

SUMMARY OF BILL LANGUAGE

Titles 4, 5, 6, 7, & 14

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DIVISION A—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AUTHORIZATIONS

TITLE IV—MILITARY PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATIONS

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

SUBTITLE A—ACTIVE FORCES

Section 401—End Strengths for Active Forces

This section would authorize the following end strengths for Active Duty personnel of the Armed Forces as of September 30, 2013:

Service	FY 2012	FY 2013		Change from	
	Authorized	Request	Committee Recommendation	FY 2013 Request	FY 2012 Authorized
Army	562,000	552,100	552,100	0	-9,900
Navy	325,700	322,700	322,700	0	-3,000
USMC	202,100	197,300	197,300	0	-4,800
Air Force	332,800	328,900	329,460	560	-3,340
DOD	1,422,600	1,401,000	1,401,560	560	-21,040

The committee recommends an increase in end strengths to reflect the corresponding manpower requirements to maintain 18 Air Force Block 30 RQ-4 Global Hawks. The committee also notes the Navy end strength is approximately 5,000 less than the fiscal year 2012 authorized end strength of 325,700 and is projected to end the year at the current level. This is a drastic change from the fiscal year 2012 budget plan and what was submitted and briefed to Congress for the fiscal year 2013 budget. The committee is concerned about the Navy's ability to properly manage its manpower requirements. Over the past several years, the Navy has been over its authorized end strength levels, particularly within its officer corps, by several thousand and executed drastic force shaping measures in fiscal year 2012 to ensure that they were in compliance. As a result, the Navy took more reductions than were necessary for budget saving measures, involuntarily forcing enlisted sailors out of the Navy. Although the committee authorizes the President's request for the Navy's end strength for fiscal year 2013, the committee is doubtful of the Navy's ability to reverse course and meet this increased authorization level. As such, the committee believes an additional 1,008 sailors to maintain 3 Cruisers in fiscal year 2013 is not needed based on current manning levels.

Section 402—Revision in Permanent Active Duty End Strength Minimum Levels

This section would establish new minimum Active Duty end strengths for the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force as of September 30, 2013. The committee recommends 552,100 as the minimum Active Duty end strength for the Army, 322,700 as the minimum Active Duty end strength for the Navy, 197,300 as the minimum Active Duty end strength for the Marine Corps, and 329,460 as the minimum Active Duty end strength for the Air Force.

Section 403—Limitations on End Strength Reductions for Regular Component of the Army and Marine Corps

This section would limit the end strength reductions for the Regular Component of the Army to no more than 15,000 members per year, and for the Regular Component of the Marine Corps to no more than 5,000 members per year between fiscal years 2014-17. In addition, if the President determines a reduction in end strength of the Regular Component of the Army or Marine Corps (or both) is necessary, this section would require the President to submit an annual

certification with the budget request that the reduction will not: undermine the ability of the Armed Forces to meet the requirements of the National Security Strategy; increase security risks for the United States; or compel members of the Armed Forces to endure diminished dwell time and repeated deployments. This section also would require that the Department of Defense budget request include amounts for the end strength of the regular component of the Army and the Marine Corps in the base budget and not through emergency, supplemental, or overseas contingency operations funds.

SUBTITLE B—RESERVE FORCES

Section 411—End Strengths for Selected Reserve

This section would authorize the following end strengths for Selected Reserve personnel, including the end strength for Reserves on Active Duty in support of the Reserves, as of September 30, 2013:

Service	FY 2012	FY 2013		Change from	
	Authorized	Request	Committee Recommendation	FY 2013 Request	FY 2012 Authorized
Army National Guard	358,200	358,200	358,200	0	0
Army Reserve	205,000	205,000	205,000	0	0
Navy Reserve	66,200	62,500	62,500	0	-3,700
Marine Corps Reserve	39,600	39,600	39,600	0	0
Air National Guard	106,700	101,600	101,600	0	-5,100
Air Force Reserve	71,400	70,500	70,500	0	-900
DOD Total	847,100	837,400	837,400	0	-9,700
Coast Guard Reserve	10,000	9,000	9,000	0	-1,000

Section 412—End Strengths for Reserves on Active Duty in Support of the Reserves

This section would authorize the following end strengths for Reserves on Active Duty in support of the Reserves as of September 30, 2013:

Service	FY 2012	FY 2013		Change from	
	Authorized	Request	Committee Recommendation	FY 2013 Request	FY 2012 Authorized
Army National Guard	32,060	32,060	32,060	0	0
Army Reserve	16,261	16,277	16,277	0	16
Naval Reserve	10,337	10,114	10,114	0	-223
Marine Corps Reserve	2,261	2,261	2,261	0	0
Air National Guard	14,833	14,305	14,305	0	-528
Air Force Reserve	2,662	2,888	2,888	0	226
DOD Total	78,414	77,905	77,905	0	-509

Section 413—End Strengths for Military Technicians (Dual Status)

This section would authorize the following end strengths for military technicians (dual status) as of September 30, 2013:

Service	FY 2012	FY 2013		Change from	
	Authorized	Request	Committee Recommendation	FY 2013 Request	FY 2012 Authorized
Army Reserve	8,395	8,445	8,395	-50	0
Army National Guard	27,210	28,380	27,210	-1,170	0
Air Force Reserve	10,777	10,283	10,283	0	-494
Air National Guard	22,509	21,101	21,101	0	-1,408
DOD Total	68,891	68,209	66,989	-1,220	-1,902

This section would establish limits for fiscal year 2013 on the number of dual status technicians authorized for the Reserve Components of the Army and Air Force. The budget request included an increase in the statutory limit on dual status technicians for the Army Reserve by 50 members and the Army National Guard by 1,170 members. Although the committee is supportive of the operational reserve and believes that there are requirements for increases in full time support, the committee cannot support an increase in the number of technicians at this time. In the committee report (H. Rept. 110-652) accompanying the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009, the committee directed the Secretary of the Army to review the projected 5-year requirements for the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve full-time manning and implement a plan to increase full time manning in both those components. The committee has yet to receive the review and the implementation plan from this directive. After several field visits and meetings with the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve, the committee believes it is best to take a comprehensive approach to the full-time manning of the operational reserve rather than piecemeal which has been the case over the past 5 years. The committee encourages the Secretary of the Army to conclude the review and provide a comprehensive full time support implementation plan to the committee.

