintained his positive nature, hearty laugh, infectious smile, always a part of Dick's life. In his last summer he purchased a small boat, hired an instructor, and provided a sailing school for neighborhood kids.

Dick White is survived by his loving wife Letitia and her family; his daughter, Ann Calvert Brown; son-in-law Stephen Brown; and grandchildren Suzanne Noel Brown and Daniel Calvert Brown. He is also survived by siblings, Miles White of San Antonio, Texas; Elizabeth White George of Belfair, Washington; and Robert White of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, as well as their families, including numerous nieces, nephews and their children.

Mr. Speaker, Dick White, a man of all seasons, gave all who knew him a reason to believe in the value of friendship as we go forward in life. He would have told us not to mourn his passing, but rather to celebrate the life he lived in his time with us. In that spirit, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a wonderful husband, father and friend to all and to express our warmest good will to his family.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

AMERICA NEEDS ACTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, America is embarking upon a Presidential election year. And what are these candidates offering? Some say hope. Others say change. Others say tax cuts. My fellow citizens, what we need for someone to say is we need action.

America is being bought out from under us. What do the candidates have to say about that? Nothing. Not yet. All the while, their campaign coffers are brimming with money, more and more, from Wall Street's hallowed givers and offshoring artists.

America, meanwhile, is falling deeper and deeper into recession with inflation rates the steepest in 17 years. All Wall Street wants to do is make more money. But at whose expense? These big bankers and fund managers will stop at nothing for profit, even at the price of our national security. They are selling out America.

Wall Street's thirst for profit drove the subprime lending crisis to suck the equity away from ordinary homebuyers. It has raided your pension funds. And the latest gimmick is grabbing for foreign money to bail themselves out from bad decisions that are covering staggering losses.

Citigroup, the largest institution in the country, has made headlines with its $10 billion fourth quarter losses. As a result, the bank is cutting thousands of jobs and turning to investors from where? China, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Kuwait, to bail the company out.

An article I wish to place in the RECORD from the New York Times states, ''Other investors that are trying to pump money into Citigroup are Capital Research Global Investors.'' Well, who are they? Capital World Investors. I wonder who they are? It mentions the Kuwait Investment Authority, the New Jersey Division of Investment. New Jersey is going to bail out Citigroup? How can that be? Shareholder Prince Alwaleed bin Talal of Saudi Arabia and former chief executive Sanford Weill and his family foundation.

The article goes on to say, ''Citigroup said it raised $12.5 billion in new cash from outside investors, including $6.88 billion from the Government of Singapore Investment Corporation.''

We're raising money from foreign governments to pump into U.S. banking institutions? Our entire financial sector is clawing at survival.

J.P. Morgan Chase lost 34 percent in the fourth quarter, with $1.3 billion in write-downs attributed to the subprime crisis. Will Tony Blair be able to bail them out in his new advisory position? To which foreign interest will he turn for cash?

Foreign capital indebts us more than the face value of the transaction. I thought we were a nation founded in independence. This kind of borrowing means America is no longer free. We owe and our children will owe, so will our grandchildren and our great grandchildren. And they won't owe Uncle Sam; they'll owe the Premier of Communist China, the King of Saudi Arabia, the Emir of the United Arab Emirates, the Bank of Singapore.

Wake up, America. George Washington said beware of entangling foreign alliances. He said, ''How many opportunities do such alliances afford to tamper with domestic factions, to practice the arts of seduction, to mislead public opinion, to influence or awe the public councils.''

Wake up, America.

Well, these creditors won't forget what we owe. They like the influence they are wielding. They will call in their favors to Wall Street as they are calling in their favors as our troops are staged all over this globe. And to those candidates who were elected with Wall Street's help and their enormous financial support, they will call.

The problem is, the American people and the very principles to which this Republic is dedicated are compromised and eroded in the process.

Wake up, America. It's a time for action and for the people of this country to rise to preserve their diminishing independence.

CITIGROUP MAY CUT THOUSANDS OF JOBS

NEW YORK.—Citigroup Inc. is expected to announce thousands of job cuts after posting dismal results for the fourth quarter, when the bank's mortgage-riddled portfolio lost billions of dollars in value.

Citigroup swung to a loss of nearly $10 billion in the fourth quarter as it took a write down of $18.1 billion for bad bets related to the mortgage industry, the bank said on Tuesday.

On the hunt for cash, the nation's largest bank said Tuesday it also got a $12.5 billion investment from outside investors, including $6.88 billion from the Government of Singapore Investment Corp.

Other investors were Capital Research Global Investors, Capital World Investors, the Kuwait Investment Authority, the New Jersey Division of Investment, shareholder Prince Alwaleed bin Talal of Saudi Arabia and former chief executive Sanford Weill and his family foundation.

Citigroup also took a net charge of $3.31 billion for loan-loss reserves in its U.S. consumer credit business—primarily for delinquencies on mortgages, credit cards and auto loans. A year earlier it reversed $127 million in loan-loss reserves. Citi cited increasing signs of weakness among the consumer—something many others have pointed to as a potential indicator of a recession.

Fourth-quarter losses totaled $9.83 billion, or $1.99 per share, compared with earnings of $5.13 billion, or $1.03 per share, during the same quarter in 2006. Citigroup's revenue fell to $7.22 billion in the fourth quarter, down 70 percent from $23.83 billion generated during the final quarter of 2006.

Analysts polled by Thomson Financial, on average, forecast a loss of $1.03 per share for the quarter on revenue of $10.64 billion. The biggest loss estimate for the quarter was for a loss of $1.43 per share, while the lowest revenue estimate was for $6.47 billion.

Citigroup was hit hard for the second straight quarter by rising delinquencies and defaults in the mortgage market—especially among subprime loans given to customers with poor credit history. The New York-based bank cut the value of bonds and debt backed by the troubled loans by $18.1 billion. During the third quarter, Citigroup took about $6 billion in write-downs.

It was not all bad news for Citigroup, though, as the bank recorded record results in its international consumer, transaction services and wealth management segments.

International consumer revenue increased 45 percent, due to a 21 percent year-over-year increase in average deposits and a 30 percent jump in loan volume. Citigroup's international consumer unit also benefited from a $507 million pretax gain on Visa Inc. shares and a $313 million gain on the sale of Nikko Cordial's Simplex Investment Advisors.

Transaction services revenue increased to a record $2.29 billion, driven by growing customer volume.

For the full year, Citigroup posted net income of $3.62 billion, or 72 cents per share.

As part of a plan to boost capital on its balance sheet after the fourth-quarter losses, Citigroup said it raised $12.5 billion in new cash from outside investors, including $6.88 billion from the Government of Singapore Investment Corp.

Citigroup also cut its quarterly dividend to 32 cents per share from 54 cents per share to save money.

Shares of Citigroup fell 85 cents, or 2.9 percent, to $28.21 in premarket trading from a $29.06 close Monday.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

□ 1715

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JOHN MICHAEL GRANVILLE, AN AMERICAN DIPLOMAT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of Buffalo and Western New York, John Michael Granville, an American diplomat who devoted his life to promoting peace through his humanitarian work in the continent of Africa.

John Granville worked for the United States Agency for International Development in Sudan. He was fatally shot on New Year's Day after attending a party at the British Embassy in Khartoum. His driver was also killed. His sudden passing is a great shock to all of us, and my thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends at this difficult time.

In this senseless tragedy, we lost a man of peace and purpose, a man who dedicated himself to serving people that most of us will never know in a place we will never visit.

John's love for Africa, its culture, its people was nurtured during his years of service there. His most recent work involved distributing radios to people in the southern part of Sudan to support his agency's broadcasting initiative in the region which was recovering from 21 years of civil war. The goal was to prepare southern Sudan for elections in 2009 and a possible referendum on independence in 2011.

Before joining the United States Agency for International Development, John served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Cameroon where he helped build the first school in a rural village there.

In my capacity as a member of the Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs, I have traveled to Sudan. I have seen firsthand how important the work of peacemakers like John is to the people in these war-torn regions.

John knew the dangers he faced, and he went anyway, with dignity and conviction. Such was his commitment to serve the people of Africa.

John Granville was a thoughtful and honorable man who was deeply loved by his family, friends and the community in my hometown of South Buffalo, New York. We are proud to salute John and honor him for his lasting service to our Nation and for the important humanitarian work that he was doing in Africa.

John was a graduate of Canisius High School and Fordham University and earned a master's degree in international development from Clark University. A memorial scholarship has been established at Canisius High School in his memory as family, friends and classmates want to make sure that he is never forgotten.

We know John will be missed beyond measure by his loving mother, Jane; his beloved sister, Katie; and brother-in-law, Sean; his loving nieces, Carolina, Julia, Hanna and Molly; and nephew, Matthew; his extended family and dear friends.

I take the liberty of honoring John's life and legacy by including the statement issued by his family shortly after his death, and it read's: ''John's life was a celebration of love, hope and peace. He will be missed by many people throughout the world whose lives were touched and made better because of his care.''

Everyone who knew and was influenced by John will mourn his loss in their own way. I will do my part to honor John's memory by calling upon the administration to strengthen its efforts to protect American diplomats serving overseas and to help end the genocide in Darfur and to bring peace and reconciliation to the Sudan.

Mr. Speaker, on this night, this solemn and peaceful night in our Nation's capital, a neighborhood grieves because a family from that neighborhood grieves. Our neighborhood and family grieve the loss of a young, courageous man of peace and reconciliation. And Mr. Speaker, as we have lost a great young man doing God's work, tonight our Nation grieves with them.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WELDON of Florida addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE HOPE VI PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, last month at a hearing of the Subcommittee on Energy and Water of the Appropriations Committee we heard expert, corroborated testimony that heating and cooling and the electrical fixtures and appliances in buildings in the industrial, commercial and residential sectors use nearly 50 percent of all the energy that is used in America today and thereby were responsible for nearly 50 percent of the greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming.

We were also told that we could reduce by one-half the energy used in new or renovated buildings using present knowledge and technology.

One month ago, because of the powerful and insistent leadership of Speaker NANCY PELOSI, and the critical cooperation of Chairmen DINGELL and MARKEY and a host of others from both parties, this Congress passed and the President signed landmark energy legislation.

That new law focused heavily on reducing the fossil fuel used in transportation by raising corporate average fleet efficiency standards to 35 miles per gallon by the year 2020 and mandating production of 36 billion gallons of biofuel, mostly ethanol, by the year 2020.

But equally important were some provisions relating to buildings, what I have said already, which use nearly 50 percent of all the energy used in America today. First, the increased energy efficiency standards for appliances used in commercial and residential buildings; second, the goal that all commercial buildings built after the year 2025 would use zero net energy; third, that all federally constructed buildings would reduce their general energy usage by 30 percent by the year 2015; and fourth, that all new Federal buildings reduce their fossil fuel-produced energy by 55 percent in 2010 and eliminate by 2030 all fossil fuel-produced energy.

Our first opportunity to meet the spirit of this landmark energy bill comes in the bill before us tomorrow, the reauthorization of the Hope VI program.

This reauthorization proposes a rejuvenated program at $800 million a year which with just Hope VI dollars alone could produce as many as 4,000 units per year of housing, affordable housing for people with low income. Put in perspective, those potential affordable housing units represent less than 0.1 percent less than 1/1000th of the housing built in this country each year, and virtually all of the cost is borne by the Federal Government.

The bill includes an extremely important provision that projects must use green community criteria to be eligible for the Federal funding. Numerous cities and even States already require or use compliance with such green community criteria.

Washington, DC, for instance, requires the criteria for all residential construction, not just public construction.

Washington State requires criteria stronger than the green community

base criteria for all State-funded housing.

Maine requires similar criteria for all housing built with public dollars in that State.

Cities from coast to coast, such as Cleveland, Ohio, and Boston, Massachusetts, and Portland, Oregon, have already built Hope VI projects complying with the green community criteria. An assessment of the added costs for construction using such criteria and for some 20 already completed projects shows an average of 2.4 percent increase in construction costs.

But we build housing to last for 50 to 100 years. Such projects exceed savings in energy costs that are greater than the construction costs that is slightly higher within about 5 years, and those savings accrue to the low-income families using that housing over the 50- to 100-year lifetime of the housing.

The benefits go to the low-income families directly if the families pay their utility bills directly or those benefits go to the public housing authorities if the authority itself pays the utility bill for the housing unit. And those benefits are then passed on to the tenants, and they require less of an appropriation in operating costs by our government to the public housing authorities in the various cities around the country that use this housing.

We should not lose this opportunity to meet the spirit of the energy bill, the new energy law, that landmark legislation which we have all touted and so strongly supported. We should use the best green criteria available to promote healthier homes for low-income families and save all of that energy over the long haul.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURGESS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS BILLY MACLEOD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Private First Class Billy MacLeod.

Private First Class Billy MacLeod of Cheboygan, Michigan, was a brave 19-year-old who answered the call to duty and served our Nation during the Korean War.

Billy was among the thousands of U.S. and other United Nations servicemembers pitted against the North Koreans and Chinese in the Battle of Chosin Reservoir. These men were outnumbered by the Chinese and faced bitter cold winter temperatures.

It was in this battle on November 28, 1950, that Billy lost his life fighting for his country.

The Army first declared Billy missing in action, but soon after informed his family that Billy was, in fact, killed in action. Unfortunately, Billy's body was not recovered, and Billy's family was never able to welcome him home.

After 58 years, and through the use of modern technology, the Army positively identified Billy's remains. Billy's body, along with five of his comrades, was discovered in 2002 by accident when a road was being built near the trench where he was buried.

Army officials recovered about 90 percent of Billy's remains and were successful in matching his DNA with that of his half-brother, Burnie Potter. Burnie Potter had given the Army a DNA sample years ago on the chance that Billy's remains might one day be recovered.

On October 31 of just last year, Burnie Potter and the rest of Billy's extended family finally received their answers. Billy had been found and was coming home.

Since October, the family and the community has been busy planning for his return. Originally, Billy was to be reunited with his family at the Pellston Regional Airport, just a short 20 miles from his hometown of Cheboygan, Michigan, on January 15.

However, just a few days short before Billy's expected arrival, his family was informed that they'd have to pick up his remains in Traverse City, Michigan. Traverse City is 100 miles away from his home. This is easily a 2-hour drive, if not more, during the winter months.

Upon learning this news from a friend, I offered my assistance and immediately contacted the Army. After numerous phone calls, I learned that repatriated soldiers like Billy are treated differently than soldiers who are killed in active military theaters like Iraq and Afghanistan.

Under current regulations, the Department of Defense does not use military aircraft to transport repatriated soldiers to their final resting place and instead use only commercial aviation. I was told that the Pellston Airport was too small to accommodate a commercial plane that could transport Billy's remains. I don't buy it. The Pellston Regional Airport is a rather large airport. It is not a small airport.

Furthermore, I was told by the Department of Defense that it does not provide an honor guard at the airport when a repatriated soldier returns home. Both policies differ for current theater deaths. For soldiers who are killed in active theater, the military uses both military and civilian aircraft to reach a family's desired resting place and provide a military honor guard at the airport upon the body's arrival.

Why does the Department of Defense not treat our soldiers the same way? Why does it matter, or does it really matter, if a soldier was killed yesterday or 50 years ago defending our country? A man died fighting for our country and we should honor him to the fullest possible extent. This means bringing his remains to the airport closest to his final resting place and providing full military honors upon the plane's arrival as well as at the funeral.

It was only through pressure from my office that the military provided a nine-member contingent of the Michigan State Funeral Honors Team at the Traverse City Airport. To honor Billy's memory, and to ensure that this does not happen again to another family member, I will work to change the current Department of Defense policy on repatriated soldiers. In my short time in Congress, this has been the third repatriated soldier. Whether it was from Vietnam or World War II or now the Korean War, each and every soldier should be treated the same and should be given full military honors when they return home after sacrificing their life for their country. Every soldier should be treated the same, with the same honors and respect upon their homecoming.

The Korean War, Mr. Speaker, is often referenced as the United States' forgotten war, but Billy MacLeod will not be forgotten. I know all of Cheboygan County and northern Michigan residents are proud of Billy and are pleased that this brave soldier will be coming home to his northern Michigan home.

On behalf of a grateful nation, we say thank you and may God bless you, Billy MacLeod. You were never forgotten.

□ 1730

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIRES). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GOHMERT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

REVISIONS TO ALLOCATIONS FOR HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, under section 302 of S. Con. Res. 21, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for fiscal year 2008, I hereby submit for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a revision to the budget allocations and aggregates for certain House committees for fiscal year 2008 and the period of 2008 through 2012. This revision represents an adjustment to certain House committee budget allocation and aggregates for the purposes of sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended, and in response to the consideration of H.R. 4986 (National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008). Corresponding tables are attached.

Under section 211 of S. Con. Res. 21, this adjustment to the budget allocations and aggregates applies while the measure is under consideration. The adjustments will take effect upon enactment of the measure. For purposes of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended, a revised allocation made under section 211 of S. Con. Res. 21 is to be considered as an allocation included in the resolution.

BUDGET AGGREGATES

[On-budget amounts, in millions of dollars]

	Fiscal Year 2007	Fiscal Year 2008 [1]	Fiscal Years 2008–2012 [2]
Current Aggregates: [3]			
Budget Authority	2,250,680	2,354,727	n.a.
Outlays	2,263,759	2,358,862	n.a.
Revenues	1,900,340	2,016,857	11,141,747
Change in the National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 4986):			
Budget Authority	0	−6	n.a.
Outlays	0	−31	n.a.
Revenues	0	2	−13
Revised Aggregates:			
Budget Authority	2,250,680	2,354,721	n.a.
Outlays	2,263,759	2,358,831	n.a.

BUDGET AGGREGATES—Continued

[On-budget amounts, in millions of dollars]

	Fiscal Year 2007	Fiscal Year 2008 [1]	Fiscal Years 2008–2012 [2]
Revenues	1,900,340	2,016,859	11,141,734

[1] Current aggregates do not include spending covered by section 207(d)(1)(E) (overseas deployments and related activities). The section has not been triggered to date in Appropriations action.

[2] Change in revenue aggregate required for the Tax Increase Prevention Act, P.L. 110–166, has been readjusted pursuant to section 321 of S. Con. Res. 21.

[3] Excludes emergency amounts exempt from enforcement in the budget resolution.

n.a. = Not applicable because annual appropriations Acts for fiscal years 2009 through 2012 will not be considered until future sessions of Congress.

DIRECT SPENDING LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATIONS FOR RESOLUTION CHANGES

[Fiscal Years, in millions of dollars]

House Committee	2007		2008		2008–2012 Total	
	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays
Current allocation:						
Armed Services	0	0	−50	−50	−410	−410
Change in the National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 4986):						
Armed Services	0	0	−6	−31	271	−17
Revised allocation:						
Armed Services	0	0	−56	−81	−139	−427

30-SOMETHING WORKING GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is an honor to be here on the floor.

As you know, in the 30-Something Working Group, we come to the floor to share information not only with the Members, but also with the American people. And I think it's very, very important, now that we are in our second day of reconvening after the new year, to wish everyone a happy new year, and hopefully we will be very productive on behalf of this great country of ours.

A lot has happened, Mr. Speaker, since my last time on the floor. The 30-Something Working Group had the opportunity to adjourn the House for the year 2007. One of the Members of your class actually had the opportunity to hit the gavel, Ms. YVETTE CLARKE.

We left, and a lot took place. There are a lot of Presidential politics that have taken place since then on both sides of the aisle, Republican and Democrat. There has been a lot said. There has been a lot of media coverage on different issues. But I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, the issue of the economy and the issue of the war in Iraq continues to bubble up to the top. The issue of health care continues to bubble to the top.

And also, as we reflect on what took place last year, the closing part of last year, it was very frustrating for many Americans because one may think that we would have accomplished, when I say ''we,'' those of us here in Washington, D.C., I'm including the President of the United States and the Congress, to achieve some sort of sensible plan as it relates to Iraq, and that was not achieved. More accountability, because we have control of the Congress, and I say ''we,'' Democrats have control of the Congress, small majority, but control. I had a chance to put some accountability measures in an Armed Services mark and the Foreign Affairs legislation. We were able to do that, but very limited because the President continues to hold on to the 40 Republicans solid that he needs to withstand a congressional override when he vetoes legislation that the American people would like to see enacted.

Even though it had bipartisan support, many pieces of legislation dealing with Iraq, also dealing with a number of other issues that are important to the American people, the President was able to use his veto pen for the first time, many times, and not for the very first time, but for the first time that he has been consistent in doing so. Sometimes it actually has sent the country backwards when we start dealing with issues that we're facing right now.

I come to the floor with a new spirit and hopefully a new outlook in the year 2008 that we will have a better way of working in a bipartisan way here in this House and in the Senate and working with the President. We can't say that there has not been reaching out, especially on behalf of Democrats to Republicans, here in the Congress. I can tell you that we have had an opportunity to work with President Bush and also congressional Republicans in talking about various issues that are facing our economy. We came in and had discussions with Secretary Paulson, who is the Secretary of the Treasury, about the economy. You will be hearing a lot more from him, Mr. Speaker and Members, as we start to approach the date that the President is going to release his budget, which will be in the early part of next month. I believe it will be the 4th. On February 4 he will be releasing his budget, as the date stands now. Well, between now and then there's a lot that has to happen. And we're just 12 short days, I must add, Mr. Speaker, from the President giving the countdown to the State of the Union. Those are the days remaining, the 12 days.

I can tell you, also, Mr. Speaker and Members, that it's important what the President says at the podium just below where you are, Mr. Speaker; what he says is going to be very, very important. Not only will the United States and the people that work every day, those that defend our country that are abroad, but other world leaders will be paying attention to what the President has to say. And I'm pretty sure he is going to have to say a lot.

In past State of the Unions, and this will be my sixth opportunity to be a part of this Congress and to witness a State of the Union in this Chamber, there have been some highlights and there have been a lot of disappointments. And I think that we have to plow through that now, Mr. Speaker, in a bipartisan way in making sure we do what we must do on behalf of the country.

I say that in the spirit that House Democrats in December had an economic forum, talking about the economy, talking about what we need to stimulate this economy. You've heard a lot of proposals on the campaign trail from Republicans and Democrats and Democrats and Republicans. And everyone has a great plan. But I think that it's important that those of us that are elected now to govern, that we govern, because I don't think the American people can wait until 2009 to get accountability and to get relief from this government.

Saying that, I want to commend the administration, the Bush administration, that they released $450 million from the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. And I can tell you that it's very, very important to be able to assist some of our seniors and many of our low-income. But this money was made available because the Congress put $2.6 billion into that particular program and funding it in an

appropriations bill that passed in December and increased it by $400 million. So really, when you look at it, Mr. Speaker, thanks to not only a Democratic-led Congress, but also some Republicans that did vote in the affirmative to pass this work product out of this Congress, out of the $2.6 billion, within that we increased it by $400 million, the President released $450 million. I hope that we can continue in this spirit, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Americans that are being hit the hardest in this economy as we move forward.

So many times that the administration, the Bush administration, and so many times within that 40 that we talk about that the President has been holding on to, on many issues that the Congress and Republicans here in the House, and we've passed bills with bipartisan support, are able to hold on to not being overridden. And I think that it's time, it's high time, especially for those Americans that are concerned about what happened on Wall Street yesterday, I believe it's 45 points down now, I don't know how it's going to close today, but I think it's very, very important that we look at what is happening right now, what's happening with the mortgage crisis right now in this country, and what we must do by leadering up and reaching across the aisle to one another to make it happen.

We have achieved that, Mr. Speaker, in the first session. When I say ''we,'' I always used to say in the 109th Congress and the 108th Congress, bipartisanship is only allowed when the majority allows it to happen. And I can say that what I witnessed in the first session of the 110th Congress, bipartisanship was achieved because you can see that there were a number of votes, major votes on major pieces of legislation, that was bipartisan in double digit numbers, and sometimes three digit numbers, of Republicans voting in favor of major pieces of legislation that has passed off this floor and was sent to the President. And in some cases, the President vetoed it because we fell short of achieving the 40 that he always counts on to help him withstand a veto.

I think it's important, when we start talking about the letter that the Speaker and Senator REID, the leader in the Senate, wrote to the President on the 11th of this month talking about energy, talking about gas. And I think it's important that the President responds to that, because as the President is flying to Saudi Arabia and other places, really talking with those leaders because of this very issue here, Mr. Speaker. We've gone from January 22, 2001 per gallon price for gas $1.47 over today's average of $3.07 per gallon. Now, Mr. Speaker, some Members may be saying and some staff may be saying, and I know the American people are saying, excuse me, Congressman, you must have the wrong number with that $3.07 because just earlier today I've seen gas not only here in Washington, D.C., but back in my district that has been hit real hard in Florida, upwards of $3.33, and that's just for regular unleaded, octane 87. So when you think about it, especially those small business men and women that may have an F–10 or what have you, that comes up to a lot of dollars.

And when you think about gas prices, even for those that use mass transit and those that are driving hybrids and other vehicles that are high mileage vehicles, it hits them, too. But think about when you go to the grocery store. That means that milk is going to cost more because of transportation costs. Everything will go up. And that's when we start talking about an economy that's out of reach for Americans that are making just the same as they were making last year or the year before.

And speaking of a bipartisan victory, Mr. Speaker and Members, the passage of the minimum wage bill that some in this Congress said over their dead body will they see the minimum wage increase, that it was increased. And at the same time, because of the respect that the majority here in this Congress has for small businesses, that's the backbone of our economy, that we were able to also put a package onto the minimum wage bill that also provided some relief to small business people.

But I think it's important, Mr. Speaker, and I won't digress into how we got to this point because I think that's self-explanatory. I think we know that governance has a lot to do with it, and we're trying to bring about that kind of change with the passage of the energy bill that this House passed in the first session of Congress. But $3.07 is something that we must address and that we have to address. And until we get to the point, Mr. Speaker, that Republicans are able to work along with Democratic leadership, Democratic chairmen, Democratic leaders, and not really bringing about the difference between us and them and making a political statement, but kind of being under the same banner of ''we want to work together.'' And a good step towards that direction, Mr. Speaker, was today, seeing the Republican leader stand with Speaker PELOSI and also with the majority leader and the whip on the Republican side and so on and so on, it's good to see that. I hope that that relationship continues. I hope that that effort of coming together continues.

□ 1745

Definitely, the majority has shown, the Democrats have shown, we have shown, that we are willing and able to work in a bipartisan way as it relates to putting together a stimulus package that would work on behalf of all Americans. And I hope that the President shares in that theme and that notion that the American people would like to see. And we do know the American people would like to see us work in a bipartisan way.

Speaking of that, Mr. Speaker, I talked about the Dow closing yesterday, but today the market finished 34 points down, and I can tell you that it's been a roller coaster day. And many Americans don't have a great understanding of how important the opening and closing of the market is, but it has a lot to do with our economy and it also will make investors more fearful of going out and doing some of the things they have been doing. So we as the government have to step up and rise to the occasion on behalf of not only the American people but also in making sure that we stand up to keep our economy going for small and medium-sized and large businesses.

I think, Mr. Speaker, as we continue to head down the days to the State of the Union, we know that there will be a lot of things said, and we know that the American people are going to be paying more attention than they were paying even last year to the President's State of the Union for the following reason: States, come this February 5, Super Tuesday, will stand in judgment of those that will replace the President of the United States because of term limits, will be the nominee on both sides, and they will be paying attention to the issues. Well, I want to make sure that my colleagues know and all of my colleagues know in Congress and also in the executive branch, those of us that are ''working to make this government better,'' that we understand our responsibility, because I am a little concerned, Mr. Speaker, that some may feel that one can play Presidential politics as real Americans are going through real life issues, and I think that it's important that we don't allow that season to seep into this Chamber or seep into the Senate or seep into the President's office to logjam what we must do on behalf of the American people. It's okay to take a stand and say, This is what I would like to have, but it's another thing when one goes out of their way to stop progress, and I think that progress is something that we must work on very hard.

I want to, Mr. Speaker, share a couple of more points with you tonight. I think it's important that we look at the fact that we are still in a very difficult situation and we look at putting together this stimulus package, and I am speaking to the administration and those that are coming up with the budget, the Office of Management and Budget over in the President's executive branch. And also as agencies start to move their budget requests forward, there is a number of Members of Congress that are concerned about that very number to the far end, $1.19 trillion over the last 6 years, and the Federal debt continuing to rise, compared to the 224-year history of this country, from 1776 to 2000, $1.01 trillion. Forty-two Presidents weren't able to come up with that number, and we are about to double that number now. A lot of that number was brought about up until

2006, and we have worked very hard to bring that number down in 2007.

And as you know, there has been a great discussion on the pay-as-you-go mandate that we have put forth. And I know that the AMT, the alternative minimum tax, to avoid a tax increase on so many Americans was held to the last minute and Members had to vote to borrow the money to offset that. I'm hoping that as we move forth in the stimulus package and as we move forth in other tax reform packages, and I am speaking to my colleagues on the Republican side of the aisle that really strongly supported borrowing the money in both the House and Senate, I think that's important that we come together and think about not only the future but the present.

We used to talk about this debt dealing with the future, our children and our grandchildren. Well, guess what? The debt that's being accumulated now and the posture that this country is in right now in the fiscal sense today is dealing with our economy now, is dealing with how we are respected by other countries now. We owe more countries more money than we ever owed them in the history of the Republic. So that means that we are in a position now financially that we have never been in before. And so the President takes 8-day tours to other parts of the world, which he has done, and I think any world leader must do that. Everyone can't come here to the United States. You have to go visit them and take part in that cultural exchange and discussion. But I think it's also important, Mr. Speaker, when we think about that, when the Commander in Chief goes down those steps off of Air Force One, that that world leader should not be looking at that Commander in Chief and saying, First of all, you owe me money. You owe my country money. You borrowed money from us. That should not be the thought in that world leader's head. The vision that that world leader should have is, A, that I have communications with this world leader. We have a relationship. We have one that we can work together in making this world safer and also looking at our global economy. As this chart shows here, and you've seen it before, the largest foreign holders of U.S. national debt. When the Japanese leaders come to the United States or we see them abroad, any of our diplomats or what have you, they are thinking $644.3 billion and counting, and this number is higher now.

China as of 11–05 was at $249.8 billion. China now is at 349.6, and that number is a little higher than that now, and I know I need to get this chart updated. But I think when we look at that and we say that we want China to do things better than they are doing as it relates to providing products that will be safe for U.S. consumers, but as we look at China, I can't help but think about the conversation I had earlier today with my colleague TIM RYAN from Ohio, who said that he has had 1,100 jobs leave in the last 2 months from Youngstown, Ohio, or around that Niles, Ohio, area. But meanwhile, not only is China the benefactor of those jobs in many cases, but they also have the opportunity to use those dollars that they have accumulated off of commerce or what have you and use those dollars to buy our debt. So that's a win-win situation. Not only am I the recipient of your jobs that used to be your jobs, but I am also the recipient of being able to buy your debt where you have to pay me back with interest.

So as we look at this economic stimulus, you have to think about what's happening, and that's the reason why I hope that the President responds to Speaker PELOSI's letter and also Majority Leader REID's letter, which if he doesn't respond to it, I will have it on the floor to ask the President or someone over at the administration to respond to it because these are very trying times for everyday Americans. And it's not trying times just for Democrats or independents or Republicans. We're talking about all Americans and what they are facing right now.

I was about to put this chart up, but let me just point out over here, OPEC nations, that's Saudi Arabia. So when the President is over there meeting with the leadership in Saudi Arabia, with the King, Prince, and what have you, they can't help but think, You owe me money. You owe Saudi Arabia money. So when you look at this debt that is record breaking at the $1.19 trillion, that's how we're getting there. We are getting there with an administration putting forth budgets that are still borrowing money and also holding the Congress hostage and getting us into a position to where now the American people will have to pay through the nose or lose tax benefits to continue that philosophy.

So I think the key would be a more bipartisan effort here in this House and in the Senate to pass a good stimulus package, hopefully in concert with the President. But if it's not in concert with the President and the administration, and Secretary Paulson is going to have a lot to do with that and a lot to say about that, the Secretary of the Treasury, and if that does not happen, since there have been committee hearings and there have been Budget and Ways and Means and Financial Services and other committee meetings and the American people have had an opportunity to hear hours and hours of debate on the committee level and also here in this Chamber, this may very well be a sign to put together a stimulus package and at least stand next to our work product and not whither under the President's threat of a veto. If he does veto it, that means we have to go back to the drawing board if there are 40 Members that are willing to stand with the President.

I would also add that in the 30-Something Working Group, we always take an opportunity to show illustrations of what we're talking about here. This is the veto where 40-plus Republicans went down to the White House and stood with the President when we put requirements on the administration to make sure that we have accountability measures on the Iraq spending bill. And this was something that the American people wanted, something that I believe had a big part of Democrats taking over the Congress, and we found ourselves in a situation being denied that opportunity to bring that kind of accountability to the issue in Iraq and the spending in Iraq and the lack of accountability in Iraq with 40 of our Republican colleagues plus going down to the White House saying, We stand with you Mr. President.

Now, I pulled that picture out just to say that it did happen and that it can happen. Do we want that to happen again? No. Can we work these issues out before we get to the point of the President saying, ''I have to veto,'' and a bus has to pull out in front of the Capitol and just over 40 Republicans get on that bus and go down to the White House and say, We stand with you, Mr. President, and God bless America and apple pie and Chevy trucks? We don't necessarily need to do that. We can head that off if we know that we need to work in a bipartisan way, and we are asking for that to happen here on the majority side.

□ 1800

The State of the Union is a very, very important time for the country, and also for the world. I took the opportunity today to pull some of the statements from the 2007 State of the Union. I think that it's important for us to look at what has transpired and what has not transpired; just some of the things that were said that have not come to reality or have not come to being a part of Federal law.

I think when you start dealing with issues such as health care, there's good lofty words that can be used, and during the President's talk on health care he said, a future hope and opportunity requires that all of the citizens have affordable and available health care.

The Republican record on that has been the President's tax deduction plan, which would do nothing to reinvest a majority of the 47 million Americans in his plan. And he also makes the health care problem even worse, a plan of raising taxes on many middle-class families and also undermining the employer-provided insurance health program over the next 6 to 8 years.

