

TITLE III—OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

OVERVIEW

At a time when Air Force combat-coded squadrons are grounded; when Navy carrier strike group presence in the Middle East has been reduced; when Army collective training rotations above the company level have been cancelled; when depot-level and field-level maintenance have been deferred and reduced in all the military services; and when base operating services and facilities sustainment have been reduced, all due to the impacts of sequestration, the bill would authorize \$174.6 billion for operation and maintenance, including additional funding for operational tempo, flying hour programs, facilities sustainment, corrosion prevention, control, and mitigation, depot maintenance, and joint and coalition exercises. Additionally, the bill would authorize \$67.1 billion in operation and maintenance funding for Overseas Contingency Operations, with \$4.2 billion in additional funding for depot-level maintenance, fuel costs, and equipment spares and reset.

During the past 12 years, the Army—Active, Guard, and Reserve—has deployed more than 1.1 million soldiers to combat with more than 4,500 soldiers making the ultimate sacrifice. Another 32,000 soldiers have been wounded, 9,000 of whom require long-term care. In that time, soldiers have earned more than 14,000 awards for valor to include seven Medals of Honor and 22 Distinguished Service Crosses. After more than a decade of protracted counterinsurgency operations and cyclic combat operations in the Middle East, the Army must find a way to return to full-spectrum operations, reset and reconstitute the force, responsibly draw down operations in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and fully develop its role under the new Defense Strategic Guidance despite tighter budgets and the compounding challenges of sequestration, and with a smaller force structure.

The Navy faced a \$4.5 billion shortfall in its fiscal year 2013 operation and maintenance accounts which was further exacerbated by unanticipated bills resulting from rising fuel prices. In February, the Navy deferred deployment of the nuclear aircraft carrier the USS Truman to the Persian Gulf and reduced its carrier presence to 1.0. In March, the Navy cancelled five ship deployments and next-to-deploy forces are also being affected in that two carrier air wings have reduced monthly training to the “tactical hard deck,” the minimum level of training required to maintain basic air proficiency and the ability to safely operate the aircraft. As ship and aircraft maintenance availabilities are reduced or outright cancelled, the Navy will be challenged to reconstitute requirements in the very near future due to lack of capacity at its shipyards. Ultimately, this results in significantly shorter service life for the assets, particularly when coupled with the impacts of the sustained surge in recent years which has taxed both equipment and personnel at rates significantly higher than anticipated. The tenuous progress the Navy has made over the past two years to reverse degraded surface fleet material readiness threatens to be undone by sequestration.

Despite slight improvements in Marine Corps readiness levels following the drawdown of forces in the Republic of Iraq and the ongoing drawdown from Afghanistan, the Marine Corps will be challenged to meet global commitments, reconstitute its force and equipment, and sustain high operational tempo as it downsizes to 182,000 personnel and faces a nearly \$1.0 billion funding cut. The challenges will be compounded by the need to support new, important missions such as the forward deployment of a special Marine Air Ground Task Force in Spain to support U.S. Africa Command and the expansion of critical legacy missions such as the Marine Security Guard program slated to grow to protect an increasing number of embassies in high-risk areas around the globe.

Air Force officials told the committee that “allowing the Air Force to slip to a lower state of readiness, [thus] requiring a long buildup to regain full combat effectiveness, negates the essential strategic advantages of airpower and puts joint forces at risk.” One-third of Air Force fighter and bomber forces are currently standing down, and more and more pilots are not ready or trained and qualified to meet operational mission requirements such as those on the Korean peninsula where the Air Force and Army work as critical partners to assure peace and stability.

The operation and maintenance funding authorized by this title seeks to address many areas of concern for depleted force readiness levels and related high levels of assumed risk, and makes several requests of the Department of Defense to report on plans to achieve full-spectrum readiness. The bill attempts to address the readiness shortfalls exacerbated by sequestration and choices driven by what Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel described during the Department of Defense’s fiscal year budget rollout as a necessary component of a “comprehensive deficit reduction plan.”

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

BUDGET REQUEST ADJUSTMENTS

Office of Economic Adjustment

The budget request includes \$371.6 million for the Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) to provide assistance to states and communities that are affected by Department of Defense changes, including the Department’s Base Closure and Realignment (BRAC) actions. Of these amounts, \$273.3 million was requested for Guam civilian water and wastewater infrastructure improvements. The committee remains supportive of the Department of Defense requirements to provide support for civilian infrastructure funding on Guam. The infrastructure is needed to support and sustain the current and future military growth on Guam. The budget request includes \$246.0 million for upgrades to the Northern District Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Hagatna Wastewater Treatment Plant to full secondary treatment, as well as \$19.8 million to address critical wastewater collection system deficiencies and \$7.5 million for technical support and project development.

The committee notes that the Fiscal Year 2013 Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 113–6) eliminated authorization for transfer of \$119.3 million in OEA funding, making the funding for

fiscal year 2013 not executable. As a result, the Department of Defense was unable to make initial investments in the wastewater system, also making the full fiscal year 2014 request not executable. Accordingly, the committee recommends a funding level in fiscal year 2014 of \$217.7 million, a reduction of \$153.9 million for the Office of Economic Adjustment. Funding authorized shall include \$119.3 million for civilian improvements on Guam, consisting of \$55.0 million for phase 1 improvements at the Northern District Wastewater Treatment Plant, \$51.4 million for water system distribution system repairs and replacements, and \$12.9 million for a Regional Public Health Laboratory.

LOGISTICS AND SUSTAINMENT ISSUES

Air Force Fuel Leak Maintenance Efficiencies

It is the committee's understanding that aircraft readiness is regularly challenged by fuel leaks and that current procedures for identifying and repairing these leaks is both costly and inefficient. Furthermore, the committee is aware that the Air Force Research Laboratory has undertaken an independent evaluation of alternative, commercially available technologies that yield more accurate, timely, and cost-saving results for identifying, sealing, curing and validating leak repairs. The committee is encouraged by the Air Force's pursuit of greater efficiencies in the fuel leak maintenance process and the promise it holds for achieving savings and a higher rate of aircraft readiness across the fleet. As such, the committee encourages the Air Force to fully implement approved commercially available technologies to reduce aircraft downtime caused by fuel leaks, and to increase life-cycle savings across the full-spectrum fuel leak detection and repair process.