Section 414—Fiscal Year 2013 Limitation on Number of Non-Dual Status Technicians

This section would establish the maximum end strengths for the Reserve Components of the Army and Air Force for non-dual status technicians as of September 30, 2013:

Service	FY 2012	FY 2013		Change from	
	Authorized	Request	Committee Recommendation	FY 2013 Request	FY 2012 Authorized
Army National Guard	1,600	1,600	1,600	0	0
Air National Guard	350	350	350	0	0
Army Reserve	595	595	595	0	0
Air Force Reserve	90	90	90	0	0
DOD Total	2,635	2,635	2,635	0	0

Section 415—Maximum Number of Reserve Personnel Authorized To Be on Active Duty for Operational Support

This section would authorize, as required by section 115(b) of title 10, United States Code, the maximum number of Reserve Component personnel who may be on Active Duty or full-time National Guard duty during fiscal year 2013 to provide operational support. The personnel authorized here do not count against the end strengths authorized by section 401 or section 412 of this Act unless the duration on Active Duty exceeds the limitations in section 115(b)(2) of title 10, United States Code.

Service	FY 2012	FY 2013		Change from	
	Authorized	Request	Committee Recommendation	FY 2013 Request	FY 2012 Authorized
Army National Guard	17,000	17,000	17,000	0	0
Army Reserve	13,000	13,000	13,000	0	0
Naval Reserve	6,200	6,200	6,200	0	0
Marine Corps Reserve	3,000	3,000	3,000	0	0
Air National Guard	16,000	16,000	16,000	0	0
Air Force Reserve	14,000	14,000	14,000	0	0
DOD Total	69,200	69,200	69,200	0	0

SUBTITLE C—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

Section 421—Military Personnel

This section would authorize appropriations for military personnel at the levels identified in the funding table in section 4401 of division D of this Act.

TITLE V—MILITARY PERSONNEL POLICY

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

SUBTITLE A—OFFICER PERSONNEL POLICY GENERALLY

Section 501—Limitation on Number of Navy Flag Officers on Active Duty

This section would eliminate the exemption for the Director of the Nurse Corps and the Director of the Medical Service Corps from counting against the statutory limits on Navy flag officers on Active Duty.

Section 502—Exception to Required Retirement After 30 Years of Service for Regular Navy Warrant Officers in the Grade of Chief Warrant Officer, W-5

This section would increase from 30 years to 33 years the total active military service a Navy warrant officer in the grade of chief warrant officer, W-5, may serve prior to being statutorily retired for length of service.

Section 503—Air Force Chief and Deputy Chief of Chaplains

This section would establish the positions of Chief of Chaplains and Deputy Chief of Chaplains in the Air Force in statute. This section would replace the Air Force's current central selection process for the Chief of Chaplains, which is restrictive, with a process similar to that used for the selection of Staff Judge Advocates General of the military services. This section would also allow candidates in the grade of colonel and above to be considered for selection.

SUBTITLE B—RESERVE COMPONENT MANAGEMENT

Section 511—Codification of Staff Assistant Positions for Joint Staff Related to National Guard and Reserve Matters

This section would repeal section 901 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998 (Public Law 105-85) and make the provisions of that section part of title 10, United States Code. This section would also amend the language of the new section in title 10 by requiring the assistants to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff have significant joint duty experience, as determined by the Chairman, and that the assistants be included in the limited exclusions for joint duty assignments, under section 526(b) of title 10, United States Code.

Section 512—Automatic Federal Recognition of Promotion of Certain National Guard Warrant Officers

This section would automatically confer Federal recognition on members of the National Guard who are promoted from the grade of warrant officer 1, W-1, to chief warrant officer 2, W-2.

SUBTITLE C—GENERAL SERVICE AUTHORITIES

Section 521—Modifications to Career Intermission Pilot Program

This section would expand the population eligible for the Career Intermission Pilot Program to include Reserve Component members serving on Active Duty. This section would also authorize service members to retain their earned leave balance as well as to go through processing for disability separation while participating in the program.

Section 522—Authority for Additional Behavioral Health Professionals to Conduct Pre-Separation Medical Exams for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

This section would authorize licensed clinical social workers and psychiatric nurse practitioners to conduct pre-administrative separation medical examinations to determine if the service member suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder, a factor that should be considered by the service member's commander prior to administrative separation.

Section 523—Authority to Accept Voluntary Services to Assist Department of Defense Efforts To Account for Missing Persons

This section would amend section 1501(a)(6) of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Defense to accept gratuitous or voluntary services in circumstances in which the Secretary deems that such services may assist in accounting for missing personnel.

Section 524—Command Responsibility and Accountability for Remains of Members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps Who Die Outside the United States

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to ensure that there is a continuous military command responsibility and accountability for the remains of each deceased member of the military services who died outside of the United States.

Section 525—Report on Feasibility of Developing Gender-Neutral Occupational Standards for Military Occupational Specialties Currently Closed to Women

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to submit to the congressional defense committees within 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, a report on the feasibility of incorporating gender-neutral occupational standards for military occupational specialties closed to female members of the Armed Forces.

SUBTITLE D—MILITARY JUSTICE AND LEGAL MATTERS

Section 531—Clarification and Enhancement of the Role of Staff Judge Advocate to the Commandant of the Marine Corps

This section would authorize the Staff Judge Advocate to the Commandant of the Marine Corps to supervise the administration of justice and delivery of legal assistance within the Marine Corps; provide professional supervision over all judge advocates of the Marine Corps; and establish a direct relationship with the Secretary of the Navy.

Section 532—Persons Who May Exercise Disposition Authority Regarding Charges Involving Certain Sexual Misconduct Offenses Under the Uniform Code of Military Justice

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to implement a policy to have the Secretaries of the military departments withhold disposition authority under the Uniform Code of Military Justice for certain sexual offenses under sections 920, 925 and 880 of title 10, United States Code. The policy required by this section would establish that the disposition authority in such cases would be no lower than the special court-martial convening authority, who holds the grade of colonel, or in the case of the Navy, the grade of captain, who has a legal advisor and is in the chain of command of the person accused of committing the offense. This section would not preclude the general-court martial convening authority from acting in lieu of the special court-martial convening authority, nor would this section preclude other offenses related to the alleged sexual offenses from being considered by the special court-martial convening authority.

Section 533—Briefing, Plan, and Recommendations Regarding Efforts To Prevent and Respond to Hazing Incidents Involving Members of the Armed Forces

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to brief the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services by May 1, 2013, on the plan to establish the Department of Defense effort to prevent hazing in the Armed Forces, and to respond to and resolve alleged hazing incidents. This section would also require the Secretary to provide recommendations for changes to the Uniform Code of Military Justice and the Manual for Courts-Martial to improve the prosecution of hazing incidents as part of the briefing. In addition, this section would require the Secretary to establish a database to determine the extent to which hazing incidents are occurring and the nature of such incidents, as well as to track, respond to, and resolve hazing incidents involving members of the Armed Forces.