Now, I think it's important that we look at this issue, and we try to look at this issue, talking about a Democratic approach of dealing with that health care, and starting this issue with our very newly born citizens to this great country of ours through the SCHIP program. And our plan, looking at the direction that we were heading in, we were working to increase the availability of health care insurance to children, those that are in need the most,

and that was through the SCHIP program. And we were not able to do that, even after one, two, three attempts to get that SCHIP bill past the President's desk without the veto that he actually carried out and without a continued threat of a veto if we were to send it.

We did reauthorize the bill for another year, but that is not addressing many of the issues that are facing Americans right now, and I think as we start to look at this issue, Mr. Speaker and Members, we have to look at it from the standpoint of we have to start somewhere. What better place to start than dealing with our children? I think that it's important that we move in that direction.

Fiscal discipline and the economy. We talked about that, and some of that will be placed in this State of the Union, I am sure. I don't think the President can come in here in another 12 days or so and not talk about the economy. I mean it's almost like an elephant standing 3 feet in front of me, and I'm saying, I don't see the elephant. I don't see what you're talking about. That is the situation right now in dealing with the economy.

Another slogan issue, not really a plan, but a plan that's released nine times out of 10 in the budget or a piece of legislation, the President says, together we can balance the budget.

Well, let's look at that statement. ''Together we can balance the budget.'' Well, over the last 6 years President Bush has not put forth one balanced budget plan. First you have got to start with that. You have got to put on the table the work product that will actually balance the budget.

I think that when you look at historic numbers, where we are now, we turned a $5.6 trillion surplus into more than a $3 trillion deficit. The fastest growing item in the budget is interest payments to foreign countries that I have put up on this chart. It may not be the most exciting thing in the world, but I can tell you, once we start to really start moving down and paying down this debt, the goalpost continues to move further and further away because of the fact that we are not working together to make sure that we can balance this budget. The President said, Together we can balance the budget. Well, just because he says it doesn't necessarily mean that it's going to happen.

So when we start to move down the track, Mr. Speaker, in closing, looking at the economy; looking at the fact that the American people expect for us to work together, which we should; looking at the fact that this is not the centerpiece or peak of the political season, but there's a lot being said on both sides, Democrat and Republican, and I think it's important for us to look at the past, learn from the past, hopefully for a brighter future, looking at the past, what has happened and what has not happened, and looking at a brighter future.

The first session of the 110th Congress was a good session and a lot was done in the first session. I think it's important too, when we look at the past and start looking towards the future, in the first session of the 110th Congress, the 9/11 Commission recommendations to protect America from terrorism, passed, signed into law; the largest college student aid expansion since 1944; the GI Bill, that saved average students $4,400, that is in their pockets, passed, signed into law; the first minimum wage increase in a decade, there's a pay raise for 33 million Americans, that comes in handy now, passed, signed into law; Innovation agenda promoting 21st century jobs, passed, put into law. That is coming back towards making sure we are able to stay competitive with other nations.

The tough lobbying and ethics reform bill that was just held by independent reform groups, passed, signed into law; reconstruction and assistance of the Gulf Coast devastated hurricane areas, passed, signed into law. That was a long fought effort that was something where the people in the gulf coast asked for fairness, equity, and attention from this government. We were able to bring that to fruition through the first session of the 110th Congress, which is a Democratic Congress.

I can tell you there are a number of issues that have not been resolved, that were attempted to get resolved, but I think that some of those issues, we look at the expansion of research of stem cells, passed, was not signed by the President. Also, health care for 10 million children of working families, passed, not signed into law. Vetoed.

We also look at the other major, major pieces of legislation that were even threatened by veto that were stalled in the legislative process because the President issued a veto threat.

I think that as we look at the past success that we have had in a bipartisan way, and as we look at the future of what the American people are going through now and what they will be going through in the coming months, I think now more than ever in any other time since I have been in Congress, and it's now my third term, that the American people need us. The American people need us to work together like no other time in recent history.

Some forecasters have said this is going to be a pretty bad economic downturn. A lot of folks are using the R word, the recession word. We have to work together so that the American people don't suffer, and we will work together, especially on the majority side, in hopefully a bipartisan spirit to allow that to happen. But there has to be the will and the desire on behalf of the minority party, which is the Republican Party here in this Congress, and the spirit and desire on behalf of the administration to get something done.

I think the President should be more motivated than any other time in his Presidency to make this right and to be what he said he was in his first campaign, that he is a uniter and not a divider, a uniter and not a divider. I think the American people need to see that played out in this last year that he will be serving as President of the United States.

Once again, the majority in the House and Senate, the only way we can achieve bipartisanship is if the majority allows it. We know that the majority has the will and the desire to allow that to happen. The question is, the President and the administration, do they have the will and desire to allow bipartisanship to work between the legislative branch and between the executive branch?

I hope and I pray, especially on behalf of those that are punching in and punching out every day, on behalf of those that their only income is a Social Security check and what their family assists them with to keep the lights on, keep food in the refrigerator, I hope on behalf of those that are in harm's way, fighting on behalf of our country in Afghanistan and also in Iraq, and those that are deployed in military installations throughout the world, that their mother or their family members are able to survive here under this economy and the direction that it's headed in.

It's going to take bipartisanship. That means we need to rise up above Democrat and Republican, rise up over our differences, and stand on behalf of the American people who are counting on us.

With that, Mr. Speaker, it's always an honor to come to the floor and address the Members. The 30-Something Working Group will continue to work hard on behalf of the common good, and also bipartisanship in the House and in the Senate, and hopefully with the administration. But we ask for the Members, if they have any questions or anyone has any questions or would like to share a story, that they can contact us at 30-Somethingdems@mail.House.gov, or just visit www.speaker.gov/30something, and we would love to have a conversation with you. Also if you wish to share your stories about what is actually happening in your hometown or happening with your business and what it will mean to you for us to work in a bipartisan way.

I think that is the spirit we want to pick up and the spirit that we want to have so that we can get something done on behalf of the American people.

CONSTITUTIONAL CAUCUS ON THE BILL OF RIGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity

to come back from our break, come here to these hallowed halls to speak on an important subject, and before the gentleman from the other side of the aisle leaves, and I know he is involved in a discussion right now, but before I repeat my remarks, I will reference his closing remarks, which was an outreach for bipartisanship to address the economic situations that the country finds itself in. The gentleman can rest assured that, at least from this gentleman from this side of the aisle, he can find that bipartisanship, because I think when we all go back home to our districts, regardless of the States that we are in, we are hearing the same complaint, outcry, what have you. It may be different in different portions of the country. Certain States are certainly harder hit than others. But I think there is a general perception out there that no matter where you are, the economy is in, let's say something of the doldrums.

So this side of the aisle is glad to reach out to the other side of the aisle. I also know that the White House is more than willing to work to address the economic situation that we find ourselves in. That being said, I think that the American public wants to be sure, wants to be sure that whatever solution that we come up with out of this House, the House and the Senate, and the President eventually signs onto, will do something that will create more good than harm, and that will be long lasting and not just short-lived or a flash in the pan.

A flash-in-the-pan might be something like we have seen in my very own State. I come from the great State of New Jersey. We do something in our State which is called homestead rebates. Every year around election time, whichever party is in power at that time sends out a homestead rebate check of around $300, $400 or $500. I guess that is supposed to be good for the economy and that sort of thing, but at the end of the day of course that has just de minimis effect on the overall economy, and if you look at the State of New Jersey economy right now, you will know it is not doing well at all. That, coupled with the fact that the State legislature has raised taxes on the people, but corporate taxes, income taxes, sales taxes and the like, we have seen 72,000 flee our State.

□ 1815

So we know that we do not want a flash-in-the-pan approach, but instead something that will improve the economy in a better way. That would most likely be something that would allow a permanent return of people's money to their pocketbooks, such as lowering the tax rates, allowing the creation of more jobs and the like. But I digress, because I was just referring to the closing comments to the gentleman on the other side the aisle.

Now I would like to turn the attention to what we are here for the next hour to speak about, and that is during the Constitution Hour. As I do that, let me just take an introductory moment to thank the gentleman from Utah who will be speaking shortly. I thank him not only for his usual diligent work as he works earnestly in his capacity as a Member representing his great State as a Member of Congress and all the responsibilities that that takes, I thank him not only for his work that he does in addition to that to try to come up with methodologies to improve the performance of this House, which we are all eager to look forward to and take part and see the work there as well, but in addition to all those responsibilities, he has also taken on the chore and responsibility, and I don't think he looks at it as a chore, to come to the floor once a month as part of the Congressional Constitutional Caucus to address the important philosophical and fundamental issues of the day.

So before I begin, I want to thank the gentleman from Utah, Mr. BISHOP, for all of his work to his constituents and also to the members of this conference as well.

As I say, we are here tonight as we begin another year of our monthly Constitutional Hour. During this second session of the 110th Congress, the members of this caucus will use this opportunity to emphasize for our colleagues and also for the Nation the necessity of ensuring that our government is operating according to the intent of our Founding Fathers and the original intent in the Constitution.

As the tenth amendment affirms, as I often speak of on this floor, the authority over most domestic issues belongs to the States, either directly or through their political subdivisions and the people themselves, and not here for this House to be haranguing about.

As the one who helped begin this caucus, I have discovered that for many Americans, including unfortunately some of my fellow colleagues, I guess, the Constitution is nothing more than a historical document, not germane to the current hour. Too many citizens do not know what the Constitution says about the governance of this Nation, let alone how to help discern its meaning and therefore apply it to what we do in this conference.

Therefore, one of the goals of this caucus is to help educate both the Members of this Congress and also the public as well about the original intent of the Founding Fathers and how some portions of that document got here, and tonight we will be talking about the Bill of Rights.

Last month, on that point, we celebrated the 216th anniversary of the ratification of that Bill of Rights. It was on December 15, 1791, our Founding Fathers decided to attach the first 10 amendments to the Constitution. After months of deliberation, they succeeded, I believe, in securing liberties and freedoms that were unimaginable, truly unimaginable, to previous civilizations.

Just as an aside, some scholars would perhaps disagree and say that this was seen in other documents such as the Magna Carta and the like, but nothing to the poignancy and the directness as we have in the Bill of Rights was ever seen prior to this documentation.

Tonight I join, as I say, with Mr. BISHOP and others in focusing on the ratification of this Bill of Rights, and I would like then to begin a discussion of how this document continues then to affect us today.

According to Thomas Jefferson, the Bill of Rights was largely the brainchild of one man, George Mason. In fact, Jefferson wrote, ''The fact is unquestionable that the Bill of Rights in the constitution of Virginia,'' which is where he was from, ''were drawn originally by George Mason, one of our greatest men.'' Yet, unfortunately, not many people today have even heard of him. It is for this reason that many have called him the forgotten founder.

But most Americans recognize the name from the movie and Cinderella story of 2006, the NCAA tournament, in which the George Mason University Patriots made its way to the final four. But it was George Mason's tremendous contributions and accomplishments himself that have largely gone unrecognized.

Mr. Mason established himself as one of the richest planters in colonial Virginia, and, like George Washington, who everyone is familiar with, he preferred to remain at home working on his plantation and spending time with his family. But when duty called, he did not ignore it nor hide from it, and throughout his adulthood, consented to the request of his fellow Virginians and served in various political capacities. He was a Fairfax County justice, a trustee of the City of Alexandria, and a representative in the Virginia House of Burgesses.

It was when England enacted the Stamp Act that he wrote a letter to London merchants, who he had often many dealings with, explaining the colonists' position and asking for their support leading to the revolution.

One of his greatest accomplishments was his contribution to the Virginia Declaration of Rights. When he became a delegate to the Constitutional Convention, he was one of the five frequent speakers there.

Despite all that, he ultimately refused to sign the final version of the Constitution, for two reasons: One, and most importantly to our discussion tonight, he wanted to have a Bill of Rights in that original document to protect individuals against a grasping, overgrowing central government, one which we see today. Secondly, he disagreed with the convention's tacit approval of the institution of slavery.

So, because of his stands, he refused to sign the document and he also lost a longtime friendship with George Washington and others. But it was one year before his death Mason was vindicated. That was when the Bill of Rights was

finally adopted by all the States. Moreover, much of the adopted language was actually the identical words that he used and crafted in the original Virginia Declaration of Rights.

Author George Grant describes Mason as a rationalist who had little faith in the workings of government bodies. He fought passionately for the freedoms of the individual, whether it was a citizen or slave at the time, and he was largely responsible for ensuring that the protection of the rights of the individual would be such an essential part of the American system. That is our responsibility as Members of Congress, to ensure that those rights are continuously protected in the legislation that we deal with on this floor.

To show you how much we are indebted to Mason, let me quote a portion of the Virginia Declaration of Rights, which I just said he authored. ''All men are born equally free and independent and have certain inherent natural rights, among which are the enjoyment of life and liberty, with the means of acquiring and possessing property and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety.''

Those were his words. They sound very familiar to us all. Mason was also among the first to call for such basic American liberties as freedom of press, religious tolerance and the right to trial by jury. As he understood it, the Bill of Rights would protect citizens, as I say, from encroaching Federal Government, and so his original language then eventually made its way into our current U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

As my colleague will detail, I presume, or talk about, and I will a little bit later on, the Bill of Rights has been in certain cases misinterpreted in certain court cases in the past over the last centuries. In certain instances these errors have allowed the government to seize some of the very freedoms that the Bill of Rights was intended to protect.

I will go into those in a little bit dealing with the first amendment and the establishment of religion, an issue that is very poignant today, and also in the first amendment, issues of the court's interpretation of abuse of freedom of speech and the press and how they have changed in the interpretations of recent Supreme Court decisions as to which is more important and paramount, commercial and independent speech.

The second amendment, I believe we may have some speakers later on again on very poignant cases that will be coming dealing here with issues right here in the District of Columbia.

The fifth amendment, taking clauses again, legislation that this House has dealt with and we will be talking about very briefly later on as well.

Right to speedy trial and how what we do here with regard to the criminalization of laws can have an impact on that as well.

In closing my remarks right now, the tenth amendment, I believe Ms. FOXX will be on the floor a little bit later on talking about that and how that closes up and compresses or closes the end tail, if you will, of the entire Bill of Rights.

So those are some of the elements of it, our discussion tonight. With that, I would like to yield to the gentleman from Utah. Again, I appreciate your being with us.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be here and I am grateful to the gentleman from New Jersey for allowing me to have some time here.

You know, when we come into this Chamber and we look around, there are cameos of the great lawgivers of the world all around us. There is Moses to Hammurabi, even Napoleon over there in the corner. It is interesting, there are only two Americans in this pantheon of great lawgivers, Thomas Jefferson and George Mason, ironically neither of whom signed the Constitution.

Of those two, Mason is, as the gentleman from New Jersey said, clearly the most interesting. He is one of three people who was at the entire Constitutional Convention, and then at the end refused to give his assent to the actual document because it did not contain a Bill of Rights.

I would like to talk for just a second about the other members of that convention who did not agree to add this Bill of Rights, because one must ask why were great patriots like Washington, Franklin, Madison, Hamilton, Dickinson, Wilson, why did they refuse to join with a Bill of Rights? Were they opposed to civil liberties? It is pretty obvious they were not.

But what they said is a fear that the Bill of Rights, that actually if you start listing what those rights are, it may be a ceiling of what rights are allowed as opposed to a floor of what rights are going to be guaranteed. Actually, the Bill of Rights is misnamed. It should be called the ''Bill of Wrongs.'' It is a list of things that it is wrong for the Federal Government to do, no matter how many people actually want to do it.

In their concern though, they were still concerned about civil liberties. They had an additional plan to do that, which was a structural guarantee of the rights of citizens. We call it today federalism. It was a means to defend the individual liberties of Americans.

They realized that increasing the number of competitors to power was as effective as listing the things that would be prohibited for the government to do. As Madison said, ambition would counteract ambition.

They had two ways of looking at it. The horizontal separation of powers between the executive, legislative and judicial branches, which, unfortunately, is what we only spend our time teaching in schools today. But equally important to them was a vertical separation of powers between a national government and a State government.

The fear, obviously, was that the Federal Government would not check itself, so the 50 States would be the perfect counterbalance to a national government.

Justice Scalia in Mack v. The United States once said the Constitution protects us from our own best intentions. It divides power among sovereigns and among branches of government precisely so we may resist the temptation to concentrate power in one location as an expedient solution to the crisis of the day.

Power with no check historically resulted in tyranny, and no government was out of the potential of doing that; however, balance of power and limitations of governments would result in the support of individual civil liberties.

In Federalist 51, Madison said, ''Experience has taught mankind the necessity of auxiliary precautions.'' That was the structure he was talking about, separation of powers, federalism.

In Federalist 45, Madison again wrote, ''The powers delegated by the proposed Constitution are few and defined. Those which are to remain in the State governments are numerous and indefinite.'' That was the plan.

In Federalist 32, Hamilton continued to say that ''under the plan of the convention, States retained the authority in the most absolute and unqualified sense, and that attempt on the part of the national government to abridge any State power would be a violent assumption of power unwarranted by any article or clause of the Constitution.''

Unfortunately, today our national government has grown out of the bounds originally established. Often by good intent, often by misguided compassion for people, which eventually actually ends up hurting far more than it ever intended to help. As P.J. O'Rourke once wrote, the history of government is not how Washington works, but how to make it stop.

We understood in the Bill of Rights, when they were listed, a couple of unique concepts. The Bill of Rights always talked about how Congress may make no law to inhibit the rights of an individual. Other countries had bills of rights. The USSR Constitution did also have a bill of rights which contained guarantees of free speech. But, as they said, in order to produce a socialist state, citizens of the USSR are guaranteed freedom of speech, et cetera.

□ 1830

Now, there is a difference. In the USSR constitution, the freedom of speech was granted by the government and therefore could be taken back by the government, as opposed to the way we are looking at it as rights inherent in individuals.

Now, when the Bill of Rights was actually established, there were 10 Bills of Rights. I want you to know that when they did that, they did not forget this concept of a structural balance of power, both horizontally and vertically, as the foundation for ensuring the civil liberties. And that is why

they did the 10th amendment. The 10th amendment clearly says that the powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution nor prohibited by its States are reserved to the States respectively or to the people.

Jefferson called this 10th amendment the bedrock of constitutional government. These are the words that are significant and important, and we must remind ourselves.

Congress passes laws almost on a weekly basis. Sometimes we make incorrect assumptions about the meaning the Founding Fathers had on the words, or we simply ignore those words as looking as if they were irrelevant to our time. Justice Scalia once again wrote about the Constitution, ''What it meant when it was adopted, it means today. And its meaning doesn't change just because we think that meaning is no longer adequate to our times.''

That also applies to the words in the Bill of Rights: What it meant at its time of adoption, it still means today, and it doesn't change in the period of time and simply because our assumptions may wish to change.

I was once in a conversation with another history teacher. She asked, how do we know what they originally thought when they were writing these words? And it was very simple: We study history.

It may be that I am an old history teacher and I am kind of biased about this; but when we fail to study the history of this country and, more importantly, when we fail to study the history of our government, the history of this document, we fail to understand what they meant by those words, and then we replace our own definition. We use our own wit to try and come up with what it should be and oftentimes we fail in understanding what made this country great or what we need to do to truly honor the Constitution and the Bill of Rights that are there.

One of the things we need to do most definitely in this country is take the time and effort to ensure that we read the documents, that we understand the documents, and we put them in their historical connotation. That is the way we preserve and secure them.

I would like to yield to the gentleman from Texas who has a unique approach here, one of the things we may do to try to remind us, even those of us who were elected to this body, that maybe it is time to review and know the history of this document and these documents so we understand what the words mean and how the words should be applied in our time.

Mr. CONAWAY. I thank my colleagues from Utah and New Jersey for once again highlighting these important documents and important truths that this country was founded upon, and how important they really are. And you are both doing a great job of walking through some of the details.

But at a bit higher plane is the idea that each of us should know what the Constitution says. It is one thing to study the history of the Constitution and try to figure out what they were thinking, but we clearly know what they thought in the sense that they wrote it down. In the language of the day, this Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and Declaration of Independence were written in plain English, and each of us as intelligent human beings should be able to read that document and understand what it has to say. And I think our Founding Fathers intended for us to do that. They wrote it down not for some archaic court to continue to interpret on our behalf, but for us to live our lives and run this government and create the kind of Federal Government that is limited, that doesn't have the reach into our personal lives that governments always want to do, that even this government under leadership from both sides of the aisle continues to reach into our own private lives in ways that our Founding Fathers I don't think intended.

Hamilton was probably the one founding father who had the most expansive view of Federal Government of any of the Founding Fathers. And I think, if he came back to life today and got a good look at what we are doing, he would simply say, ''Oh, my, how could you possibly do this reach of government based on the documents that we left you guys?''

My bill, H.R. 3550, is pretty simple, pretty straightforward. It is the idea that every Senator, every Member of the House, every senior staffer would once a year be required to simply read the Constitution. It is not a long read, it is about 2,500 words, and most of us have third grade educations or better and should be able to comprehend the simple, straightforward language of the Constitution.

I am told anecdotally that even in our law schools where they teach a one-semester or two-semester course on the Constitution and constitutional law, that a requirement to read it from cover to cover, from start to finish, is generally not included in the curriculum. Now, they will read parts of it and they will read pieces of it and study pieces of it, but just simply sitting down and reading it from start to finish is not something that they do.

At a minimum, there should be 435 Members of this body and 100 Members across the building who once a year take a look at the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, just to make sure that as we go about our business day in and day out that we are not straying from the original precepts that are clearly there. This body and the one across the other side of the building write laws every day to implement this government, to run this government under that Constitution. From time to time, many of us propose amendments to the Constitution; those work their way through the process. It would seem to me pretty straightforward logic that, if we are working in that manner, we ought to know what is in the Constitution. And, without reading it, with purposely ignoring it, then you run down the path, as my colleague from Utah said a few moments ago, and that is we simply with our own wit, our own wisdom, and our own wishes decide what it says as opposed to actually looking at the document and interpreting it.

Another benefit it would give us if we would do that is, from time to time, the Constitution is interpreted by our Supreme Court. One recent ruling that has many of us scratching our head is the definition of the word public good, public purpose, in which the Supreme Court has announced that those words can be defined to say that any government can take property, personal, private property away from one taxpayer and give it to another taxpayer if the subsequent receiving taxpayer can create more value for the taxing entity. That does not seem to square with a simple straightforward reading of the Constitution. And it would encourage all of us, as we look at the work that the Supreme Court does, to understand those clear documents.

So this bill, it would be great, my colleagues and Mr. Speaker, if we could get additional cosponsors. In September of each year, we celebrate Constitution Week, and I think it would be terrific if this coming September that one of the things that we brag on about the Constitution is that we will endeavor to once a year read that document and to understand it and to try to use it as we move forward in our business of fulfilling our constitutional responsibilities as the legislators under the legislative branch.

I appreciate both my colleagues allowing me to come down here and briefly pitch my bill. It is a bit self-serving. It seems awfully simplistic. I have gotten some rather interesting responses from folks I have talked to about it, ones that you would not expect. And it is a bit disappointing to have people laugh at the idea that we would actually read that document once a year and make a note in the front of our pocket copy that we have read it, that somehow that is beneath us, it is beneath the dignity of this body that we should in fact read that Constitution and the Bill of Rights once a year.

So, hopefully we will be able to work on the other 432 Members of this body to get them to agree that this is something that we would do once a year in an attempt to do our jobs better.

Again, I appreciate being able to spend the time with my colleagues from Utah and New Jersey.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. I thank the gentleman from Texas. Can the gentleman just remind me of the bill number again?

Mr. CONAWAY. It is H.R. 3550. I believe you are already a cosponsor.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. I am already a cosponsor, but I don't always remember bill numbers.

Mr. CONAWAY. There are thousands of bills introduced. But this was in the 110th Congress, and it is styled The

AMERICA Act, A Modest Effort to Read and Instill the Constitution Again.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. And if the gentleman would inform us, do we have bipartisan support as far as cosponsors of the bill as of yet?

Mr. CONAWAY. Not yet.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. I would encourage the gentleman, because I know I have been on the floor and while we have established this Congressional Constitutional Caucus, which is open to all Members of both sides of the aisle, I believe I have heard sitting on this floor that there is another caucus on the other side of the aisle which I guess is open but I haven't heard yet, the First Amendment Caucus. So at least there is at least one caucus over there who is concerned about the first amendment, if I am not mistaken, and hopefully maybe some of those Members would be willing to, if they are eager to speak on the first amendment, they will want to be knowledgeable about the entire Constitution as well. We might want to reach out to them.

I share with the gentleman from Texas his eagerness to see this legislation. It is one of those commonsense sort of things that if you are engaged in crafting laws, then you should know what your authority for crafting those laws are. And, of course, that authority comes to us not from previous laws that we have passed, but from the Constitution of the United States, which was obviously ratified and supported by all the States and the people thereof.

The gentleman from Texas also makes me think back on my history. I am an attorney, and you got me thinking there for a moment what my history as far as the courses that I have taken over the years. I went to a State school for undergraduate studies, Montclair State College and now it is Montclair State University, I believe I took a constitutional law class there and I believe it was a requirement for that class to read the Constitution. But then I went to law school; and as I am sitting here listening to your remarks, I don't believe that I was required in any of my courses, whether it is contracts or torts and the whole litany of courses that you are required in the first, second, and third year of law school, I don't believe that I was required as a law student to ever sit down and read the entire Constitution. Most of what you do in law school, actually, is the case method, in which case all you are doing is reading cases. And cases simply give you information of judges' interpretation of other cases.

Mr. CONAWAY. It just occurred to me. I am a CPA in a different life, and in order to keep my license current I have to have 40 hours a year of continuing education, and I know you as a lawyer also have to have continuing education. Maybe this could be looked at as continuing education for Members of Congress to spend the 2 hours it might take to read through the document. So, if nothing else, we could say we are trying to learn how to do our jobs better, much in the vein that the other professionals, doctors, lawyers, and CPAs year in and year out have to do to hone their skills.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. I like that idea. CE credits, continuing education credits for Members of Congress.

There are two avenues to get people to do something, whatever their professions are. One is the CE way, and the other is just personal pressure. If you are in a profession, you have to be good at your profession to continue to be hired. I guess, in Congress, you have to be good in your profession to continue to be reelected. But the other way, I would suggest to constituents who may hear these remarks tonight, to ask their Member of Congress at the next town hall meeting, at the next town hall meeting when the questions come up just to ask the Members of Congress, ''By the way, when was the last time, if ever, that you have read the U.S. Constitution?'' I know there are a few folks out there like ROSCOE BARTLETT that carry the Constitution with them. But that would be a good question for the members of the public to ask their Members of Congress. Give them a quiz, ask if they know what any of the 10 amendments are to the Bill of Rights and so on.

Going back now to comments by the gentleman from Utah of the foundation or the formulation of the Bill of Rights, and I note the gentleman touched upon this. Part of the reason initially why there was a, I don't know if you want to say a pushback, but not so much of a strong desire, except for folks such as Mason and also what were called the anti-Federalists, a lot of people who talk about the Federalist Society and the Federalists who gave us this and Hamiltonians. But the anti-Federalists were on the other side. Part of the reason why there was a pushback and saying we don't need this was because the original push for creation of the current Constitution came after the Articles of Confederation. And originally, when they set up their, convention is not the right word but in essence that is what it was, to establish a new document, what they were intending to do was simply to create a new document or make amendments to the old Articles of Confederation to grant certain powers to a centralized government. So if their intent was to create or to establish powers for this new centralized government, there was not the mindset to say, well, we also at the same time need to set out for what the powers or rights of the individuals are; because that is taken as a given, that it is the people who have the rights and the powers, and we are just simply granting some of those rights or powers to the Federal Government to be able to better administer the commerce and trade and so on and so forth that the Articles was incompetent of doing.

So I think that was part of the discussion that was going on: If we are simply giving certain rights over here to a central government, we really don't need to establish it.

The anti-Federalists realized, however, that there was a need for it; that without establishing the paramount power of the individual and also the state, that this centralized government could consume the States. And that is exactly what Mason was talking about when he set forth his objections to it. It was, as I said before, I believe in September of 1787, it was during the final days of the Constitutional Convention that George Mason wrote the reasons for his refusal to sign the Constitution. He did it, interestingly enough, on the back of a committee of style report. Since we have committee reports up here, he simply wrote them all down. Copies of those, manuscript copies of that document were then circulated, and Mason sent copies to various individuals, including George Washington, a long-time friend of his. Washington, though, was on the other side of this issue. So, on November 22, the objections were printed in the Virginia Journal. Interestingly, again, it was done at the behest of Washington's secretary, and the reason they were printing them out publicly like this was so that Washington could publicly refute them. Those original documents are still with us today. They are in the Chapin Library in Williams College.

□ 1845

The preamble of his objections read: ''There is no declaration of rights, and the laws of the general government being paramount to the laws and constitution of the several States, the declarations of rights in the separate States are no security, nor are the people secure even in the enjoyment of the benefits of the common law.''

So Mason is simply saying here that I may live in a State, and my State may provide certain rights, but if the Federal Government's rights or powers are paramount to my own State's rights, the Federal Government can step in and take away any rights that my State constitution guarantees me, and I would lose those rights and privileges that are God given.

Now, a lot of this discussion by people listening is: How does this affect me? This is a lot of philosophical talking. Well, it isn't really. Day after day, as the gentleman from Utah mentioned before, we pass bill after bill, and some are signed into law. Some are perfunctory, naming of a school or post office, but others are profoundly important upon our daily lives. Do I have to remind the public about the PATRIOT Act and the discussion that entailed there? Later on I believe we will be discussing the FISA Court's issues and the powers; again, the issues of the powers of the various branches of the government and how they impact upon our individual liberties.

These are all fundamental questions that come back to not powers created

in the House or Senate or the executive, but rights or powers that we see in the documents, the Constitution of the United States.

It is germane that we bring these things up this year, 2008, a Presidential election year. Most of the candidates are speaking about change. Either side of the party is talking about change. But the fundamental question that the voter has to ask: Is the change that they are espousing and bringing about founded on any constitutional principles or are they simply giving us change for change's sake and change that does not have any constitutional powers or rights given to the Federal Government?

I see we have been joined by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX), and if she would like to speak now, I appreciate her participation.

Ms. FOXX. Thank you, Congressman GARRETT. I appreciate the leadership that you give to the Constitution Caucus, along with our colleague, Mr. BISHOP. I thank you for letting me participate.

I think about the Constitution every day and I think about it many, many times during the day. I think that what we are doing through the Constitution Caucus is an extremely important thing, that we come here and talk about it and bring attention to it to the American people, because I think that because we live in basically a peaceful time, I know we are at war with Islamic terrorists and we have to be dealing with that every day, but basically we go about our work on a day-to-day basis, we go to school, go to work, doing the day-to-day things that we do in this country without thinking too much about what is happening worldwide. But we need to be aware of the fact that it is because we have such a wonderful document as the Constitution that we are able to do that. We are a Nation of laws, and our laws are rooted in the Constitution itself.

I want to say again that I don't really need much of a reminder of that, but during the Christmas recess that we had I had the opportunity to take my 11-year-old grandson and 8½-year-old granddaughter and daughter to Philadelphia for 3 days. My grandson is studying United States history, and I thought what a great opportunity for him to be able to go to Philadelphia and see where the Declaration of Independence was written and signed, where the Constitution was signed, and reflect a little bit on those documents and on this country and particularly the beginning of the country.

I want to commend the trip to anybody in the United States to Philadelphia. There is a new Constitution Center there that I had not seen before. They have marvelous displays, marvelous examples of the Constitution and what it means to us on a day-to-day basis in this country. The amendments to the Constitution are spelled out, and the rulings of the Supreme Court relative to many different issues are there. So it is a great opportunity to go.

But it reminds us again, I think, of the really radical notion that this country was in the 1700s and still is in many ways. Our Constitution is really a short and very, very elegant document. I know tonight that we have been talking somewhat about the Bill of Rights and what that meant to the Constitution and was the Bill of Rights needed. I know that even when the Constitution was being debated in the 1700s that there was a great deal of debate about it. But I think that one of the tasks that we should always focus on, and we do most of the time, is focus on particularly the ninth and 10th amendments, those two amendments in the Bill of Rights.

I also know that coming from the State of North Carolina, that it is probably unlikely that the State of North Carolina would have ever ratified the Constitution had it not been for the Bill of Rights, and I think there were other delegates to the Constitutional Convention who felt the same way.

But those of us again who have such a particular fondness for our Constitution and for highlighting it and continually bringing it to the attention of the American people, that most of the time we want to highlight the ninth and 10th amendments.

Again, taking my grandchildren to Philadelphia and talking with people there and talking with them about it, you try to get people to understand the radical notion that we, the first three words of the Constitution, ''We the People,'' how radical that idea was then, how radical in many ways it is now when you look at what is happening all over the world in terms of violence and upheaval in other governments, and to realize how little of that we have had in this country because we are so grounded in the words, ''We the People.''

I want to say a little about the ninth and 10th amendments and then make some comments about my concern particularly about the 10th amendment and what has happened over the last 200 or so years in this country.

The ninth amendment, of course, is the enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people. Again, the emphasis always is on the rights that belong to the people, those inalienable rights that are spelled out. And then of course the 10th amendment, the powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution nor prohibited by it to the States are reserved to the States respectively or to the people. Always the emphasis comes back to the people and to the powers that are given to the States.

One of the things that troubles me the most and that I highlight whenever I talk to school groups or even other people about the Constitution and about our work here is that we have gotten too far away from the 10th amendment in our exercise of power here at the Federal level. We have taken onto ourselves at the Federal level many, many more powers than I think the Founders anticipated that we would take on. We have no business, for example, being involved in education. There is nowhere in the Constitution the mention of education, and that is not a responsibility of the Federal Government.

We have taken on the issue of health care and so many more things that I think we should not be involved in. If we would contain our activities and responsibilities to those things that the Founders said we should be dealing with, I think we might be able to find governing a lot more manageable here at the Federal level. I think we have lost much of the sense of accountability for Federal spending because we are not able to put the time into it that we need in terms of oversight because we are so involved in things that we have no business being involved in.

We must be very grateful for the ninth and 10th amendments, I think, because they are bulwarks against unchecked expansion, many people would say, and are really the ideological foundation of the other eight amendments. But again, we lose site of that because we go out there and get involved in all kinds of good ideas and good intentions, but they are simply violating what the Constitution says we should be about. And of course we take that oath to uphold the Constitution, but we tweak things in an effort to make better things happen.