Anti-corrosion Protective Covers for Military Hardware

The committee continues to push the Department of Defense to confront its hardware corrosion challenge. Corrosion remains the largest preventable cost to the U.S. military, a cost which exceeds \$23.0 billion per year. Corrosion results in decreased readiness, increased manpower requirements, and significantly higher life-cycle sustainment costs. In the current budget environment, it is critical that the Department of Defense focus on affordable sustainment of its hardware. Failing to protect the Department of Defense's hardware from the preventable problem of corrosion leaves hardware susceptible to the damage and degradation associated with exposure to heat, dust, ultraviolet rays, and moisture. The committee encourages the military services to follow the lead of the Department of the Navy and set a comprehensive, service-wide strategy to mitigate corrosion that includes fielding more waterproof, breathable anti-corrosive cover technologies that have been shown to significantly reduce corrosion and have demonstrated effectiveness in overseas contingency operations and at units' home stations. The committee encourages the military services to incorporate commercially available capabilities in developing requirements for low-cost protective covers that provide protection from water and particulate intrusion; elimination of microclimates in

covered objects; mold and mildew protection; ultraviolet ray resistance; flexure and handling ability in extreme climates; and durability.

Army Logisticians

The committee recognizes that the projection of power, the deterrence of threats, the response to crises, and the protection of strategic U.S. interests requires a robust set of logistics capabilities. The committee believes that the U.S. Army, in order to sustain its presence across vast distances, must be supported by a logistics infrastructure commensurate with the missions it undertakes. The committee also recognizes that logistics support is critical to currently deployed combat units and those which may be deployed in a future contingency. The committee believes that the United States cannot be allowed to lose the capacity to both surge and sustain military forces across considerable distances for extended periods of time, which requires a robust set of logistics capabilities.

Comptroller General Littoral Combat System Sustainment Review

The committee notes the critical nature of the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) program and the importance of the initial deployment of the USS Freedom to the Republic of Singapore to test and refine operational support and sustainment concepts. The LCS class takes a unique approach to maintenance which relies heavily on contractor-provided maintenance in contrast to other Navy ship classes, which typically use the Navy's organic capabilities and U.S. shipyards to provide maintenance. The Navy established an LCS Council to address major concerns raised by several Navy reports on problems with the LCS's manning, training, and maintenance concepts, among other issues. This council has developed a plan of action with milestones to bring high-level attention to resolving these issues as the LCS class is introduced into the surface combatant fleet. Given the central role of the LCS for the future of the surface fleet, the committee has concerns about the Navy's long-term sustainment plan. Therefore, the committee directs the Comptroller General of the United States to analyze and review:

- (1) Plans to collect and analyze data during the USS Freedom's Singapore deployment, as well as any mid-point or final reports of lessons learned from the deployment;
- (2) Projected costs associated with providing preventive and depot maintenance including, but not limited to, an analysis of the alternatives considered in the use of contractor fly-away maintenance teams and U.S. Government and commercial shipyards;
- (3) Progress on meeting targets established in the LCS plan of action and milestones;
- (4) Lifecycle cost estimates for the variants of the LCS and their associated mission modules compared with other Navy ship classes; and
- (5) Any other issue that the Comptroller General determines appropriate with respect to the sustainment of the LCS platform and its associated mission modules, including modifica-

tions and improvements to reduce long-term sustainment costs and improve efficiencies.

The committee directs the Comptroller General of the United States to provide to the congressional defense committees a preliminary briefing by March 3, 2014, on the above factors, with a report or reports to follow by May 30, 2014.

Continuous Technology Refreshment

The Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (Public Law 111–383) provided expanded authority to the Department of Defense to foster use of technology-enhanced maintenance capabilities with Working Capital funds. The accompanying Joint Explanatory Statement (Committee Print 5) specifically discussed Continuous Technology Refreshment (CTR), which is a proven post-production sustainment acquisition strategy to acquire technologically improved replacement parts and to significantly reduce long-term ownership costs. The committee notes that the Army Aviation and Missile Life Cycle Command is projected to achieve \$254.0 million in sustainment cost savings over a 10-year period on just a limited set of legacy helicopter parts. The committee is concerned that the Department of Defense has been slow to implement robust CTR programs, to expand their use beyond this one Army command, and to take full advantage of the Working Capital authorities provided in law which have become much more important due to national budget pressures.

The committee directs the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics to brief the congressional defense committees, not later than April 30, 2014, on the Department's Continuous Technology Refreshment initiatives for improving the quality and significantly lowering the cost of replacement parts for Department weapon systems. The briefing should address:

- (1) The guidance provided to the military services on the use of Working Capital authorities for technology-enabled maintenance capabilities;
- (2) Information on the results achieved to date from developing modern parts to replace obsolete legacy parts using CTR with the resulting associated estimated cost savings; and
- (3) The plans of each military department and appropriate Defense agencies to develop and implement CTR acquisition strategies in fiscal year 2014 for obsolete parts most likely to achieve significant cost savings.