SUBTITLE E—MEMBER EDUCATION AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AND ADMINISTRATION

Section 541—Transfer of Troops-to-Teachers Program from Department of Education to Department of Defense and Enhancements to the Program

This section would transfer responsibility and authority for operation and administration of the Troops to Teachers Program from the Department of Education to the Department of Defense.

Section 542—Support of Naval Academy Athletic and Physical Fitness Programs

This section would amend chapter 603 of title 10, United States Code, to grant the Secretary of the Navy authority to enter into a collaborative agreement with the Naval Academy Athletic Association in support of the United States Naval Academy's athletic and physical fitness programs.

SUBTITLE F—DECORATIONS AND AWARDS

Section 551—Issuance of Prisoner-of-War Medal

This section would amend section 1128 of title 10, United States Code, to permit the prisoner-of-war medal to be awarded to any person serving in any capacity with the Armed Forces who was taken prisoner or held captive by a foreign armed force under circumstances that the Secretary concerned finds to have been comparable to those under which persons have generally been held captive by enemy armed forces. Under current law, the foreign armed forces must have been found to be hostile to the United States.

Section 552—Award of Purple Heart to Members of the Armed Forces Who Were Victims of the Attacks at Recruiting Station in Little Rock, Arkansas, and at Fort Hood, Texas

This section would require the Secretary concerned to award the Purple Heart to members of the Armed Forces who were killed or wounded in the attacks that occurred at the recruiting station in Little Rock, Arkansas, on June 1, 2009, and at Fort Hood, Texas, on November 5, 2009.

SUBTITLE G—DEFENSE DEPENDENTS' EDUCATION AND MILITARY FAMILY READINESS MATTERS

Section 561—Continuation of Authority to Assist Local Educational Agencies that Benefit Dependents of Members of the Armed Forces and Department of Defense Civilian Employees

This section would authorize \$25.0 million for the continuation of the Department of Defense (DOD) assistance program to local educational agencies that are impacted by the enrollment of dependent children of military members and

DOD civilian employees. This section would also authorize \$5.0 million for assistance to local educational agencies with significant changes in enrollment of school-aged dependents of military members and civilian employees due to base closures, force structure changes, or force relocations.

Section 562—Transitional Compensation for Dependent Children Who Were Carried During Pregnancy at the Time of the Dependent-Abuse Offense Committed by an Individual While a Member of the Armed Forces

This section would extend transitional compensation benefits and payments provided to victims of dependent abuse under section 1059 of title 10, United States Code, to children carried during pregnancy at the time of a dependent-abuse offense.

Section 563—Modification of Authority to Allow Department of Defense Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools to Enroll Certain Students

This section would authorize the dependent of a member of the Armed Forces or a dependent of a Federal employee who had been enrolled in the overseas Defense Dependents' Education System and was evacuated, to enroll in a Department of Defense domestic elementary and secondary education school near the safe haven where they were evacuated. This section would also authorize the dependent of an Active Duty member of the Armed Forces who upon return to the United States is enrolled in the elementary or secondary school of a local educational agency, to enroll in the Department of Defense's virtual elementary and secondary education program on a tuition-paying basis.

Section 564—Protection of Child Custody Arrangements for Parents Who Are Members of the Armed Forces

This section would amend title II of the Service Members Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. app. 521) to require a court that issued a temporary custody order based solely on the deployment or anticipated deployment of a service member to reinstate the custody order that was in effect immediately preceding the temporary order, unless the court finds reinstatement is not in the best interest of the child. This section would also prohibit a court from using deployment or the possibility of deployment against a service member when determining the best interest of a child.

Section 565—Treatment of Relocation of Members of the Armed Forces for Active Duty for Purposes of Mortgage Refinancing

This section would amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 533) to authorize a service member to refinance a principal residence if the service member does not reside in the residence because of a permanent change of duty station.

Section 566—Sense of Congress Regarding Support for Yellow Ribbon Day

This section would express the sense of Congress supporting the goals and ideals of Yellow Ribbon Day in honor of members of the Armed Forces and U.S. civilians who are serving overseas apart from their families and loved ones.

SUBTITLE H—IMPROVED SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE IN THE ARMED FORCES

Section 571—Establishment of Special Victim Teams to Respond to Allegations of Child Abuse, Serious Domestic Violence, or Sexual Offenses

This section would require the Secretaries of the military departments to establish special victim teams for the investigation, prosecution, and victim support in connection with child abuse, serious domestic violence, or sexual offenses under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. In addition, this section would require the Secretary of each military department to determine the number of special victim teams to be established, and prescribe regulations for the management and employment of the teams in order to provide effective, timely, and responsive world-wide support. This section would also require that at least one special victim team in each military department be available for employment not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act. Furthermore, this section would require each Secretary to provide to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services, not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, a plan and time line for the establishment of the remainder of the special victim teams that the Secretary has determined are needed.

Section 572—Modification of Annual Department of Defense Reporting Requirements Regarding Sexual Assaults

This section would require the Secretaries of the military departments to include additional information in the case synopsis portion of the report on sexual assaults required by section 1631 of the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (Public Law 111-383).

Section 573—Continued Submission of Progress Reports Regarding Certain Incident Information Management Tools

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to continue to provide to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services a report on the establishment of the Defense Incident-Based Reporting System and the Defense Sexual Assault Incident Database until the Secretary certifies that both systems are fully functional and operational.

Section 574—Briefings on Department of Defense Actions Regarding Sexual Assault
Prevention and Response in the Armed Forces

This section requires the Secretary of Defense, or his designee, to brief the Senate Committee Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services on the status of implementation of the sexual assault provisions in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (Public Law 112-81) and the initiative announced by the Secretary of Defense on April 24, 2012.

SUBTITLE I—OTHER MATTERS

Section 581—Inclusion of Freely Associated States Within Scope of Junior Reserve
Officers' Training Corps Program

This section would amend section 2031(a) of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of a military department to establish and maintain a unit of the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps at a secondary education institution if the conditions of section 2031(b) of title 10, United States Code, are met.

Section 582—Preservation of Editorial Independence of Stars and Stripes

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to extend the lease for the commercial office space in the District of Columbia currently occupied by the editorial staff and management operations of "Stars and Stripes." This section would extend the lease until the Secretary can provide space and support for the operations of "Stars and Stripes" in a Government-owned facility that is located within the National Capital Region that is geographically remote from the Defense Media Activity's facilities at Fort Meade, Maryland. The committee believes it is critically important to preserving the editorial independence of "Stars and Stripes."

Section 583—Sense of Congress Regarding Designation of Bugle Call Commonly
Known as "Taps" as National Song of Remembrance

This section would express the sense of Congress that "Taps" should be designated as the National Song of Remembrance.