But again, I want us to constantly be reminding the American public of what they should be demanding from us. They should be demanding of the Federal Government that we not get involved in those things that are left to the States and left to the people because that takes us away from looking after particularly the defense of this Nation which again allows us to do those things on a day-to-day basis that we do without very much thinking about it.

I hope that as we bring this to the attention of the public, that they will be more demanding of us in terms of these issues. There are very hearty souls out there in the country who do that on a regular basis. I know that they do it to me on a regular basis, and I am sure they do it to some of my colleagues. But I think what we need is those frequent revolutions that Jefferson talked about, that that would be good for our country.

I think we saw that happen last year a little bit when the Senate was debating what they called a comprehensive immigration bill. The people of this country clearly did not want that. They spoke and they spoke with a loud voice. What I hope we will see at times when the Congress is dealing with issues that are not covered in the Constitution, that people will more often rise up and say, We don't want you to do those things. Pay attention to what

we are saying. Those are our responsibilities or they are the responsibilities of the States.

So I want to thank you again for having this Special Order tonight and giving us the opportunity to bring to the attention of the public the issues that we are concerned about relative to the Constitution and say that I will turn it back to my colleague from Utah who is the cochair for this Special Order.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I appreciate the gentlewoman from North Carolina expressing her comments about the Bill of Rights and the significance of the ninth and 10th amendments.

I would now like to concentrate on a couple of other bills that are in the Bill of Rights. Perhaps the second amendment. As we talked earlier, it is very important for us to understand and know the meaning of the words.

The preamble of the Constitution talks about a more perfect union, which is a terribly ungrammatical saying. You can be perfect, but you can't be more perfect. What we don't realize is that this is a term of art historically used. ''More perfect union'' was the concept of the union of England, Scotland and Wales, where all of a sudden their defense was based on a navy, not necessarily on armies.

It is interesting in our Constitution we prohibit an army from lasting any longer than 2 years, for specific reasons.

□ 1900

Armies, at that time, were mercenary units. When one thought of the army, they thought of mercenaries. When the British were fighting us in the Revolutionary War, they didn't send British over here. They sent German Hessians over here for us.

The concept was for an army, when it was not attacking foreign countries, a tyrant could use the army to attack his own people and there would be no remorse since they were not necessarily of the same nationality. The idea of a popular army does not come until the French Revolution, and that's still a couple of decades away.

So when we talk about the militia, at that particular period of time the militia meant the people. Army was a mercenary; militia was individuals who were, by definition, to be a balance in the power against the government.

When Madison wrote that all members, all Americans should be in the militia, and all Americans should be able to have a gun and know how to use a gun, he was making reference to that historical concept.

When one looks at the second amendment today, they have to realize that the word militia was a reference to the people.

With that, I would like to yield some time now to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) who has a few comments specifically about the second amendment which I think is very apropos as we're talking about the Bill of Rights today.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I must begin by saying that I believe in the Constitution as James Madison and company meant it. In fact, I carry a copy in my pocket at all times. It's getting a little shopworn and dog-eared. I describe myself as a Madisonian Republican. And it's interesting, most people in our country today don't realize that James Madison, Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton, John Quincy Adams all considered themselves to be Republicans because they believed in very limited government, and that's what I believe in also.

But I rise today to join in with my colleagues on this discussion of the importance of the Bill of Rights and the Constitution, specifically about the second amendment.

I began to be politically active by coming to Washington as vice president for Safari Club International. And in my capacity of being a vice president, I would work on hunters' rights and gun owners' rights. And I must say that, as you look at this, as my colleague just mentioned, the militia in the days of the Constitution writing meant every single male 18 years of age and older.

In his address to the second session of the First Congress of the United States, the President, George Washington stated, ''Firearms stand next in importance to the Constitution itself. They are the American people's liberty teeth and keystone under independence.''

He went on, ''From the hour the Pilgrims landed, to this present day, events, occurrences, and tendencies prove that to ensure peace, security and happiness, the rifle and pistol are equally indispensable. The very atmosphere of firearms anywhere restrains evil interference. They deserve a place of honor with all that's good.''

When I ran for Congress, I made a commitment to the constituents in my district, the 10th Congressional District in Georgia, that if elected, I would fight to protect their constitutional rights and their pocketbooks for every American. I promised to apply a four-way test to every piece of legislation that comes before the House for a vote and everything that we do in our office. Before every vote, every vote that we take, I ask whether the legislation is moral and right, and does it fit within the constraints of what God gives us in His inherent word.

The second question, is it constitutional. And I'm not talking about this perverted idea of the Constitution that this Congress and the administration and particularly the judiciary are operating on today, but is it constitutional according to James Madison and the people who wrote it. They wrote voluminously about what they meant in the Constitution of the United States, and we in all three branches of government need to apply their writings to how we operate government.

The third question is do we really need it. And the fourth is can we afford it. I believe so firmly in those that I printed those up and it's on the desk of every single staffer in my office. Upholding and defending law-abiding citizens' rights to bear arms passes all four of those tests.

The second amendment of the Constitution declares that ''A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.''

Our Founding Fathers believed very firmly that an armed populace was the only way to prevent tyranny by their own government and I, likewise, adhere to that same philosophy.

I am an avid hunter and outdoorsman, and I strongly support the Constitution's second amendment right to bear arms, and will defend the right of law-abiding citizens to purchase, use and keep firearms, as well as to bear those arms and to transport those arms. I vigorously oppose all attempts to restrict the second amendment. I believe that any law, local, State, or Federal, that infringes upon a law-abiding citizen's God-given right to bear an arm, a God-given right that's supposed to be protected by the Constitution of the United States, any law, Federal, State or local that infringes upon those rights are unconstitutional, and I'll fight to try to restore those rights that have been already put in place on all levels.

Since 1975, the residents of Washington, DC have had their second amendment right to bear arms stolen from them by the District's government. Last year, in Heller v. DC, the DC Court of Appeals ruled that the gun ban in the District of Columbia violated an individual's right to keep and bear arms that is protected by the Constitution and the second amendment; thus, nullifying the gun ban that the District of Columbia put upon its citizens.

Upon appeal by the District of Columbia, the Supreme Court has decided to consider this very important second amendment constitutional case. The U.S. Supreme Court will consider the constitutionality of DC's ban on handgun ownership and self-defense by law-abiding residents in their own homes.

The Court will first address the question of whether the second amendment to the Constitution, as embodied in the Bill of Rights, protects an individual's right to own a firearm and to protect themselves, or whether it is a right of the government.

We already see that the government cannot protect citizens. In fact, the courts even ruled that the police do not have an obligation to protect a citizen anywhere. We only have that right ourselves. If the Court agrees that it is an individual right, then they will determine if the District's self-defense and handgun bans are constitutional or not.

The Supreme Court has a historic opportunity to return to the original intent and the meaning of the second amendment. The second amendment protects us. It's a fundamental and an individual right of law-abiding citizens to own firearms for any lawful purpose. Further, any law infringing upon this freedom, including the ban on self-defense and on handgun ownership, is unconstitutional.

Further, every study that's been done has shown that gun control provides absolutely no benefit in curbing crime. Rather, these types of restrictions only leave law-abiding citizens more susceptible to criminal attack. Other than law enforcement, only criminals have guns in the District of Columbia.

In fact, it was interesting, the community of Morton Grove, Illinois passed a ban on handguns. And then in response to that, a city in Georgia, Kennesaw, Georgia, passed an ordinance stating that every household should own a firearm. It was a very interesting social experiment.

And what happened? The crime rate in Morton Grove, Illinois skyrocketed. The crime rate in Kennesaw, Georgia plummeted. These bans do not protect anybody but a criminal.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit correctly ruled that DC statutes are unconstitutional. I strongly believe that the ruling should and will be upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. I thank the gentleman. I understand we have 3 minutes. I thank him for his elaboration on the importance of one of the critical elements of the Bill of Rights, the second amendment. I am just referring now to the gentlelady from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX), knowing that we only have 3 minutes left. Does she have further? I think she does.

I yield her now such time as she may consume.

Ms. FOXX. I thank the gentleman from New Jersey.

The comments Mr. BISHOP made a little bit ago reminded me, when we were talking about the second amendment, that if you look again at the Bill of Rights, and you realize that every one of those issues, almost, was in reaction to what had happened during the war for independence, and just prior to the war for independence, with the actions on the part of England toward the United States. And I think that it is very important that we remember, again, the context in which those amendments were written, because the abuses of a national or Federal Government were very, very clear in the minds of the people of this country at the time that they worked on the Declaration of Independence, and they outlined their grievances there. And then, as they looked at the amendments to the Constitution, they did not want soldiers billeted in their homes. They did want the right to assembly. They did want the right to freedom of speech. All of those things needed to be spelled out because of the abuses of power of the Federal Government.

Now, we have not seen that very much in our 200-plus-year history since the Constitution was adopted. But it's very important that we put it into the historical context that it was in at the time, and understand, again, that under the rule of the British Government, they didn't have those rights and those rights could be very easily abused. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to add that to the comments that I had made earlier.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Is there any time remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WELCH of Vermont). 30 seconds.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. In the concluding 30 seconds, I again thank the gentleman from Utah and the gentlelady for her comments as well. And as we continue this elaboration, education on the Bill of Rights and the overall Constitution, I hearken back to the gentleman's comments from Texas and the gentleman from Georgia, that we should all ask the seminal and basic question for whatever we do here in this Congress and of course in the Presidential election that is coming up as well when they make all the promises to us across the country. Is what they're proposing to do, is it in the Constitution?

STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF THE NATION OF TURKEY

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, as the global war on terror continues, it is more important than ever that our Nation secures strategic partners in fighting the scourge of radical Islamic terrorism. The nation of Turkey is just such an ally. It has proven to be a committed ally in the fight for freedom and democracy. Turkey has worked side by side with the United States to make strides in our struggle against the forces of terror.

Turkey is also a nation that is in the midst of a tremendous political and economic transformation. Its economy has seen almost unprecedented economic growth in recent years, and is a shining example of the power of the market to spur investment, raise living standards and promote stability.

During Turkish President Abdullah Gul's visit to Washington this month, I had the privilege to meet with him and hear his speech to the American Turkish Council about the economic and democratic promise his nation holds. He told the story of Turkey's remarkable growth and reforms over the past few years. Turkey's successes are a story of the power of freedom, democracy and economic growth.

Turkey is an important ally that will play a strategic role in the future peace and prosperity of a volatile region. It is more important than ever that we hear the voices of Turkish leaders and understand their visions for Turkey's future.

SPEECH DELIVERED BY H.E. ABDULLAH GŰL, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY, ON JANUARY 9, 2008

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, it is a pleasure for me to address such a distinguished audience.

At the outset, I would like to thank American-Turkish Council for providing me with such an opportunity.

I would also like to thank the Council and its members for their invaluable contributions for advancing the economic and commercial ties between Turkey and the United States. I expect ATC to continue its efforts in this regard.

Turkey and the United States have been enjoying a robust partnership of a strategic nature. This solidarity is important not only for our two nations. It is also important for preserving peace, security and stability in a wide geography.

Yesterday, in the White House, President Bush and I have confirmed our commitment to consolidate this valuable relationship.

Ladies and gentlemen, since the end of the Cold War, Turkish-American relations have been undergoing a transformation in line with changing global dynamics. Within this context, it is crucial that our trade and economic relations should be elevated to the level of our political and military ties.

Although our trade volume increased from $6.3 billion to $11 billion in 2006, these figures are still far from reflecting the potential of our two countries. Already numerous business relations exist between our two nations. But there is a vast and still growing opportunity for so many more.

As members of the business and investment community, your contributions to this goal will be invaluable.

Today, I will briefly dwell on Turkey's European Union bid, recent economic transformation, the near-term outlook for the Turkish economy and Turkey's main focus areas for the coming years.

I would like to start with Turkey's relations with the European Union. Turkey's accession process is critically important for us.

We are fully committed to doing all that takes to become an EU member because we believe the steps required are in themselves beneficial to Turkey.

Turkey's reform efforts are poised to regain momentum. The Program for Alignment with the European Acquis'' envisages the completion of our harmonization process by 2013. We appreciate the continued strong support of the U.S. Administrations for our E.U. bid.

Thanks to economic and political reforms of the past few years, the Turkish economy has experienced its fastest sustained growth in more than 80 years.

Despite the recent slowdown, the medium outlook for growth remains strong. Turkey is already the 6th largest economy in Europe and 17th in the world. Our GDP was about half a trillion U.S. Dollars in 2007.

The target is to make Turkey the world's 11th largest economy by the year 2023. Foreign direct investments have averaged to a mere one billion US dollars per year during the 1980–2002 period. This figure has jumped to 10 billion in 2005, 20 billion in 2006, and around 20 billion US dollars last year.

The United States ranks fourth among the countries that invest in Turkey. In 2006, American companies invested approximately five billion Dollars in Turkey. An increase in this figure in the coming years will allow American companies to make use of Turkey's potential.

The boom in FDI inflows is no accident. It reflects the improvement in Turkey's business climate and its growth potential. In World Bank's ''Doing Business Survey'', Turkey has jumped from 91st to 57th place. Turkey's main focus areas over the coming years will be:

(1) implementing the social security reform and introducing a universal health insurance scheme,

(2) streamlining and liberalizing the energy sector, while ensuring supply security,

(3) accelerating privatization with key companies on the agenda,

(4) enhancing the labor market and mitigating the financial and non-financial costs on registered employment,

(5) fighting effectively against the informality,

(6) improving the intermediation role of the financial sector.

I believe, undertaking these reforms will pave the way for a more competitive and more efficient business environment in Turkey. I would also like to remind you that the economic and political reform process in Turkey have gone hand in hand. I am confident that they will proceed hand in hand.

Ladies and gentlemen, a few years ago, we only had a road map. Today, we have results.

Turkey has made significant progress in achieving economic and financial stability over the past few years. We are committed to preserving the gains and building on the success. Turkey is a land of opportunities and we are open for business.

I firmly believe that Turkey provides ample opportunities to reach out to Eurasia and the Middle East. Both Turkish and American private sector entities should consider joint investment and business opportunities that they can successfully embark upon in different regions.

Turkey's close historic, cultural and social ties with the Balkans, South Caucasus and the Central Asia could provide comparative advantages to these joint ventures.

Cooperation on energy will bring a new strategic dimension to our bilateral relations. Such cooperation will also help in further deepening of Turkish-American relations.

To the extent American companies invest in technology in Turkey, their contributions for peace and stability in the region will grow.

Turkey has a flourishing economy. As Turkish economy grows, the opportunities it presents grow as well. I trust that businessmen such as yourselves will seize these opportunities, thereby enabling our economic and trade relations to develop further and for our bilateral ties to become even closer.

Thank you.

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THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, in coming today on the first day back in this new session, the second session of the 110th Congress, I wanted to take a little bit of time to reflect on some of the changes that happened in this Congress but also more importantly to look towards the future and look at the priorities that this new Congress is bringing.

It's very apparent that myself and my 43 Democratic colleagues were brought to this House, the reason we were sent here was to change the way business has been done. It wasn't about maintaining a status quo. It wasn't about talking about issues that weren't relevant to their lives. It was very apparent that at least in my district of southern Minnesota that they chose to send a schoolteacher without political experience to Congress to speak about those issues that were most on their minds, to talk about the issues of economic equality, to talk about the issues of true national security, to talk about the issues that were going to impact their children for generations to come.

And in doing so, they sent several loud and clear messages to us. And I think first and foremost, as I'm joined with some of my other freshman Democratic colleagues, it was very apparent to many of us that we were sent here to talk about those issues in a manner that was about effectiveness. It was not about ideology. It was not about espousing to have a firm belief or the firm understanding that we had all the answers. The belief was to work together, to work with the experts, to work with local elected officials and come up with some of the most pressing solutions.

And I think many of us understood during our campaigns and the time that we've been here in Congress, it's not surprising to anyone, and my colleagues tonight will talk about these things, they didn't need to see a poll to understand that Americans were becoming very nervous with the state of the economy.

They were told over and over and over again by this administration that they were living in the best economy America had ever seen, and they would quote facts and figures like the gross domestic product and things like that. And when I would talk to my constituents in southern Minnesota, they would come up with something that was very insightful. They would say, I don't know. It's very possible that the GDP is growing, but that's not filling my gas tank; and, I don't know about you, but college is becoming more expensive; and, I'm concerned about heating oil prices this fall; and, I'm concerned that what's happening with the economy is not moving any closer to addressing those issues that I care most about.

They were concerned about the loss of their jobs. They were continuously told that this global economy and these trade agreements that we were working on would grow these wonderful jobs, wonderful prosperity, and what they continued to hear in the news was global corporations making record profits as we saw real wages for working Americans sink.

They were told that this great awakening of the global economy would be so helpful to them, and then they would open up their gas bills for heating and find out that they were having trouble making ends meet. They were told that this great global economy would bring a lasting prosperity to them, and they were receiving lay-off notices or many of the other ills that had come with it.

I think many of us understood, and not denying that there is a global economy, there is a need for an interconnectedness, but it needs to be based on some solid principles that benefit those vast majority of Americans.

So I think as we get ready to talk about some of those priorities we get ready to talk about what this Congress can do and what this Nation should do to make sure that our economic prosperity is not limited to a small slice of the population, and in fact, it's limited to the slice of the population that quite honestly isn't producing that well.

Americans over the last 5 years have got a record that I think they can be very proud of. Their productivity levels are as high as any Nation in the world. The thing that becomes a disconnect on that is, as that productivity levels went up, their real wages went down. At the same time, they watched CEO salaries and corporate profits reach an all-time high. And that disconnect is breeding that sense of anxiety amongst the public, and I think there's some things that this Congress can do and will do to address those needs and to put policies forward.

I have a couple of interesting statistics that I think Americans should know. First and foremost, on December 21, President Bush, giving a speech on the economy, was clear to stress how strong this economy is. And in fact, his outgoing economic policy adviser said, We just don't see the reason the economy won't continue to expand. Had I been a reporter in that room or a Congressman there, I might have asked, For who will it expand? And the issue or the answer to that is not for the working middle class.

We see 47 million Americans without health care. I think a more telling statistic is this. I came to this Congress as a high school teacher. I was lucky to have years of experience and advanced degrees that put me a little further on the pay scale. Had I been a first year teacher teaching high school in southern Minnesota, I would have started at just around $32,000 a year. My share of the premium for family health care coverage would have been $7,200 a year right off the top of that. And this is an issue that would expand that 47 million into another possibly 50 million that are on the verge of being unable to pay for it.

So we have issues of health care costs. We have issues of energy costs. We have issues of tuition and those types of things. And as this Congress came to session, those are the issues we were talking about, making college more affordable, addressing the issue of moving into renewable energies and passing CAFE standards to make our automobiles reach that level of efficiency that will help working class families.

So, as I'm joined here tonight by my colleagues from across this great Nation, and I might add, a very optimistic group at that and a very visionary group that understand, and the last statistic I will give before letting some of my colleagues join in on this, we had a piece of research that was done by the independent, nonpartisan Congressional Research Service. And they did a study asking what had added to our national deficit, and their conclusion was that 98 percent of that was added by legislative choices, the biggest being tax cuts for a very small percentage that, quite honestly, we were told on theory would generate wealth back into the economy.

The fact of the matter is the tax cuts were not targeted at our great entrepreneurial class. They were not targeted at those people who were going to create jobs and reinvest. They were targeted to people that would continue to build trust funds to pass on to future generations of that very, very thin privileged class.

And because of that, this Congress has got work to do. This Congress and these Members that were sent to this Congress that will speak tonight were sent by their constituents not to talk ideology, not to argue with the other side, but to look at the issues and not come with facts and figures, but to say, Hey, I'm a schoolteacher sitting in southern Minnesota and I'm having trouble making ends meet and I actually could qualify for food stamps. What's wrong with an economy that does that and what can be done to bring back a sense of fairness to it?

I think the good news in this is, if 98 percent of the Federal deficit was caused directly as a consequence of legislation, we've got the opportunity to reverse that. And I'm proud to be standing with three Members that I know have that as a priority, and I'd like to first of all yield to my colleague south of the border in Iowa, Mr. BRALEY.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the gentleman for yielding and also thank you for your outstanding leadership with this special time we get to share together here on the House floor.

My district in northeast Iowa, the First District of Iowa, is in some ways very similar to yours, my friend, Mr. WALZ's. It's the rust belt of Iowa. It's got a lot of agricultural, manufacturing history, and I think it's a microcosm of what you've been talking about.

We have great manufacturers that I'm fortunate enough to have in my district, companies like John Deere that have been around for years and have stayed in the communities providing jobs and opportunity. But we've also had a tremendous impact on our economy in Iowa this year from our loss of our Maytag plant in Newton, one of those manufacturers that people know as a brand name that used to be on the game shows we used to watch as kids growing up. And then just recently, the Schaeffer Pen Company in Fort Madison closed after over 100 years of being one of those symbols of what American manufacturers can produce.

Those aren't just losses of jobs to people in those communities. The ripple effect throughout those communities in terms of people who move out and leave a void of volunteers who work in community service organizations, who work as mentors to the next generation of leaders that are going to be responsible for leading this country in a great new direction, those are the disturbing trends we never hear about from the President when he's talking about the rosy state of the economy.

And one of the things that brought all of us here to Congress is our sense that the middle class was increasingly being shut out of the American Dream, that the opportunity for our children and the next generation of children to follow them was being limited by economic policies that did not provide incentive for the middle-class entrepreneurs to make risks and create jobs and provide opportunities in their home communities. And what we want to do as a Congress is make sure that our fiscal policies are creating those types of opportunities in our own districts and throughout this country, because that's what's going to make us competitive in the 21st century.

So what I'd like to do at this time is let my friend Mr. YARMUTH, who comes from the great State of Kentucky and has probably a different perspective on what he sees in his home district, share with us some of the things he observes that are directly related to the state of the economy that brings us here tonight.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. I yield to the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and thank him for his comments and also Mr. WALZ for his leadership as well.

I will say, no, the situation in Kentucky is not much different than it is anywhere else in the country, and throughout the campaign 2 years ago and before that, as I talked to people in my district and around the State of Kentucky, what I heard was the same message you have heard. You know, we're working harder and harder, we're struggling, we're doing the best we can, and yet we're falling behind. We're not making progress. Our standard of living is not getting better, not improving.

And I know that we don't want to burden the audience with too many statistics, but Mr. WALZ talked about productivity, and one of the most astounding statistics I've heard recently is that 25 years ago, when there was a productivity gain in the United States, workers benefited to the tune of 70 percent of that productivity gain. So for every dollar increase in productivity, workers got 70 percent, owners got 30 percent.

In the current era, that number is down in the 20s. So while American workers are working harder and harder, most of the gain in their productivity is not going to them. It's going to owners. It's going to the corporations, and the workers working harder and harder are not getting the benefit of that.

And we're seeing it day in and day out. And not only that; we're seeing instances in which people who have worked their entire lives, because of emergencies, because of businesses going out of business, are losing their life savings.

I will never forget being at a Catholic picnic one day in 2006 and talking to a man who had worked for Winn-Dixie Corporation. He had worked 28 years for Winn-Dixie, and he had accumulated $150,000 in his retirement plan. Winn-Dixie had gone into bankruptcy. He was left with $30,000. He lost 80 percent of his life savings because of the problems inherent in his corporation, and they had not planned adequately to secure his retirement benefits.

So these have ripple effects. These are stories that are heard by relatives, by friends, by neighbors, and that increases the anxiety throughout society. And this is what I sense that we face in this country today is not just the actual fact of people's standard of living not increasing despite the fact they're working harder and harder, but their faith in the future is declining and faith in the future of their neighbors and their friends because they see the threats to them, and they say what am I working for, what am I trying so hard to accomplish.

Then we had the added specter, as I know one of our colleagues will discuss this evening, of the incredible crisis in the health care system where 50 percent of the bankruptcies that we now experience in this country are due to health care costs and people, again, who have done everything the right way and have lost everything because of bad luck of the draw. They've come down with cancer. They've come down with a serious injury that's preventing them from working.

So as we go across the entire spectrum of American society that's what we find day in and day out. I like to think of government as the way we organize our responsibilities to each other, and in this day and age we do face these very serious choices and very clear choices in how we perceive our economy and what government's role should be.

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And the question is, do we reward wealth versus work? And I think this group that was elected in 2006 has a clear position on that; we want to reward work and not necessarily wealth. We want to make sure that when people work harder, they benefit. And we want to make sure that the economy is

fair to everyone and works for everyone. And if we can't do that, then we don't deserve to be representing the American people because we have let them down. And I know that this group is not going to let them down; I know that's why we came here. And I'm proud to be here for that reason, and I'm not going to stop fighting as long as I'm here.

So, I thank all of you for your collegiality and all of your efforts in this behalf. We are part of a great cause for the working families in America, and I'm very proud to be a part of that.

With that, I will yield to my colleague from out west, the site of this year's Democratic convention, Mr. PERLMUTTER.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Thank you, Mr. YARMUTH.

It's great to be standing on the floor with gentlemen who have been elected by the people in 2006 to change the way this Nation is being run, and to provide the hope that we need to deal with the problems you've outlined. And we can do this, we know we can do this. This is a time where we change the focus from the wealthiest 1 percent to the hardworking people of middle America. This is the time for hardworking Americans. And we're going to provide, based on this stimulus package, a package of different approaches to help middle Americans, hardworking Americans, we're going to provide them with refunds so that there will be some money in their pocket, not just in the pocket of the wealthiest 1 percent, but in the pockets of everyone across America. Ronald Reagan used to talk about trickle down. Well, that's not how the economy works, it works trickle up. It's a flood up. If people in the middle have money, they spend it, and that will generate all sorts of new business in America.

We're also going to provide stimuli that will create many new jobs, whether it's in the energy sector. We can improve how we're dealing with health care and increase jobs there. But this is a time when we really are going to change how Washington is conducting business. The President would like us just to focus on the wealthiest. He would like us just to keep things the same. We're not doing that. We're here to provide hope to people and change so that people in their everyday lives know that they've got folks here who were elected to fight for them. And we are going to change things by providing a whole new approach to the economy this year.

We hope to provide a package that will be $100 billion, that's about 10 months in Iraq, that's nothing, where we can help this country really get on a solid footing economically, and then for the long-term future, really develop a whole new energy system that will provide thousands and thousands and thousands of jobs across this country, as well as revamp our health care system that has become such a drag on the economy.

This is a time when we have to look very hard and be realistic about the problems that face us. But when America really turns its attention to something, it changes the future. And that's what this Congress is going to do. That's our job. That's why we were sent here was to change the future and to provide hope to people.

With that, I would like to turn this over to my friend from Wisconsin, STEVEN KAGEN. And with that, sir, would you let us know what you think of this stimulus package that the Speaker is talking about.

Mr. KAGEN. Well, thank you very much, Congressman ED. I really appreciate being with you, not just here on the floor, but many people don't realize that you're my roommate. We've got an apartment. We're working together to pay our rent, we're working together to pay our Nation's bills, and we're working together to build a better nation for everyone.

And before I mention anything about our economy, you have to all be thinking about the Green Bay Packers this weekend. We've got a football game up in Green Bay that we're going to rock the world. We're going to demonstrate not just how professionals can work together as a team in athletics, but we have to imitate them here on the House floor by beginning to work across party lines.

And if you're looking for a good example of how corporate America should be run, look no further than the Green Bay Packers because they will never, ever be outsourced. They cannot be shipped overseas. Why? Because the community owns the Green Bay Packers. Not a bad example.

I'd like to turn your attention to two questions, questions that I think are important for all of us in this class of '06, what some of us call ''America's Hope,'' whose side are we on? Now, does anybody sitting here, standing here having this conversation with America, anybody here sitting in a board room of a major corporation? I don't think so. We're working hard for everyday people who are trying to make it through the day.

The second question is, what kind of Nation are we, what kind of Nation are we when we don't educate our children, when we don't guarantee access to affordable health care for every child in America, for every citizen, every legal resident of this country? Who are we now as a Nation? Now, you don't want to talk much about statistics because it will put people to sleep at this hour of the night, but the Department of Labor has given us these numbers. The Consumer Price Index went up by .3 percent. That's a little bit of inflation, a little whiff of what we're going to get at the end of 2008. The unemployment rate up to 5 percent nationwide; some areas of my district even more. We got the news today earlier this morning that a paper maker in Niagara, Wisconsin, they're going to shut down 320 jobs. That's 320 homes in a very small neighborhood that won't have a bread earner, in Kimberly, Wisconsin, just outside of my district, 120 paper making jobs.

Now, how does it happen in this country at this time, how does it happen when we allow Communist China to target each and every sector of our economy and our manufacturing economy for extinction? They've targeted our steel. And what happened to steel production? It went down here and went overseas. They've targeted textiles. They've targeted auto production. So, what are we going to make in America? Because if we don't make anything, quite simply put, we won't have anything.

The unemployment claims for the month of December, 322,000 jobs lost, people looking for work. What about the minimum wage, $5.85? You can't feed a family on $5.85 per hour. You can't educate yourself and your children.

So, we have got a lot of work to do, not just in the Green Bay football game. I don't know who we're playing, some team from New Jersey or the New York Giants. I wish them well. I hope no one is injured because—well, they do have pretty good health insurance, I hear.

So, we've got a lot of problems that we have to face together. I am very proud and honored to be able to serve with all of you here tonight as we talk about this economic stimulus, as I send it over to my colleague, Mr. ELLISON, who represents the great State of Minnesota. And he is going to, perhaps, allude to the fact that we have to have an economic stimulus that's timely, that's targeted to those who really need it, and temporary.

Mr. ELLISON. Well, Doctor, let me just add my voice and say I love to be on the House floor with my colleagues. You guys are servants of the people of the United States, whether we're from the upper Midwest or Iowa, Kentucky, or all the way out in Colorado, it's a joy to be in the company of people who care about the American working class and are willing to get out there strong to speak up for what working class people need.

You know, this stimulus package is to signal change in a broader sense to make our economy fair and more productive. It's signaling change. One hundred billion dollars is a whole lot of money, but when you think about this trillion-plus-dollar economy we live in, it's not a whole lot by comparison. But it's not designed to solve every problem, it's supposed to spark economic change, signal an overall change in the way our economy is structured so that we can have working class people prosper and grow.

My colleague from Colorado pointed out that it's not a matter of trickle down, it's bubble up. You put the money in the hands of middle-class people, they go out and buy washing machines, they go out and buy food, they go out and buy groceries, they put

their kids in school, and the next thing you know more deals are being done and you see an overall increase in the economy, a rising tide lifting all boats. You take care of the middle class and the rest will take care of itself.

If you give tax cuts to the wealthiest of the wealthy, the very definition of being rich is that you don't need the money. So, what do you do? You don't spend the money. You merge. You go buy some company overseas and then they take advantage of comparative wage differentials and the next thing you know we're exporting jobs. The fact is is that an economic stimulus targeted to people who really will spend that money and really do need that money and can spend that discretionary income will spark our economy. But it will only be a signal of an overall shift of economic fairness that has to do with our innovation agenda, that has to do with increasing the minimum wage, that has to do with decreasing the cost of college loans, an overall economic package that is big and that is structural that has to do with making changes to predatory lending laws, that has to do with our housing markets, an overall package that will take a little more time to implement, but an economic stimulus package that will happen soon and will spark economic growth directly affecting the unemployment numbers that jumped in December, and as Mr. PERLMUTTER correctly points out, directly affecting the increase in the Consumer Price Index as well.

Now, you know, the underlying source of this economy's weakness is the collapse in the housing market. In 1995, what happened to the housing market? Bam, straight to the moon. People thought it would never end. As a matter of fact, people bought houses, some of them subprime. Some of them found themselves thinking, well, if I buy this house right now, get into this subprime mortgage, the increasing housing values gives me wealth; I can refinance when this house is even worth more. But, you know, everything that goes up must come down. And as a matter of fact, when we saw people refinance these homes, they consumed that increased wealth in their house. That helped drive the consumer sector, but eventually these things come down and we are hitting the wall.

People are not making it, folks. We have a negative savings rate in America. Negative savings rate. That means if you get paid on Friday, you're out of money Wednesday night. That means you're hanging on and you're hoping that you can stretch that penny out to get to the end of the week. That means that instead of steak you're eating hamburger and instead of salmon you're eating tuna fish. And it's not funny. It's serious business. People are really, really struggling.

And so the fact is, folks, that we have a negative savings rate and that is why people are turning to the credit cards. That's why, when they get a big purchase, they've got to refinance their homes, although that's tough to do today, and that's why they go to title loans, payday loans and pawnshops. This is what is driving that move. We are drying up the consumer sector.

And I just want to say that we have seen record foreclosures in America, record foreclosures. We haven't seen this many foreclosures since the Great Depression.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. ELLISON. Absolutely.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Like all of you, I spent time out of my district during the recess between the holidays and coming back this week. And I was shocked to visit Davenport, Iowa, the largest city in my district, and learn that Davenport leads the country per capita in the number of subprime mortgage foreclosures. And I know that all of you have constituents in your districts that are being impacted directly by the subprime crisis. And although our friend from Wisconsin certainly spent a lot of time talking about the Green Bay Packers, and I know that's heresy in the State of Minnesota, what I thought maybe we could do is share some of the personal stories we've heard from people who are directly impacted by these mortgage foreclosures by the need to convert their spending habits to credit rather than cash because they're being pinched in the middle, and put a human face on the problems we're talking about and why this economic stimulus package is so important.

With that, I will yield back.

Mr. ELLISON. I want to respond directly to your point, Congressman, because I think this is one of the things that in a very palpable feeling way really struck home to me, and that was when I was campaigning back in 2006. I met a gentleman who kind of came to the front door when I knocked on his door. And he came in a very gingerly way; it was clear that he had suffered some kind of injury and wasn't feeling very good. And he said to me, you know, KEITH, about a year ago I was up on my roof because me and my partner make a little more than minimum wage, not that much more than minimum wage, but we were able to get into the house because we got into the subprime mortgage. We got some credit cards that they sent to us that we didn't ask for. But because I didn't have a whole lot of money, I climbed up on that roof to fix it because it was leaking. I didn't want to see more damage happen to the house, we had to patch it. And I, as you might guess, fell off that roof. The guy fell off the roof and sustained some serious injuries. The injuries were too bad, his partner was going to try to put him in the car but he couldn't move him because he was hurting, and it was dangerous, and so he called the EMS truck, Emergency Medical Services. They came to get him. That was about 1,800 bucks right there. He didn't have health care insurance. He put the medical bills on the credit card as long as he could, couldn't pay that; as a matter of fact, paid one credit card, but on the other one he was late. Guess what happened to the interest rate on the credit card that he was on time for? It went up. That's called universal default. So, now he's paying 32 percent interest. He's getting further and further behind. He's not working. His partner is struggling to keep the mortgage paid. They see a reset in the mortgage. Now they are totally up. They are just really in bad shape now, and they are facing foreclosure.