Defense Logistics Agency Roles and Missions Assessment

The committee is concerned that the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission process may have placed the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) in roles and assigned missions outside its core competencies which may be resulting in suboptimal support of its customers. In particular, the committee is concerned about the operational and readiness impacts to customers of DLA's continued challenges in effectively managing the supply chain. The committee notes that supply chain management, supply inventories, materiel distribution, and asset visibility, in particular, continue to be "high risk" areas within the Department of Defense, according the 2013

Government Accountability Office's High Risk Report. While the committee notes the significant progress DLA has made in reducing excess inventory and improving its business processes, the committee has been made aware of persistent challenges in the timely provision of specialized, low-quantity parts and supply chain management, which the committee believes could be a result of a misalignment of roles and missions.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to conduct an assessment of the roles and missions of the DLA. The assessment may, at the election of the Secretary, be conducted by a federally funded research and development center (FFRDC) or an independent, non-governmental institute which is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code, and has recognized credentials and expertise in national security and military affairs appropriate for the assessment. The assessment should include, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) An examination of the roles and missions currently assigned to the DLA;

(2) An assessment of the DLA's ability (resources, structure, workforce, etc.) to adequately accomplish those roles and missions outside of DLA-Energy;

(3) Identification of any DLA functions, roles, missions, activities, or initiatives that could be more efficiently performed by the military departments or other defense agencies;

(4) A transition plan for any activities recommended for migration;

(5) An assessment of functions, roles, missions, activities, or initiatives that could be most efficiently performed by DLA that are currently performed by other military departments or defense agencies; and

(6) Any other recommendations on ways the DLA could further improve its support to customers, management practices, demand forecasting, its use of modeling to determine the optimal number and inventory management.

The committee directs the Secretary of Defense to deliver this assessment in conjunction with the annual budget submission for fiscal year 2015. Further, to enable the committee to provide the necessary oversight, the committee directs the Department to brief the congressional defense committees on the strategy within 30 days of its delivery to Congress.

Disposition of Retrograded Equipment from Afghanistan

As the Department continues the drawdown of U.S. forces from Afghanistan, the committee is aware of continued interest by local communities, law enforcement agencies, and other eligible domestic entities in the reuse of excess defense articles.

The committee supports close coordination between the Department and the National Association of State Agencies for Surplus Property in connecting interested eligible domestic entities with surplus military equipment at no cost to the government. However, in conducting oversight on the progress of drawdown in Afghanistan, the committee believes that the Department can do more to

provide real-time information on the availability, location, and condition of surplus materials available to interested eligible entities.

The committee therefore directs the Secretary of Defense to brief the congressional defense committees no later than October 1, 2013, on the Department's plans to make excess defense articles from the drawdown in Afghanistan available to eligible domestic entities at no cost to the government. This briefing shall specifically include planned improvements to real-time information sharing with interested eligible parties regarding what equipment might be available, when, where, and in what condition.

F-35 Sustainment Plan

The committee recognizes the importance of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Program to our national defense. This advanced fighter aircraft will replace a variety of existing aircraft in the Air Force, the Navy, and the Marine Corps. In 2012, the Department of Defense reported that sustainment of the F-35 aircraft fleet could cost more than \$1.0 trillion (in then-year dollars) over the planned 30-year service life. However, the Department has said that it is actively engaged in evaluating opportunities to reduce life-cycle sustainment costs based on concerns about the affordability of the program. Past experience has shown that decisions made during the development of a weapon system can influence, positively or negatively, the cost of sustaining that system over its life cycle. Considering the magnitude of the estimated sustainment costs for the F-35, the committee is concerned about whether the Department has established comprehensive sustainment plans, developed appropriate cost analyses, and identified potential options to control and/or minimize future sustainment costs for the aircraft program. Given the fiscal uncertainties facing the Department and growing concerns related to the affordability of the F-35's long-term sustainment costs, the committee directs the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to review the Department's ongoing F-35 sustainment planning efforts. This review should include:

- (1) The extent to which the Department has developed comprehensive sustainment plans, including a Life-Cycle Sustainment Plan, and regularly updated these plans to reflect program changes;
- (2) The extent to which the Department has utilized appropriate analyses of operating and support costs, including a business case analysis, to evaluate the full range of sustainment options available for the F-35 program;
- (3) The extent to which the Department is pursuing additional opportunities, such as competition for sustainment contracts, to reduce long-term sustainment costs; and
- (4) Any other issues that the Comptroller General determines appropriate with respect to the sustainment of the F-35.

The committee directs the Comptroller General of the United States to provide a preliminary briefing by March 14, 2014, on the above factors, with a report or reports to follow.

Item Unique Identification and Automated Information and Data Capture

The committee is aware that numerous Government Accountability Office audits have found that significant improvements are needed in the tracking, management, and accountability for assets deployed across the Department of Defense. The committee believes that Item Unique Identification (IUID), Radio Frequency Identification (RFID), biometrics, and other automated information and data capture (AIDC) technologies have the potential for realizing significant cost savings and improving management of defense equipment and supplies throughout their life cycles. Further, the committee judges that the use of the implementing technologies can secure supply-item data for logistics and engineering analysis; improve item intelligence for operational warfighter planning; upgrade access to historical item data across life cycles; lower total life cycle cost of items acquired and managed; save taxpayer funding through improved productivity, efficiency, maintenance, and logistical planning; and combat the growing problem of counterfeit parts in the military supply chain.

The committee understands that in 2003, the Department of Defense initiated the IUID initiative, which requires the marking and tracking of assets deployed throughout the Armed Forces or in the possession of Department contractors, but implementation has been fragmented, incomplete, and not enforced. The committee believes the Department of Defense must improve its efforts to capture meaningful data and optimize the benefits of Item Unique Identification and other AIDC initiatives to include the investment of sufficient resources and continued training and leadership.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to promulgate rules and regulations sufficient to enforce compliance with section 252.211-7003 (entitled "Item Identification and Valuation") of the Defense Supplement to the Federal Acquisition Regulation, on Item Unique Identification, which requires unique identification for all delivered items meeting the standards set forth in the regulation.

In addition, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the congressional defense committees by January 31, 2014, on current compliance rates with section 252.211-7003 of the Defense Supplement to the Federal Acquisition Regulation, measures being taken to improve compliance, and a projected date for full compliance.

Laser Peening Technology

In the committee report (H. Rept. 112-78) accompanying the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012, the committee noted that "laser peening technology, a surface enhancement processing treatment for metals, has achieved considerable success in commercial aerospace and power-generation applications, reducing costs by enabling improvements in the metal structure and mitigating high-cycle fatigue failures of a system, thus extending the system's lifetime." In that report the committee also encouraged the Department of Defense "to examine the potential cost savings that may be derived from adopting this technology

broadly across the military services, particularly for use on engines, aircraft structures, land vehicles and weapon systems.” However, the committee is concerned that some military departments have not fully explored the use of such technologies to reduce costs associated with problems of fatigue failure, stress corrosion cracking, and component shape corrections. The committee further encourages the Department to explore such technologies for use in aircraft engines to slow the rate of replacement of highly stressed components and parts.