Section 584—Recommended Conduct During Sounding of Bugle Call Commonly
Known as "Taps"

This section would establish the recommended conduct of persons during the sounding of the bugle call known as "Taps".

Section 585—Inspection of Military Cemeteries Under the Jurisdiction of
Department of Defense

This section would amend section 1(d)1 of Public Law 111-339 to eliminate the requirement for the Secretary of the Army to report on Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia, and the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery, District of Columbia, in fiscal year 2013. Instead, this section would require the Inspector General of the Department of Defense to conduct the inspection, hereby eliminating the current requirement that both the Secretary of the Army and the Inspector General of the Department of Defense conduct inspections in 2013.

This section would also provide both the Inspector General of the Department of Defense and the Secretaries of the military departments an additional 6 months to meet the inspection and reporting requirements in section 592(d)(2) of Public Law 112-81, which requires the Inspector General of the Department of Defense to inspect a statistically valid sample of cemeteries under the jurisdiction of the Secretaries of the military departments and for the Secretaries of the military departments to report their plans for corrective actions to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services. The new suspense dates for the Inspector General and the Secretaries of the military departments would be June 29, 2013, and October 1, 2013, respectively.

TITLE VI—COMPENSATION AND OTHER PERSONNEL BENEFITS

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

SUBTITLE A—PAY AND ALLOWANCES

Section 601—Fiscal Year 2013 Increase in Military Basic Pay

This section would increase basic pay for members of the uniform services by 1.7 percent, effective January 1, 2013. This raise would match the pay raise rate in the private sector as measured by the Employment Cost Index.

Section 602—Basic Allowance for Housing for Two-Member Couples When One Member is on Sea Duty

This section would authorize dual military couples without dependents below the grade of E-6 to receive basic allowance for housing while serving on sea duty. This section would also eliminate the requirement that such couples must be simultaneously serving on sea duty before becoming eligible to receive basic allowance for housing.

Section 603—No Reduction in Basic Allowance for Housing for Army National Guard and Air National Guard Members Who Transition Between Active Duty and Full-Time National Guard Duty Without a Break in Active Service

This section would prevent reductions in the rate of basic allowance for housing for National Guard service members who transition from full-time National

Guard duty to Active Duty, or from Active Duty to full-time National Guard duty, when the transition occurs without a break in active service.

Section 604—Modification of Program Guidance Relating to the Award of Post-Deployment/Mobilization Respite Absence Administrative Absence Days to Members of the Reserve Components Under DOD Instruction 1327.06

This section would grandfather members of the Reserve Component mobilized under wartime or national emergency circumstances prior to October 1, 2011, from the policy changes implemented on that date by the Secretary of Defense relating to the award of Post-Deployment/Mobilization Respite Absence administrative absence days under DOD Instruction 1327.06.

SUBTITLE B—BONUSES AND SPECIAL AND INCENTIVE PAYS

Section 611—One-Year Extension of Certain Bonus and Special Pay Authorities for Reserve Forces

This section would extend the authority for the Selected Reserve reenlistment bonus, the Selected Reserve affiliation or enlistment bonus, special pay for enlisted members assigned to certain high-priority units, the Ready Reserve enlistment bonus for persons without prior service, the Ready Reserve enlistment and reenlistment bonus for persons with prior service, the Selected Reserve enlistment and reenlistment bonus for persons with prior service, income replacement payments for Reserve Component members experiencing extended and frequent mobilization for active duty service, and the authority to reimburse travel expenses for inactive-duty training outside of normal commuting distance until December 31, 2013.

Section 612—One-Year Extension of Certain Bonus and Special Pay Authorities for Health Care Professionals

This section would extend the authority for the nurse officer candidate accession program, repayment of educational loans for certain health professionals who serve in the Selected Reserve, the accession and retention bonuses for psychologists, the accession bonus for registered nurses, the incentive special pay for nurse anesthetists, the special pay for Selected Reserve health care professionals in critically short wartime specialties, the accession bonus for dental officers, the accession bonus for pharmacy officers, the accession bonus for medical officers in critically short wartime specialties, and the accession bonus for dental specialist officers in critically short wartime specialties until December 31, 2013.

Section 613—One-Year Extension of Special Pay and Bonus Authorities for Nuclear Officers

This section would extend the authority for the special pay for nuclear-qualified officers extending a period of active service, nuclear career accession bonus, and the nuclear career annual incentive bonus until December 31, 2013.

Section 614—One-Year Extension of Authorities Relating to Title 37 Consolidated Special Pay, Incentive Pay, and Bonus Authorities

This section would extend the general bonus authority for enlisted members, the general bonus authority for officers, the special bonus and incentive pay authority for nuclear officers, special aviation incentive pay and bonus authorities, the special health professions incentive pay and bonus authorities, hazardous duty pay, assignment pay or special duty pay, skill incentive pay or proficiency bonus, and the retention bonus for members with critical military skills or assigned to high-priority units until December 31, 2013.

Section 615—One-Year Extension of Authorities Relating to Payment of Other Title 37 Bonuses and Special Pays

This section would extend the authority for the aviation officer retention bonus, assignment incentive pay, the reenlistment bonus for active members, the enlistment bonus for active members, the accession bonus for new officers in critical skills, the incentive bonus for conversion to military occupational specialty to ease personnel shortage, the incentive bonus for transfer between Armed Forces, and the accession bonus for officer candidates until December 31, 2013.

Section 616—Increase in Maximum Amount of Officer Affiliation Bonus for Officers in the Selected Reserve

This section would increase the maximum amount that may be paid to officers who enter into an agreement to serve in the Selected Reserve for a specified contract period from \$10,000 to \$20,000.

Section 617—Increase in Maximum Amount of Incentive Bonus for Reserve Component Members Who Convert Military Occupational Specialty to Ease Personnel Shortages

This section would increase to \$4,000 the amount of the bonus that may be paid to Reserve Component members who convert their military occupational specialty to ease personnel shortages.

SUBTITLE C—TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION ALLOWANCES GENERALLY

Section 621—Travel and Transportation Allowances for Non-Medical Attendants for Members Receiving Care in a Residential Treatment Program

This section would authorize non-medical attendants to receive travel and transportation benefits when assisting a service member receiving care in a residential treatment program if medical authorities determine that the presence and participation of such an attendant is essential to the treatment of the member.

SUBTITLE D—BENEFITS AND SERVICES FOR MEMBERS BEING SEPARATED OR RECENTLY SEPARATED

Section 631—Extension of Authority To Provide Two Years of Commissary and Exchange Benefits After Separation

This section would extend the period of eligibility from December 31, 2012, to December 31, 2018, in which service members who are involuntarily separated may continue to use commissary and exchange stores for 2 years following the date of separation.