When the man told me this story, he was dry in the eye but I was misty. I couldn't believe, I said, you know, not in America. People who work hard, 40 hours a week every week, cannot be in this situation. It's wrong. And I felt it was my responsibility to do something about it.

□ 1945

So when I stand on the floor to talk about working class prosperity with you here tonight, six Members of Congress, and when I heard our Speaker talk about this stimulus package, I was reminded of what happened when the great President Franklin Delano Roosevelt died. Back in those days, Representative YARMUTH, they used to have the coffin of the President loaded up on the trains. You know what I am talking about, Representative WALZ? And that train was carrying that casket across the country. And there was a man who appeared at one of those train stops where that casket was being carried across the country, and there was a journalist there too, and the man was crying about the President. He was in tears over President Roosevelt. And as you know, he was the President during the Great Depression.

And the journalist walked up to the man and said to the man, ''Sir, I see that you're crying and very emotional over what happened to the President. Did you know President Roosevelt?''

And the man gathered himself, cleared his threat, and he said, ''No, I didn't know President Roosevelt. But he knew me.''

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Absolutely. And as I said, it's very encouraging, and I think it should be, Mr. Speaker, to the American people to see the dedication and the commitment. I know my colleague from Minneapolis has taken a lead role on this issue of foreclosures. And as my colleague from down in Iowa has said, this is an area that no one is escaping being touched by this. Mr. ELLISON may represent a very urban area in Minneapolis, but Mr. BRALEY and I and the rest of us here have areas that are somewhat rural, and we are feeling that pinch. We're feeling it.

One thing I would say is it reminds me, in thinking of the story that you just recalled about President Roosevelt's knowing us, I'd like to give

you a quote from our current President when he was out meeting constituents. And this was out in Omaha, Nebraska, a little while back, and it was with a woman named Mary Mornin. And Mary was explaining, she was a woman in her fifties, a divorced mother of three, including a special needs child. And she was explaining to the President at that time, just several years ago already, of the growing anxiety she had about what was happening. And she mentioned to the President that to make ends meet, she was working three jobs. And the President said, ''You work three jobs?''

Ms. Mornin said, ''Yes, sir, three jobs.''

And the President said, ''Wow, that's uniquely American, isn't it? I mean, that's fantastic that you're doing that.'' And then he laughed and said, ''laughter'' in parentheses here, ''Do you get any sleep?''

And Ms. Mornin said, ''No, not much.''

This President has been so out of touch with the reality that affects most Americans that he can stand in front of them and tell us this is the greatest economy ever. He can stand there and watch as the housing market imploded and the indicators were there and people were asking him to do things about that. He can stand there and talk about this being the greatest economy under his watch full well knowing that the facts indicate he took office with a $126 billion surplus and he has continuously driven us into debt.

We are at a point in this great Nation now that last year alone we spent $406 billion servicing the interest on the debt, not the principle.

Mr. ELLISON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. I yield.

Mr. ELLISON. How much is your debt for this big debt that he has run up?

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. It's $30,000 for each and every one of us.

Mr. ELLISON. How about little Gus, your son?

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Gus is 14 months. His is $30,000, not counting the interest.

I would just make this point that the President, in the theatrics of the appropriation bills to run this country, held up funding across the spectrum from veterans to health care research to our soldiers' pay increase that he pocket vetoed, all of these things, over $22 billion. And I want you to put this into perspective. What this President has done in his fiscal irresponsibility, which should not surprise a single person in this country given his track record on the private sector and given that he was practicing, as my colleagues have said, a very tenuous principle of trickle down, that took the complexity of the entire economy and shook it down into one mantra. Today as this economy and this Democratic Congress is looking for real solutions for working Americans, the President is concerned about making tax cuts permanent in the year 2011 when they expire. All of the money that we spent last year on higher education, on our veterans, on conservation, and on medical research does not equal the amount we spent servicing the debt. Think what this great Nation can do.

And with that, I yield to the doctor from Wisconsin.

Mr. KAGEN. Thank you very much for yielding. I just wanted to make a more accurate diagnosis of the condition that you are in. Mr. WALZ, it's not $30,000 of Federal debt sitting over your head or your newborn son. It's $375,000 on an accrual basis when you factor into all the debts that we're going to owe to those of us who very soon will be on Social Security or Medicare as we retire.

So you have to begin to accurately diagnose the problem in health care, physically, or an architect has to do it, a plumber has to do it. Let's identify what's really going on here. What is it that has caused millions and millions of manufacturing jobs to jump overseas, to be taken away from the workers that we represent, the families that we represent? Because people back home are asking me, as they are asking you, Hey, KAGEN, what are you going to do for me? The first thing you have to do is identify the two causes I believe are doing this.

First, it's the trade policy. A trade policy that allows corporations to take away our jobs. Listen, Mr. PERLMUTTER, if I go to your home and I take your car and you don't even know about it, if I steal your car, I go to jail. I get punished for stealing, for taking away your property. But if I go to where you are working, if it's a paper company, if it's a steel factory, if it's some auto manufacturer in Detroit, if I take away your job, I get rich. So there is something wrong with our trade policy that allows communist China to compete unfairly using an abundance of what I would call slave labor.

The second reason is we have had a fiscal policy by the Republican administration that has plowed more debt onto everybody. The debt in 2000 on an accrual basis, according to the most trusted man in Washington, David Walker, the Comptroller General of the GAO, was $20 trillion and at the end of 2006 was $53 trillion. From $20 trillion to $53 trillion is a debt no one in this room, no one living today can afford to repay. So we have to repair our trade policies, and we have to come to an end with this policy of borrow and spend and borrow and spend and borrow and spend. We cannot afford to stay on this path.

I believe in large part those are the reasons why we came here to the House to do the people's work and why we are going to speak up every day for the people that tell us their problems. And I will share with you just one story of my constituents.

I went up north to northern Wisconsin. On the way back, I stopped into Two Angels Restaurant in Antigo to see what's going on, to put my finger on the pulse of their community. And there at the counter was a 55-year-old former carpenter, a former carpenter because he has gone through bankruptcy not once but twice because of health care bills. The first time, since he works by himself, he's his own employer, he went bankrupt because he didn't have enough health insurance when he had cardiac surgery, and the second time he had a new heart valve put in. The second bankruptcy he went through, and he went through it twice, was due to an abscess in his brain. He can't think straight. He can't work. And he's counting on us to do something to help him, to guarantee he has access to health care he and his wife can afford. They can't take away his home, but they have destroyed his spirit.

So I think we are here to give hope to everybody, that by working together we will repair not just this idea of borrow and spend with pay as you go, with fiscal responsibility, but also ultimately, and we won't get to it tonight, we have to fashion a trade policy that is not just fair but is balanced.

I yield to Mr. PERLMUTTER.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I think we have got again to realize and understand why the people sent us here to change America, to change the way Washington runs, and they want us to look out for middle America, hard-working people. They want us to look out in the short term, the mid term, and the long term.

And in the short term, you talked about it. We want to provide in a bipartisan way, working with our friends on the other side and with the administration, real relief to millions of people across America. And you described it as timely, targeted, and temporary. Relief that gets right into people's pockets where they can then buy those necessities, whether it's a washer or they have got to fix the sink or whatever it might be, because people, even those that don't run into terrible problems as you described, are having a heck of a time making ends meet. They're working 40 hours. They're working 60 hours. But if there is one bump in the road, a kid who has to have braces or any little thing just sets you back, because everybody is that close, as energy prices go up, as tuition goes up, as health care costs go up. So our job is to give them some relief. And when we do that, that will help the economy as a whole.

Then we have the mid term and long term, the trade policies. But for me in my area, which is primarily the suburbs of Denver, it is middle America. It is right down the middle politically. It is right down the middle financially. It's not rich. It's not poor. It's not Democrat or Republican. It is right down the middle as an independent kind of an area. And they are expecting

of us to turn the attention to them, to middle America, and not just the wealthiest people. And when we do that, we're going to change the face of this Nation again.

JOHN YARMUTH was talking about the fact that as we have improved productivity, the worker, the average guy, hasn't seen the benefit of that, but it's been more of the owner. And that's okay, too, that the owner sees some benefit, but it should be shared across the board, because at the end of the day you have this disparity between the rich and the poor continue to grow, and that's not healthy for any country. This country has thrived and progressed because of the middle class, because of the hardworking people in the middle.

So we have long-term strategies, which would be investments in energy, rebuilding our infrastructure. The speaker comes from the city where we had the bridge collapse. We have too many roads, too many things that have to be repaired in this country, and it is time for us to turn our investments to this country, and lots of jobs will be developed as a response to that.

I yield to my friend from Kentucky.

Mr. YARMUTH. Thank you. One of the things that I want to follow up on what you were talking about was we were sent here to solve problems. And I think one of the reasons that we have gotten into the predicament we're in is because a lot of people in the White House and in this Congress thought that you can govern by dogma. And when people say the free market's infallible or that regulation is bad or government should get out of the way and we hear those kinds of dogmatic philosophical statements, a lot of people bought into those. And what we see time after time, and I guess we are all slow learners in this country, but what we see time after time, whether it's with the subprime mortgage, whether it's with Katrina, or in all sorts of areas, with our health care system, is that dogma doesn't do very well when the rubber meets the road. There are real facts that we have to deal with.

So we come here, and I know a lot of people, when we try to suggest that the disparity between rich and poor has gotten too great or that corporations have too much power, think we are playing at class war or we are trying to pit one part of society against the other. And that's not at all what we're doing. And I hope the audience has understood that everybody tonight has talked about fairness and, dare I say it, balance, and we are talking about the fact that in this country over the last couple of decades the economic pendulum has swung way too far to one side. And the marketplace works where there is some kind of balance in power, and now there is no balance in power because the rules are all stacked against every working American.

So we're not trying to say that corporations are evil. I don't think anybody would say that, or that the rich are evil and that they don't care about the working class. But we have a situation in which that pendulum needs to be moved back to the point where everybody shares in the growth of this country.

So as I look at this group, all of whom are committed to solving problems and not necessarily to advancing a dogma, I think that's what the American people expect us to do and I think that's what we are going to continue to work to do.

I would like to yield to my distinguished colleague and friend from Vermont (Mr. WELCH).

□ 2000

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Thank you. I have been listening, partly presiding, but I have been thinking about this question of why is it there is such a sense that we need to do something called a stimulus package, where we are talking about $100 billion going into an economy that is $14 trillion, and it's a modest amount. Why is it that there is such a sense that this stimulus is needed when in fact, by historical standards, unemployment is actually relatively low. We had bad news. It went from 4.7 to 5 percent. But the historical average is well above 5 percent.

The reason there is such anxiety is the reasons my friend from Kentucky and all of you have mentioned, that this has not been a rising tide that lifts all boats. Most people, even those who are employed, have not had wages that have come close to keeping up with their bills, and that has been intensified, of course, with energy, buying gas, buying home heating fuel, paying for your college education for your kids, and medical bills. The story that the Speaker told about that young family with medical bills is painful, but it's true. So what you have had is this economy that is simply not working for average people.

So what do we have an opportunity to do? A stimulus package is something that is concrete. We don't offer it as something that is going to ''solve'' the problem, but it is going to show that there's a cop on the beat. And there is an opportunity, by following the advice of economists across the spectrum, from conservative to liberal, that say that in a time of declining incomes, a stimulus is a mainstream Keynesian approach to giving a shot in the arm to the economy and a boost in confidence.

Now, we do that and do it quickly, hopefully in the next 2 weeks, and we do it together with our colleagues. It's a statement of confidence, and it also, by the way, establishes that where you need to help is with those folks who are paying their bills on the basis of their salary or punching a clock. Then we have the longer term work to do, and that is to right the inequities that have been so systemically applied to have this vast spread between the middle class, low-income folks, and everyone else. It's all these things people have been talking about, credit card abuse, this scheme that was cooked up by Wall Street and others on the subprime mortgage, and even the so-called exceptional mortgages that are below subprime, the way that Wall Street has found to package these and then sell them to, in some cases, unsuspecting buyers, and in some cases, to knowledgeable buyers who thought they could make money; the degradation of any kind of regulatory oversight, when regulatory oversight done right is going to protect average people. The chairman of Financial Services, I think, put it right on regulation. There's only two problems; one is when you do too much, and the other is when you do none at all. It is something that has to be done in order to protect the pocketbooks of everyday Americans.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Would the gentleman yield for a question about the great State of Vermont?

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Yes.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. I have made this statement before, that my family wound up in Iowa because of one of the greatest Federal economic stimulus packages in history, something called the Homestead Act. One of my great great grandfathers, George Washington Braley, walked to Iowa from Northfield, Vermont, because of the Homestead Act. My other great great grandparents, John and Nancy, left Ireland during the potato famine and went there because of the Homestead Act. One of the first things they did was found a Presbyterian Church, which they named the Homestead Church because of the importance of that stimulus package in creating opportunity and hope for that generation of Americans.

So my question to you, my friend, is as you look at your State now and the people that you have the privilege of representing here in Congress, what type of real world benefits are they going to receive from this stimulus package we are talking about to give hope and opportunity to the next generation of people from the Green Mountain State?

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. The elements of the stimulus package, as we know, are being discussed, but basically it would be a short-term tax break or check to families; it would be food stamps for folks who are struggling; it would be an extension of unemployment benefits from 26 weeks to 39 weeks for folks who have been laid off from their jobs. So those are some of the things that would help.

It's not just Vermont, as you know, my friend from Iowa. By the way, I am a great fan of the Homestead Act, but if your forebears had not walked from Vermont to Iowa, you might be a Congressman from Vermont right now.

I yield to my friend and class president from Minnesota.

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. I think it's interesting, and the changes that this

Congress has meant to bring, this stimulus package has meant, as all my colleagues have talked about, is of being that short-term, targeted, temporary reform that will put money right into the economy. That is in exact opposition to, I guess, the plan this President has espoused for the past 6 years that has drained money from not only the Federal coffers, but has drained jobs and siphoned them overseas.

I think it's really critical. A couple of points. I think my colleague from Louisville was exactly right when he was talking about the pendulum has swung. The only thing I wished on that is, and I think people need to be very clear about is, there is no natural order to things where that pendulum will come back on its own. The change to make that pendulum come back was the votes that were cast last year for Members, just like this, standing here. Sometimes you have got to reach up and grab that pendulum and get your hands a little bit bloody, pulling it back to where it needs to be.

That is exactly what we are trying to do. But as we are doing this today, some of the leadership on the Republican side of the aisle held a news conference and put forward a piece of legislation that they would do, that they would target to help this situation, to take away the anxiety of working class Americans, to make them feel like they can feed their family, heat their homes, and keep their good job. And their solution? Corporate tax breaks. The only thing in their package, reducing the corporate tax rate.

We all understand the theory that that will allow for corporate America to reinvest in infrastructure, to reinvest in jobs. In theory, it sounds brilliant. In practice, it's going to mean higher CEO salaries and more imports coming from China where they put the factories to save the money on the labor, to save the money on the environmental standards.

So those are the type of things that I think need to be clear, and I hear my colleague from Colorado saying very clear that we were not sent here to bicker, we were not sent here to espouse ideology, but we were sent here with a very clear mandate: Force change. The status quo would say, Continue on with President Bush's tax cuts, give corporate tax breaks. But everyone in this room knows that your constituents, the vast majority of Americans know that is not going to work.

So I am quite intrigued that our colleagues on the other side are going to stick with that. And I don't know if they need to poke their heads outside a little bit more, but that wind of change is blowing very hard and it will sweep this place clean. It will sweep this place clean and put people here who understand those needs, who don't need to go and find talking points to understand how hard it is to send your kids to college, to understand paying a gas bill becomes a major family issue. And it needs to understand that what President Bush failed to realize with Ms. Mornin is, this wasn't a sense of she wanted to be away from her child, working three jobs. She had to be.

And the idea that you should be proud, and we are going to hear more about this, this idea of productivity is a great thing, but in many cases, Americans will work as hard as they possibly can. But the problem with this economy is the return is not coming.

Before I yield to my colleagues, I think this is one thing that we were sent here to reinspire, to get Americans to change their view on this, because I think this is one of the most disturbing statistics that I have ever heard. Now, for the first time since they have been asking this question, since President Bush's Presidency, and during this time period, when asked if their children will be better off than they were, the majority of Americans respond no. They do not believe that the leadership out of this administration or the previous years of Republican-led Congresses have done anything to set a vision for America.

So I don't know if we should be surprised that the solution would be more of the same coming from the other side. The solution that the American people want is not more of the same. It's a change that reflects their values.

So with that, I would yield to my friend from Wisconsin for a few closing words from him.

Mr. KAGEN. Thank you, Mr. WALZ. I certainly appreciate it. I think what people in Wisconsin are telling me in Green Bay and Clintonville, everywhere I go throughout my district, is they want their country back. I was walking in a parade and a lifetime Republican pulled me over and said, hey, Doc, we sent you to Washington because I want my country back. I said, Exactly what do you mean by that? He said, Heck, I want a border I can see and defend. I want my Nation back. Without any borders, we cease to exist. I agree with him.

Several blocks later in that same parade a retired teacher pulled me in and said, Hey, KAGEN, we sent you to Congress because we want our country back. I said, What is this, an epidemic? I said, What do you mean by that? He said, Well, I want my constitutional rights back. I want my government to protect my fourth amendment rights, my rights to habeas corpus.

People want their country back. We all feel it here in Washington. We want our country back. We don't want to take it back; we want our values back. We want a government again that believes in being responsible with our hard-earned tax dollars. Everywhere I go, I ask people in Wisconsin, Hey, I'm working for you. I'm your hired hand. I have got your hard-earned tax money here from your family. Where do you want me to spend it, overseas or right back here at home? And everybody tells me they want it spent at home.

But, Mr. WALZ, this United States dollar doesn't buy what it used to buy. It has been devalued. In Milwaukee we've got Miller and Miller Light beer. Well, we have got dollar light. The gold hasn't changed for millions of years, but it takes a lot more money to buy an ounce of gold. The oil that drives our economy, our fossil-based fuel economy, our oil that we are purchasing hasn't changed in millions of years, but it takes a lot more money today. How much? Almost $100 a barrel. To do what? To drive our economy.

Folks, we have to get our country back, and it begins by working together, no matter what party you're in, to give people hope and confidence that their government can work together across party lines. But we have to be able to see the same problem and begin to work on it together.

This economic stimulus that we are putting together in Washington today, that the Democrats are preparing to work with the Republicans, is great for America. It gives me hope that we can work together across party lines and put together a stimulus package that will help every working family in America. Because what do we have to do? We have to reward work just as we do wealth.

I yield back to my colleague from Louisville.

Mr. YARMUTH. I would just like to add as maybe a closing remark that one of the things in the area of dogma we talk about, or cliches, we want government out of our lives. Everybody hates government until they need government. That is from the richest to the poorest. We know there's a lot of subsidy to the wealthiest people, the wealthiest corporations. They say they don't like government, but they are always coming here to ask for help when it suits them.

This is one of those times when everyone needs government in this country. Everyone needs the stimulus that we are about to try to provide. It's the right thing, it's the smart thing, and it's the moral thing to do. I think that if we can convince enough people on the other side of the aisle, we will strike a great victory for this country and for the American people. I look forward to doing that in the next couple of weeks.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. I just would like to close. I think our friend from Minneapolis, Mr. ELLISON, used the right word; the economic stimulus is a spark. It will help those people who really can use it just make the ends meet that week. Once that happens, that moves an economy as millions of people in unison do that.

So we have a chance to really change the way this economy is headed, we have a real chance to change the focus from the wealthiest 1 percent to the people who are working so hard every day across America. Those people that make this country so wonderful, so great.

I am just glad that the folks from Wheat Ridge and Lakewood and Arvada and Golden and Brighton and Commerce City and Aurora and a number of

other places in my District gave me the chance to come here and help make that change. I think that they are looking for change, and they are looking for hope, and we are going to deliver that.

With that, I will turn it back to the president of our class, the eminent Mr. WALZ.

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. I thank the gentleman. I thank all of my colleagues. I cannot tell you how proud I am to have each and every one of you here, and while all of us believe in the free market, the one thing I know for sure is I believe a lot more in my fellow citizens, and I thank the citizens of Colorado and of Wisconsin and of Kentucky and of Iowa for sending people here who care about those values, who want to get that right.

So with that, I leave in an optimistic state of mind. I leave with the American people, Mr. Speaker, knowing that these gentlemen here are going to direct us in the right direction and truly bring back that sense of equity.

□ 2015

ISSUES AFFECTING AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to be recognized to address you here on the floor of the United States Congress, as always, and I appreciate this privilege. There are a series of subjects that come to mind that I think it is important for you to consider and for the Members and for those onlookers that are here to consider as well.

One of those issues has been front and center in my mind and in my legislative career as we watch these presidential debates that go on on both sides of the aisle, from the Democrat and the Republican side, and as we watch the caucus and primary season flow across the country, and as America waits with bated breath to see how this emerges, as far as who will be the nominees on either side for the Democrats and the Republicans.

A series of issues that come to mind that stand out to me that I would ask you, Mr. Speaker, to consider as you and as others take a look at where they might come down on their particular choice of nominees and the things that are important here in the United States of America, and I would submit this approach, and that is that there are a whole series of issues that are important to us and we talk about them and we debate them constantly. But we often overlook the necessity to prioritize those issues.

I will say there are roughly about 10 big issues out there that get discussed on the parts of Republicans and Democrats as we turn the focus of America towards who will be the next leader of the free world, the next commander-in-chief of the strongest nation in the world, the unchallenged superpower in the world.

Those issues include items such as Social Security reform and health care reform and tax reform, fiscal responsibility. The social programs, education for example, would be another one. How strong should our military be? How do we fight our enemies globally. How to do we get to the point where we can declare one day in this global war on terror against Islamic jihadists? And how do we secure our borders and how do we reestablish the, I will call it the sanctity of this Nation, the sovereignty of America? How do we reestablish that? How do we reestablish the rule of law in this country when we have watched the rule of law and the enforcement of our laws decline over the last 20 years, a little bit more than 20 years, I will say since the 1986 amnesty bill that Ronald Reagan signed and defined as amnesty?

What about the appointments that will be made to the Supreme Court but by the next president of the United States? As most of the pundits have analyzed, it looks like it will be perhaps two appointments to the Supreme Court that will come up in the next term. Those two appointments that are anticipated will change the balance in the court and perhaps have more impact on the destiny of America, and I will say will be the legacy of the next President. There will be big questions such as will Rowe versus Wade be overturned? Will the States be then in a position where they can determine their policy on protecting innocent, unborn human life?

The issue of marriage is coming forward here in this Nation. It is under assault across this country. It happens to be a bellwether issue within the State of Iowa. Judge Robert Hansen overturned Iowa's Defense of Marriage Act. In that decision, he just unilaterally erased the will of the Iowa people and replaced it with his own. That case is going before the Supreme Court. That will be determined.

If the decision of Judge Hansen is upheld, Iowa then becomes the Mecca for same-sex marriage, because there is not a residency requirement, which means then that weekend packages from Las Vegas or San Francisco traveling to Iowa for same sex couples to get married, and then they will go back to their home States to file suit.

These are big issues, Mr. Speaker, the issue of innocent human life, the issue of marriage, the institution, which goes all the way back to the Garden of Eden, and it is transcended and that sacrament of marriage has been preserved since before original sin and it survived the great flood, but it is under assault now from judicial activists. Those, life and marriage, will likely be determined by the next two appointments to the Supreme Court.

And will we have a President that understands that the Constitution means what it says and it means what it was understood to mean, the text of the Constitution means what it was understood to mean when it was ratified by our forebearers, and that each amendment means what it was understood to mean when it was ratified? It is not a living, breathing document, not a changing document, but a document that is a guarantee to the people here in the United States. The next President will make those decisions.

Of all the issues that I have laid out here, including our border security and our national security, which many times are wrapped up into one, and the refurbishment of the rule of law, which I believe is the central pillar of American exceptionalism, all of that is up for grabs in the presidential race that is being played out across America State By State. The world watches. The world watches because it affects them, because we will be electing the next leader in the free world.

Of all of these issues that I have laid out, Mr. Speaker, I would ask you to put those issues down into two different columns. I would label those two columns. On the one side I would label it the column called quality of life issues.

The quality of life issues are those issues that probably don't turn the destiny of America. They will change our quality of life and raise our standard of living perhaps and give us a little better security, but if we get them wrong, we can go back and try them again.

One of those issues that I would put in the quality of life side of thing would be the health care issue. That is about all they talk about over on the other side of the aisle, Mr. Speaker, except for change, change, change, change, and that may be what is in your pocket, Mr. Speaker. But when you don't say what you would change to, you are just going to change from what we are to something else under the presumption that doing something different, even if it is wrong, is better than what we are doing now, isn't good enough for the American people.

The American people are going to want to know what you would change from and what you would change to, what you would make different and why and what is the rationale. That will be a requirement moving into the general election. It may not be a requirement in the primary election, that change.

But the issues in the two categories, the one category which is quality of life issues, and I put health care in there. We can do some things with health care, and I think we should. And if we get some of those wrong, we can back up and we can try again and try to get it right. In fact, we have been doing that for some time, and I expect we will do that for some time. Health care belongs in the quality of life side, not in the destiny side, because it probably doesn't change the destiny of America, but it something that has to do with our quality of life. It is important.

It is important like Social Security reform is also important, Mr. Speaker. And we are here now with a bankrupt Social Security program. It has been a couple of years since I have checked the numbers, but the Social Security trust fund, the last time I checked it was $1.74 trillion. That is how much money this Congress owes the trust fund.

The trust fund is in little bonds in Parkersburg, West Virginia, in filing cabinets. I have a copy of one. It says $3.54 billion on this little piece of paper. It is an IOU from the government written to the government. But we haven't prepared to pay the Social Security liability that accrues starting as we go into the red, the deficit spending in 2016 or 2017, and then by 2042, all of the surplus is spent and now we are digging ourselves an even deeper hole.

But it happens to us in 2016 and 2017, because already the Social Security trust fund couldn't be trusted. That money has all been spent, and we have simply written ourselves an IOU and we have decided to take the paper out of this pocket, write ourselves an IOU of $1.74 trillion and take it and put it over in this pocket, because there is nothing in this trust fund.

It is important that we address the reform of Social Security, but if we don't do it this year or next year or 4 years from now, it gets harder and harder, but it probably doesn't change the destiny of America. So I put that over also in the quality of life side along with health care.

Then we come to tax reform. I am listening as my colleagues debate this around in committee and on the floor, Mr. Speaker, about what we will do about this impending recession. Well, the first question is, are we in a recession? And I can't quite hear somebody say yes, we are.

Most of the time we don't know we are in one until we look back and realize that we were, Mr. Speaker. So I am not going to submit that we are in a recession today. I would submit though that we are constantly on our way into one. We are either on our way to a boom or on our way to a bust or some minimized version of either.

So, yes, we are likely, since we have had this long, long period of unprecedented growth here in America, chances are we are going to have to make some corrections. And this economy is not an economy, and no free market economy has ever been, the kind where you just simply said we are going to grow this economy out, let's just say 3.5 percent a year, and we will lay the ruler on the graph, lift it up to a 3.5 percent growth and strike ourselves a line out there and say we are going to be on target every single day. It doesn't work that way, Mr. Speaker.

The way it works is that you have little periods of growth and little periods of decline, and as the graph ratchets its way up, if you look at it in more of an illuminated perspective, it looks more like a sawtooth, where it goes up and down and up and down. But all the while while that is happening, our gross domestic product is increasing, people are earning more money, our capital base is growing, and this economy that now sits here, as it has in the past year, the dollar went out past historical limits a whole series of numbers of times, it has grown exponentially from where it was 20 years ago. We have that much more assets to work with, an economy that is growing.

But if this category of our economic growth and our tax reform, if we get it wrong, we can back up and try again. We have been backing up and trying it again for over 200 years here in America.

So I will submit that tax reform also belongs over here in the category of quality of life issues, issues that are important to us, issues that have to do with whether we will be in a boom or whether we will be in a decline, and how much prosperity might be there and how we provide a tax program that takes the burden off of sectors of the economy so that they can earn, save and invest and expect a return off their investment. But I don't think the tax reform issue is a destiny issue. I think it is a quality of life issue.

While I am on that subject, Mr. Speaker, I want to address this issue that is before this Congress about whether there is going to be some kind of a check, a payout to everybody to stimulate the economy. Will we send somebody a rebate on their taxes and give everybody $200 of walking around money so they can go out in the streets and buy some Gucci bags and go to the massage parlor, like what happened with some checks that went to the southern part of the United States not that long ago? Is that a way to get us out of that economy?

When I think about that, I back up to 1992, Mr. Speaker, when Bill Clinton was elected President. He came into this city, was inaugurated in January of 1993, and immediately he said to this Congress, I need a $30 billion economic incentive plan, because the recession that had been kind of illustrated and probably was part of the imagination of the political campaign, I will argue it didn't really exist, but in order to get rid of it, he had to have this creation of this recession, President Clinton needed an economic incentive plan.

So he asked this Congress to appropriate $30 billion to go into make-work projects, make-work projects that we might see today as AmeriCorps. In fact, I think it actually came out of that inspiration. But the idea was to borrow $30 billion and put it into the hands of Americans and have that money be spent out into the streets of America, and then now this recession that he thought we were in would be solved because money would be spent into the economy and stimulate the economy.

Well, the $30 billion economic incentive package that was requested by President Clinton in the first month of his first term in office in 1993, was debated in this Congress from $30 billion down to $17 billion, and finally they concluded that $17 billion wasn't enough to make any kind of a difference and they just kind of dropped it.

Well, now we are up to about, one request I have heard was $300 billion to put into the hands of people, borrowed money so it could be spent to stimulate the economy. Other arguments are that we should cut corporate income tax and capital gains and a few other things, and I do support those changes.

But what needs to happen, Mr. Speaker, is the Bush tax cuts need it to be made permanent. The two tax cuts in 2001 and 2003 saved us from I believe a severe recession and perhaps a depression because there was enough vision in the eyes and in the mind of President Bush that we were under assault from a lot of ways. One was al Qaeda. The financial center had been attacked, and the things that had been designed to drive us down needed to be stimulated back the other way.

So we did those tax cuts in 2001. We did them in 2003. And this economy has boomed. Sometime last April, this government collected more money in a single day than had ever been collected before, stimulated by tax cuts.

□ 2030

And today we are hanging in the balance. The whole series of tax cuts winds down in 2010 and disappear and expire because they were set up to sunset, and politically that was the way that they were sold. And, of course, if those tax cuts sunset, they become tax increases; and those tax increases will be tax increases on capital gains, there will be a personal and corporate income tax. There will be tax increases on the estate tax, the death tax. And all of those things are in the way they prevent people from planning, they take away their confidence in this economy. And when you take away confidence in an economy, the result is people don't invest, they don't expand, they don't create jobs. And if you are not creating jobs and if you are not able to increase wages and benefits, then the money that is in people's pockets diminishes and they spend less money and this economy collapses eventually.

Extending the Bush tax cuts and making them permanent would be the single most effective thing we could do to cause this economy to turn around the other way and head back up again for another long period of economic growth. The single most important thing this Congress has a chance to do, and I believe that as history looks back on this time they will say, you had your chance, this was it. And I submit, Mr. Speaker, we should take that chance.

But back to this subject at hand of these quality of life issues. Tax reform is quality of life, because the dynamics in the economy are tied to it. Health

care is quality of life, because the very care that we get that gives us this robust health that we have enjoyed comes from the policies we put in place there and the incentives we put in place, and a lot of it is getting the regulations out of the way. And reforming Social Security is another quality of life issue. Those issues over on that side, quality of life, let's weigh them for the importance that they are.

But the decision that we are making in this Presidential race isn't a decision necessarily about what the quality of life will be for the Americans that live in the next 4 years, the first 4 years of the next term, or the next 8 years for that matter. This decision is far more important than our quality of life that will take place between 2009 and perhaps as late as 2017.

No, Mr. Speaker, the decision the American people need to make is a destiny decision. We need to be making a decision in this country about who will be the best leader in the free world that moves us forward, that lays the foundation down on the tracks so that the next generations will have that foundation to build on so that they can achieve the American Dream and they can aspire to leaving the world a better place than it was when they came, as we have had that responsibility handed to us from our fathers and our forefathers.

But I want to make an argument here, Mr. Speaker, about how important this is, in a sense of this country that we are that is America.

First of all, the Founders came here to the United States of America and they had a vision. That vision first was that our rights come from God. They don't come from humanity. They are not endowed upon us by a king or a foreign prince and potentate. They are not endowed upon us by a dictator. Our rights come directly from God. And they come directly to the people. And then the people hand that responsibility over to government to govern them, but always under the will of the people and always with the rights that are guaranteed to the people. And if this foundation of this great Nation, those values that we hold dear are diminished, if they are eroded, if we don't build upon that foundation, the next generation doesn't have a good foundation to build upon.

The culture that is created from the Constitution and from our religious values and our values of family and faith and freedom and free market economy and property rights, if this culture that is the culture of the United States of America that has within it the vitality of millions of immigrants that came here legally, that have injected their vitality into this overall American culture with an appreciation for the host country that is here and an obligation that they happily provide, which is to give back to this country, the country that so gladly welcomed them.

This vitality that is this Nation, this vitality of this culture is what raises up the leaders of today. And the culture of a generation ago was the culture that raised up the leaders of a generation ago, and so on, and so it goes as you look back through the history of America all the way back to before the Revolutionary War. So each generation is built upon the previous generation, and the leaders of each generation are produced and raised up by the culture, by the values of the current time.

And today, the values of the United States of America in their aggregate raise up the leaders that come in here to serve in this United States Congress. The culture of every 435 districts produces the leader that represents each of the 435 districts; and the cultures in the States produces the Senators, two for each of the 50 States that go to serve in the United States Senate. And the values of the congressional districts and the values of the States are the values that, at least presumably, are embodied within the people who are elected to come and serve in this United States Congress, Mr. Speaker.