Logistical Support to the Department of Defense

The committee is concerned with the current downsizing at the General Services Administration’s (GSA) Eastern Distribution Center (EDC) and its impact on military readiness. As described by the General Services Administration (GSA), the EDC “provides an integrated pipeline that sustains GSA’s armed forces and civilian customers around the world with innovative and tailored logistics services that are ever improving in terms of cost, timeliness, and relative value.” It has been estimated that 75 percent of shipments from the Eastern Distribution Center are for Department of Defense purposes. The committee encourages the Department of Defense to examine the important work at this facility to ensure the EDC maintains its ability to sustain the readiness of our Armed Forces.

Long-term Investment Plan for Land, Facilities, and Equipment of Former Guam Ship Repair Facility

In testimony before the committee in April 2013, the Chief of Naval Operations highlighted the importance of a ship repair capability on Guam to support increased naval operations in the western Pacific region as key to the national security strategy. The committee understands that maintaining a depot-level ship repair capability on Guam will require significant investment. The committee is concerned that the Navy has been unable to provide a detailed investment plan for upgrading and modernizing the former Navy ship repair facility on Guam. The committee notes that a failed long-term lease approach would have required private industry to provide capital improvements estimated at nearly \$150.0 million. Therefore, the committee anticipates that a similar level of investment would be needed by the Navy to provide the necessary depot-level repair capability for the western Pacific region. The committee believes that improvements to these facilities will be critical to ensuring the long-term viability of a depot-level ship repair capability in the western Pacific.

Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of the Navy, in coordination with the Chief of Naval Operations, to submit to the congressional defense committees no later than December 31, 2013, a long-term investment plan for the land, facilities, and equipment of the former Guam ship repair facility. The plan should include:

- (1) A description of how the Secretary of the Navy will prioritize the improvements made to land, facilities, and equipment under the plan, including an explanation and estimated cost and schedule for each such improvement; and

- (2) An identification of the accounts from which funds will be used for such improvements.

Navy Fleet Readiness

The committee is pleased with the U.S. Navy's progress in reversing the years of degraded surface fleet readiness trends. The Navy has made progress in documenting the existing shortfalls and maintenance requirements through its development of Class Maintenance Plans and Technical Foundation Papers to identify specific requirements by hull. However, to supplement its organic capability, the committee notes the Navy's success has been partially reliant on external support to address its knowledge gaps and prepare the assets for operations. Engineering Readiness Assessment Teams (ERATs), manned in part by retired Navy master chiefs, have complemented the organic capacity with their unique expertise to assist ships' crews in best practices, safe operation of ship systems, and identification, documentation, and repair of failed equipment and broken systems. With decades of experience, the teams' goal is to improve readiness by providing younger sailors with critical institutional knowledge, mentorship, technical help, quality control, and environmental program compliance. The committee recognizes the importance of this relationship and the invaluable contribution. However, the committee encourages the Navy to institutionalize these lessons learned in its training process.

In light of constrained fiscal resources, the committee recognizes the Navy could potentially lose traction on the success it has achieved to date, due to the impact of a sustained surge and lack of time and resources to support required maintenance. Therefore, the committee encourages the Navy to continue to provide the necessary funding and expertise, through a complement of organic and private sector capacity, to sustain the progress in surface ship readiness, reduce lifecycle maintenance costs, and improve warfighting readiness at lower total ownership cost to reach expected service life.

Submarine Propeller Repair and Overhaul

The committee notes that the Navy has indicated that "funding requirements for propeller repair and overhauls are estimated based on historical and current year expenditures" and that "sustaining out-year funding for Ready for Issue (RFI) spare propellers at required levels would help maintain inventory and limit risk to readiness." The Navy has indicated that lower-than-targeted levels of healthy RFI propellers pose "medium to high risk to attack and strategic submarine operational readiness." The committee further notes that the Navy continues to request partial funding to support this effort in the Overseas Contingency Operations account. The committee encourages the Navy to identify the necessary funds to ensure an adequate supply of ready propellers when projecting Future Years Defense Program base budget requests.

READINESS ISSUES

Advanced Situational Awareness Training

The committee understands that the Army has successfully incorporated a module to train deploying units to detect changes in human behavior through Advanced Situational Awareness Training (ASAT). The committee commends the Army for its leadership in developing and broadening soldier training in this area and is encouraged by the reported benefits of increased situational awareness, improved effectiveness in positive identification of threats, reduced time to gain a decisive advantage, enhanced use of existing optical equipment, and reduction of civilian casualties. The committee believes this type of training imparts enduring and important skills at both the individual and unit level, and represents a cost-effective method for training soldiers across a broad range of military operations.

Combat Training Centers

The committee recognizes the important role that national combat training centers play in producing combat-ready forces. The committee further recognizes that these centers provide an important resource for other Government agencies, allies, and both conventional and special operations forces. Therefore, the committee urges the Department of Defense to closely examine how such centers can serve as a model for future operational readiness and training, and work to ensure their long-term viability by providing appropriate resources and adequate staffing.

Comptroller General Encroachment Study

The committee is concerned about military readiness and preserving the Department of Defense's ability to train and operate in the air, at sea, and on land. U.S. military force readiness is directly dependent on many factors, including realistic training for a variety of missions in myriad environments worldwide. An important component of military readiness is timely and routine access to training ranges that permit realistic training without hindrance from activities that can limit access to, encroach upon, or at times compromise security of the ranges. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) previously reported in "Military Training: Compliance With Environmental Laws Affects Some Training Activities, but DOD Has Not Made a Sound Business Case for Additional Environmental Exemptions" (GAO-08-407) that the requirement to comply with environmental laws has affected some training activities and how they are conducted. Specifically, the GAO found some instances where training activities were cancelled, postponed, or modified in order to address environmental requirements. While the GAO also reported at the time that readiness data did not indicate an impact on readiness from these instances, it also reported that the Department was developing systems to measure the impact.