Section 632—Transitional Use of Military Family Housing

This section would establish October 1, 2012, through December 31, 2018, as the period of eligibility in which service members who are involuntarily separated may remain in Government-provided family housing for up to 180 days after the date of separation.

SUBTITLE E—COMMISSARY AND NONAPPROPRIATED FUND INSTRUMENTALITY BENEFITS AND OPERATIONS

Section 641—Charitable Organizations Eligible for Donations of Unusable Commissary Store Food and Other Food Prepared for the Armed Forces

This section would clarify that the Secretary of Defense may make donations of unusable food to charitable food banks, food pantries, and soup kitchens.

Section 642—Repeal of Certain Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements Applicable to Commissary and Exchange Stores Overseas

This section would eliminate the requirement that the Secretary of Defense report to Congress the changes in restrictions on the sale of merchandise by commissary and exchange stores overseas that are required to prevent the resale of such merchandise in violation of treaty obligations of the United States or host-nation laws.

Section 643—Treatment of Fisher House for the Families of the Fallen and Meditation Pavilion at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, as a Fisher House

This section would codify in title 10, United States Code, the designation of the Fisher House for Families of the Fallen and Meditation Pavilion at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, and clarify that authorized Fisher House residents of that facility include the primary next of kin, other family members of a member of the Armed Forces who dies while serving overseas, and escorts of those family members.

Section 644—Purchase of Sustainable Products, Local Food Products, and Recyclable Materials for Resale in Commissary and Exchange Store Systems

This section would require the governing body giving oversight and management direction to the military exchange and commissary systems in accordance with section 2481(c) of title 10, United States Code, to establish guidelines for the identification of fresh meat, poultry, seafood, produce, and other products raised or produced through sustainable methods that are not harmful to the ecology. This section would require the guidelines to be established not later than 2 years from the date of the enactment of this Act. The committee believes the guidelines should consider the impact of implementing sustainable product policies on the cost of goods and the pricing of the products offered to patrons. This section would also require that the governing body to establish, not later than September 30, 2017, goals for all exchange and commissary stores to purchase sustainable products, local food products, and recyclable materials.

SUBTITLE F—DISABILITY, RETIRED PAY AND SURVIVOR BENEFITS

Section 651—Repeal of Requirement for Payment of Survivor Benefit Plan Premiums When Participant Waives Retired Pay to Provide a Survivor Annuity Under Federal Employees Retirement System and Terminating Payment of the Survivor Benefit Plan Annuity

This section would authorize retired military service members when retiring under the Federal Employees Retirement System to forgo the payment of premiums under the Survivor Benefit Plan. The option would occur when the retired service member waives military retired pay in order to elect a civil service retirement and provide a survivor annuity.

SUBTITLE G—OTHER MATTERS

Section 661—Consistent Definition of Dependent for Purposes of Applying Limitations on Terms of Consumer Credit Extended to Certain Members of the Armed Forces and Their Dependents

This section would change the definition of "dependent" with regard to the limitations on the terms of consumer credit extended to service members and their dependents to align with the definition of "dependent" as used to establish eligibility

for military medical care in section 1072 of title 10, United States Code. The change would simplify the process for determining which family members are covered by the limits on the terms of consumer credit.

Section 662—Limitation on Reduction in Number of Military and Civilian Personnel Assigned to Duty with Service Review Agencies

This section would extend from December 31, 2013, to December 31, 2016, the limitation that the manpower levels within the service review agencies of the military departments shall not be reduced below the manpower levels that existed on January 1, 2002, unless the Secretary of a military department reports the scope and purpose of the reduction and a 90-day period elapses.

Section 663—Equal Treatment for Members of Coast Guard Reserve Called to Active Duty Under Title 14, United States Code

This section would authorize certain benefits for members of the Coast Guard Reserve when mobilized to ensure that they are provided equal benefits as those received by reserve members of the military departments. The benefits would include eligibility for retired pay and educational assistance.

TITLE VII—HEALTH CARE PROVISIONS

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

SUBTITLE A—IMPROVEMENTS TO HEALTH BENEFITS

Section 701—Sense of Congress on Nonmonetary Contributions to Health Care Benefits Made by Career Members of the Armed Forces and Their Families

This section would express the sense of Congress that career members of the uniformed services and their families endure unique and extraordinary demands and make extraordinary sacrifices over the course of a military career and those decades of sacrifice constitute a significant pre-paid premium for health care during a career member's retirement that is over and above what the member pays with money.

Section 702—Extension of TRICARE Standard Coverage and TRICARE Dental Program for Members of the Selected Reserve Who Are Involuntarily Separated

This section would authorize the Secretary of Defense to provide TRICARE Reserve Select and TRICARE dental insurance coverage for 180 days to members of the Selected Reserve who are involuntarily separated from the Selected Reserve.

Section 703—Medical and Dental Care Contracts for Certain Members of the National Guard

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to ensure that members of the National Guard and the Reserves who receive medical and dental care under contracts by the National Guard or State meet medical and dental readiness standards upon mobilization.

SUBTITLE B—HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION

Section 711—Unified Medical Command

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to establish a unified medical command to provide medical services to the Armed Forces and other health care beneficiaries of the Department of Defense as defined in chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code. This section would also require the Secretary to develop a comprehensive plan to establish a unified medical command.

Section 712—Authority for Automatic Enrollment in TRICARE Prime of Dependents of Members in Pay Grades Above Pay Grade E-4

This section would authorize the Secretary of Defense to automatically enroll dependents of a service member in TRICARE Prime. This section also would allow Active Duty service members the option to terminate the enrollment of a dependent at any time.

Section 713—Cooperative Health Care Agreements Between the Military Departments and Non-Military Health Care Entities

This section would permit the Secretaries of the military departments to establish cooperative health care arrangements and agreements between military installations and local and regional non-military health care entities.

Section 714—Requirement To Ensure the Effectiveness and Efficiency of Health Engagements

This section would direct the Secretary of Defense to develop a process to ensure that health engagements conducted by the Department of Defense are effective and efficient in meeting the national security goals of the United States. This section would provide the Secretary authority to conduct pilot programs to assess the effectiveness of any process developed to ensure the applicability of the process.

Section 715—Clarification of Applicability of Federal Tort Claims Act to Subcontractors Employed to Provide Health Care Services to the Department of Defense

This section would include individuals working under a subcontract of a personal services contract for health care as covered Government employees for medical malpractice purposes under the Federal Tort Claims Act.