The culture raises up the leaders, and the leaders reflect the values of their time and their place. And then the decisions that are made by the leaders, and I will take this to the decisions made by the President of the United States, lay the foundation and alter the culture and shift the values and set the principles that shift the culture for the next generation. And if we shift this culture now, the next generation will react to it, will reflect the new values of the new culture that has been changed by the decisions made by the leaders today.

That is why it is so important that we turn our focus to the destiny issues and begin to ask the question, who will best lead this country? Who will best lay the foundation for the decisions that will be made that will affect the formation and the shaping of the values of America which are our culture? Who will make those decisions?

And as I look forward into this, I will argue that those are the destiny decisions, Mr. Speaker, those issues that change the destiny of America. And when the destiny of America is changed, it shifts the culture, and the foundation of the culture will be the foundation that our entire culture grows from, that young people learn about.

Now, this menu of life that I had when I was a young boy in the early 1950s in Iowa, Mr. Speaker, was not quite such a varied menu of life as our young people growing up in America have today. I had a very, very bright black and white list on what was right and what was wrong, and what I could do and what I couldn't do. And it covered a whole gamut of things between telling the truth and working industriously and helping my fellow man and having a strong, faithful Christian background, and having a duty to my father and my mother and later on my wife and my children, and knowing that I needed to teach them in these same values so that they would go out and go to work every day and they would carry the values of our faith and our family and our freedom.

A lot more freedom has been injected into this society, a lot of it through the 1960s, and not just sexual freedom but freedom that has to do with illegal drugs and freedom for a lifestyle that is far more permissive than the lifestyle that was permitted in the environment that I grew up in, Mr. Speaker. Those are cultural changes. Our music reflects it, our literature reflects it, our movies reflect it, and our television reflect the shifts and the differences in our culture, and they reflect the differences in our values.

For example, could one imagine that there would be sitcoms and serial programs on TV that have to do with same-sex marriage or same-sex relationships even 10 years ago, let alone 20, 30, 40, 50 years ago. And I would say maybe 10 years ago, not much earlier than that could one have conceived of such a thing. That is how far this society has been moved quickly, much of it by the courts, much of it by the liberal media in the movie industry and the television entertainment industry. But the permissiveness is different than the society that I grew up in, and our values have changed.

Now, I am not one of the people who sits over on that side of the aisle and believe that change itself is a goal. I am one who thinks that we should be rooted in our values; we should identify the central pillar and all of the other pieces of the foundation of American exceptionalism, and we should refurbish those pillars of American exceptionalism and we should diminish those things that undermine those pillars of exceptionalism. But the permissiveness that has grown has changed our culture. And because of that, it is reflected here on the floor of Congress, and in such a way that I can go to St. Peter's Square and go to communion with more than one Member of Congress, and then next week come back here and on the floor hear one of those Members of Congress who walked to communion with the new Pope Benedict XVI, a very pro-life faith that we have, and have that Member that went to communion come to the floor and argue that there should be a constitutional right to partial-birth abortion. What a twist and a shape in our civilization and our society.

What that says about the foundation of our culture, that is something that has got to be shifted back, Mr. Speaker. It has got to be shifted back, and it needs to be changed at the Supreme Court level and all the Federal courts all the way down.

When we have law schools in America that teach the Constitution from case law and not from the text of the Constitution; if they presume that the students that come there read the Constitution and understand it, I don't know where they think they got the education. But when they teach that

the case law controls and the text of the Constitution does not control, that is something that has got to have a dramatic shift if we are to have any guarantee. And when I realized that, and I know that we have three or four members, maybe even more, of the Supreme Court that think that the Constitution is this living, breathing document that is there for them to manipulate at their will, and when I think of the prospect of one or two or more justices in the Supreme Court potentially being nominated by a liberal President and confirmed by a United States Senate that believe that the Constitution can mean what a judge wants it to mean, especially if it is an activist decision because of a judge that might conclude a result rather than the text, I think that is wrong, Mr. Speaker, and I think it puts our constitutional guarantees at risk.

We have an issue before the Supreme Court that was just heard the other day on the second amendment, and there was an amicus brief that was offered apparently before the Court and by the White House that the second amendment is an individual constitutional right, but it could be regulated by political subdivisions, by cities or counties or States. And I could argue that if you are going to guarantee my second amendment rights but tell political subdivisions that they don't have to respect that constitutional right, that it is no right at all. And we need judges that understand that. We need appointments to the Supreme Court that understand that this Constitution means what it says, and we need Federal judges appointed all the way down the line with that philosophy.

I dream of the day that, for example, when Justice Roberts went before the United States Senate and he spoke about his beliefs in the Constitution and his understanding of case law, he went through that confirmation. And when he handled that in an exceptional fashion, it was extraordinarily impressive and absolutely worthy of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. I thought I detected a tone that was more constitutional in Justice Alito's confirmation hearings, when I recall him speaking more openly about the Constitution meaning what it says, and having less deference to case law and more deference to the text of this Constitution. And I dream of the day that, in order to get confirmed to the Supreme Court or perhaps confirmed at any Federal court level, Mr. Speaker, that an appointee would have to profess belief and conviction in the text of the Constitution rather than the deference to case law that may have been manipulated by liberal judges that have come before them.

Those appointments to the Supreme Court, if we are successful in confirming those judges that believe the Constitution means what it says and that it is not a living, breathing document, if we get appointments and confirmation of those kind of judges, at some point the law schools will have to start teaching the Constitution for what it says, not for what some piece of case law might say about that Constitution. And I think we should be able to drill back to the Constitution and always anchor it in the text of the Constitution. If we get appointments to the Supreme Court that do so, we can transform the guarantees that we have, and we can change the dynamics within all the law schools in America, and we can change the understanding here in the House of Representatives, and we can change the understanding of the Constitution in the United States Senate, and we can go back to those fundamental guarantees. Because after all, Mr. Speaker, if the Constitution doesn't mean what it says it means, if it is there, something that only a judge can determine is in the emanations and the penumbras of the Constitution itself, if that is all it is, then what guarantees do we have at all? Is the Constitution then some archaic document? Or is it a tool to be deployed by activist judges only for them to decide when they will amend the Constitution? Or is it a guarantee to the people of the United States as it was designed to be?

I would submit that if the Constitution were offered to the American people to be ratified with a little caveat there that, well, the judges will be able to rewrite or define it whenever they see fit, it would have never been ratified by the several States and would not be the document that has held together this free country that we are.

□ 2045

Destiny issues, Mr. Speaker. The appointments to the Supreme Court, the next one or two or perhaps more appointments to the Supreme Court, will redirect the destiny of America.

We either go into the abyss of judicial activism, the judicial activism that found a right to privacy that didn't exist, a right to abortion that didn't exist, and a Roe v. Wade decision that was poorly reasoned and an unjust mandate on the American people that has taken us down this path where next week will mark the 35th year of Roe v. Wade. We have already marked the 50 millionth innocent little unborn baby that has been aborted and not given a chance at life.

The solutions to our problems are in the generations that will come after us, and 50 million have been denied this opportunity to breathe this free air in America, creating a sin against this Nation and a hole in our heart and a vacuum that is filled by tens of millions of illegal immigrants that have come across our border. And we can't talk about that openly, Mr. Speaker, because it becomes a reactionary thing.

But we should put the whole formula together. The quality of life issues pale in comparison to the destiny issues, and the destiny of America is wrapped up in Roe v. Wade. Next week when we mark that 35th year, 50 million babies aborted before they had an opportunity to breathe free air and contribute to this society and have been denied the right to life.

Marriage is being attacked from all sides, mostly within the courts because they understand that they cannot win these cases to the legislatures across America, and they can't take their case to the United States Congress.

But it changes the destiny of a country if you destroy marriage. Some will say why am I worried about two people of the same sex getting married and moving next door to me; it doesn't affect my life. It may not affect my life if that were my neighborhood either. And I don't know that I would take a personal objection to that.

But I would ask, Mr. Speaker, that people step back and take a broader look and think about how the culture gets shifted and changed, and think about the menu of life that little kids would have in a society where we would see a court impose same-sex marriage on America. If you can make the argument in court that two men ought to be able to get married and access all the benefits that are saved right now, preserved, protected and promoted for a man and woman joined together in holy matrimony because the State has an interest in promoting marriage because that is a crucible through which we pour all of our values. But if we open that up to a man and a man or a woman and a woman, what standard do we draw the line upon next? What standard do we say it can't be two men and a woman or two women and a man, or three women, or a brother and a sister and a mother? Where do we draw the line?

I recall some testimony before a hearing in the Judiciary Committee a couple of years ago, the now chairman of the Finance Committee said, Well, it would be two consenting adults. Two consenting adults doesn't satisfy a standard here in America. Two consenting adults could be twin brothers, a brother and a sister, a mother and a daughter, a mother and a son, a father and a daughter. Those things would all be rejected and objected to by society's norms today.

But is this about breaking down society's norms? Is it about breaking down our values? Is that really the agenda over here on this side of the aisle, Mr. Speaker? I will submit it is. The agenda is change, change, change. Change sells at every one of those Presidential rallies across the country because that is the mission of that side of the aisle. Change for what purpose?

I will submit that if I had a magic wand and an infinitely long list, and I could say that Speaker PELOSI and the people whom she works with and those philosophically aligned with her, you can make me a list of all the things on your wish list, and I will assume here in fantasy land that I have a magic wand and I can grant every wish.

So here we are in the middle of January, and you can spend all year long putting that wish list together, Madam Speaker. When it comes midnight, all of the things that you want to change, the full breadth of the imagination of your wish list and all of your ideological colleagues, put that list together and submit the list, and when the ball drops in Times Square to turn us into the new year 2009, at the stroke of midnight, with the help of the magic wand, could grant every wish on the wish list, I would argue that should that happen, and the deal would need to be you get your wish, but now you have to be quiet for the rest of your life. You fill out your wish list, and now you are going to have to be satisfied and live with the results of your request, and maybe even the consequences of your request, but just the results.

If that happened and the wish list were achieved at midnight, December 31, 2008, at the stroke of midnight on the new year of 2009, and the deal was no more complaints, you have to be happy you have finally gotten everything you wanted, now and forever, or even for a decade or a generation, that team that put the list together would stay up the rest of the night not celebrating but looking to see what it was that they forgot to change. What they wanted to tear down of society's values today or what they forgot to change for tomorrow.

There is no anchor. There is no philosophical anchor. There is no philosophical core because the core changes. For me and for my colleagues, we have a philosophical core, Mr. Speaker. This core is rooted in our constitutional values and the values that are laid out by our Founding Fathers and the rights that come from God and the values that are taught through the family that is joined together in holy matrimony. And the ethics of faith and worship and freedom and hard work and the obligation to leave this world a better place than it was when we came, that achievement of the American Dream, that laying out a culture that raises up the leaders for the next generation that will lay a new foundation on top of the old one so that the next generation can build on that and achieve the American Dream, all of that is wrapped up in the value system of the people that I go to conference with, the constituents that come out day after day after day to talk to me, to talk to nearly a multitude of Presidential candidates that went across Iowa for the past year or more.

These values matter. These destiny issues matter. The next two appointments to the Supreme Court matter, and those will be the appointments that will uphold all of our constitutional rights. They will uphold our second amendment rights, for example. And our rights to freedom of speech and religion and assembly. And they will understand the 10th amendment; the responsibility that the power is not designated for the Federal Government, are reserved for the States and the people, respectively. That devolution of power down to the States, that idea called federalism, the States' rights idea need to be preserved and promoted by the next President of the United States. We need to understand basic fundamental principles.

But the destiny of America is going to be tied to our ability to be able to produce leaders that make decisions today that lay the foundation, that shapes the culture that tomorrow raises up tomorrow's leaders who will then lay the next layer on top of that foundation.

And if we get it wrong, if we get a flaw, if we get a rotten piece in the foundation and we have to build upon that, we can't go back and take that section back and reform and reshape and repour it. The destiny issues we are stuck with. They are our decisions and we have to live with them, and that's why it is important.

So as I have spoken about Roe v. Wade and life and marriage and appointments to the Supreme Court and emphasize how important that is and how essential that we have a President who makes those appointments, and when he closes the door of the Oval Office after all of the lobbyists have come and gone and after all of the political supporters and advisor and the chief of staff and all of the people that advise the President, when they are all done weighing in and the door closes on the Oval Office, I want a leader in that office that I know shares my core values, Mr. Speaker. I want a leader in that office that I don't have to wonder about whether he is swayed by someone's special interest or whether he is swayed by some temporary benefit or some trade or some deal or some bargain or something other than the best interests in the long-term good for the United States of America as grounded in our core values and understanding the very principles that this Nation was founded upon and the necessity to adhere to those core principles and move forward and build another layer of a sound foundation.

That's what I want in a leader, Mr. Speaker. And those will be appointments to the Supreme Court that will shape the foundation of our culture and our destiny.

But another component of this, an essential core component of this, as I mentioned earlier, of all of the pillars of American exceptionalism, the pillars of faith and family and freedom and the Declaration and the Constitution and the free-market economy and property rights and the devolution of power from the Federal Government down to the States and the States' rights as separated within the 10th amendment, all of those issues are pillars of American exceptionalism.

And another pillar would be the vitality that comes with legal immigration. We have had the privilege in this country of having, for the most part of our history, a smart immigration policy that attracted people to come into the United States that had a dream. And many of them sold themselves into indentured servitude for perhaps 7 years just to get a boat ride from London to Baltimore, for example, and went to work and worked off their passage because they knew that they could become free and they could then go to work here and build a dream and raise a family.

I look back at my ancestors and what they have done, and most, if not all of them, have participated in that dream. But from every donor culture in civilization, we got the vitality of that culture and civilization.

The people who didn't have a dream, didn't find a way to get on a boat and come to the United States, they sat back where they were. They were content to live within that society and environment that didn't provide the opportunities that were here because they didn't want to take the risk or they didn't have the energy or just didn't share the dream. And I don't say that, Mr. Speaker, to diminish anyone who didn't come to the United States. I say that to identify that we skimmed the vitality off the top of every donor civilization that sent people here across the world. And they came here with an extra vigor and energy and dream, and we found a way to bring them together and assimilate them into a common culture, this greater overall American culture. And when they got tied together, they latched onto that opportunity and got in the harness and went to work. We found a vitality here that had never been created in any society or civilization anywhere in the world. That is often a missed component of American exceptionalism is the vitality that comes from the donor civilizations that sent legal immigrants here to the United States. That is a vitality that I want to preserve and promote and protect.

Another one of the reasons that we have been able to be a successful Nation, because we are a Nation not of men but a Nation of laws, of all of the pillars of American exceptionalism that I have mentioned, the central pillar of American exceptionalism, Mr. Speaker, is the rule of law. If we do not protect and preserve the rule of law, you can only then go back to what kind of political influence you have: who do you have favor with, who can you get to do you a favor, who can you get to set aside a law, and who will be immune to the law.

In this country, justice has always been equal for everyone regardless of their economic or their social status or their ethnicity or their national origin. If you are a member of the human race, you get the same version of justice in America and the same opportunity in America as anybody else. And it has not been about equality of results; it has been about equality of opportunity. Those protected civil rights that are identified in title VII of the Civil

Rights Act are there, and they need to be protected so everyone has an equal opportunity.

And the rule of law gives us that guarantee that we can work within that environment and that rule of law will protect our property rights and let us build, earn, saving and invest. But if we become a society and a civilization that has disregarded the rule of law and perhaps created contempt for the rule of law, I believe that central pillar of American exceptionalism would have been removed from our society or diminished or eroded to the point that it no longer has the credibility that it has, let me say that it had, 20 years ago.

□ 2100

I believe that pillar called the rule of law needs to be refurbished and restrengthened because it is essential for America to continue to be an exceptional Nation. For us to continue to be a leader in the free world, the leader in the free world, we simply must preserve and protect and refurbish the rule of law.

So as I look to the 1986 amnesty bill that was signed by Ronald Reagan, defined as amnesty, and if you lay the components of that bill down alongside the components of either one of the two Senate versions of the comprehensive immigration reform bill, the McCain-Kennedy bill, that's probably the one that most often defines it, the components of those bills, when you do a side-by-side comparison match up almost identically. The 1986 amnesty bill, the McCain-Kennedy comprehensive immigration reform bill match up side by side, piece by piece almost all the way down.

President Reagan called it amnesty. I remember the debate in New Hampshire the other night where it was alleged that anybody that says that anyone who supports comprehensive immigration reform in the Senate, or that anyone who calls comprehensive immigration reform in the Senate amnesty is a liar. That came out in the debate.

Mr. Speaker, that offends me, because I know what amnesty is and the American people know what amnesty is. And either of the two versions that were presented in the United States Senate last year was amnesty. And I don't know how anyone can argue otherwise, except to go back to the President's speech in about January 6 of 2004; that was the first aggressive effort to roll out comprehensive immigration reform. That speech attempted to redefine amnesty, and there's been an attempt on the part of the administration and the open borders crowd to redefine amnesty for the last 4 years.

You just can't trump Noah Webster, Mr. Speaker. People in America know what amnesty is. And if you wanted comprehensive immigration reform, which I'll call comprehensive amnesty, then you should have just stepped up to it and said, yes, we're for amnesty, and we're going to define for you what amnesty is, too, and we're going to also argue that we have to grant amnesty, or otherwise we can't accomplish the goals that we'd like to see with immigration reform.

If they would have made that argument, Mr. Speaker, and I don't make that argument, but if they had, their argument would have had a lot more credibility. But instead, the proponents of comprehensive immigration reform sought to redefine the term amnesty, and they got bogged down in trying to tell the American people that the word we understood to mean amnesty meant something different.

They argued that, well, it's not amnesty if somebody has to pay a fine. It's not amnesty if you make people learn English. It's not amnesty if you require them to pay their back taxes or pay their bills or be an honest citizen and not get locked up and be convicted of a felony.

Mr. Speaker, they argue that if you required all of those things, it wasn't amnesty. And so of all of those things that I've mentioned, those are required of people that would come here legally to become an American citizen, including pay the fee in order to be naturalized.

By the time you add up the dollars that are required to come into the United States legally and achieve a lawful permanent resident status and the fees for a green card, and the fees to be naturalized as a citizen, you're pretty close to the dollar figure that they first proposed would be necessary in order, if you're here illegally, to buy your way into legality. It's lawful permanent residence, a green card, naturalization, citizenship of the United States for sale for paying a fee that they called a fine that they said that they are going to absolve the issue of amnesty.

Now, the American people understand this, that when you commit a crime in America, there's a penalty for that that's listed in the penal code, whether it's a Federal law or whether it's a State law. And the penalty that's listed needs to be the one that's applied to the perpetrator upon conviction.

You can't go rob a bank and be looking at life in prison for robbing a bank, and after you rob the bank, they come along and change the law and say, well, now the penalty is only going to be a year in prison rather than life in prison. If you did that for a whole class of people, that would be amnesty. If you said to the bank robbers, you're going to have to pay a fine now instead of being locked up in prison for 10 or 20 years or life, and you did that to a whole class of people, that's amnesty.

The distinction for amnesty generally comes into, are you going to waive the penalty or reduce the penalty for a class of people for a crime they've already committed under a different penalty clause, a different penalty phase? If you do that, you're granting amnesty, Mr. Speaker.

And what is amnesty? I've defined this many times. It's many times in the Congressional RECORD. It's gone through the House Judiciary Committee. To grant amnesty is to pardon immigration lawbreakers and reward them with the objective of their crime. Pardon and reward. Pretty simple concept.

If people are here in the United States illegally, and the Senate gets their way, well, they actually voted it down over there, so some in the Senate who at least were aggressive enough to advance this got their way, then they would have pardoned the immigration lawbreakers en masse, by the tens of millions.

While I'm on that subject, you know, we've been saying here in this Congress for at least 5 years, there are 12 million illegals in America. Twelve million. It's interesting to me that last year we stopped 1,188,000 illegal border crossers on the southern border; that's the Border Patrol doing their job. And most of them self-deported, volunteered to go back to their home country. Most of them went across the line to the south to their home country; about two-thirds of them did. So we've stopped 1,188,000.

And according to testimony before the House Judiciary Committee, the Border Patrol says they stop a fourth to a third of those who try. So that means, and you do the math, about 4 million tried to go across the southern border. Most of them made it. Two out of every three, or three out of every four made it. You kind of do the math on that, 4 million border crossing attempts, and that works out to be about 11,000 a night trying to get across our southern border, most of them making it, the significant majority of them making it across the border, 11,000.

Now, what does that mean? Four million in a year. 11,000 a night, Mr. Speaker. To put that in context, I just ask the question, how large was Santa Ana's army? And go back and read the historical reports. Most of them will fall between five and 6,000 was the size of Santa Ana's army.

So every single night, coming across our southern border, on average, and I say night, not day, because most happens at night, the equivalent of twice the size of Santa Ana's army, 11,000 come pouring into the United States illegally, accumulating at a rate a lot faster than not just 12 million 5 years ago, but a number that I believe today significantly exceeds 20 million illegals in the United States of America, putting pressure on our social services, putting pressure on our health care, putting pressure on our schools, putting pressure on our infrastructure, our utilities, our roads, our streets, our sewers, our lights.

We're building infrastructure to accommodate for people that if ICE got there first wouldn't be there to put pressure on our infrastructure. And under the guise of what? The idea that the argument made by the open borders crowd, by the comprehensive amnesty people, and that would include

everybody on the Democrat ticket and some of the folks on the Republican ticket for President, Mr. Speaker, advocating that we need to legalize tens of millions of people here. And I guess you can eliminate law breaking if you just eliminate the laws.

They argue that this economy can't prosper if we don't have massive amounts of cheap labor, and that if they all went home tomorrow this economy would collapse.

Mr. Speaker, I'm here to put this into perspective for the American people. You have to think of this United States of America as one big company. 300 million people here. And of those 300 million people, we have a work force of about 142 million. And out of that work force, about 6.9 million of them are illegals working in our economy, 6.9 million of the 142 million.

If you do the math, you're going to come down to around 4.7 percent of the work force is illegal. And of that 4.7 percent, since they're lower skilled people, on average, they're doing only 2.2 percent of the work.

So, if you're managing a factory and say you're a good manager and you show up at 7:30 in the morning and your employees clock in at 8 o'clock and the production lines have to start and you run from 8 till 5 and you work 8 hours and you kick product out the door and you load it on trucks and it has to go every day in an 8-hour shift, you have to produce the gross domestic product of that company.

Well, this Nation has to do the same thing equivalently. So, at 7:30 in the morning, if you, as a manager of a company, discovered that 2.2 percent of your work force, remember, that's the percentage of the work that's being done, not the percentage of the work force; but if 2.2 percent of your work force wasn't going to show up, it would take about 5 minutes to type out a memo that would go to all the departments in your company that would say, we're going to have to make up for a loss of 2.2 percent of our production today and every day until we can hire enough people to replace those 2.2 percent that didn't show up.

And my memo would say this. Your coffee break in the morning isn't going to be 15 minutes today; it's going to be 9½ minutes. And your coffee break this afternoon isn't going to be 15 minutes, it's going to be 9½ minutes because we have to pick up 2.2 percent of the production if you're going to go home at 5 o'clock.

Now, I made that management decision today because you might have plans, but we can decide to work till 11 minutes after 5 every day and you can get your full coffee break morning and afternoon. But 2.2 percent of the work, if all the work in America was done in an 8-hour day, amounts to 11 minutes out of an 8-hour day. That's the impact of the illegal labor in our work force here in America.

And the rest of it's just distribution, Mr. Speaker. The rest of it's recruitment lines and it's training and it's education and it's letting the market work; letting companies that need labor go out there and do the recruitment, do the training.

It's never been easy. And I've been an employer most all of my life. I met payroll for over 28 years, 1,400 some consecutive weeks. And I can remember recruiting in the high schools and around and making sure that I had a good program out there so that we could hire good people. I didn't always make the best decision. But we were able to put together a good, reliable work force because that was part of our operation.

Today the argument is, well, no, we don't have people lined up for these jobs, and so, therefore, that proves we need to open the borders some more. Well, of course they're not lined up for the jobs. Of course they aren't; not if you're not going to pay them the wages that it takes so that people can take care of their families and pay their way in this society.

Supply and demand. And we're watching the middle class in America collapse because of a flood of cheap labor coming in on the low side of the economic spectrum to provide cheap labor in the factories for the elitists in America who are increasingly moving into gated communities and sending their children to Ivy League schools and believing that their descendants will all be able to live in the upper crust and have cheap labor to take care of their yards and their mansions and the labor in their factories, while the blue collar person in America, the one who, of the 16 or 17 percent of Americans who are high school dropouts, the American citizens that decide that education isn't in their future, but would like to go work in the local factory, punch the time clock and go in there and do an honest day's work for an honest day's pay, that dream that was achievable 20 years ago, that dream that would allow them, the blue collar people, lower educated people with a good work ethic to be able to punch the clock and do a day's work for a day's pay and buy a modest house and raise their family and go fishing and go to the ball game and do those things and be part of this society, that dream is almost gone, Mr. Speaker, because those jobs have been flooded and diminished by low skilled labor pouring into America. Labor is a commodity like corn and beans or gold or oil. And the value of it will be determined by supply and demand in the marketplace. And when you flood lower skilled jobs with low skilled people, you're going to see wages go down. They've, in fact, gone down in some of the categories. And unemployment in America has gone up within the categories of the lowest skill. There's direct evidence in this economy that the flood of cheap labor is holding wages down.

Twenty years ago, people that worked in the packing plant in my neighborhood were making about the same amount as a teacher. Today, they're making about half as much as a teacher is making, and they can't make it any longer. And so society pays the burden of health insurance and that burden on the schools on our infrastructure, while the companies get a discount on their labor.

We need to think this thing through, Mr. Speaker, and we need to hold the Presidential candidates, whether they're Democrats or Republicans accountable. We need to ask them, please define amnesty. Accept my definition; to pardon immigration lawbreakers and reward them with the objective of their crime. Pardon and reward. Accept that definition, take the oath not to promote amnesty, to veto any bill that might come before their desk that is amnesty. Let's have a little tighter labor supply in America. Let's re-establish the sovereignty of the United States of America by building the fence and end birthright citizenship, and apply our laws in the workplace to shut off the jobs magnet.

□ 2115

Let's let attrition kick in and let people make a decision to go back to their home country. They got here on their own; they can go home on their own.

We have got to build a country for America. We have to have an immigration policy that's designed to enhance the economic, the social and the cultural well-being of this country, and we need to export our values to other countries so they can build on the same dream. If we do that, not only would this Nation be a greater Nation but this planet and the people on it will be better off, and we will have achieved the American dream.

We will have not just left this Nation a better place for the people that come behind us; we'll have left this world a better place for the people that come behind us.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I thank you for your indulgence.

CORRECTION TO THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2008 AT PAGE H4

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE TO NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT, PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 913

Pursuant to House Resolution 913, and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members to the Committee on the part of the House to join a committee on the part of the Senate to notify the President of the United States that a quorum of each House has assembled and that Congress is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make:

The gentleman from Maryland, Mr. HOYER, and

The gentleman from Ohio, Mr. BOEHNER

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BARROW (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for January 15 on account of codel to Iraq.

Mr. TANNER (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of personal illness.

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of illness.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DEFAZIO) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HIGGINS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STUPAK, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SPRATT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. OLVER, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. GOHMERT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. LEWIS of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, January 23.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, January 23.

Mr. BURGESS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DREIER, for 5 minutes, January 17 and 18.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, for 5 minutes, January 23.

Mr. GOHMERT, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, January 17, 2008, at 10 a.m.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Speaker-Authorized Official Travel during the third and fourth quarters of 2007, pursuant to Public Law 95–384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, CATLIN O'NEILL, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN NOV. 25 AND DEC. 2, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Catlin O'Neill	11/25	11/27	Italy		292.00		(3)				292.00
	11/27	11/28	Chad		230.00		(3)				230.00
	11/28	11/30	Ethiopia		200.00		(3)				200.00
	11/30	12/1	Kenya		200.00		(3)				
	12/1	12/2	Belgium		167.00		(3)				167.00
Committee total					889.00						889.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

CATLIN O'NEILL, Dec. 30, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, ROSE AUMAN, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN DEC. 2 AND DEC. 8, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Rose Auman	12/03	12/08	Macedonia		1,185.00		7,918.07				9,103.07
Committee total					1,185.00		7,918.07				9,103.07

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

ROSE AUMAN, Jan. 3, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Dave Reichert	9/7	9/10	Kuwait/Iraq		210.00		9,374.12				9,584.12
Committee total					210.00		9,374.12				9,584.12

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

BENNIE G. THOMPSON, Chairman.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Plese note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

NICK J. RAHALL II, Chairman, Jan. 7, 2008.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

4924. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Revision of the Salable Quantity and Allotment Percentage for Class 3 (Native) Spearmint Oil for the 2007-2008 Marketing Year [Docket Nos. AMS-FV-07-0134; FV08-985-1 IFR] received December 26, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4925. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — National Organic Program (NOP); Amendments to the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances (Livestock) [Docket Number MAS-TM-07-0123; TM-03-04] (RIN: 0581-AC62) received December 26, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4926. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Pistachios Grown in California; Changes in Handling Requirements [Docket No. AMS-FV-07-0082; FV07-983-1 IFR] received December 26, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4927. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — National Organic Program (NOP); Amendments to the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances (Crops and Livestock) [Docket Number AMS-TM-07-0112; TM-06-04FR] (RIN: 0581-AC61) received December 26, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4928. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Oranges, Grapefruit, Tangerines, and Tangelos Grown in Florida; Decreased Assessment Rate [Docket No. AMS-FV-07-0088; FV07-905-1 FIR] received December 26, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4929. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Veterinary Diagnostic Services User Fees [Docket No. APHIS-2006-0161] (RIN: 0579-AC52) received December 26, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4930. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Thiabendazole; Threshold of Regulation Determination [EPA-HQ-OPP-2007-0546; FRL-8347-7] received January 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4931. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Poly(hexamethylenebiguanide) hydrochloride (PHMB); Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2005-0268; FRL-8345-8] received January 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4932. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Mesotrione; Pesticide Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2006-0093]; FRL-8344-3] received January 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4933. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Direct Grant Programs [DOCKET ID ED-2007-OCFO-0132] (RIN: 1890-AA15) received January 3, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

4934. A letter from the Attorney, Office of Assistant General Counsel for Legislation and Regulatory Law, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Standards for New Federal Commercial and Multi-Family High-Rise Residential Buildings and New Federal Low-Rise Residential Buildings [Docket No. EE-RM/STD-02-112] (RIN: 1904-AB13) received January 3, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4935. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Kern County Air Pollution Control District [EPA-R09-OAR-2007-1075; FRL-8506-2] received January 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4936. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan; National Priorities List [EPA-HQ-SFUND-1989-0007; FRL-8485-3] received January 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4937. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District [EPA-R09-OAR-2007-1104; FRL-8512-7] received January 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4938. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; Withdrawal of Direct Final Rule [EPA-R03-OAR-2007-0448; FRL-8493-2] received January 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4939. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; Revised Motor Vehicle Emission Budgets for the Charleston 8-Hour Ozone Maintenance Area [EPA-R03-OAR-2007-1010; FRL-8575-6] received January 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4940. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Fredericksburg and Shenandoah National Park 8-Hour Ozone Areas Movement from the Nonattainment Area List to the Maintenance Area List [EPA-R03-OAR-2007-1149; FRL-8515-4] received January 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4941. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Redesignation of the York (York and Adams Counties) 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area to Attainment and Approval of the Area's Maintenance Plan and 2002 Base Year Inventory [EPA-R03-OAR-2007-0625; FRL-8515-2] received January 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4942. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Redesignation of 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area to Attainment and Approval of the Areas' Maintenance Plans and 2002 Base-Year Inventories; Correction [EPA-R03-OAR-2007-0175; EPA-R03-OAR-2007-0476; EPA-R03-OAR-2007-0344; FRL-8515-1] received January 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4943. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana; VOC Emissions from Fuel Grade Ethanol Production Operations; Withdrawal of Direct Final Rule [EPA-R05-OAR-2007-0293; FRL-8490-2] received January 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4944. A letter from the Industry Operations Specialist, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — U.S. Munitions Import List and Import Restrictions Applicable to Certain Countries (2005R-5P) [Docket No. ATF-9F; AG Order No. 2922-2007] (RIN: 1140-AA29) received January 2, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4945. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, President's Pay Agent, transmitting a report justifying the reasons for the extension of locality-based comparability payments to categories of positions that are in more than one executive agency, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 5304(h)(2)(C); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4946. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Inspector General for the period April 1, 2007 through September 30, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4947. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Inspector General's semiannual report for the period April 1, 2007 through September 30, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4948. A letter from the Executive Director, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting purusant to Section 647(b) of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, a report on the Commission's competitive sourcing efforts for FY 2007; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4949. A letter from the Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's Annual Category Rating Report for calendar year 2006, pursuant to Public Law 107-296, section 3319; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4950. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting in accordance with Section 647(b) of Title VI of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, the Department's Report to Congress on FY 2007 Competitive Sourcing Efforts; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4951. A letter from the Chief Financial Officer, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting in accordance with Section 647(b) of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, the Department's report on competitive sourcing efforts for FY 2007; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4952. A letter from the Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's view on S. 274, the ''Federal Employee Protection of Disclosures Act''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4953. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General for Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting in accordance with Section 645 of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, the Department's report on competitive sourcing efforts for FY 2007; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4954. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, Department of Labor, transmitting purusant to Section 647(b) of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, a report on the Department's competitive sourcing efforts for FY 2007; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4955. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of the Interior, transmitting in accordance with Section 647(b) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub., L. 108-199, the Department's Report to Congress on FY 2007 Competitive Sourcing Efforts; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4956. A letter from the Federal Register Certifying Officer, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Government Participation in the Automated Clearing House (RIN: 1510-AB00) received January 3, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4957. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Management and Chief Financial Officer, Department of the Treasury, transmitting purusant to Section 647(b) of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, a report on the Department's competitive sourcing efforts for FY 2007; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4958. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the FY 2007 Annual Performance and Accountability Report in accordance with the Report Consolidation Act of 2000; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4959. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Election Commission, transmitting in accordance with Section 647(b) of Title VI of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, the Commission's Report to Congress on FY 2007 Competitive Sourcing Efforts; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4960. A letter from the Acting Chief of Staff, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, transmitting the FY 2007 annual report under the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA) of 1982, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4961. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting in accordance with Section 647(b) of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, the Comission's report on competitive sourcing efforts for FY 2007; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4962. A letter from the Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting in accordance with Section 647(b) of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, the Administration's report on competitive sourcing efforts for FY 2007; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4963. A letter from the Comptroller General, Government Accountability Office, transmitting a copy of the Office's report entitled, ''A Call for Stewardship: Enhancing the Federal Government's Ability to Address Key Fiscal and Other 21st Century Challenges''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4964. A letter from the President, James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation, transmitting the Foundation's Annual Report for the year ending September 30, 2007, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 4513; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4965. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting in accordance with Section 647(b) of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, and the Office of Management and Budget Memorandum M-08-02, the Administration's report on competitive sourcing efforts for FY 2007; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4966. A letter from the Chairperson, Amtrak Board of Directors, National Railroad Passenger Corporation, transmitting Amtrak's Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report to Congress for the period ending September 30, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4967. A letter from the Deputy Director for Administration and Information Management, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting in accordance with Section 647(b) of Title VI of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, the Office's Report to Congress on FY 2007 Competitive Sourcing Efforts; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4968. A letter from the President and CEO, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's annual Management Report for FY 2007, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4969. A letter from the Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting in accordance with Section 647(b) of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, and the Office of Management and Budget Memorandum M-08-02, the Commission's report on competitive sourcing efforts for FY 2007; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4970. A letter from the Administrator, Small Business Administration, transmitting the Administration's FY 2007 Agency Financial Report, pursuant to Public Law 106-351; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4971. A letter from the Acting Secretary, Smithsonian Institution, transmitting in accordance with Section 647(b) of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, the Institution's report on competitive sourcing efforts for FY 2004, FY 2005, FY 2006, or FY 2007; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4972. A letter from the Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting the third annual report of the Administration's use of the category rating system; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4973. A letter from the Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting in accordance with Section 647(b) of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, and the Office of Management and Budget Memorandum M-08-02, the Administration's report on competitive sourcing efforts for FY 2007; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4974. A letter from the Bureau of Legislative and Public Affairs, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting the Agency's Fiscal Year 2007 Agency Financial Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4975. A letter from the Chairman, U.S. Postal Service, transmitting the Service's report as required by Sections 706 and 707 of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4976. A letter from the Acting Director, U.S. Trade and Development Agency, transmitting the Agency's Annual Report for FY 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4977. A letter from the Acting Director, U.S. Trade and Development Agency, transmitting the Agency's Annual Report for FY 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4978. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for the Monterey Spineflower (Chorizanthe pungens var. pungens) [FWS-R8-ES-2007-0026] [92210-1117-0000] [ABC Code: B4] (RIN: 1018-AU83) received January 11, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