Limitations on access to training ranges and encroachment of national security interests can take many forms:

(1) Environmental limitations, both land- and sea-based, involve endangered species that may be present through nesting or migration at or near training ranges.

(2) Urban encroachment can consist of commercial or residential construction in the civilian economy in proximity to or adjacent to military bases.

(3) Encroachment from energy-generation projects can occur both adjacent to installations and also in the Outer Continental Shelf, potentially affecting the military's ability to train and operate both on installations and at sea. The installation of renewable energy-generation facilities, including wind turbines and solar power facilities, can be incompatible with the installations' missions.

(4) Competition for the electromagnetic spectrum through the proliferation of consumer demand for wireless devices, including smart phones and tablet computers, and the associated data-intensive applications, is increasingly conflicting with the Department's need to use the electromagnetic spectrum for modern military training and assurance of proper functioning of some weapon systems.

(5) National security interests may be threatened when range security becomes a concern based on the nature of the encroachment. For example, ocean observing systems may be used for marine mammal and weather research, climate research, tsunami warning/verification, and seismic/earthquake monitoring. The littoral nature of Navy training ranges, and the unique types of activity that occur there, make the ranges valuable for data gathering in each of those categories. However, the open nature of the high seas also makes it possible for data to be gathered that may exploit an operational vulnerability. Similarly, land-based development can lead to security concerns due to incompatible development adjacent to or in near proximity to ranges and ownership of such development that raises security concerns.

The Department's actions to prevent or mitigate the impediments to realistic training are vital to ensuring adequate range access and ensuring U.S. forces remain at a high state of readiness. However, the committee wants to ensure that the Department is effectively preventing or mitigating these restrictions to ensure that U.S. force readiness remains high. Therefore, the committee directs the Comptroller General of the United States to undertake a review of the Department's activities to prevent or mitigate environmental limitations and man-made encroachment, and ensure adequate security of training ranges and operations. At a minimum, this study should address the following:

(1) What are the types of restrictions, and how do they affect the Department's ability to train and operate?

(2) What authorities does the Department have, or need, to be able to protect its ability to train and operate?

(3) To what extent has the Department identified restrictions on its air-, land-, and sea-based training ranges, and how has the Department prevented or mitigated such restrictions?

(4) How does the Department collaborate with local governments, private companies, and/or other federal agencies to pro-

tect its ability to train and operate? And, what areas require improvement?

(5) How effective are the Department's systems to measure the effects of environmental limitations and man-made encroachment and to what extent do opportunities exist to improve these systems?

(6) What options does the Department have to mitigate impacts of environmental limitations and man-made encroachment, and at what cost?

(7) How does the Department identify and mitigate any relevant security issues related to training range restrictions?

(8) Which ranges are at highest risk? And, which ranges should be the highest priority to protect from encroachment due to unique training environments and/or ability to minimize electromagnetic spectrum interference?

The committee further directs the Comptroller General to submit a report to the congressional defense committees by March 3, 2014, on the findings of the study.

GAO Review of DOD Readiness and Risks

With the drawdown of forces first from the Republic of Iraq, and now from the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan the military has faced a new set of challenges as it plans for an uncertain future with less resources. In its January 2012 strategic guidance, *Sustaining U.S. Global Leadership: Priorities for 21st Century Defense* and related documents, DOD called for a smaller, lighter, flexible joint force able to conduct a full range of activities but no longer sized to conduct large and protracted stability operations. It also called for a rebalancing of forces to the Asia Pacific region along with the Middle East and several other changes. In March 2013, the Secretary of Defense directed the Deputy Secretary of Defense to work with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to conduct a Strategic Choice and Management Review to examine the choices that underlie the defense strategy, posture, and investments, including all past assumptions and systems. Shifts in strategy or assumptions can have a material impact on the way DOD portrays its readiness and the risks it faces.

To help inform the committee's oversight and its consideration of the Department's budget request, the committee directs the Comptroller General of the United States to review DOD's readiness and the risks the department faces and to report the results of this review to the congressional defense committees. The review should specifically address:

(1) The current and historical readiness status of each of the military services including any trends in reported readiness;

(2) The current and historical readiness status of each of the current geographic and functional combatant commands, including any trends in reported readiness;

(3) The key factors that impact readiness, and how these factors contributed to any reported changes in readiness between March 1, 2013, when sequestration went into effect, and the December 2013 readiness reports; and

(4) Changes in strategic and military risk levels between 2011 and 2014, including any changes in the way the Chair-

man of the Joint Chiefs of Staff evaluates and reports strategic and military risks.

In reporting on these four elements, the Comptroller General may take a phased approach, reporting on elements (1), (2), and (3) by March 15, 2014 and reporting on element (4) 45 days after DOD delivers the annual Chairman's Risk Assessment and, if applicable, the Secretary of Defense's Risk Mitigation plan to the congressional defense committees.

Identification of Foreign-Language Competency

The committee recognizes that foreign-language training is expensive and time-consuming. If there is a need to surge skills in a particular language, the place to start is with people who already demonstrate proficiency in the needed language. This promotes efficiency and lowers training costs by making use of language knowledge already acquired by service members. To provide decision-makers with greater visibility of the language skills and cultural knowledge of service members that could inform force management processes, the committee recommends that the Secretary of Defense direct the Secretaries of the military services to query service members returning from deployment to a non-English-speaking country regarding language skills acquired or improved while deployed, and to allow service members to rate their own competence in speaking, oral understanding, reading, and/or writing a foreign language, using a language proficiency self-assessment scale like the one used to assess proficiency standards throughout the U.S. Government. Additionally, the committee recommends that the Secretary of Defense direct the military services to allow a service member who acquired a speaking knowledge of a language to be tested on oral proficiency alone. The data collected from these language competency self-assessments and tests should be made accessible to service commanders and others who need to identify a pool of potential candidates for advanced language training to meet force management requirements.