SUBTITLE C—OTHER MATTERS

Section 721—Extension of Comptroller General Report on Contract Health Care Staffing for Military Medical Treatment Facilities

This section would extend the deadline for the Comptroller General of the United States to submit the report required by section 726 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112-81) on the contracting activities used by the military departments to provide health care professional services by civilian providers.

Section 722—Extension of Comptroller General Report on Women-Specific Health Services and Treatment for Female Members of the Armed Forces

This section would extend the deadline for the Comptroller General of the United States to submit the report required by section 725 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112-81) on health care services for female members of the Armed Forces.

TITLE XIV—OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

SUBTITLE A—MILITARY PROGRAMS

Section 1422—Authority for Transfer of Funds to Joint Department of Defense-Department Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund for Captain James A. Lovell Health Care Center, Illinois

This section would authorize the Secretary of Defense to transfer funds from the Defense Health Program to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund created by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84).

BILL LANGUAGE

Titles 4, 5, 6, 7, & 14

1 **TITLE IV—MILITARY**
2 **PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATIONS**

Subtitle A—Active Forces

- Sec. 401. [Log ID 12105]End strengths for active forces.
- Sec. 402. [Log ID 12106]Revision in permanent active duty end strength minimum levels.
- Sec. 403. [Log ID 13692]Limitations on end strength reductions for regular component of the Army and Marine Corps.

Subtitle B—Reserve Forces

- Sec. 411. [Log ID 12107]End strengths for Selected Reserve.
- Sec. 412. [Log ID 12108]End strengths for Reserves on active duty in support of the reserves.
- Sec. 413. [Log ID 12109]End strengths for military technicians (dual status).
- Sec. 414. [Log ID 12110]Fiscal year 2013 limitation on number of non-dual status technicians.
- Sec. 415. [Log ID 12111]Maximum number of reserve personnel authorized to be on active duty for operational support.

Subtitle C—Authorization of Appropriations

- Sec. 421. [Log ID 12112]Military personnel.

1 **Subtitle A—Active Forces**

2 **SEC. 401. [LOG ID 12105]END STRENGTHS FOR ACTIVE**
3 **FORCES.**

4 The Armed Forces are authorized strengths for active
5 duty personnel as of September 30, 2013, as follows:

- 6 (1) The Army, 552,100.
7 (2) The Navy, 322,700.
8 (3) The Marine Corps, 197,300.
9 (4) The Air Force, 329,460.

1 **SEC. 402. [LOG ID 12106]REVISION IN PERMANENT ACTIVE**
2 **DUTY END STRENGTH MINIMUM LEVELS.**

3 Section 691(b) of title 10, United States Code, is
4 amended by striking paragraphs (1) through (4) and in-
5 serting the following new paragraphs:

6 “(1) For the Army, 552,100.

7 “(2) For the Navy, 322,700.

8 “(3) For the Marine Corps, 197,300.

9 “(4) For the Air Force, 329,460.”.

1 **SEC. 403. [LOG ID 13692]LIMITATIONS ON END STRENGTH**
2 **REDUCTIONS FOR REGULAR COMPONENT OF**
3 **THE ARMY AND MARINE CORPS.**

4 (a) ANNUAL CERTIFICATION.—Subject to sub-
5 sections (b) and (c), if the President determines that a
6 reduction in end strength of the regular component of the
7 Army or Marine Corps (or both) is necessary for any of
8 fiscal years 2014 through 2017, the President shall submit
9 to Congress, with the budget request for that fiscal year,
10 a certification that the reduction in end strength, should
11 the assumptions of the National Security Strategy pre-
12 scribed by the President in the most recent annual na-
13 tional security strategy report under section 108 of the
14 National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 404a) prove to
15 be incorrect, will not—

16 (1) undermine the ability of the Armed Forces
17 to meet the requirements of the National Security
18 Strategy;

19 (2) increase security risks for the United
20 States; or

21 (3) compel members of the Armed Forces to en-
22 dure diminished dwell time and repeated deploy-
23 ments.

24 (b) ANNUAL LIMITATION ON REDUCTIONS.—

25 (1) ARMY.—The end strength of the regular
26 component of the Army shall not be reduced by

1 more than 15,000 members during each of fiscal
2 years 2014 through 2017 from the end strength of
3 the regular component of the Army at the end of the
4 preceding fiscal year.

5 (2) MARINE CORPS.—The end strength of the
6 regular component of the Marine Corps shall not be
7 reduced by more than 5,000 members during each
8 of fiscal years 2014 through 2017 from the end
9 strength of the regular component of the Marine
10 Corps at the end of the preceding fiscal year.

11 (c) BUDGETING REQUIREMENT.—The budget for the
12 Department of Defense for each of fiscal years 2014
13 through 2017 as submitted to Congress—

14 (1) shall include amounts for maintaining an
15 end strength of the regular component of the Army
16 and the Marine Corps sufficient to comply with the
17 active duty end strengths prescribed in section
18 691(b) of title 10, United States Code; and

19 (2) shall not rely on any emergency, supple-
20 mental, or overseas contingency operations funding.

1 **Subtitle B—Reserve Forces**

2 **SEC. 411. [LOG ID 12107]END STRENGTHS FOR SELECTED**
3 **RESERVE.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Armed Forces are authorized
5 strengths for Selected Reserve personnel of the reserve
6 components as of September 30, 2013, as follows:

7 (1) The Army National Guard of the United
8 States, 358,200.

9 (2) The Army Reserve, 205,000.

10 (3) The Navy Reserve, 62,500.

11 (4) The Marine Corps Reserve, 39,600.

12 (5) The Air National Guard of the United
13 States, 101,600.

14 (6) The Air Force Reserve, 70,500.

15 (7) The Coast Guard Reserve, 9,000.

16 (b) END STRENGTH REDUCTIONS.—The end
17 strengths prescribed by subsection (a) for the Selected Re-
18 serve of any reserve component shall be proportionately
19 reduced by—

20 (1) the total authorized strength of units orga-
21 nized to serve as units of the Selected Reserve of
22 such component which are on active duty (other
23 than for training) at the end of the fiscal year; and

24 (2) the total number of individual members not
25 in units organized to serve as units of the Selected

1 Reserve of such component who are on active duty
2 (other than for training or for unsatisfactory partici-
3 pation in training) without their consent at the end
4 of the fiscal year.

5 (c) END STRENGTH INCREASES.—Whenever units or
6 individual members of the Selected Reserve of any reserve
7 component are released from active duty during any fiscal
8 year, the end strength prescribed for such fiscal year for
9 the Selected Reserve of such reserve component shall be
10 increased proportionately by the total authorized strengths
11 of such units and by the total number of such individual
12 members.