4979. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone: Lower Cowlitz River Dredging Operation; Longview, Washington [CGD Docket No. 13-07-049] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 2, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4980. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW), at Scotts Hill, NC [USCG-2007-0168] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received January 2, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4981. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operating Regulation; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (Algiers Alternate Route), Belle Chasse, LA [CGD08-07-042] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received January 2, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4982. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulated Navigation Area; Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts; Navigable Waterways within the First Coast Guard District [CGD01-04-133] (RIN: 1625-AB17) received January 2, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4983. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Rates for Pilotage on

the Great Lakes [USCG-2006-24414] (RIN: 1625-AB05) received January 2, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4984. A letter from the Attorney, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Vessel Documentation; Recording of Instruments [USCG-2007-28098] (RIN: 1625-AB18) received January 2, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4985. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Charenton Drainage and Navigation Canal, Baldwin, LA [CGD08-07-025] received January 2, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4986. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Jamaica Bay, New York, NY [CGD01-07-137] received January 2, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4987. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Kennebec River, Bath and Woolrich, ME [CGD01-07-136] received January 2, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4988. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Quinnipiac River, New Haven, CT [CGD01-07-091] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received January 2, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4989. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Nawiliwili Harbor, Kauai, Hawaii [CGD14-07-002] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received January 2, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4990. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Anchorage Regulations; Edgecomb, Maine, Sheepscot River [Docket No. CGD01-07-011] (RIN: 1625-AA01) received January 2, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4991. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Kahului Harbor, Maui, HI [Docket No. USCG-2007-0093] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received January 2, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4992. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands [COTP Guam 07-005] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received January 2, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4993. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regattas and Marine Parades; Great Lake annual marine events. [USCG-2007-27373] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received January 2, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4994. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Alameda County Sheriff's Office Maritime Interdiction Training, San Francisco Bay, CA [Docket No. COTP San Francisco Bay 07-051] (RIN 1625-AA00) received January 2, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4995. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone: Ambrose Light, Offshore Sandy Hook, New Jersey, Atlantic Ocean [CGD01-07-157] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 2, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4996. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone: Wantagh Parkway 3 Bridge over the Sloop Channel, Town of Hempstead, New York [Docket No. CGD01-07-150] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received January 2, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4997. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Calculating and Apportioning the Section 11(b)(1) Additional Tax under Section 1561 for Controlled Groups. [TD 9369] (RIN: 1545-BG40) received December 21, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4998. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — User Fees Relating to Enrollment to Perform Actuarial Services [TD 9370] (RIN: 1545-BG88) received December 21, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4999. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Section 1274.—Determination of Issue Price in the Case of Certain Debt Instruments Issued for Property (Also Sections 42, 280G, 382, 412, 467, 468, 482, 483, 642, 807, 846, 1288, 7520, 7872.) (Rev. Rul. 2008-4) received December 21, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5000. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Regulations Under Section 367(a) Applicable to Certain Outbound Reorganizations and Section 351 Exchanges [Notice 2008-10] received January 2, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5001. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Information Reporting Requirements Under Internal Revenue Code 6039 [Notice 2008-8] received December 21, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Ms. CASTOR: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 922. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3524) to reauthorize the HOPE VI program for revitalization of severely distressed public housing, and for other purposes (Rept. 110–509). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. FRANK: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 3959. A bill to amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to provide for the phase-in of actuarial rates for certain pre-FIRM properties; with an amendment (Rept. 110–510). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

REPORTED BILLS SEQUENTIALLY REFERRED

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the following action was taken by the Speaker:

H.R. 275. A bill to promote freedom of expression on the Internet, to protect United States businesses from coercion to participate in repression by authoritarian foreign governments, and for other purposes; referred to the Committee on the Judiciary for a period ending not later than February 1, 2008 for consideration of such provisions of the bill and amendment as fall within the jurisdiction of that committee pursuant to clause 1(k), rule X.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

[Omitted from the Record of January 3, 2008]

By Ms. BORDALLO (for herself and Mr. ABERCROMBIE):

H.R. 4931. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to include participation in clean-up operations at Eniwetok Atoll as a radiation-risk activity for purposes of laws administered by Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

By Ms. BORDALLO:

H.R. 4932. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to make certain additional plans eligible to participate in the health benefits program under chapter 89 of such title.

By Ms. BORDALLO (for herself, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California):

H.R. 4933. A bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to protect captive wildlife and to make technical corrections, and for other purposes.

[Submitted January 16, 2008]

By Mrs. CUBIN:

H.R. 4983. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain acrylic fiber tow; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. CUBIN:

H.R. 4984. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain acrylic fiber tow; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CHABOT:

H.R. 4985. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Penta Amino Aceto Nitrate Cobalt III; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SKELTON (for himself and Mr. HUNTER):

H.R. 4986. A bill to provide for the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, as previously enrolled, with certain modifications to address the foreign sovereign immunities provisions of title 28, United States Code, with respect

to the attachment of property in certain judgements against Iraq, the lapse of statutory authorities for the payment of bonuses, special pays, and similar benefits for members of the uniformed services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services. considered and passed.

By Mr. JONES of North Carolina (for himself and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 4987. A bill to require construction of fencing and security improvements in the border area from the Pacific Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 4988. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Orgasol; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 4989. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on stainless steel single piece exhaust gas manifolds; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WAXMAN (for himself and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD):

H.R. 4990. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to include all public clinics for the distribution of pediatric vaccines under the Medicaid Program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WAXMAN (for himself and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD):

H.R. 4991. A bill to amend the Social Security Act, the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, and the Public Health Service Act to ensure a sufficient supply of vaccines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WAXMAN (for himself and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD):

H.R. 4992. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of federally recommended vaccines under Medicare part B; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WAXMAN (for himself and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD):

H.R. 4993. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the availability of vaccines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, Ways and Means, and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BERRY:

H.R. 4994. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain inflatable mattresses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CANTOR (for himself, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. CAMPBELL of California, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. MCHENRY, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. HERGER, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. AKIN, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. PITTS, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. GOODE, Ms. FOXX, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. KING of Iowa, and Mr. PENCE):

H.R. 4995. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce corporate marginal income tax rates, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MCDERMOTT:

H.R. 4996. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on modified steel leaf spring leaves; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MCDERMOTT:

H.R. 4997. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on certain suspension system stabilizer bars; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. NEUGEBAUER:

H.R. 4998. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on mixtures of methyl 4-iodo-2-[3-(4-methoxy-6-methyl-1,3,5- triazin-2-yl)ureidosulfonyl] benzoate, sodium salt(Iodosulfuron methyl, sodium salt) and application adjuvants; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. NEUGEBAUER:

H.R. 4999. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Mesosulfuronmethyl; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. NEUGEBAUER:

H.R. 5000. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures containing (R)-2-[4-(6-chloro-1,3-benzoxazol-2-yloxy)phenoxy]propionate (Fenoxaprop Ethyl), (CAS No. 71283-80-2), 5-hydroxy-1,3-dmiethylpyrazol-4-yl 2-mesyl-4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl ketone (Pyrafulfotole) (CAS No. 365400-11-9), 2,6-dibromo-4-cyanophenyl octanoate (Bromoxynil octanoate) (CAS No. 1689-99-2), and 2,6-dibromo-4-cyanophenyl heptanoate (Bromoxynil heptanoate) (CAS No. 56634-95-8); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 5001. A bill to authorize the Administrator of General Services to provide for the redevelopment of the Old Post Office Building located in the District of Columbia; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. TAUSCHER:

H.R. 5002. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Deltamethrin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. TAUSCHER:

H.R. 5003. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Tetramethrin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. TAUSCHER:

H.R. 5004. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on flumiclorac pentyl ester; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. TAUSCHER:

H.R. 5005. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Flumioxasin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. TAUSCHER:

H.R. 5006. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Acephate; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. TAUSCHER:

H.R. 5007. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Resmethrin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. TAUSCHER:

H.R. 5008. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Cypermethrin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. TAUSCHER:

H.R. 5009. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on s-Methoprene; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. TAUSCHER:

H.R. 5010. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Clothianidin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. TAUSCHER:

H.R. 5011. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Permethrin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. TAUSCHER:

H.R. 5012. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on artichokes, prepared or preserved by vinegar or acetic acid; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. TAUSCHER:

H.R. 5013. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on artichokes, prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid, not frozen; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. TAUSCHER:

H.R. 5014. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on oysters (other than smoked), prepared or preserved; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. TAUSCHER:

H.R. 5015. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain sardines in oil, in airtight containers, neither skinned nor boned; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. TAUSCHER:

H.R. 5016. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on S-Abscisic Acid; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. TAUSCHER:

H.R. 5017. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Pyrethrum Extract; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. TAUSCHER:

H.R. 5018. A bill to extend the suspension of duty on Fenpropathrin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. TAUSCHER:

H.R. 5019. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Tralemethrin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. TAUSCHER:

H.R. 5020. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Bioallethrin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. TAUSCHER:

H.R. 5021. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on S-Bioallethrin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. TAUSCHER:

H.R. 5022. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Bispyribac-sodium; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. TAUSCHER:

H.R. 5023. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Dinotefuran; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. TAUSCHER:

H.R. 5024. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Etoxazole; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. TAUSCHER:

H.R. 5025. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Pyriproxyfen; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. TAUSCHER:

H.R. 5026. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Uniconazole; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WEXLER:

H.R. 5027. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on integral flow controllers, certified by the importer exclusively for installation in semiconductor wafer fabrication machines; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WEXLER:

H.R. 5028. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that group health plans provide coverage for pervasive developmental disorders such as autism; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. YOUNG of Florida:

H.R. 5029. A bill to designate the name for the medical facilities being constructed at the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland, to replace Walter Reed Army Medical Center; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SKELTON:

H. Con. Res. 279. Concurrent resolution providing for an adjournment of the House; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. LEE (for herself, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. WATERS, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. WAXMAN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. RUSH, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois):

H. Con. Res. 280. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of ''National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H. Res. 921. A resolution providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 4253, with an amendment; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. BACHMANN (for herself, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. RAMSTAD, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, and Mr. OBERSTAR):

H. Res. 923. A resolution recognizing the State of Minnesota's 150th anniversary; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. BRALEY of Iowa (for himself, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. KING of Iowa):

H. Res. 924. A resolution congratulating Iowa State University of Science and Technology for 150 years of leadership and service to the United States and the world as Iowa's land-grant university; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. POE:

H. Res. 925. A resolution condemning the People's Republic of China for its socially unacceptable business practices, including the manufacturing and exportation of unsafe products, casual disregard for the environment, and exploitative employment practices; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. SUTTON:

H. Res. 926. A resolution recognizing the importance of food, product safety, and U.S. trade policy; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WEXLER (for himself, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. MAHONEY of Florida):

H. Res. 927. A resolution commending the Florida Atlantic University Owls for their historic win in the 2007 RL Carriers New Orleans Bowl; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. LIPINSKI introduced A bill (H.R. 5030) for the relief of Corina de Chalup Turcinovic; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 136: Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina.
H.R. 192: Mr. GILCHREST.
H.R. 219: Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 241: Mrs. BIGGERT.
H.R. 248: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 303: Mrs. LOWEY.
H.R. 549: Mr. REYNOLDS.
H.R. 631: Mr. BROUN of Georgia.
H.R. 782: Mr. HARE.
H.R. 958: Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 992: Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 997: Mr. REYNOLDS.
H.R. 1014: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 1076: Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 1084: Mr. SMITH of Washington and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 1279: Mr. WALSH of New York.
H.R. 1352: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 1386: Mr. SHAYS and Mr. GERLACH.
H.R. 1391: Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 1418: Mr. GORDON.
H.R. 1521: Mr. KLEIN of Florida.
H.R. 1553: Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. ANDREWS, and Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland.
H.R. 1576: Mr. ETHERIDGE and Mr. MATHESON.
H.R. 1609: Mr. KIRK, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. HODES, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. TAYLOR.
H.R. 1621: Mr. WAXMAN and Ms. SOLIS.
H.R. 1665: Mr. LATOURETTE.
H.R. 1783: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 1824: Mr. NEUGEBAUER.
H.R. 1843: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.
H.R. 1888: Ms. BEAN.
H.R. 1927: Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 1957: Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 2073: Mr. ROTHMAN.
H.R. 2141: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H.R. 2169: Mr. BAIRD and Mr. ACKERMAN.
H.R. 2210: Mr. ROTHMAN.
H.R. 2343: Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 2470: Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky.
H.R. 2564; Mr. GOODE.
H.R. 2702: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 2708: Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. ALLEN, and Ms. WOOLSEY.
H.R. 2723: Mr. MORAN of Virginia.
H.R. 2762: Mr. HODES and Mrs. GILLIBRAND.
H.R. 2790: Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida and Mr. DOYLE.
H.R. 2862: Mr. PETRI.
H.R. 2994: Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. ROSS, and Ms. HOOLEY.
H.R. 3029: Mrs. CAPPS.
H.R. 3094: Mr. SESTAK and Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 3099: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 3140: Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. PORTER, and Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 3257: Mr. ETHERIDGE.
H.R. 3282: Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 3304: Mr. CHABOT and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3326: Mr. STARK.
H.R. 3327: Mr. LIPINSKI and Mrs. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 3334: Mr. LANGEVIN.
H.R. 3359: Mr. MACK, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
H.R. 3457: Mr. HERGER.
H.R. 3533: Ms. WOOLSEY and Mr. WOLF.
H.R. 3546: Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. DELAHUNT, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
H.R. 3609: Mr. BACA.
H.R. 3622: Mr. CROWLEY and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 3630: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.
H.R. 3639: Mr. SHAYS.
H.R. 3652: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.
H.R. 3654: Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, and Mr. SMITH of Texas.
H.R. 3663: Mr. LYNCH, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. HALL of New York, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. FATTAH, and Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 3670: Mr. HERGER.
H.R. 3865: Mr. WU, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 3926: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.
H.R. 3934: Mr. CHABOT.
H.R. 3968: Mr. PLATTS.
H.R. 4014: Ms. RICHARDSON.
H.R. 4015: Ms. RICHARDSON.
H.R. 4016: Ms. RICHARDSON.
H.R. 4029: Mr. WYNN.
H.R. 4105: Mr. HINCHEY and Ms. WOOLSEY.
H.R. 4204: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. HARE, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 4206: Mr. MCHUGH.
H.R. 4207: Mr. HOBSON, Mr. COOPER, and Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 4221: Ms. HOOLEY.
H.R. 4236: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. RUSH, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. SHULER, Mr. WYNN, and Mr. PASTOR.
H.R. 4247: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 4248: Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. DENT, and Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 4264: Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 4266: Mr. CHANDLER.
H.R. 4297: Mr. KAGEN.
H.R. 4318: Mr. WAMP and Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky.
H.R. 4327: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.
H.R. 4355: Mr. BOUCHER and Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.
H.R. 4461: Mrs. DRAKE.
H.R. 4544: Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. CUELLAR, Mrs. CUBIN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Ms. HARMAN.
H.R. 4660: Ms. WOOLSEY.
H.R. 4835: Mr. HARE, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. KAGEN.
H.R. 4882: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California and Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.
H.R. 4915: Mr. EHLERS, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. COBLE.
H.R. 4926: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. KENNEDY, and Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 4959: Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. MOORE of Kansas.
H. Con. Res. 2: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.
H. Con. Res. 26: Ms. DEGETTE.
H. Con. Res. 27: Ms. DEGETTE.
H. Con. Res. 28: Mr. CULBERSON and Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas.
H. Con. Res. 154: Mrs. MYRICK and Mr. ENGEL.
H. Con. Res. 198: Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. MARKEY.
H. Con. Res. 253: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. SNYDER, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. RUSH.
H. Con. Res. 257: Mr. MCCOTTER.
H. Con. Res. 267: Mr. SPACE, Mr. HERGER, and Mr. LOBIONDO.
H. Res. 111: Mr. MURTHA.
H. Res. 185: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H. Res. 652: Mr. COSTA.
H. Res. 692: Mr. MCCOTTER.
H. Res. 821: Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.
H. Res. 834: Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mr. HINCHEY.
H. Res. 854: Mr. ROTHMAN.
H. Res. 886: Mr. AKIN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. PITTS, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. GOODE, Ms. FOXX, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. PENCE, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. SALI, Mr. WAMP, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. DOOLITTLE, and Mr. BRADY of Texas.

H. Res. 909: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. SIRES, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, and Mr. WEXLER.

H. Res. 912: Mr. SHAYS, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. HARE, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. PITTS, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, and Mr. GALLEGLY.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

The amendment to be offered by Representative MAXINE WATERS or a designee to H.R. 3524 the HOPE VI Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2007, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of rule XXI.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN MEMORY OF TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION CHAIRMAN RICHARD ''RIC'' WILLIAMSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember The Honorable Ric Williamson, former Chairman of the Texas Transportation Commission and a dear friend of mine.

Ric began his 23-year tenure in faithful public service to the state of Texas in 1984, when he was elected as a State Representative. In 2001, he was appointed by Texas Governor Rick Perry to serve on the Texas Transportation Commission, and was named chairman in 2004. Ric served on several boards, including the Southern Regional Education Board, Legislative Budget Board, Department of Information Resources Board, Uniform Statewide Accounting System Committee, and the Southern Legislative Conference, to name a few.

As Chairman of the Texas Transportation Commission, Ric's visions always aimed at improving the state of transportation and the quality of infrastructure in Texas. Many times his initiatives were deemed controversial or difficult, but his resolve and determination persevered and many of his harshest critics have come to respect and support his innovative transportation concepts.

Ric will always be remembered by his friends and associates as a true champion for all things Texan. Unafraid to challenge the status quo, he was a highly regarded leader bringing innovative ideas to provide safe, economic and reliable transportation to improve the daily lives of Texans.

On a personal level Ric remained a patient mentor and a steadfast friend. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife Mary Ann and his family. Ric will be greatly missed.

HONORING WILLIAM J. WINIARSKI

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to William J. Winiarski as he retires from Rowe Incorporated. A dinner was held in his honor on January 11th in Grand Blanc, Michigan.

William Winiarski started working for Rowe Incorporated in 1971. He received his bachelor of science in civil engineering degree from Michigan Technological University in 1973. He was promoted to project manager in 1976, the same year he became a professional engineer. His career with Rowe continued and he was named a vice president in 1978 and became the president/chief operating officer in 1986. During this time William was licensed as a professional surveyor. He assumed the position of chief operating officer in 1991 and 10 years later became the marketing principal. This enabled him to focus on the marketing and client side of the business.

Working at the helm of several significant projects, William has put the Rowe stamp on many communities in Michigan. He led the team that worked on projects for the City of Flushing, City of Niles, City of Linden, Village of Byron, Village of Chesaning, Village of Holly, Village of Oxford, Charter Township of Flushing, Genesee County Road Commission, Shiawassee County Road Commission, Shiawassee County Drain Commission, Flint Downtown Development Authority, Genesys Health Systems, and Venice Park Landfill.

He is affiliated with several professional and community organizations and has held leadership positions with many. He is the past national director and past president of the American Council of Engineering Companies. He is the past president of the American Society of Civil Engineers, East Central Michigan Chapter. William is the past president of the Michigan Society of Professional Engineers, Flint Chapter. He is a member of the Michigan Society of Professional Surveyors, a Genesee/Lapeer/Shiawassee Region V planning commissioner, the Chairman of the Genesee County Brownfield Redevelopment Board, and the vice chairman of the Flint River Corridor Alliance. He has served as the chairman and acting president of the Flint/Genesee Economic Growth Alliance and the chairman of the Genesee Area Focus Council. He is on the board of directors of Genesee County Mental Health Facilities, Genesee County Mental Health, and the ''Ready-Set-Grow'' Program for Genesee County. William is a past board of directors member of the Flint Industrial Mutual Association and the past chairman of the Genesee Regional Chamber of Commerce.

William continues his association with his alma mater by serving on the board of directors for the Michigan Technological University Fund, the Civil Engineering Advisory Board and as a member of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Academy.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to William J. Winiarski as he retires from Rowe Incorporated. Through his work he has left a permanent mark upon the communities of Michigan and has enhanced the quality of life for its citizens.

CONGRATULATING THE TAFT UNION HIGH SCHOOL WILDCATS VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. KEVIN McCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. McCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the student athletes and coaches of the Taft Union High School Wildcats varsity football team on winning the 2007 California Interscholastic Federation Central Section Division IV championship, also known as the Valley Championship.

On Friday, November 30, 2007, the Wildcats defeated Corcoran High School 28–14 in their last game of the season to win the championship. This was a truly outstanding achievement to cap an outstanding season, a season where the Wildcats finished with a record of 12–1. The Wildcat victory marked the first football Valley Championship for Taft since 1930. Taft Union High School football fans, students and the Taft community were treated to an exciting championship game where in the fourth quarter with a tied score, the Wildcats' skill, training, hard work, and athleticism paid off and led them to an emotional two touchdown victory.

I want to extend my congratulations to the Taft Union High School Wildcats student athletes for their impressive championship win and 2007 season. The 2007 roster included Donald Baggs II, Derek Barnes, David Barraza, Dalton Botts, Chad Cruz, Wes Elland, Blake Emberson, Lyndon Faagau, Jose Flores, Jeremy Gonzales, Sergio Gonzales, Tommy Halphin, James Hiracheta, Tyler Houghton, Austin Kindred, Loren Kolb, Joe Laulu, Andrew LeClair, Konelio Maino, Dylan Niblett, Matther Nixon, Jeremy Orr, Christian Ramirez, Kurtis Rawls, Blaine Reich, Jerry Romo, Ricardo Romo, Ben Savali, Ioane Savail, Fabian Scheifele, Shane Sefo, Cody Shirreffs, Jesse Simmons, Steven Spoonemore, Jesse Tafoya, Fabian Taute, Kyle Taylor, Jeremiah Twisselman, Joel Vermillion, Tommy Williams, Aaron Wroblewski, Stewart Bandy, Avesee Faagau, Adalberto Figueroa, Eric Foch, Shaquil Gant, Mike Hagstrom, Kacey Kaszyckl, Hunter Liljeroos, Mike Newkirk, Todd Parker, Felipe Pulldo, Cody Reaves, Andrew Smith, Freddy Tuuamalemalo, Jordan Vermillion, and Braxton Walters.

I also want to congratulate the coaching staff who helped lead the team to its championship season. The Wildcat head coach is Steve Sprague and his coaching team includes Russell Emberson, Arley Hill, Rick Woodson, Shawn Cummins, Rob Cleveland, Paul Martinez, Brian Durkan, Bryan Powell, Dee Griffith, Mike Goodwin, John Wagner, and Jeremy Letterman.

Participation in athletics is a wonderful component of a high school education because it provides opportunities for leadership, teamwork and competition. The months of physical and mental training and the teamwork that was required to win this Valley Championship will benefit these young men long after their high school graduation.

On behalf of the residents of the 22nd Congressional District, I once again commend the Taft Union High School Wildcats on winning the 2007 Valley Championship. I am very proud of the accomplishments of the 2007

Wildcats football team, and I know the parents, teachers, neighbors and fans in our community will remember this season for many years to come.

IN HONOR OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER TIGERS: 2007 AAA GEORGIA STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of the 2007 Georgia AAA State Football Champions, the George Washington Carver Tigers. On December 15th, 2007, the Tigers defeated another great football team in my district, the Cairo Syrupmakers by a score of 16–13 on a rainy, windy day in Cairo, Georgia.

The game was an epic battle between two talented, well coached teams. This capped an undefeated 15–0 year for the Tigers and also delivered the school's first State football title in history. And the first state title in any sport since the basketball team accomplished this feat in 1971.

I want to extend my congratulations to Principal Chris Lindsey, Coach Dell McGee and the entire Carver family for this great achievement.

I also want to extend my congratulations to the Cairo Syrupmakers for a great season. They played all season with courage, spirit, and intestinal fortitude.

It takes a great deal of work and sacrifice to assemble a State-championship football team. It takes the dedication of the young men who are playing on the team. It also takes a dedicated coaching staff who have the wherewithal to dedicate their time and energy to not only teaching young men about the game of football, but also the game of life. A winning football team can in many ways bring a community together. This team has brought this community together.

The 99 young men that made up this year's football team accomplished something special. By accomplishing this special goal, they developed the character that will help them to succeed in other aspects of life. I am proud to represent these special young men and once again congratulate them on their history-making achievement.

HONORING GEORGE W. BRITTON

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. George Britton upon his retirement from the city of Modesto as the city manager. Mr. Britton was honored on January 3, 2008, in Modesto, CA.

George Britton was born and raised in Modesto, CA. After graduating from high school, Mr. Britton attended the University of Oregon where he received a bachelor's degree and then attended the University of Southern California where he received a master's degree in public administration. He also completed the program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government and the Senior Governmental Executive Program at Harvard University.

Mr. Britton served in the Air Force Reserve from 1970 until 1978. He left reserve to join the city manager in the city of Scottsdale, Arizona, where he served as the director of municipal utilities and assistant to the city manager. Mr. Britton was the executive assistant to Arizona Governor Bruce Babbitt from 1980 through 1986, where he chaired the Governor's Cabinet and oversaw various State agencies. For the next 15 years, he was the deputy city manager for the city of Phoenix.

In 2001 Mr. Britton returned back to Modesto and joined the city of Modesto. He started as deputy city manager and was appointed city manager in March 2005. During Mr. Britton's time in office the city of Modesto has made numerous improvements. In 2006 alone the city had increased downtown signage, and developed and increased participation in the Citizens Emergency Response Team. The Modesto Fire Department was also able to add 12 new firefighters, a new fire truck, and the department was awarded funding to add three fire investigators to be available for all of Stanislaus County. In addition to all of this, the city was also awarded funding to increase the capacity and ability of the airport. There have also been major developments with the city's solid waste program, expansion of the youth center, increased commerce, the creation of more parks and bridges and 71 miles of roads were added, repaved or repaired. The city of Modesto was able to make enormous strides under the direction of Mr. Britton.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate George Britton upon his retirement from the city of Modesto. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Britton many years of continued success.

HONORING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF HURLEY MEDICAL CENTER

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of Hurley Medical Center in my hometown of Flint, MI. Hurley Medical Center kicked off a yearlong celebration on January 11.

In 1908, James J. Hurley left $55,000 and property to the city of Flint to establish a hospital to treat everyone, regardless of their ability to pay. The first Board of Managers, J. Dallas Dort, Charles A. Lippincott, Edward D. Black, William E. Martin, and George L. Walker, implemented his vision. Mrs. Flint P. Smith organized the first auxiliary to raise money for the fledgling hospital. Their vision and hard work paid off and the hospital opened its doors on December 19, 1908.

Today Hurley Medical Center is a 443-bed teaching medical center annually treating over 20,000 persons for inpatient care and 76,000 emergency room cases. It is the only Level I trauma center and Level III neonatal intensive care unit in Genesee County. In addition to these two services, Hurley Medical Center offers the region's only care centers in the following specialties: burn center, maternal and fetal care center, pediatric intensive care unit, pediatric emergency room, fertility and reproductive medicine center, and kidney transplantation center.

The 2,500 employees of Hurley Medical Center work very hard to provide quality healthcare to their patients. The medical center has received the 2007 HealthGrades Critical Care Excellence Award, and the 2007 "Certificate of Merit for Outstanding Achievement in Organ Donation" from Michigan Gift of Life. In 2005 they received the Governor's Award for Quality in Inpatient Setting, Ambulatory Setting, and Emergency Department. The Hurley Asthma Center has also received the MHA Ludwig Community Benefit Award.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Hurley Medical Center for providing outstanding healthcare to the Flint community for the past 100 years. Their mission statement is "Clinical Excellence, Service to People." Every person living in Genesee County has been touched, either directly or through a loved one, by the commitment of the employees, affiliated healthcare providers and volunteers of Hurley Medical Center to live up to their motto. They continue to exemplify James Hurley's vision to provide quality healthcare to everyone regardless of their income. I am grateful for their compassion and wish them the best for the next 100 years.

IN MEMORY OF COACH NEAL WILSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember Coach Neal Wilson, the longtime athletic director of Lewisville Independent School District in Lewisville, Texas and a tireless public servant.

Coach Wilson began his four decade-long coaching career in 1965 with the Lewisville ISD, and was Lewisville head football coach from 1978 to the fall of 1985, when he assumed full-time athletic director duties. He retired in December 2000, but came back for brief athletic director stints at surrounding school districts for several years. Coach Wilson then came back to assume the athletic director role in the Lewisville ISD during the spring of 2004, and then again in 2007.

In 2003, Coach Wilson was inducted into the Texas High School Coaches Association Hall of Honor, and in 2005, Flower Mound High School in Flower Mound, Texas, renamed its football stadium the Neal E. Wilson/Jaguar Stadium. Coach Wilson was known as a strong advocate of all sports and took great pride in making sure he not only gave equally to all sports, but also increased his knowledge about every sport with each passing day.

His motto, according to Lewisville assistant athletic director Rody Durham, was that you have to give the kids a chance to win. Coach Wilson expected himself and every coach to do their part to put their teams in the best position possible and lead by example. "When we have needed him, he's always been there for us," Coach Durham said.

My thoughts go out to his wife Donna and two sons, Darrell and Lance, as well as a

long-list of family and friends. Coach Wilson will be greatly missed by the many that are fortunate enough to speak of the impact he had on their lives.

HONORING RAY KARPE

HON. KEVIN McCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ray Karpe, a resident and community leader from Bakersfield, California, for his outstanding and exemplary leadership while serving as the 2007 President of the Bakersfield Association of Realtors®.

After earning a bachelor of science degree in business administration from California State University, Bakersfield, Ray graduated from the Graduate Realtor® Institute, GRI, in 1989. He began his real estate career with Karpe Real Estate Center in 1986 and served as property manager, sales associate, loan officer, project development manager, and vice president before becoming the center's president. He received his real estate broker's license in 1998.

Ray Karpe has been a longtime leader in local real estate matters, reflecting the same success, enthusiasm, care, and commitment to his community as two generations of Karpes before him. He has served the Bakersfield Association of Realtors® in all levels of leadership and served on over 35 committees since becoming a Director of the association in 2002. He became the third generation of the Karpe family to be honored as the Realtor® of the Year in 2005 by the Bakersfield Association of Realtors®, before being appointed president of the association in 2007.

Ray has also ably represented Bakersfield realtors and the Bakersfield community in the State and national association. Since 2003, Ray has been a director of the California Association of Realtors®, C.A.R., and has served as chair and vice-chair of the Taxation Committee. And this year, C.A.R. President Bill Brown appointed him to serve on the 2008 C.A.R. executive committee. Since 2006, Mr. Karpe has been a director of the National Association of Realtors®, a member of the Taxation Committee, and is a ''National Golden R'' Member—President's Circle.

In his free time, Ray is an active community volunteer serving as a director on the boards of the California State University, Bakersfield Foundation, Mercy Hospitals of Bakersfield, and Garces Memorial High School. He is also a member and past director of the Rotary Club of Bakersfield, the Young Presidents' Organization, YPO, and a member of the 11 Gallon Club at the Houchin Community Blood Bank.

A true mark of leadership is the generosity of time and talents that one gives on behalf of his neighbors and communities. Ray Karpe exemplifies this time-honored tradition. I commend Ray for his service and leadership as president of the Bakersfield Association of Realtors® and wish him and his family well as he continues to serve our community.

IN HONOR OF EDWARD DuBOSE

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Edward Dubose, the president of the Georgia State Conference of the NAACP and Second District citizen.

Edward O. DuBose was born in Atlanta, Georgia, the third oldest of 10 children to Carnell and Margie DuBose. He received his early education through the Atlanta public school system, graduating from Harper High School. He then joined the United States Army where he completed 21 years of honorable service.