Missile Defense Capabilities for Guam

The committee recognizes the strategic importance of providing ballistic missile defense for Guam and the current U.S. assets based there. The committee further recognizes that as part of bilateral negotiations with the Government of Japan, the U.S. military presence on the island and the need to protect it from a missile threat are projected to increase. The committee notes that the Final Environmental Impact Statement on the Guam and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Military Relocation contains a recommendation to base an Army Air and Missile Defense Task Force (AMDTF) on Guam as part of the realignment of U.S. Marines from Okinawa, Japan, to Guam. The committee also notes the actions of the Department of Defense of temporarily stationing a Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile defense capability on Guam to respond to immediate threats of missile launches from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea toward U.S. military assets on Guam.

The committee is concerned that despite projected growth in the U.S. military population on Guam and the President's new Defense Strategic Guidance focusing on the U.S. Pacific Command area of responsibility, the Army has not provided any resources for the basing of an AMDTF or other missile defense capability on Guam in the current year budget proposal or in the Future Years Defense Program. The committee is aware that Aegis-based missile defense capabilities or other land-based missile defense capabilities also could, if required, provide coverage and defense for assets on Guam. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the appropriate military services, to brief the committee by December 1, 2013, on:

- (1) Any analysis the Department of Defense has conducted to determine which missile-defense capability or capabilities are best suited for the defense of Guam and the recommendations from that analysis;
- (2) The Department's timeline for resourcing and establishing an AMDTF or other missile-defense capability on or for Guam, including the number of required personnel billets and costs;
- (3) An assessment of which component of the military—Active or Reserve—would be most appropriate to support the mission, either fully or partially; and
- (4) A description of permanent and other missile defense capabilities in the Asia-Pacific region that could provide protection to U.S. military assets on Guam.

Navy Expeditionary Combat Command

The committee recognizes the important contribution of the Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC) as a scalable force that facilitates securing strategic access and global freedom of action. Specifically, the Naval Construction Battalion plays a critical role in support of operating forces through efforts such as construction of roads, bridges, bunkers, airfields, and logistics bases in addition to civic action projects. The committee is concerned that the Navy's planned force-structure reduction of 8,000 positions could hinder the strategic capabilities of the Navy. The Naval Construction Battalion represents approximately 50 percent of the total NECC manpower, and as a high-demand, low-density asset, the committee encourages the Navy to consider the important contribution of these forces.

Military Ocean Terminal Concord

The committee is concerned about the readiness status of the Military Ocean Terminal Concord (MOTCO), California. The port's net explosive weight limitation, combined with its other facilities such as magazines, rail lines, piers, and staging areas, gives it the capacity to handle common user ordnance load-out requirements for the military services and combatant commanders during wartime and contingency operations. Consequently, it is a key national asset essential to military readiness, and the committee recognizes its need to be maintained.

The Government Accountability Office in its May 13, 2013, report “Defense Logistics: The Department of Defense’s Report on Strategic Seaports Addressed All Congressionally Directed Elements,” cited significant deficiencies that impair the port’s capability to support required missions. Information provided to the committee by the Department of the Army, which is responsible for the operation and maintenance of MOTCO, indicates port facilities and equipment need major rehabilitation and modernization. While the Army has been directed by internal Department of Defense documents to fund equipment and facility improvements and pier replacements, the committee notes these efforts will not return the port to full operational status until 2018 at the earliest.

Because the lack of this critical mobility infrastructure could delay support of operational plans, the committee directs the Comptroller General of the United States to provide to the congressional defense committees an assessment of:

- (1) The current physical condition of Military Ocean Terminal Concord;
- (2) The ability of the port to successfully execute mission requirements of the military services and the combatant commanders;
- (3) The repairs required to bring the port to full mission capability, to include total cost and timeline and options to expedite the timeline;
- (4) The risk associated with failing to make equipment and facility improvements and pier replacements in a timely fashion; and
- (5) Options available to mitigate any shortfalls, including munitions supply, load-out, and transportation options, and potential statutory or regulatory waivers.

As part of the assessment, the Comptroller General shall consult with the combatant commanders regarding their operational requirements. The report shall be submitted no later than December 31, 2013, and may be submitted in a classified format if necessary.

The committee also directs the Secretary of the Army to provide to the congressional defense committees a summary of the current equipment and facilities conditions MOTCO. The report shall include: a status of the Environmental Impact Statement; a projects list identifying requirements necessary to address infrastructure deficiencies by fiscal year and funding amounts required; the design initiation associated with the project list; and a time line for completion of the infrastructure improvements. This report shall be submitted to the congressional defense committees no later than September 30, 2013. The report may be submitted in a classified format if necessary.

Report on Career Progression of U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps Advisory Personnel

For the past several years, the U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps have been providing forces to support security force assistance missions in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and other locations around the world. To conduct these missions, the services have relied on a number of non-doctrinal approaches. For example, in Afghanistan, the U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps have increasingly

relied on larger units, such as brigade combat teams, to provide advisory teams. In addition, the U.S. Army is beginning to execute its regionally aligned force concept, which aligns specific brigades to specific regions and calls for the deployment of small groups of leaders to conduct security force assistance activities while the rest of the unit remains at the home station.

The committee is concerned about the career implications for U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps personnel assigned to security force assistance-related activities as well as the ability of these units to conduct these activities while maintaining readiness requirements. Therefore, the committee directs the Comptroller General of the United States to examine and report to the congressional defense committees by April 1, 2014, on the impact of the U.S. Army's and U.S. Marine Corps' approaches to the security force assistance mission, including:

(1) To what extent the U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps have policies or procedures to identify personnel with advising or other security force assistance-related skills and experience;

(2) To what extent the assignment of U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps officer and senior enlisted personnel to advising or other security force assistance-related activities has affected the career progression of these individuals, including opportunities for command positions, promotions, or other career development opportunities; and

(3) What impact, if any, the U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps' approaches of relying on units to provide personnel for advising and other security force assistance-related activities have had on the units' ability to maintain readiness.