1 **SEC. 412. [LOG ID 12108]END STRENGTHS FOR RESERVES**
2 **ON ACTIVE DUTY IN SUPPORT OF THE RE-**
3 **SERVES.**

4 Within the end strengths prescribed in section
5 411(a), the reserve components of the Armed Forces are
6 authorized, as of September 30, 2013, the following num-
7 ber of Reserves to be serving on full-time active duty or
8 full-time duty, in the case of members of the National
9 Guard, for the purpose of organizing, administering, re-
10 cruiting, instructing, or training the reserve components:

11 (1) The Army National Guard of the United
12 States, 32,060.

13 (2) The Army Reserve, 16,277.

14 (3) The Navy Reserve, 10,114.

15 (4) The Marine Corps Reserve, 2,261.

16 (5) The Air National Guard of the United
17 States, 14,305.

18 (6) The Air Force Reserve, 2,888.

1 **SEC. 413. [LOG ID 12109]END STRENGTHS FOR MILITARY**
2 **TECHNICIANS (DUAL STATUS).**

3 The minimum number of military technicians (dual
4 status) as of the last day of fiscal year 2013 for the re-
5 serve components of the Army and the Air Force (notwith-
6 standing section 129 of title 10, United States Code) shall
7 be the following:

8 (1) For the Army Reserve, 8,395.

9 (2) For the Army National Guard of the United
10 States, 27,210.

11 (3) For the Air Force Reserve, 10,283.

12 (4) For the Air National Guard of the United
13 States, 21,101.

1 **SEC. 414. [LOG ID 12110]FISCAL YEAR 2013 LIMITATION ON**
2 **NUMBER OF NON-DUAL STATUS TECHNI-**
3 **CIANS.**

4 (a) LIMITATIONS.—

5 (1) NATIONAL GUARD.—Within the limitation
6 provided in section 10217(c)(2) of title 10, United
7 States Code, the number of non-dual status techni-
8 cians employed by the National Guard as of Sep-
9 tember 30, 2013, may not exceed the following:

10 (A) For the Army National Guard of the
11 United States, 1,600.

12 (B) For the Air National Guard of the
13 United States, 350.

14 (2) ARMY RESERVE.—The number of non-dual
15 status technicians employed by the Army Reserve as
16 of September 30, 2013, may not exceed 595.

17 (3) AIR FORCE RESERVE.—The number of non-
18 dual status technicians employed by the Air Force
19 Reserve as of September 30, 2013, may not exceed
20 90.

21 (b) NON-DUAL STATUS TECHNICIANS DEFINED.—In
22 this section, the term “non-dual status technician” has the
23 meaning given that term in section 10217(a) of title 10,
24 United States Code.

1 **SEC. 1422 [Log 18012]. AUTHORITY FOR TRANSFER OF**
2 **FUNDS TO JOINT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE-**
3 **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MED-**
4 **ICAL FACILITY DEMONSTRATION FUND FOR**
5 **CAPTAIN JAMES A. LOVELL HEALTH CARE**
6 **CENTER, ILLINOIS.**

7 (a) **AUTHORITY FOR TRANSFER OF FUNDS.**—Of the
8 funds authorized to be appropriated for section 1406 and
9 available for the Defense Health Program for operation
10 and maintenance, \$139,204,000 may be transferred by the
11 Secretary of Defense to the Joint Department of Defense—
12 Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Dem-
13 onstration Fund established by subsection (a)(1) of sec-
14 tion 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for
15 Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 2571).
16 For purposes of subsection (a)(2) of such section 1704,
17 any funds so transferred shall be treated as amounts au-
18 thorized and appropriated specifically for the purpose of
19 such a transfer.

20 (b) **USE OF TRANSFERRED FUNDS.**—For the pur-
21 poses of subsection (b) of such section 1704, facility oper-
22 ations for which funds transferred under subsection (a)
23 may be used are operations of the Captain James A.
24 Lovell Federal Health Care Center, consisting of the
25 North Chicago Veterans Affairs Medical Center, the Navy
26 Ambulatory Care Center, and supporting facilities des-

1 igned as a combined Federal medical facility under an
2 operational agreement covered by section 706 of the Dun-
3 can Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal
4 Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500).

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address the development and implementation of the Defense Sexual Assault Incident Database. Accordingly, not earlier than 1 year following certification by the Secretary of Defense, the committee directs the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a review of the Defense Sexual Assault Incident Database to ensure that the appropriate metrics and data are being gathered to allow for greater transparency and assessment of sexual assault within the Department of Defense. The committee further directs the Comptroller General to complete the review and provide a report on the findings to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services within 545 days after the date of the certification by the Secretary of Defense.

Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program

The committee recognizes the Department of Defense continues to improve its efforts to assist military personnel successfully transition from the military to civilian life. The committee applauds the National Guard and Reserve Components for its implementation and enhancement of the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program. The Office for Reintegration Programs has made significant strides in working with States to assist in the development of outreach programs for members of the Armed Forces and their families. This has been invaluable for informing and educating members of the National Guard and the Reserve Components on the services and assistance available to them to ensure that the Nation fulfills its promise to the All-Volunteer Force. However, the committee is concerned that there are still gaps in transition from the Department of Defense to the Department of Veterans Affairs that impacts service members and their families, many of whom are simply unaware of the numerous services and assistance programs provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Further, the men and women who are most susceptible to falling victim to the inadequacies of the transition from the Department of Defense to the Department of Veterans Affairs are oftentimes the most “at-risk” veterans. In addition, the committee believes that there are transitioning Active Duty service members who may benefit from the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services within 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act on the feasibility of expanding access and outreach to transitioning Active Duty service members into the latter phases of the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program. The briefing should also address the ability of the Office for Reintegration Programs to work with the Department of Defense, the States, and Department of Veterans Affairs regional offices to contact service members and veterans returning from Active Duty, and discuss any initiatives necessary that may improve information sharing between the agencies, and awareness of transitioning and returning veterans at the outreach execution level within communities.

TITLE VI—COMPENSATION AND OTHER PERSONNEL BENEFITS

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Military Resale Participation in Container Deposit Programs

The committee is aware that military exchange and commissary systems do not directly participate in State and local container deposit programs designed to control litter and advance recycling objectives. The committee understands that as agencies of the Federal Government, military exchange and commissary systems would not historically participate in State and local programs that are viewed as taxation, although container deposit programs are generally viewed as user fees. The committee recognizes that container deposit programs are highly valued initiatives in the States and locales in which they are operated. However, the committee would like to better understand the implications of requiring the military resale community to participate in container deposit programs, as well as the potential for setting a precedent with broad consequences for the Federal Government regarding the participation of a Federal agency in State and local tax or user fee programs. Accordingly, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services by March 31, 2013, assessing if it is appropriate for military exchange and commissary systems to participate in State and local container deposit programs. The Secretary should consider the implications of a decision to support the participation of military resale organizations in container deposit programs and, at a minimum, provide an assessment of:

- (1) The impact on the operations and financial management of military resale organizations.
- (2) The cost and other burdens imposed on patrons of military resale organizations.
- (3) The potential for far reaching precedents with implications for all appropriated and nonappropriated fund activities throughout the Federal Government.
- (4) The legal questions associated with such a decision, to include any concerns about the constitutionality of such participation.
- (5) Examples of how the Department of Defense complies with State or local beverage container laws.