Mr. DuBose, who also earned a masters degree in clinical mental health counseling, is a licensed professional counselor, anger management specialist, member of the National Board of Certified Counselors, and a member of the Licensed Professional Counselors Association of Georgia. As the owner of Oxygen Mental Health Counseling services, he provides in-home counseling to at risk youth and families throughout the State of Georgia and Alabama.

In addition to his career as a counselor, Mr. DuBose has served his community through leadership in the NAACP. He has served 7 years as president of the Columbus, Georgia, branch of the NAACP, and 5 years as 2nd vice president of the Georgia State Conference NAACP. In addition, he has served as Georgia State NAACP veterans affairs chairman and as the district coordinator for a 9-county area.

Mr. DuBose was elected to the position of president of the Georgia State Conference NAACP on October 2005, and reelected for a second term in 2007. He is the only resident and NAACP member in Columbus history to hold the title of State president.

While serving the NAACP, Mr. DuBose led the organization to achieve several landmark accomplishments, including negotiating the only NAACP radio show in Georgia, helping start the first Black History Month Parade in Columbus, Georgia now in its seventh year, and coordinating the largest protest march in Columbus history by rallying over 15,000 people to call for justice for the shooting death of Kenneth Walker.

Mr. DuBose is married to Cynthia DuBose and they have three beautiful daughters; Cynthia Harris, Casonya Hardaway Glover, and Kimberly DuBose. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to honor this man today for his dedication to Columbus, the NAACP, the Second Congressional District, and to the betterment of his State and Nation.

HONORING ROBERT DUNBAR

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Councilman Robert Dunbar upon his retirement from the Modesto City Council. Councilman Dunbar was recognized at the city of Modesto swearing in ceremony held on December 19, 2007.

Councilman Dunbar was born in Terre Haute, Indiana and attended Indiana University and Indiana State University where he received a bachelor of science degree in speech and drama with a minor in political science. After moving to southern California he attended University of Redlands, University of California in Riverside and California State University, Fullerton and received a master of science degree in public school administration with a minor in political science and urban politics. This was the beginning of Councilman Dunbar's first career as a teacher.

Before Councilman Dunbar was an elected official, he worked in the public school system. He began by teaching high school and junior high school. He moved to Merced, California, in 1972 to pursue a position with the Merced Union High School District. He held various positions within the district, including; dean of boys, vice-principal and learning director. In 1980 he moved to Modesto, California to join the Sylvan Union School District, where he became the principal of Somerset Junior High School. The school was named a ''Top 100 Distinguished Junior High School'' during his tenure. He was also the principal at Sylvan Elementary School, and was named the ''Eighth District PTA Principal of the Year.'' While working for the school districts, he was also a part-time professor on various subjects at Merced Junior College, California State University, Stanislaus, St. Mary's College, and Chapman University. Councilman Dunbar retired from education in 2001 and moved onto more civic duties.

Councilman Dunbar served on the Planning Commission for the city of Merced for 2 years and on the Planning Commission for the city of Modesto for 7 years serving as the chairman for 2 of those years. He was elected to the Modesto City Council in 2003, and currently serves as vice chair of the Finance Committee. Throughout his lifetime he has served in many capacities; as a baseball coach, Boy Scout leader, Kiwanis leader, member of the board of directors for the Modesto chapter of the Red Cross, member of the Association of California School Administrators and Stanislaus Partners in Education.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Councilman Robert Dunbar upon his retirement from the Modesto City Council. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Councilman Dunbar many years of continued success.

HONORING BRAD L. HARNICK

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today and ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Brad L. Harnick upon his retirement from Michigan State University Extension for Genesee County. A reception for Brad was held on January 11th in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

Brad began working for the Michigan State University Extension Service in 1978. He worked as the Genesee County 4–H Youth Development Program associate until 1990. At that time he became the 4–H Youth Development agent and Extension educator.

During his tenure he developed several programs to promote leadership, citizenship, achievement, and community service in young people and adult volunteers. He created the Citizenship Academy, the Adolescent Mentoring Program, and the Genesee After-School Program. He was a significant contributor to the development of the Capitol Experience Program, Exploration Days, and the Great Lakes Environmental Camp.

As the 4–H coordinator for Genesee County, Brad has instilled the four values of 4–H: head, heart, hands and health, into thousands of young people. He has brought the resources of Michigan State University Extension and the 4–H program into partnership with schools, churches, community groups and youth-serving organizations to enhance the advancement of young persons throughout Genesee County.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in thanking Brad L. Harnick for his service to our youth. His innovative programs have educated, his creativity has inspired, and his leadership has enhanced the lives of countless children. I am grateful that he devoted his life to giving life skills to the young people of Genesee County and I wish him the best for the future.

HONORING MERCY HOSPITAL CADILLAC ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS PUBLIC DEDICATION

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the founders, administrators, staff and supporters of Mercy Hospital Cadillac as they celebrate the 100th anniversary of the hospital's public dedication.

Madam Speaker, Mercy Hospital Cadillac has helped to ensure that the local community has remained healthy and productive since 1908.

Mr. and Mrs. Delos F. and Esther Diggins started construction on a home for the sick in 1907 and entrusted it to the Sisters of Mercy in 1908. It admitted its first patient on January 15, 1908, and it was dedicated to its purpose by a reception to the public on January 20, 1908. It will be rededicated to its purpose during a public celebration on Sunday, January 20, 2008.

From 1908 to 1934 Mercy Hospital conducted a nursing program titled the "Mercy Hospital School of Nursing," which prepared young women for careers as skilled nurses. In 1952 the Mercy School of Practical Nursing was founded, and it educated 1,115 students before closing in 1985. It was ranked first or second by the Michigan Nursing Board in its last 16 years.

The hospital is currently engaged in an $11 million capital campaign to modernize its facilities and invest in new technologies, which so far has provided it with the means to construct a 1,800-square-foot Obstretrical Unit, a new emergency department and a new radiology department. The initiative will build upon the hospital's successes and ensure that it has the best equipment, expertise and infrastructure.

Mercy Hospital Cadillac provides health care services to more than 60,000 residents across four counties, and with more than 600 employees is one of the area's largest employers.

Madam Speaker, Mercy Hospital Cadillac has contributed greatly to its community by continuing the legacy of Mr. and Mrs. Diggins and is deserving of the recognition of the U.S. House of Representatives.

CONGRATULATING THE LEWISVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR RECEIVING AN AA+ BOND RATING FOR 2007

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the City of Lewisville's Independent School District. The Lewisville Independent School District has received an AA+ bond rating for 2007.

District officials apply for the ratings each year, which are granted by Standard and Poor's Corporation of New York. Lewisville is the only district in Texas, and one of three districts in the Nation, to receive such a rating this year.

The Lewisville Independent School District has demonstrated a strong aptitude for increasing fund balances while responding to modifications in State funding policies. The AA+ rating is an improvement from the district's AA rating in 2006.

The Lewisville Independent School District has managed to increase its bond rating from AA− to AA+ in two years, despite statewide school finance issues. State funding policies have been changed multiple times throughout the last decade, and Lewisville has positively modified its spending practices each time in response.

I extend my sincerest congratulations to the City of Lewisville and the Lewisville Independent School District. It is my hope that they will continue to be as fiscally responsible and resourceful as they have proven themselves to be in the past. It is my honor to represent them in the United States Congress.

RECOGNIZING GENEVA MAE SMITH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause an ask you to join me in recognizing Geneva Mae Smith of Gladstone, MO. Geneva celebrated her 100th birthday on January 9, 2008, and it is my privilege to offer her my warmest regards on achieving this important milestone.

Geneva Mae Richardson was born to Lille Mae and Lee Howard Richardson in Kansas City, KS, on January 9, 1908. Geneva was one of eight children born into the Richardson family. On October 11, 1924, Geneva married Chester Melvin Smith. Geneva and Chester had four children: Geneva Mae, Chester Melvin, Georgia Bea, and Frank Cooper. After Geneva's parents passed away, she also cared for and raised her baby brother Glenn.

Chester and Geneva remained active in the community during their marriage by participating in Chester's Masonic Lodge and American War Dads. For 12 years Geneva was the national pianist for the American War Dads organization. After Chester's death Geneva remained active in American War Dads and other community organizations.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Geneva as she celebrates her 100th birthday. It is an honor to represent Geneva in the United States Congress, and I wish her the best of luck in the future.

HONORING ROBERT CRAWFORD

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Robert Crawford, for his retirement and years of dedicated service to the citizens of Berkeley County.

"Bob," as he is better known to his friends and colleagues, has served as the executive director of the Berkeley County Development Authority since March 1990.

During his tenure, he has experienced the many changes Berkeley County has undergone in the past 18 years as it transformed from a small rural county to a bustling bedroom community of the Washington, DC metro area. Bob has worked tirelessly to assure that all the needs of the county were sufficiently met despite surging growth and infrastructure challenges.

As executive director of the Berkeley County Development Authority, Bob has been involved with the development of the two major industrial parks; Cumbo Yard Industrial Park and Tabler Station Business Park. He also played a major role in recruiting industries to the area that serve as the county's major employers.

It is an honor to congratulate such a distinguished public servant for his years of service and contributions to Berkeley County and the State of West Virginia. I'm proud to call Bob a friend and fellow West Virginian. I wish him all the best in the years to come.

HONORING SAMUEL ARTHUR FRIEDMAN

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Professor Samuel Arthur Friedman for his devotion and extensive contributions to the science and literature of geology.

As a leading authority on coal geology and resources, Professor Friedman developed his passion early on earning his undergraduate degree from Brooklyn College, a master's in geology from Ohio State University along with completing graduate work in geology at Indiana University and the University of Tennessee.

For 15 years, Professor Friedman served as an expert on coal formations at the Geological Survey at Indiana University after which he became the coal project leader for the U.S. Bureau of Mines in Tennessee and Pennsylvania. In 1971, he joined the Oklahoma Geological Survey where he established a coal research program and taught coal geology seminars as a member of the graduate faculty of the School of Geology and Geophysics. Professor Friedman also chaired master's students' thesis committees and organized continuing education classes in the fundamentals of coal geology.

He has held numerous leadership positions in professional geological societies such as serving as chairman of the Coal Geology Division of the Geological Society of America and receiving the division's Distinguished Service Award in 1992. Professor Friedman was also awarded the Past Presidents Award, the Distinguished Founders Award, and the Distinguished Service Award from the American Association of Petroleum Geologists Energy Minerals Division. In recognition of his extensive contributions to the science of geology and of his generous commitment to the advancement of his profession, Brooklyn College awarded him the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1995.

Professor Friedman's work as a research and resources coal geologist with the U.S. Bureau of Mines and the Oklahoma Geological Survey, his excellent relationship with Federal and State agencies, and his role as a principal investor in geology projects have all contributed to his being recognized as a leading expert in the field of coal geology and resources.

His biography has been listed in American Men and Women of Science, Marquis Who's Who in America, Who's Who in Science and Engineering, and Who's Who in the World.

Madam Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Professor Samuel Arthur Friedman on his many accomplishments in the field of coal geology.

TRIBUTE TO KATY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Katy High School football team of Katy, Texas, on their Class 5A, Division II Texas State football championship on Saturday, December 22, 2007.

Katy High School became the Class 5A, Division II State champions after defeating Pflugerville High School, 28 to 7, at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas.

Starting the season as the second-ranked team in Class 5A and ending the regular season as the top-ranked team, the Katy Tigers were a team expected to do great things, and they did. When the senior players were freshmen, they made it their goal to win a State championship game and with much hard work and determination this objective was accomplished. Always tough to live up to expectations, the Tigers did so and then some in claiming the Class 5A, Division II title in 2007 with a perfect 16–0 season record.

Throughout the season, both the offense and defense were dominant. Offensively, the Tigers scored over 43 points per game. Defensively, Katy allowed an average of only 8 points per game.

The Katy Tigers advanced to the championship game by easily defeating Strake Jesuit College Preparatory 51–18 in the bi-district playoff game, by defeating Houston Madison High School 42 to 8 in the Region 3 semi-finals, by defeating Pasadena Memorial High School 30 to 14 in the Region 3 championship, by defeating Fort Bend Clements High School 42 to 0 in the quarterfinal playoff game, and by defeating San Antonio Madison High School 66 to 21 in the State semi-final game.

The Katy Tigers rose to the challenge during the championship game against the Pflugerville Panthers, in San Antonio at the Alamodome. Katy scored 28 unanswered points after being down 7 in the first half. A hail mary at the end of the first half changed the momentum for the Katy Tigers to finish out the State championship game with a final score of 28–7, a truly outstanding accomplishment.

The win is Katy's fifth title all-time and fourth since 1997. More significantly, it is the first for head coach Gary Joseph, who ran his all-time win-loss record to 55–4 with the victory. It was not just a State title however, as the Tigers would find out about 30 minutes after the game's final whistle. Coach Joseph announced to a packed home locker room that the Tigers had been voted the No. 1 team in the Nation by ESPN. A roar of shouts, whistles and cheers filled the underground corridors of the Alamodome following that announcement as Katy returned to the top of the charts in Texas for the first time since 2003. In addition, Katy is ranked No. 4 in the USA Today Super 25 football rankings.

The success of these fine young athletes of Katy High School serves as an inspiration for their school and community. I know from my own experience how high school football teaches you not only how to win on the field but also how to succeed in life. It teaches you that through hard work, discipline, dedication, and teamwork you can dream any dream and achieve any goal. I know that these fine athletes will apply their success on the football field to their lives after high school to accomplish great things.

I officially recognize and honor the outstanding achievements and contributions by the 2007 Katy High School Varsity Football Team, coaches, school and loyal fans, for their exemplary representation of our community. Congratulations Katy Tigers. I commend you on a spectacular football year and wish you the best next season and beyond.

HONORING MRS. MARGUERITE CANTINI

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Mrs. Marguerite Cantini of Fort Lauderdale, FL, who will turn 100 years old on January 25, 2008.

Mrs. Cantini is the paradigm of her generation. Her parents immigrated to the United States, making her the first generation of her family to be born on U.S. soil. She was the second daughter to her parents, Edgar and Thea Barbe, who had recently arrived in New York. The family moved to California and then returned to the East Coast.

In 1936, she married Raphael S. Cantini, a surgeon from New Jersey, and together, they raised a family. She dedicated her life to the welfare and happiness of those around her. The American people can look to Mrs. Cantini as a model for family values.

Mrs. Cantini has always lived a graceful and creative life, and throughout her 100 years, she has excelled in flower arranging and drawing. She would create doll houses out of cardboard with her grandchildren and especially enjoyed making paper dolls and all their clothing for her granddaughters.

I join her family and friends in wishing Mrs. Marguerite Cantini a very happy birthday.

IN HONOR OF THE PRESIDENT OF JESUS THE HOPE OF ROMANIA, PETER DUGULESCU

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues Representative CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH of New Jersey and Representative JOSEPH R. PITTS, we rise today to honor the memory of Pastor Peter Dugulescu, who was the founder and president of the charitable organization ''Jesus the Hope of Romania'' and who passed away from a heart attack on January 3, 2008.

Pastor Dugulescu was born in 1945 in Romania, eventually marrying and having four children. He served as a Baptist pastor during the Communist regime, and was seen as a fighter of the revolution and a true spiritual leader in Romania. He was given the honor of many awards, including the ''Ambassador of Peace'' award from the Interreligious and International Peace Council.

Pastor Dugulescu was a dear friend of many of us who have followed events in Romania over the years. He was a strong Christian, and a selfless servant of the poor. His charity opened an orphanage, created feeding programs for the impoverished, and established a home for the elderly and handicapped children. The loss of this bright soul will be felt acutely by all whose lives he touched. We extend our condolences to his family and friends.

THE RETIREMENT OF DOUG MACDONALD

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated member of the United States Forest Service as he concludes his 32-plus years of service to his country. Mr. Doug Macdonald deserves this honor. Oregonians are grateful for his contributions to the wise and sustainable use of our Nation's forests.

Doug Macdonald's personal and professional career accomplishments are as diverse

as they are noteworthy. His loyal service and sacrifices for over three decades working in the communities of Oregon are a testament to all who use and appreciate our public lands. I would like to take a moment to reflect upon Doug's career as he makes the transition to life beyond Government service.

Born in Yakima, Washington, Doug learned to speak Japanese before he spoke English because he spent time in Japan as a toddler while his father was serving in the Armed Forces. His family then moved to upstate New York where Doug gained appreciation for the outdoors at their home near the Catskill Mountains. After high school, Doug started college in Boston but the lure of the Pacific Northwest pulled him back to where he calls home.

Doug joined the Army National Guard where he served his country for 6 years. He graduated with a civil engineering degree from the University of Washington and in 1975 started his Forest Service career as a civil engineer trainee on the Willamette National Forest.

Doug's career in the Pacific Northwest Region of the Forest Service included positions in the regional office in Portland, Oregon, and on the Malheur National Forest in John Day, Oregon. In 1986, Doug returned to the Willamette National Forest as the Assistant Forest Engineer and eventually was promoted to the Forest Engineer. In the 1990s, Doug was part of an international team that traveled to Indonesia for 3 or 4 weeks per year to train Indonesian foresters to design and build environmentally sensitive roads. He retires as the Zone Engineer for the Willamette, Siuslaw, and Mt. Hood National Forests. as well as the Columbia River Gorge Scenic Area.

Early in his career, Doug was instrumental in developing and implementing new forest road designs that were efficient, cost effective, and more environmentally sensitive. Doug also played a significant leadership role in bringing together research science and engineering to improve hydrologic function and fish passage on forest roads and culverts. In the last several years, Doug has worked tirelessly to enhance the facilities of the Forest Service. He has forged new partnerships and inspired innovation and creativity to reduce costs and improve the vital facilities for the entire Pacific Northwest Region. In my own district, Doug was responsible for initiating a partnership to build an interagency center to house the new offices for the Forest Service, the BLM, and the Oregon Military Department. His efforts helped save tax payers millions of dollars in facilities costs.

Among Doug's numerous and exemplary accomplishments, none are more evident than the relationships he has built and his commitment to others that he tirelessly displays. Doug has touched so many people both in and outside the Forest Service. His caring for people has resulted in immeasurable benefits to the people of Oregon and our Nation.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor for me to present these credentials of Doug Macdonald to the House of Representatives today. It is clear through all of his accomplishments that he has dedicated himself to furthering the benefits we enjoy on public lands. All of his actions reflect a true leader with a sense of purpose, commitment, and conscience.

As Doug departs from public service, I ask my colleagues to join me in delivering an appreciative tribute from a grateful nation, and best wishes to him and his family for a productive and rewarding retirement.

HONORING MANUEL ESCONTRIAS ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Manuel Escontrias on announcing his retirement from Exxon-Mobil, after 38 years of service. Mr. Escontrias, a long time Baytonian, served his community for 6 years as a District 3 city councilman, 6 years as a Goose Creek school board trustee and as a Lee College regent for 1 year.

Mr. Escontrias holds a bachelor's degree in science from Texas A&M and a master's degree from Pepperdine University. In 1968, Mr. Escontrias went to work for the Exxon-Mobil Chemical Plant as the first Hispanic engineer at the Baytown complex.

In the 1980s, while with Exxon-Mobil, Mr. Escontrias helped develop and build the Exxon Coal Liquefaction Plant (ECLP), was involved in the biggest expansion in the company's history, and was part of the Exxon-Mobil Process/Risk Management Group. Through his 40 years as a Baytonian, Mr. Escontrias has been involved with many local groups including the United Way, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Lakewood Civic Association, and many more. For his involvement in the community, Mr. Escontrias was awarded the Henry B. Gonzalez Leadership Award.

And so it is with great pleasure that I recognize Mr. Manuel Escontrias, for his service to Exxon-Mobil and the city of Baytown, and I congratulate him on the announcement of his retirement.

HONORING DETECTIVE KENT HAWS

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to pay tribute to Tulare County Sheriff's Detective Kent Haws, who, at the age of 38, sacrificed his life in the line of duty so others may live.

Detective Haws honorably served our Nation in the United States Army and subsequently went on to serve his community as a member of the Tulare County Sheriff's Department.

After spending time overseeing local prisoners, he was posted to a community officer position covering the Porterville area. His talents and commitment to duty were quickly recognized with an appointment to the prestigious Sheriff's Tactical Personnel Unit. In this capacity, he led his team in tactical responses to drug cartel activities in our Nation's forests and parks.

Detective Haws' commitment to his community was proven last December when he fearlessly confronted a suspicious individual on a back road of our farming community. That confrontation ended with Detective Haws' making the ultimate sacrifice for his family and his community. His true act of heroism will only be known between himself and his God.

Those of us that he left behind will forever remember his brave actions that day. His heroics deserve a place in history on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial here in Washington. This memorial contains a fitting quote that sums up Detective Haws' life—"In Valor—There is Hope".

Detective Haws, a devoted husband, and a loving father, is survived by his wife Francis and three wonderful sons Dominik, Nicholas and Evan.

I ask that my colleagues join me in solemn tribute to Detective Kent Haws, whose actions undoubtedly saved others.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FELD FAMILY OWNERSHIP OF THE RINGLING BROS. AND BARNUM & BAILEY CIRCUS

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. BUCHANAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Feld Family, who, for forty years have preserved the legacy of the circus and provided Americans with quality family entertainment. On November 11, 1967, Irvin Feld fulfilled a life long dream by purchasing the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circus, which for years made its winter home in Sarasota, Florida. Quickly, Irvin Feld made changes to modernize the show and ushered in the era of modern American entertainment.

An astute promoter, Irvin Feld designed a new two-year tour system for Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey. He purchased the Circus Williams and created a second unit of Ringling Bros. equal in size, scope, and quality to the first. The second unit showcased the incredible talents of Gunther Gebel-Williams, who captivated American audiences for 30 years.

Just like the great Barnum, Feld devised national advertising campaigns and creative public relations, to reinstate the Ringling circus as America's living treasure. It is not surprising that Irvin Feld was dubbed "The Greatest Showman on Earth."

To save the art of clowning from extinction, Irvin Feld founded the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Clown College in 1968. Originally located in Venice, Florida, then relocated to Baraboo, Wisconsin and finally, Sarasota, Florida it was the world's first and only "Clown College."

In 1970, Feld's son, Kenneth, joined the organization and was made a co-producer in 1973. When Irvin Feld suddenly died on September 6,1984, Kenneth Feld immediately assumed control and has surpassed the level of entertainment excellence set by his father and other legendary showmen before him. Expanding the circus, he instituted a third unit that travels all across America.

Today, Kenneth Feld is the largest provider of live action family entertainment in the world. The Feld legacy continues through the third generation with Kenneth Feld's daughters, Nicole and Alana, who work to maintain the high quality, family-focused productions that have been the hallmark of the "Greatest Show on Earth."

The Feld's support school curriculum programs and have developed Circus Fit, a national youth fitness program. To help preserve the Asian elephant, Kenneth Feld established the Center for Elephant Conservation (CEC) in central Florida in 1995. This state-of-the-art breeding and retirement facility is dedicated to the conservation, breeding, and study of the Asian elephant.

In each generation, the Feld family has continued to capture children of all ages by preserving the great American circus and led the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, The Greatest Show on Earth, into the 21st century.

I thank my colleagues for joining me in recognizing the contributions of the Feld Family to American culture and entertainment.

TRIBUTE TO PHILLIP S. FIGA UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Speaker. I rise to honor the extraordinary life and exceptional accomplishments of United States District Court Judge Phillip S. Figa. This exceptional jurist merits both our recognition and esteem as his impressive record of civic leadership and invaluable service has improved the lives of many Coloradoans.

Sadly, Judge Figa was taken from us by a brain tumor at the young age of 56 and he will be greatly missed. His passion for the law and justice and his capacity for community service were beyond measure. He molded a life of genuine accomplishment and served our Nation with distinction. His passing is a great loss to the Federal bench and our entire community.

Judge Figa was born in 1951 in Skokie, Illinois, the son of Holocaust survivors from Poland. He earned a scholarship to Northwestern University and graduated with a degree in economics. While at Northwestern, he met and married Candace Cole Figa. He went on to graduate from Cornell Law School and started his law practice in Colorado at Sherman & Howard in 1976. Four years later, Judge Figa became a founding partner of Burns, Figa & Will, P.C. and became the firm's President. For over 26 years, Judge Figa maintained a broad litigation-oriented practice and established a national reputation as an expert in the field of legal ethics. He was actively involved in the Colorado legal community and served as President of the Colorado Bar Association and as Chair of the Ethics Committee. He served on the Civil Justice Reform Act Advisory Committee and on the Colorado Commission on Judicial Discipline. He served as an instructor at the University of Denver College of Law and the National Institute of Trial Advocacy. Judge Figa was also one of the founding members of the Faculty of Federal Advocates and is credited with the development of the very successful Pro Bono Mentoring Program. As a former Chair of the Mountain States Region of the Anti-Defamation League. Judge Figa was deeply committed to fighting bigotry, extremism, anti-Semitism and supporting Holocaust awareness.

President Bush nominated Judge Figa to the United States District Court and he was confirmed by the United States Senate on October 2, 2003. During the confirmation process, Senators of both parties viewed him as highly intelligent and a fair prospective jurist. Many friends, family and associates have praised Judge Figa as "even handed" . . . "smart, caring and authentic" . . . "a great jurist" "a true humanitarian" . . ."one who brought passion and integrity to the field of law ". . . a humble and gracious man who genuinely cared about helping other people." I was honored to give the highest recommendation to the Senate Judiciary Committee. On a personal note, Judge Figa was a good friend of both me and my husband. He was loved and respected across the legal community. Judge Figa was a mensch—an upright, honorable and decent human being.

Judge Figa has been recognized with several accolades and honors including nomination to the International Society of Barristers, the American Bar Foundation and the Colorado Bar Foundation. He was honored by the Colorado Supreme Court for "outstanding leadership of the Coalition for the Independence of the Colorado Judiciary" and in January of 2006, he was named one of the Leading Judges in America by The Lawdragon. On February 4, 2008, the Anti-Defamation League will present the late Judge Figa with the Distinguished Community Service Award "for his commitment to human rights and dignity, and his dedicated service to his community, state and nation." Judge Figa lived a life that is rich in consequence and our country is a better place because of his labors. Truly. we are all diminished by the all too early passing of this remarkable gentleman and our thoughts are with Candace Figa and their two children, Ben and Elizabeth. Please join me in paying tribute to the life of United States District Court Judge Phillip S. Figa, a distinguished jurist. It is the values, leadership and dedication he exhibited during his life that serves to build a better future for all of us.

IN TRIBUTE TO MR. BOOKER TOWNSELL

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Booker Townsell. Mr. Townsell was falsely accused along with 42 other African-American soldiers for rioting and lynching an Italian POW at Fort Lawton, an Army base in Seattle in 1944. It was the largest and longest Army courts-martial of World War II. Mr. Townsell was ultimately court-martialed and convicted with 27 others and served two years in prison. After 63 years, Booker Townsell has been fully exonerated. Mr. Townsell was not able to see this travesty reversed having died in 1984 at the age of 69. However, his family persevered until he was fully exonerated for a crime he did not commit.

Members of Mr. Townsell's family learned of Jack Hamann's, 2005 book, "On American Soil: How Justice Became a Casualty of World War II", which chronicled the Fort Lawton court martial. The Townsell family contacted Hamann and was the first to petition the Army to reverse the conviction. The Army Review Board required each family to apply individually for a review. Bipartisan requests were made in Congress to review the case. In October, 2007, an Army review board, acting on evidence uncovered by Hamann's book, overturned Townsell's conviction. The analysis used to reverse Townsell's conviction would apply to all of the soldiers convicted, an Army lawyer who reviewed the case for the review board told The New York Times.

Hamann's investigation uncovered racial bias against the soldiers, including charges being brought immediately without the benefit of full counsel which led to their unfair convictions. This incredible story also involves Leon Jaworski, a young lieutenant who prosecuted the case for the Army and later served as special prosecutor in the Watergate case. Hamann discovered that Jaworski failed to share evidence with defense lawyers that could have exonerated the black soldiers. Hamann said it seemed suspicious that black soldiers in 1944 would participate in a lynching, given the racial attitudes in America at the time. According to his research, no black person had ever been put on trial for a lynching until then.

A lawyer who specializes in military affairs helped the Townsell family with their petition to the Army review board. The decision that overturned Townsell's conviction was a sweet victory for justice in our country.

On January 19th 2008, the family will celebrate their legal victory with a ceremony attended by Army officials to recognize the overturning of this conviction after 63 years. I am honored to have this opportunity to pay tribute to Mr. Townsell and to his family. Mr. Townsell's good name has now been restored.

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF PHEASANTS FOREVER

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of Pheasants Forever for their strong legacy of environmental advocacy and conservation on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the organization.

Pheasants Forever started with a campaign for a Minnesota pheasant stamp. Since that modest beginning, the organization has demonstrated just how effective conservation at the grassroots level can be. By working with local farmers to restore marginal lands, a few pioneering Minnesotans started a movement that has spread across North America with great success. Currently the members of Pheasants Forever organize the efforts of hunters, farmers, and environmentalists in nearly 30,000 restoration projects each year. During the past 25 years, these efforts have helped to protect 4 million acres of wildlife habitat.

Pheasants Forever has accomplished great things over the past two and a half decades in the areas of critical habitat improvement, public and private land management, and public awareness and education. Hunting and

other outdoor recreational activities are strong traditions for many families in Minnesota and across America. Thanks to the foresight and hard work from the members of Pheasants Forever, these traditions can be passed down for generations to come.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Pheasants Forever on its first 25 years of grassroots advocacy.

CONGRATULATING LIBERTY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Liberty Christian School in Argyle, Texas for winning the TAPP Division II State Championship in football.

This season's title was the program's third state title in six tries, and capped a season in which the Warriors went 12–2 and were the No. 1 ranked team in the Dallas Morning News' Large Private School poll the entire season. Liberty Christian's season was certainly a magical one. After beginning the season 1–2, the Warriors won 11 games in a row. They held opponents to two touchdowns or less in nine of those games while scoring 40 or more points in eight games during that stretch.

The Athletic Director of Liberty Christian, Coach Darren Chrane, attributed the success of this season's team after their rough start to the resolve of their senior class. ''They decided that they weren't going to be denied a win and went out there and dominated against a good football team.'' Coach Chrane stated.

This year's team was eighth out of all private schools in offense with an average of 384 yards per game. Defensively, the Warriors were 11th overall with 246 yards against per game.

These student athletes exemplify the type of leadership and work ethic we all strive to possess. I extend my sincerest congratulations to the Liberty Christian football team, Athletic Director Darren Chrane, Head Coach Mark Bowles and the entire coaching staff, and all of those involved in the successful 2007 season. I wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors. It is my honor to represent a group that exhibits such talent, hard work, and dedication.

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008 (CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008)

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of Department of Homeland Security FY 2008 Appropriations Bill which is part of the larger omnibus spending package, Amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 2764. Specifically, I want to note that the Democrats have done a better job at funding key homeland security programs, but as always, more needs to be done.

As the first Democratic chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, I am happy to note that the appropriated dollars will go a long way to implementing the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission which are codified in a bill I had the distinct honor of developing and steering toward passage—the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007, P.L. 110–53. I am also glad that the fiscal year 2008 appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security are fairly consistent with my eight-point plan—the ''Real Deal on Homeland Security.'' This 8–point plan is what I have used to develop key legislative and oversight initiatives aimed at ensuring that ours is a Nation that can flourish free from fear. In particular, the fiscal year 2008 appropriations reflect the Real Deal in the following way:

1. IMPROVING THE FUNCTIONALITY, GOVERNANCE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

The Department of Homeland Security FY 2008 appropriations bill provides $28.49 million for the Chief Procurement Officer which is $11.5 million above the enacted fiscal year 2007 level. This increase funding can help the office attract and retain experienced staff to manage procurements. The bill also provides a $108.7 million for the Office of Inspector General at the Department of Homeland Security, $6 million above the enacted fiscal year 2007 level. It is also notable that the bill's Joint Explanatory Statement makes clear that Congress favors contracts awarded by full and open competition. The bill also acknowledges the operation of the Small Business Act and therefore does not adversely affect the award of contracts to small, minority and disadvantaged businesses. In addition, the bill requires the Inspector General to review contracts awarded by means other than full and open competition to determine compliance with the law. Finally, I am very pleased that the bill provides no funding for MAX–HR but rather provides $10 million for the Department of Homeland Security to address the issues revealed in the 2006 Federal Human Capital Survey. The bill further requires the Secretary to submit an expenditure plan for the $10 million prior to the obligation of the funds.

However, I must point out that the Committee on Homeland Security was disappointed with the decision not to fund the relocation of the headquarters for the Department of Homeland Security at the St. Elizabeths site in Washington, DC.

2. ENHANCING SECURITY FOR ALL MODES OF TRANSPORTATION

I applaud the bill which provides over $4.5 billion to enhance aviation security. That funding makes the bill consistent with meeting aviation security mandates in P.L. 110–53. For example, the bill fully funds the Aviation Security Capitol Fund at $250 million. Furthermore, this bill provides $15 million for a pilot program to screen 100 percent of airport workers.

Although the bill does not provide sufficient resources to implement the authorization levels in P.L. 110–53, the Appropriations Committee has provided the foundation to reach that goal. For example, the bill provides $400 million in Public Transportation and Railroad Security Grants. This includes not less than $25 million for Amtrak, $11.5 million over the road bus security grants, and $16 million for trucking security grants. This is in contrast to the authorized amount in P.L. 110–53 which called for $650 million for public transit, $300 million for rail, and $150 million for Amtrak.

I also support the bill's provision of $523.5 million for information technology and intelligence for transportation security and the increased funding for Red Teams at $6.26 million—a 50 percent increase over the enacted level of fiscal year 2007. Finally, the bill provides $46 million for surface transportation security, an increase from the $41.4 million enacted in fiscal year 2007. Of the proposed amount for fiscal year 2008, $24.5 million is for staffing and operations, $22.1 million is for inspectors and canines, and another $30 million is provided for security training program, transportation risk assessment, and the development of regulation for name-based immigration screening for public transportation and rail workers.