Sustainable Range Planning

The committee notes that section 2802 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239) requires the Department of Defense to provide installation master plans for a period not to exceed 10 years that, among other things, shall address sustainable range planning. The committee is aware that the Department of Defense submits the annual Sustainable Range Report, prepares Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans for military installations, and works with other Federal, State, and local government entities, Indian tribes, non-governmental organizations to address situations both on and in the vicinity of military installations and ranges that impact the ability of the Department to perform its mission. These efforts are essential to avoiding or reducing encroachment, sustaining military readiness, and ensuring the continued viability of military test and training ranges. The committee encourages the Department to leverage these existing sustainable range planning efforts as an integral part of installation master plans.

Water Egress Training

The committee recognizes the need to ensure that the Department of Defense provides its rotary-wing aviators with the best survivability training available. The committee is concerned that not all services have the facilities and capabilities necessary to en-

sure adequate training and throughput. The committee believes that a reassessment of the Department's capabilities is especially important given the new defense strategic guidance shifting departmental focus to the Pacific Rim.

The committee directs the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a formal assessment and report back to the congressional defense committees, not later than April 1, 2014, on the state of the Department's rotary-wing water egress training capabilities. At a minimum, this assessment should include:

- (1) Training facilities and infrastructure;
- (2) Disparities and commonalities among the military departments;
- (3) Current training capacity and its adequacy to meet future requirements; and
- (4) Any capacity shortfalls in meeting water egress training requirements.

OTHER MATTERS

Concerns Related to Fuel Rate Determinations

The committee continues to be concerned with the insufficient funding of fuel within the operation and maintenance accounts based on inadequate fuel rate determinations by the Department of Defense and the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) within the Defense Working Capital Fund (DWCF). In fiscal year 2012, \$1.0 billion was reprogrammed from other accounts to the DWCF to support cash balances within the fund and to avoid increasing the cost charged to the Department of Defense customer as a result of fully burdened costs for fuel exceeding budget estimates. In fiscal year 2013, the Department requested an additional \$1.4 billion be reprogrammed to cover costs not captured in the budgeted fuel rates. The committee believes these significant reprogramming requests were due to the Department underestimating the fully burdened cost of procuring and distributing refined fuel. The committee is aware that the Office of Management and Budget provides the Department with a budgeted price per crude barrel (an estimated projection of the market rate) from which the Department builds the fully burdened rate charged to customers. However, estimates of the fully burdened rate have been well short of the market rates, requiring reprogramming or price adjustments during the fiscal year to maintain solvency within the fund. This will perpetuate into fiscal year 2014, as Department officials have stated that the shortfalls relating to the cost of refined fuel have not been resolved within the current budget request. This practice of poor estimation disrupts congressional oversight, promulgates faulty budgeting practices, and leaves the readiness of the military services at risk in the year of execution.

Based on the current budgeted rate for refined fuel, the Government Accountability Office has estimated that funds in fiscal year 2014 are understated by approximately \$536.0 million, which would generate significant shortfalls in the operation and maintenance accounts if the Department raises rates during the fiscal year. The committee encourages the Department to revise processes for fuel rate determination to better capture market indica-

tors for refined fuel pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, prior to submission of the President's budget request for fiscal year 2015. In the interim, the committee has recommended authorization of additional funds to support the anticipated shortfalls due to the inadequate budgeted rate for 2014.

Furthermore, if the Department fails to reform its budgeting practices related to fuel rates, and subsequently requests a re-programming due to shortfalls within the DWCF specifically tied to the fully burdened costs of refining fuel, the committee will not look favorably upon such a request.

Department of Defense Travel Restrictions

The committee commends the Department of Defense's efforts to promote efficiency and reduce expenses. The committee further commends the Department's efforts to increase scrutiny on travel, training, and conference spending by elevating approval authority and implementing a tiered approval structure. However, the committee is concerned that designated approval authorities may be subjectively restricting travel to specific geographic locations, and that these determinations are a product of perception rather than cost efficiencies or misalignment with training requirements, professional military education, or support to combatant commanders. As such, the committee encourages the Department to continue its efforts to increase scrutiny and accountability of travel, training, and conference spending, but recommends that the Department not prohibit travel to specific geographical locations without case-by-case consideration and to develop objective guidance and accounting measures for approving travel, training, and conference spending.

Navy Arctic Roadmap

The committee continues to be concerned about the Department of Defense's resources and preparedness for accessing, operating in, and protecting national interests in the Arctic. The Navy currently estimates that between 2020 and 2030, the Arctic could be ice free for one month during the summer which may lead to an increase in trans-Arctic passage for vessels seeking to reduce transit distance by utilizing the Northern Sea Route and the Northwest Passage. The Navy's Strategic Objectives for the Arctic was signed in May 2010 and is referred to in both the Navy Arctic Capabilities Based Assessment, approved in September 2011, and the Navy Arctic Environmental Capabilities Based Assessment, approved in December 2012. Those objectives include ensuring Navy forces are capable and ready, contributing to the safety, stability and security in the region, safeguarding U.S. maritime interests, protecting critical infrastructure and key resources in the Arctic, and strengthening and fostering new cooperative relationships in the region. As a global Nation, the United States needs to ensure that the Navy is adequately prepared to preserve U.S. national security interests and collaborate with other Arctic nations if and when the region will be open for passage with increased traffic.

The committee recognizes the importance of transparency of action without seeking to militarize the region. Therefore, the com-

mittee directs the Secretary of the Navy to provide a roadmap for future activities and costs for training and operating in the Arctic. This roadmap should be a derivative of the National Security Strategy, and shall identify proposed exercises (including table top exercises), to include the frequency, cost, and a more detailed investment strategy across the Program Objective Memorandum through fiscal years 2020 to support a timeframe leading to increased operations in the region between 2020 to 2030. Additionally, the Navy should include details regarding international forums in which they participate. The committee further directs the Secretary of the Navy to provide this roadmap to the congressional defense committees by February 28, 2014.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization Special Operations Headquarters

The budget request for fiscal year 2014 included \$31.2 million in operation and maintenance, Defense-wide, for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Special Operations Headquarters (NSHQ). The committee notes that this request reflects a transfer of NSHQ authorized funding from operation and maintenance, Army, to operation and maintenance, Defense-wide. The committee does not support this transfer and as such maintains the NSHQ authorization within operation and maintenance, Army.