The Secretary should also include in the report a recommendation concerning the propriety of military exchanges and commissaries participating in State and local container deposit programs. The committee further directs the Secretary not to assign responsibility for managing the conduct of the study and the writing of the resulting report to any military exchange system or commissary system.

Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Nonappropriated Fund Contract Options

The committee is concerned that military department managers of Department of Defense morale, welfare, and recreation (MWR) nonappropriated fund activities have concluded that they do not have the authority to engage in service contracts that involve multiple installations and extend over several years. The committee believes this question should be formally settled and, if necessary, resolved with corrective legislation. Accordingly, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit to the congressional defense committees by March 31, 2013, a report verifying whether the perceived contracting restriction identified by MWR managers is in place and, if so, to identify the contracting law that imposes the restriction. The report should also include a legislative proposal that would remove the restriction, as well as the Secretary's assessment of the situation and recommendations for an appropriate course of action.

Physical Evaluation Board Liaison Officers

The committee continues to receive information that suggests there is an inadequate number of Physical Evaluation Board Liaison Officers (PEBLO) at some Department of Defense (DOD) installations, and that some of the PEBLOs are inadequately trained and lack sufficient experience to fulfill their job responsibilities. The committee is aware that wounded warriors and other individuals required to meet Physical Evaluation Boards (PEB) have reported that their assigned PEBLOs are overworked, yet many also lack the experience necessary to assist them successfully resolve their status within the Disability Evaluation System (DES).

The committee is concerned that in light of current budgetary constraints, DOD officials responsible for managing the DES have overlooked the importance of PEBLOs to the successful operation of the system and the appropriate care and fair treatment for service members with disabilities. Accordingly, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit to the congressional defense committees a report by March 31, 2013, on the ratio of assigned PEBLOs to the number of service members meeting PEBs, the number of vacant PEBLO positions, and the authorized grades of PEBLO positions by installation across the Department of Defense. The report should also provide assessments of the adequacy of the Department's standard for the ratio of PEBLOs to service members meeting PEBs; the sufficiency of experience levels within the PEBLO workforce; and the effectiveness of PEBLO training programs.

Transition of U.S. Territories from Overseas Housing Allowance to Basic Allowance for Housing

The committee recognizes that the administrative process supporting the payment of Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) is more cumbersome for service members and program managers than is the process supporting payment of the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH). The committee is interested in examining whether the BAH system would be better than the OHA system at providing

housing allowances to service members assigned to duty in U.S. territories. Accordingly, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to submit to the congressional defense committees by March 31, 2013, a report on the feasibility and appropriateness of changing the process for determining housing allowances in U.S. territories from the OHA system to the BAH system. The report should provide an assessment as to which system better supports the quality of life of service members, and is most suitable to the housing market of each U.S. territory (American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands). The report should also provide the comparable costs of operating the OHA and BAH systems in each of the U.S. territories, as well as the cost of implementing the transition from the OHA system to the BAH system.

TITLE VII—HEALTH CARE PROVISIONS

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Comptroller General Report on Chiropractic Health Care Professionals

The committee understands that for more than a decade, the Department of Defense has provided high-quality chiropractic health care services to Active Duty military personnel at military treatment facilities throughout the world. Today, chiropractic health care continues to be a key benefit for the men and women of the Armed Force as a result of increased incidences of musculoskeletal injuries sustained in combat. However, the committee is concerned by disparities in pay and job classifications that have resulted in chiropractors receiving lower wage rates than health care providers with either comparable or less training, skill sets, and health care responsibilities for patients in military treatment facilities. Therefore, the committee directs the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study and submit the findings to the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Armed Services by April 1, 2013, on the wage rates for chiropractors within the Department of Defense as compared to health care providers with either comparable or less training, skill sets, licensure and certification requirements, and health care responsibilities.

Modification to the Report on Department of Defense Autism Pilot and Demonstration Projects

The committee commends the Department of Defense for its continued efforts to ensure that military families have access to autism diagnosis, intervention, and treatment services. The committee encourages the Department to continue to assist military families with autistic children to receive the full and expanding range of evidence-based intervention and treatment approaches. In addition, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to include in the report required by Section 577 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year

2012 (Public Law 112-81) any efforts to provide services specifically for autistic children of military families living in rural or underserved communities using mobile diagnostic capabilities.

Traumatic Brain Injury

The committee continues to support the Department of Defense's efforts to identify and treat traumatic brain injury (TBI) occurring in members of the Armed Forces as a result of combat. The committee is aware of ongoing efforts to identify TBI, in particular the short-term medical needs associated with TBI, and expand access to treatment programs for all service members, including members of the Reserve Components and the National Guard. However, the committee is increasingly concerned about the potential long-term implications of TBI for members of the Armed Forces, in particular those who experience multiple traumatic brain injuries, and the support needed for these service members and their families.

The committee encourages the Secretary of Defense to continue to work with the National Guard, and its state organizations, to identify and partner with regional health providers and medical centers with expertise in psychiatric care and traumatic brain injury. The goal of this partnership is to develop, implement, and evaluate programs to improve the psychological and behavioral health and well-being of members of the National Guard and the Reserves. In addition, in order to maximize the use of publicly funded resources and organizations, the committee encourages the Secretary of Defense to collaborate with state government programs to assist service members, their families, and caregivers in accessing community resources and services that enable members with TBI to return their homes and communities. The committee also encourages the Department to continue the research it has conducted with universities and similar entities, on the long-term risks of TBI and potential interventions, including novel drug therapies to enhance the treatments available for service members with TBI.

The committee is also aware that the Department of Defense-Department of Veterans' Affairs Vision Center of Excellence is working together with the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury to develop clinical practice guidelines for primary medical providers to detect vision dysfunction associated with TBI. The Vision Center of Excellence is also working to develop a more effective ocular, oculomotor, and visual systems diagnostic capabilities and assessment strategies to address research gaps that have been identified. The committee is aware that there are several research projects involving visual dysfunction associated with TBI and directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services within 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, on the results of these studies and the development of the clinical practice guidelines .