3. RESPONSE, RESILIENCE, AND RECOVERY IN THE WAKE OF A NATIONAL CATASTROPHE

I am pleased that key programs to assist first responders and State, local, and tribal governments have been funded above the President's request. Specifically, the State Homeland Security Grant Program which provides grants to first responders in all 50 States and U.S. Territories to help them prevent, prepare for, and respond to an act of terrorism or other emergency is funded at $950 million. The Urban Area Security Initiative, which addresses the unique planning, operations, equipment, training, and exercise needs of high-threat, high-density urban areas, is funded at $820 million—a $50 million increase in funding over FY 2007 levels.

The bill also provides $41 million for the Metropolitan Medical Response System, MMRS; $300 million for Emergency Management Performance Grant, EMPG, program; $560 million for FIRE grants; $190 million for the SAFER Act program; and $32.5 million for the Urban Search and Rescue System, USAR, a $7.5 million increase over the enacted level in fiscal year 2007.

I also support the bill for directing FEMA to assist communities by ensuring disaster preparedness and response education materials are developed and distributed to children. The bill also supports the Office of the Disabilities Coordinator and directs the Department of Homeland Security's Inspector General to investigate FEMA's policies and processes regarding formaldehyde in trailers purchased by the agency to house disaster victims in the office created by the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006.

I will note, however, that it is unfortunate that the splintered oversight jurisdiction of the Department of Homeland Security has resulted in the inclusion of section 541 of the bill which states that ''none of the funds provided by this or previous appropriations Acts shall be used to fund any position designated as a Principal Federal Official, PFO, for any Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act declared disasters or emergencies.'' I am very concerned that this language micromanages Federal emergency response through the appropriation process, interferes with the writing of the National Response Framework which aims to clarify the role of the PFO and does not recognize the situations where the appointment of PFO would be necessary, public health emergencies, cyber attacks, etc. Simply stated, this

language unnecessarily reopens a policy question that was settled in the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006.

4. SHIELDING THE NATION'S CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE FROM FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC TERRORISM

I commend the $50 million appropriated for chemical security. The bill also includes preemption language that supports States that have stronger law as it relates to the security of chemical facilities. In addition, the bill directs the Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Protection to provide semi-annual briefings to the Appropriations Committee on implementing the National Infrastructure Protection Plan. I, too, look forward to being included in such briefing. The bill also provides $10 million for the Office of Bombing Prevention, a legislative initiative from the Committee on Homeland Security, H.R. 4749, with the requirement that the office will develop a national strategy on bombing prevention.

5. SECURING THE HOMELAND AND PRESERVING CIVIL LIBERTIES IN TIMES OF TERROR

I believe strongly that civil liberties guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution need not be compromised to make the Nation more secure. One particular area of concern was the Department of Homeland Security's attempt to skirt congressional oversight by developing and implementing a spy satellite program. After I demanded answers about the program's reach, the Department modified its spy satellite plans. Going forward, the Committees on Homeland Security, Budget, and Appropriations should closely examine the Department's authority to ensure transparency and accountability.

6. CONNECTING THE DOTS: INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION SHARING AND INTEROPERABILITY

I am very pleased that the bill includes $50 million to fund the Interoperability Emergency Communications Grant Program which was enacted in P.L. 110–53 and provides for improved emergency communications capabilities for first responders. Also, the bill includes $35.7 million for the Office of Emergency Communications, an $18.7 million increase over the enacted fiscal year 2007. The office, which was established in April 2007, pursuant to the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006, is the focal point within the Federal Government to improve national interoperable communication capabilities.

7. IMPLEMENTING COMMONSENSE BORDER AND PORT SECURITY

I believe that border and port security must reflect the Nation's commitment to facilitating the flow of commerce and demanding accountability from our Government. That is why we cannot allow fear to drive the discussion of building fences that may wind up disrupting commerce or poor governmental planning that leads to Government waste. I commend the appropriator's for providing $2 million reimbursement to the Defense Acquisition University for a review of Secure Border Initiative procurement; $60 million for reimbursement of State and local law enforcement agencies in U.S.-Mexico border communities; and $225 million for the extension of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative. We must remember that border security is fundamentally a Federal responsibility and that we should not pass unfunded mandates to State and local governments that will be burdened by bad public policy.

I am especially pleased that the appropriations bill provides $475 million for U.S.–VISIT along with report language that makes clear that at least $13 million is to be used to develop an exit system. The provision also requires a schedule for implementing the exit program. Under my chairmanship, the Committee on Homeland Security has held several hearings examining the exit aspect of the US–VISIT. In fact, on September 5, 2007, I called on Secretary Chertoff to implement the US–VISIT air exit by the end of the calendar year 2008. Simply put, it is folly to speak of security if we rely on a process that tells us who comes into the country but cannot verify if or when individuals leave the country.

Other commonsense border security measures in the fiscal year 2008 appropriations bill include the language that amend current law by requiring consultation with the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior, States, local land owners, and tribes; authorizing programs to study the modernization of ports-of-entry. I also commend the bill's inclusion of $36 million for the implementation of the Electronic Travel Authorization program—a provision that I promoted in P.L. 110–53. One particular area that reflects sound policy is language that provides ''law enforcement officer'', LEO, status and retirement benefits to Customs and Border Protection officers in order to enhance recruitment and retention. I was pleased to advocate the LEO status during the Committee of Homeland Security's consideration of H.R. 1684, the ''Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.'' We must do all that we can to retain our trained staff who are the eyes and ears along this Nation's vast borders.

I also note that the bill prohibits the use of funds for the planning, testing, piloting, or development of a national ID card and directs CBP to brief the Appropriations committees no later than Jan. 31, 2008 on how it is using the Workload Staffing Model to allocated staffing resources.

With regard to port security, I commend the appropriators for requiring improved oversight of the Deepwater Program which is funded at $783 million. Under my chairmanship, the Committee on Homeland Security has closely examined and demanded accountability over Deepwater, particularly in H.R. 2830, the U.S. Coast Guard Reauthorization Act and the SAFE Port Act, P.L. 109–347. Other notable funding is the $2 million for LNG and dangerous cargo suitability assessments; the $3.1 million to develop and finalize SAFE Port Act rulemakings; and the $60 million for Interagency Operational Centers for Port Security, a requirement from the SAFE Port Act; and $400 million for port security grants.

I note that the appropriation's bill requires the Transportation Security Administration, TSA and Coast Guard to work closely with terminal operators, local port police, and other law enforcement agencies to develop the operational procedures to ensure the effective implementation of the Transportation Worker Identification Card, TWIC program. I am concerned, however, that while the bill directs TSA to work with the appropriate officials of Florida and other port authorities to resolve differences between TWIC and the State's transportation facility access control programs, the requirement maybe interpreted as indicating that the Federal TWIC program does not pre-empt the Florida program. This is very troubling and counterproductive.

Finally, the bill appropriates $13 million for the CBP's Global Trade Exchange, GTX. CBP recently announced the Request for Quotations for the Global Trade Exchange 1 despite significant criticism from industry concerning the lack of transparency with this new initiative. I am concerned that the Department has not fully developed this initiative and that it is premature to fund it until the Department has provided the Committee of Homeland Security and industry with a more in-depth analysis of this new pilot.

8. INSPIRING MINDS AND DEVELOPING TECHNOLOGY—THE FUTURE OF HOMELAND SECURITY

I am very concerned about the emerging threats of a chemical, biological, nuclear, and radiological attack. As chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, I will continue to conduct oversight into this area to ensure that there is improved coordination between the Departments of Homeland Security and Health and Human Services and State, local, and Tribal governments. I recognize that the appropriation's bill does not provide a large amount of funding for pandemic flu due to the fact that the Department of Health and Human Services has $1.2 billion in unobligated funds from fiscal year 2007.

I am pleased that the bill provides $116.5 million to the Office of Health Affairs and includes a provision that would allow agricultural inspectors to stay at CBP and the Transportation Security Lab to recoup fees for testing. With regard to the threat of a cyber security attack, the bill provides $125 million for the Chief Information Officer to improve information technology security at the Department of Homeland Security—a much needed act.

I am also glad that the appropriators support the development of technology and the future minds in the field homeland security. For example, the bill provides that the Science and Technology Directorate will be appropriated at $830 million and funds the Third Generation Bio Watch at $5.8 million. The bill also provides $325 million for research and development. With regard to university programs, the bill provides $49.3 million for fiscal year 2008. This amount includes $4 million for the Transportation Security Center of Excellence. While that is far shy of the $18 million authorized in P.L. 110–53, the Committee on Homeland Security remains optimistic that appropriators will support the Centers of Excellence as they are the training grounds for future homeland security experts.

The $455 million appropriated to the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, DNDO, and $90 million for the Radiation Portal Monitor program is critical to tracking loose nuclear weapons. However, I am very concerned, like the appropriators, that there has not yet been certification by the DHS Secretary of Advanced Spectroscopic Portal, ASP, radiation monitors. We must push out the boundaries of technology if we are going to have 21st century security.

In closing, I would like to thank the appropriators for funding the vital programs that are critical to securing the Nation. As chairman of the authorizing committee, I will vigilantly monitor the Department of Homeland Security to ensure that it is drawing on the diverse talents of its experts to ensure that it is providing the American people security, accountability, and freedom from fear.

HONORING CONRAD BECKER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Conrad Becker of Platte City, Missouri. Conrad is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Conrad has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Conrad has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Conrad Becker for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING RETIRING ERIE COUNTY EXECUTIVE JOEL GIAMBRA

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the public career and personal sacrifices of Joel A. Giambra, who, on December 31, 2007, concluded more than two decades of continuous elective public service with the end of his second and final term as Erie County Executive.

Joel faced challenges throughout his career, and most particularly throughout his two terms as County Executive. Hit with a cancer diagnosis before taking the oath of office as County Executive, Joel faced that challenge and many, many more with a sense of commitment and—most especially—aplomb that inspired many to heed his advice to quit smoking.

Joel and I had the pleasure—and I do mean that it was a pleasure—to serve together as members of the Buffalo Common Council. My time serving alongside Joel was brief, but we were part of a new majority caucus on the council that was thoughtful, deliberative and served as an important check and balance on the office of the Mayor.

Following Joel's service on the Common Council, he distinguished himself as Buffalo City Comptroller, administering a large department of city government charged with important day to day functions in city life.

Joel's election as County Executive in 1999 was challenging at its start and was controversial almost throughout. Joel fought the fights he believed were worth fighting and never ducked a challenge. Joel rightly brought to the forefront the issues of overlapping governmental services and the need for county and local governments in Western New York to develop new strategies to collaborate and save taxpayer dollars. While Joel's efforts certainly could not be termed a complete success, he is widely and appropriately credited for bringing these issues to the forefront, and his efforts have paved the way for succeeding elected officials to find new and innovative ways to collaborate and consolidate services in the future.

As I indicated, Joel's eight years as County Executive had its share of ups and downs, but while some questioned the policies Joel implemented, no one could question his commitment to the community that he lives in and loves so much. From meetings in Albany to Washington, DC and to points abroad, during his years as County Executive, Buffalo and Western New York had no more dedicated ambassador than Joel Giambra.

Joel is now entering a new chapter of his professional life and we wish him good luck and Godspeed in his future endeavors, and Madam Speaker, I want to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to recognize Joel's public career.

TRIBUTE TO HARDIN COUNTY, TEXAS, AND ITS RESIDENTS ON THEIR 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Hardin County, Texas, and its residents on their 150th anniversary.

Sixty-eight miles northeast of Houston and 54 miles from the Gulf of Mexico, Hardin County's 897 square miles are covered by pine and hardwood forests. This puts Hardin County in the middle of the beautiful Big Thicket of southeast Texas and the larger east Texas Timberlands region. Natural resources are still a main driver of the local economy and timber, oil, gas, sand, gravel, and salt domes are found within the county.

In 1836 the area was split between the jurisdictions of Liberty and Jefferson counties. Following the region's population growth, in 1858 the legislature established a new county. The new county was named in honor of the Hardin family from nearby Liberty County; the county seat was also to be designated as Hardin. When the Sabine and East Texas Railroad bypassed Hardin in favor of the newly established railroad town, Kountze was made the new county seat.

Long ago, American Indians in the region began to visit what they called Medicine Lake, seeking the healing powers of the mud and mineral water in what we today call Sour Lake. Oil was discovered in 1901 around Sour Lake and quickly became the lifeblood of the area, production later reached 7 million barrels a day. This same discovery allowed for the creation of the Texas Company, better known as Texaco. Today, Hardin County has grown to over 50,000 residents.

Immigrants from Ireland, Germany, France, and other countries were drawn to Hardin County for its oil, timber, livestock and agricultural products. This rich diversity contributed to economic growth and the rich culture Hardin County still enjoys today.

Today, Hardin County is one of the fastest growing areas of southeast Texas—there is a bright future of growth and prosperity. Families are choosing to live in Hardin County because of its outstanding schools and traditional sense of community. Hardin County is the type of place where neighbors check in on each other and catch up at high school football games. Local leaders through out the county have worked hard to maintain Hardin County's quality of life. These men and women are following in the footsteps of early settlers and the county's founders to make Hardin County a better place for hardworking men and women who call it home.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to represent this community in the U.S. House of Representatives and I urge you to join me in congratulating Hardin County on its sesquicentennial birthday.

HONORING QUINTIN PHILLIP O'DELL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Quintin Phillip O'Dell of Platte City, Missouri. Quintin is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Quintin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Quintin has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Quintin Phillip O'Dell for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING RETIRING TOWN OF SARDINIA COUNCILWOMAN CARLA FULLER

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments and public service career of Carla Fuller, councilwoman from the Town of Sardinia, upon her retirement from active public service as a member of the Town Board.

Sardinia is among the smallest towns in my congressional district and sometimes, Madam Speaker, that makes for the most difficult service in public office. Because everyone in a small town seems to know everyone else, the decisions made in government often have a oversized impact upon the very people that you represent. It is that very challenge that makes the service of people like Carla Fuller all the more substantial.

Carla served as a diligent, thoughtful and respectful representative of the people during her years on the town board. While she will retire from active service on the town board at the end of this year, I have little doubt that Carla will remain dedicated to Sardinia and to its residents for many years to come.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to have had this opportunity to honor Carla's service to the Town of Sardinia and am certain that you join me and the rest of our colleagues in wishing Carla and her entire family the best of luck and Godspeed in all of their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MS. SONJA DRAN EMBRY

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, let me take this time to recognize the outstanding federal civilian service of Ms. Sonja Dran Embry on the occasion of her retirement. Ms. Embry has worked for the federal civil service at the Navy Personnel Command for the past 36 years.

A native of Caneyville, Kentucky, Ms. Embry is a 1970 graduate of the Kentucky Business College in Lexington, Kentucky. On January 4th 1971, she began her civil service career working at the Bureau of Naval Personnel where she held administrative support positions in the Recall and Release Branch, Civilian Personnel Branch/Administrative and Management Division, and the Congressional/Disposal Sections. As the Vietnam Conflict was winding down, Ms. Embry was again assigned to the Recall and Release Branch where she worked until September 1979.

Ms. Embry was selected to serve as the Human Resources Assistant in the Submarine and Nuclear Power Officer Assignments Branch in September 1979. In August 1998, she assisted in the move and reorganization of the Bureau of Naval Personnel, Washington, DC into the Navy Personnel Command in Millington, TN. She has been the cornerstone of this office providing continuity and service to the military members of the U.S. Navy's Submarine Service. Her tireless and caring performance of duty has touched and had a pronounced effect on the lives and careers of over 18,000 submarine officers.

Please join me and our colleagues in thanking Ms. Embry for her tireless contributions to a grateful Nation and in wishing her the best in her future.

HONORING ZACHARY BOYD HEISER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Zachary Boyd Heiser of Platte City, Missouri. Zachary is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Zachary has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Zachary has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Zachary Boyd Heiser for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING RETIRING NYS SUPREME COURT JUSTICE JEROME GORSKI

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor a respected jurist, a dedicated public servant and a trusted friend of this community upon the occasion of his retirement from the New York State Appellate Court Division. Madam Speaker, I want to call to the House's attention the outstanding record of public service of Justice Jerome C. Gorski.

Judge Gorski received his law degree from Georgetown University in 1962 and was admitted to practice later that year. He initially practiced in Buffalo, concentrating on negligence, products liability litigation, and labor relations related work. From 1973 until 1980, he served as law clerk to Judge James L. Kane, first in County Court and later in Supreme Court. In the past, Justice Gorski served a clerkship under renowned U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica.

Initially elected to the Supreme Court in the late 1980s, Judge Gorski's judicial career culminated in his appointment to serve on the Supreme Court's Appellate Division for the Fourth Department in 2001. Judge Gorski received the Outstanding Jurist Award from the Erie County Bar Association in 1998, and the 2000 Award of Merit.

Judge Gorski is a part of a revered family in Western New York. Judge Gorski's father, the late Chester Gorski, and his brother Dennis, each had outstanding careers in public service, and each were, in the past, candidates for the congressional seat that I am fortunate to occupy today. Imbued within the Gorski family is an innate commitment to the community that is Buffalo and Western New York, and all of our residents are better for the tremendous commitment to public service demonstrated by the Gorski family.

Madam Speaker, in recognition of and in gratitude for his service, leadership and patriotism, I ask that this honorable body join me in honoring Justice Jerome Gorski upon the occasion of his retirement, and wish he and his family the very best of health and happiness in the months and years ahead.

A FAREWELL TO HOUSE GENERAL COUNSEL GERALDINE GENNET

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to say a few words on the recent retirement of Geraldine Gennet, the outgoing General Counsel of the House of Representatives.

Because of the sensitive areas that it works on, the Office of the General Counsel is not well known to many people outside of Congress. Nevertheless, the office provides invaluable legal advice and representation to Members, committees, employees, and officers of Congress, regardless of their political party or affiliation. Geraldine joined the Office of the General Counsel in 1995, and became General Counsel in 1997. Prior to her service in the House of Representatives, she worked as a sole practitioner in the District of Columbia, and then served as General Counsel for the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department and as Litigation Counsel for the Office of Thrift Supervision.

During her time at the helm of the Office of the General Counsel, Congress was involved in a host of public and private battles and constitutional issues with wide-ranging implications, and through each one, Geraldine provided tremendous leadership to Congress and its Members. Indeed, even as Congress became a more partisan place over the last decade, Geraldine was ceaselessly nonpartisan in her work. During my time on the House Ethics and Judiciary Committees, I was fortunate to work with her on several occasions, and I was always impressed with Geraldine's strong focus on ensuring that congressional prerogatives and Congress as an institution were tenaciously protected from political considerations and other negative influences.

It is an honor to commend Geraldine for her leadership and hard work, and to wish her the very best in all of her future endeavors.

HONORING DAVID KYLE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize David Kyle of Liberty, Missouri. David is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

David has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years David has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending David Kyle for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO NICOLE SCHWARTZ

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise here today to recognize the efforts of Ms. Nicole Schwartz to promote a ''Bill of Rights for Diabetics.''

Ms. Schwartz is an exemplary young woman whose passion to fight diabetes is leaving an indelible mark in our community. By

taking it upon herself to raise awareness of this devastating disease among the people most vulnerable to it, she is setting an important example of how civic engagement can change the lives of our fellow community members. She has actively engaged policy makers at the local, State and Federal level as well as prominent civic organizations to further awareness.

For example, in partnering with the League of Latin American Citizens (LULAC), Ms. Schwartz organized a health fair to share important resources and information about diabetes with at-risk San Antonians. She also volunteers her time at the Christus Santa Rosa Hospital in order to learn more about the disease and distribute her knowledge to patients through a newsletter she created.

Without question, her dedication and persistence have proven essential in educating her colleagues and community. These two personal qualities also played a role in her efforts to encourage organizations like LULAC to adopt her Bill of Rights for Diabetics. The Bill of Rights echoes the 2007 ADA Standards of Care and includes the six following exams: a hemoglobin/A1c test; a lipid evaluation; blood pressure checks; a microalbumin test; a dilated and comprehensive eye examination; and a barefoot exam.

Ms. Schwartz shares a passion for learning more about diabetes with her father, Dr. Sherwin Schwartz, who built one of the largest diabetes research facilities in the country. Only a junior at St. Mary's Hall in San Antonio, Ms. Schwartz has the potential to achieve much more and hopes to pursue a degree at Georgetown University.

As a Member of Congress who represents the Texas-Mexico Border, a region with one of the highest incidences of diabetes in the world, I am acutely aware of the impact of diabetes and the other health problems associated with it. Young people such as Ms. Schwartz are invaluable partners in bettering our communities, and I thank her for her efforts.

It is with great pride that I recognize Ms. Schwartz as an exemplary young leader in the San Antonio community, and I wish her continued success in raising awareness about this devastating disease.

HONORING KEVIN MICHAEL WILBUR

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kevin Michael Wilbur of Platte City, Missouri. Kevin is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kevin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kevin has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kevin Michael Wilbur for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ''OLD POST OFFICE DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2008''

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I introduce the Old Post Office Development Act to make fully useful to the government the nearly empty Old Post Office a unique, historic treasure located at 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W., owned by the Federal government's General Services Administration (GSA). For many years the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management has expressed concern about the waste and neglect of this valuable government site and has pressed the GSA to develop and use this building. The GSA recognized the need in 2004 and issued a Request for Expression of Interest for which it received many indications of interest. However, for no good or sufficient reason GSA has never proceeded to the next step.

Because the building was designed as a Post Office in the 19th century, it's present design makes it virtually unusable without appropriate remodeling. During decades of underutilization the government has attempted to make the space suitable for office space, but its huge, cavernous central area on the main floor and the areas that surround the atrium could only accommodate a few very small agencies currently housed there, GSA has indicated that these agencies can be easily and economically relocated elsewhere in the District of Columbia.

As we begin a new year, further delay in making use of a centrally located historic treasure can no longer be tolerated. Apparently, the private sector stepped forward when the GSA asked for indications of interest. GSA must respond without further delay. I will seek quick passage of this bill to assure that the taxpayers receive the value due long ago for this Federal site.

HONORING ZACHARY KIRK HOLBROOK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Zachary Kirk Holbrook of Platte City, Missouri. Zachary is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Zachary has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Zachary has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Zachary Kirk Holbrook for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Ms. TSONGAS. Madam Speaker, I wanted to take a moment to explain my absence for the quorum call on January 15th. I recently returned from visiting U.S. forces serving in Iraq and Afghanistan as part of a bipartisan Congressional Delegation trip led by my colleague, Representative LINCOLN DAVIS.

The purpose of this Congressional Delegation trip was to meet firsthand with our brave men and women in uniform currently deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan to thank them for their outstanding service and to learn what additional resources they may need on the ground. I also met with military commanders as well as with national leaders in Iraq and Afghanistan to get the latest information on the security, political, and economic conditions in both countries. I think it is important for all members of Congress to see what is happening on the ground in Iraq, but as a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I take that responsibility particularly seriously.

As a result of the Congressional Delegation trip, I was unable to participate in the votes held on Tuesday evening. If I would have been here, I would have voted ''present''.

HONORING DONALD ALEXANDER SOPER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Donald Alexander Soper of Platte City, Missouri. Donald is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Donald has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Donald has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Donald Alexander Soper for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING WILLIAM TRAUGOTT HENRY BRUNE II

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize William Traugott Henry Brune II of Kansas City, Missouri. William is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

William has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years William has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending William Traugott Henry Brune II for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, January 17, 2008 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JANUARY 22

2 p.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Kevin J. O'Connor, of Connecticut, to be Associate Attorney General, and Gregory G. Katsas, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Attorney General.
SD–226

JANUARY 23

10 a.m.
Judiciary
To hold oversight hearings to examine the Justice for All Act (Public Law 108–405), focusing on the administration of the Bloodsworth and Coverdell DNA Grant Programs by the Department of Justice.
SD–226

JANUARY 24

9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold oversight hearings to examine ways to reform the Mining Law of 1872.
SD–366

Veterans' Affairs
To hold oversight hearings to examine the report of the Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission, focusing on veterans disability compensation.
SD–562

10 a.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine S. 1843, to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 to clarify that an unlawful practice occurs each time compensation is paid pursuant to a discriminatory compensation decision or other practice.
SD–430

2 p.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Ed Schafer, of North Dakota, to be Secretary of Agriculture.
SR–328A

JANUARY 30

10 a.m.
Judiciary
To hold oversight hearings to examine the Department of Justice.
SH–216

FEBRUARY 5

9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To continue oversight hearings to examine veterans disability compensation.
SR–418

FEBRUARY 13

9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for veterans programs.
SR–418

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

The Senate was not in session today. It will next meet at 10 a.m. on Friday, January 18, 2008.

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 50 public bills, H.R. 4931–4933, 4983–5029; 1 private bill, H.R. 5030; and 9 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 279–280; and H. Res. 921, 923–927 were introduced. **Pages H293–95**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H295–96**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H. Res. 922, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3524) to reauthorize the HOPE VI program for revitalization of severely distressed public housing (H. Rept. 110–509) and H.R. 3959, to amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to provide for the phase-in of actuarial rates for certain pre-FIRM properties, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–510). **Page H293**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Condemning the assassination of former Pakistani Prime Minister Benzair Bhutto and reaffirming the commitment of the United States to assist the people of Pakistan in combating terrorist activity and promoting a free and democratic Pakistan: H. Res. 912, to condemn the assassination of former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and to reaffirm the commitment of the United States to assist the people of Pakistan in combating terrorist activity and promoting a free and democratic Pakistan, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 413 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 3; **Pages H30–35, H44**

Providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 4253, with an amendment: H. Res. 921, to provide for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 4253, with an amendment, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 406 yeas to 2 nays, Roll No. 4; and **Pages H35–39, H44–45**

Providing for the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, as previously enrolled, with certain modifications to address the foreign sovereign immunities provisions of title 28, United States Code: H.R. 4986, to provide for the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, as previously enrolled, with certain modifications to address the foreign sovereign immunities provisions of title 28, United States Code, with respect to the attachment of property in certain judgments against Iraq and the lapse of statutory authorities for the payment of bonuses, special pays, and similar benefits for members of the uniformed services, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 369 yeas to 46 nays, Roll No. 11. **Pages H75–H260**

S-MINER Act: The House passed H.R. 2768, to establish improved mandatory standards to protect miners during emergencies, by a year-and-nay vote of 214 yeas to 199 nays, Roll No. 10. **Pages H45–75**

Rejected the Souder motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Education and Labor with instructions to report the same back to the House promptly with an amendment, by a recorded vote of 197 ayes to 217 noes, Roll No. 9. **Pages H73–75**

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Labor now printed in the bill shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule. **Pages H54–60**

Accepted:

George Miller (CA) manager's amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 110–508) that provides the mining industry with more time to install a new generation of fire-resistant conveyor belts, provides funds for MSHA to purchase a new generation of dust monitoring devices to limit black lung disease, and ensures that breathable air requirements of the MINER Act of 2006 are properly implemented. In addition, the amendment requires that the Secretary of Labor conduct a study on substance abuse by miners with recommendations for policy changes, in consultation with all interested parties. The Secretary shall report the findings within six months of the bill's enactment and, if she deems it feasible and effective, shall be authorized to establish a miner substance abuse testing, rehabilitation, and treatment program within MSHA in consultation with the interested parties (by a recorded vote of 234 ayes to 183 noes, Roll No. 5); **Pages H60–64, H70**

Boucher amendment (No. 2 printed in H. Rept. 110–508) that authorizes $10,000,000 to award grants to provide rehabilitation services to current and former miners suffering from mental health impairments, including drug addiction and substance abuse issues, which may have been caused or exacerbated by their work as miners (by a recorded vote of 364 ayes to 53 noes, Roll No. 6); and **Pages H64–65, H70–71**

Ellsworth amendment (No. 3 printed in H. Rept. 110–508) that offers relief to mine operators that have been assessed penalties and pay them in a timely fashion. It also establishes a trust fund within Treasury, composed of mine safety civil penalties. Funds from the trust fund can be used for mine safety inspections and investigations only (by a recorded vote of 416 ayes with none voting ''no'', Roll No. 7). **Pages H65–66, H71–72**

Rejected:

Wilson (SC) amendment in the nature of a substitute (No. 4 printed in H. Rept. 110–508) that promotes the continued robust implementation of the 2006 MINER Act, increases worker safety by providing miners the opportunity to have a voice in mine safety, expands substance abuse programs to all mines to ensure safe working conditions for all miners, and addresses issues raised by the recent Crandall Canyon disaster (by a recorded vote of 188 ayes to 229 noes, Roll No. 8). **Pages H66–70, H72**

Agreed that the Clerk be authorized to make technical and conforming changes to reflect the actions of the House. **Page H75**

H. Res. 918, the rule providing for consideration of the bill, was agreed to by voice vote after agreeing to order the previous question by a year-and-nay vote of 222 yeas to 191 nays, Roll No. 2. **Pages H39–44**

Adjournment Resolution: The House agreed to H. Con. Res. 279, providing for a conditional adjournment of the House. **Page H260**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Five yea-and-nay votes and five recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H43–44, H44, H44–45, H70, H71, H71–72, H72, H74–75, H75, and H259–60. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Committee Meetings

IRAQ—POST SURGE ALTERNATIVES

Committee on Armed Services; Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing on A Continuing Dialogue: Post-Surge Alternatives for Iraq. Testimony was heard from the following former officials of the Department of Defense: John J. Hume, Deputy Secretary; GEN John M. Keane, USA (Ret.), Vice Chief of Staff, Army; and GEN Barry McCaffrey, USA (Ret.)

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES—MEDICAID'S CRITICAL ROLE

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled ''Helping Families with Needed Care: Medicaid's Critical Role for Americans with Disabilities.'' Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

U.S.-PAKISTAN RELATIONS

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia held a hearing on U.S.-Pakistan Relations: Assassination, Instability and the Future of U.S. Policy. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

HOPE VI IMPROVEMENT AND REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

Committee on Rules: Granted, by a voice vote, a structured rule providing 1 hour of general debate on H.R. 3524, HOPE VI Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2007, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill except clauses 9 and 10 of rule XXI. The rule

provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment and shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against the amendment in the nature of a substitute except for clause 10 of rule XXI.

The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in the Rules Committee report. The amendments made in order may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for a division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against the amendments except for clauses 9 and 10 of rule XXI are waived. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. The rule provides that, notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, the Chair may postpone further consideration of the bill to a time designated by the Speaker. Finally, the rule tables H. Res. 894. Testimony was heard from Chairman Barney Frank of Massachusetts, and Representatives Waters, Capito and Neugebauer.

WOMEN'S PROCUREMENT PROGRAM—SBA'S PROGRESS

Committee on Small Business: Held a hearing entitled "SBA's Progress in Implementing the Women's Procurement Program." Testimony was heard from Steven Preston, Administrator, SBA; Elizabeth Papez, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Counsel, Department of Justice; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES; GSA CAPITOL INVESTMENT AND LEASING RESOLUTIONS

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Ordered reported the following measures: H.R. 3913, To amend the International Center Act to authorize the lease or sublease of certain property described in such Act to an entity other than a foreign government or international organization if certain conditions are met; H.R. 4140. To designate the Port Angeles Federal Building in Port Angeles, Washington, as the "Richard B. Anderson Federal Building;" H. Res. 832, Honoring the Texas Water Development Board on its selection as a recipient of the Environmental Protection Agency's 2007 Clean Water State Revolving and Innovation Award; H. Res. 845, amended, Recognizing the 60th anniversary of Everglades National Park; H.R. 866, Honoring the brave men and women of the United States Coast Guard whose tireless work, dedication, and commitment to protecting the United States have led to the Coast Guard seizing over 350,000 pounds of cocaine at sea during 2007, far surpassing all of our previous records.

The Committee also approved General Services Administration Capitol and Leasing Program Resolutions.

ECONOMICALLY VULNERABLE BENEFICIARIES—SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Social Security held a hearing on Social Security Benefits for Economically Vulnerable Beneficiaries. Testimony was heard from David A. Rust, Acting Deputy Commissioner, Disability and Income Security Programs, SSA; Laura R. Haltzel, Specialist In Social Legislation, CRS, Library of Congress; and public witnesses.

BRIEFING—HOT SPOTS

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Met in executive session to receive a briefing on Hot Spots. The Committee was briefed by departmental witnesses.

CIA TAPES INVESTIGATION

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Met in executive session to hold a hearing on CIA Tapes Investigation. Testimony was heard from John Rizzo, Acting General Counsel, CIA.

Joint Meetings

RECESSION AVOIDANCE

Joint Economic Committee: Committee concluded a hearing to examine potential efforts by the federal government to avoid a recession, after receiving testimony from Lawrence H. Summers, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts; and Lawrence Mishel, Economic Policy Institute, and William W. Beach, Heritage Foundation, both of Washington, D.C.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2008

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Armed Services, hearing on the Status of Efforts to Develop Iraqi Security Forces, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, hearing on the Near-Term Outlook for the U.S. Economy, 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality, hearing entitled ''Administration Perspectives on United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali,'' 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law, hearing on Naturalization Delays: Causes, Consequences and Solutions, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, hearing on Assessing Veterans' Charities—Part II, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, hearing entitled ''Oversight of the U.S. Export-Import Bank's Implementation of its Small Business Mandate,'' 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, hearing on the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission Report, 11 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, hearing to review pending Montgomery G.I. Bill legislation, 1 p.m., 340 Cannon.

Subcommittee on Health, hearing on the following bills: H.R. 2790, To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the position of Director of Physician Assistant Services within the office of the Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Health; H.R. 3458, To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on the provision of traumatic brain injury care in rural areas; H.R. 3819, Veterans Emergency Care Fairness Act of 2007; H.R. 4053, Mental Health Improvements Act of 2007; H.R. 4107, Women Veterans Health Care Improvement Act; H.R. 4146, To amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the availability of emergency medical care for veterans in non-Department of Veteran Affairs medical facilities; H.R. 4204, Veterans Suicide Study Act; and H.R. 4231, Rural Veterans Health Care Access Act of 2007, 10 a.m., 340 Cannon.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Subcommittee on Terrorism, Human Intelligence, Analysis and Counterintelligence, executive, briefing on U.S. Hostages in Colombia, 10 a.m., H–405 Capitol.

Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, hearing entitled ''On Thin Ice: the Future of the Polar Bear,'' 9:30 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Friday, January 18

Senate Chamber

Program for Friday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Thursday, January 17

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Consideration of H.R. 3524—HOPE VI Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2007 (Subject to a Rule).

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Berman, Howard L., Calif., E29
Bishop, Sanford D., Jr., Ga., E20, E21
Brady, Kevin, Tex., E28
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