Operations and Maintenance of the Ballistic Missile Defense System

The committee is concerned with the increasing share of the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) budget being consumed by operations and maintenance. According to MDA budget documents, this will amount to \$1.47 billion over the fiscal year 2014 Future Years Defense Program (FYDP); these costs are increasing over the fiscal year 2014 FYDP.

The committee is aware that former Deputy Secretary of Defense William Lynn issued a Memorandum for Secretaries of the military departments on June 10, 2011, that established funding responsibilities for the Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS). Under this memorandum, the MDA will fund sustainment of BMDS-specific mission equipment and initial spares, as well as the first 2 years of operations of BMDS-specific mission equipment.

The committee understands that with the maturation of missile defense systems, the MDA and the military departments are grappling for the first time with the division of responsibility in these long-term operations and maintenance costs; the now operational Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system, which was deployed to Guam as of April 21, 2013, is one example.

The committee expects to be kept informed of any difficulty in the appropriate division of operations and maintenance funding responsibility between MDA and the military departments.

Weather Data and Modeling

The committee is aware that weather forecasting plays a vital role in mission readiness, and that the Department of Defense has taken steps to improve its forecasting. However, weather models are only as effective as the underlying data which inform them.

The military relies largely on weather balloons for data gathering. Further, the committee is aware of recent advances in data gathering methods already in use in the private sector which promise to deliver more accurate data, and thus, more precise forecasts.

In an asymmetric warfare environment, inclement or unanticipated weather phenomena can have a dramatic impact on U.S. and coalition forces, especially with regard to air superiority and special operations. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide to the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate a brief on existing commercial meteorological data gathering technologies, their adaptability to military usage, practicality in a combat environment, and accuracy of data. The brief should also include estimated costs associated with acquisition, maintenance, and licensing, where applicable, of these commercially available technologies.

LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

SUBTITLE A—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

Section 301—Operation and Maintenance Funding

This section would authorize appropriations for operation and maintenance activities at the levels identified in section 4301 of division D of this Act.

SUBTITLE B—ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Section 311—Deadline for Submission of Reports on Proposed Budgets for Activities Relating to Operational Energy Strategy

This section would modify amend section 138c(e) of title 10, United States Code, to revise the date of submission for the report on the proposed budgets for that fiscal year that were not certified.

Section 312—Facilitation of Interagency Cooperation in Conservation Programs of the Departments of Defense, Agriculture, and Interior to Avoid or Reduce Adverse Impacts on Military Readiness Activities

This section would amend section 2684a of title 10, United States Code, to permit a recipient of funds under the Sikes Act to be able to use the funds for matching funds or cost-sharing requirements of conservation programs. This section would also expire the authority on October 1, 2019, but permit any agreements that were entered into prior to September 30, 2019 to continue according to its terms and conditions.

Section 313—Reauthorization of Sikes Act

This section would extend the authority of the Sikes Act through 2019.

Section 314—Cooperative Agreements Under Sikes Act for Land Management Related to Department of Defense Readiness Activities

This section would amend section 103A of the Sikes Act, section 670c-1 of title 16, United States Code, to permit lump sum payment and accrual of interest used for the purposes of the original agreement. This section would also permit the cooperative agreements to be used to acquire property or services for the direct benefit or use of the United States Government, and sets limitations on agreements that are not on military installations. Finally, this section would also expire the authority on October 1, 2019, but permit any agreements that were entered into prior to September 30, 2019 to continue according to its terms and conditions.

Section 315—Exclusions from Definition of “Chemical Substance” under Toxic Substances Control Act

This section would modify section 2602(2)(B) of title 15, United States Code, to add to the exclusions any component of any article including shot, bullets and other projectiles, propellants when manufactured for or used in such an article, and primers.

Section 316—Exemption of Department of Defense from Alternative Fuel Procurement Requirement

This section would amend section 526 of the Energy Independence and Security Act (Section 42 of United States Code 17142) to exempt the Department of Defense from the requirements related to contracts for alternative or synthetic fuel in that section.

Section 317—Clarification of Prohibition on Disposing of Waste in Open-Air Burn Pits

This section would codify the definition of covered waste as it relates to the requirements established by section 317 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; title 10 of United States Code 2701 note).

Section 318—Limitation on Plan, Design, Refurbishing, or Construction of Biofuels Refineries

This section would require the Department of Defense to obtain a congressional authorization before entering into a contract for the planning, design, refurbishing, or construction of a biofuels refinery.

Section 319—Limitation on Procurement of Biofuels

This section would limit the Department of Defense’s ability to purchase or produce biofuels until the earlier of either the date on which the Budget Control Act of 2011 is no longer in effect, or the date on which the cost of biofuel is equal to the cost of conventional fuels. This section would provide an exception for biofuel test and certification and research and development.

SUBTITLE C—LOGISTICS AND SUSTAINMENT

Section 321—Littoral Combat Ship Strategic Sustainment Plan

This section would direct the Secretary of the Navy to create a Strategic Sustainment Plan for the Littoral Combat Ship and submit this plan to the congressional defense committees not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Section 322—Review of Critical Manufacturing Capabilities within Army Arsenals

This section would require the Secretary of Defense to review current and expected manufacturing requirements across the Department of Defense to identify critical manufacturing capabilities which could be executed by Government-owned arsenals, and to brief the results of the review to the congressional defense committees.

The committee supports efforts to improve utilization of Army arsenals by the military services and Defense agencies. The committee encourages greater use of Army arsenals across the Department of Defense to meet manufacturing requirements and applauds efforts to increase visibility of the manufacturing capabilities provided by Army arsenals in order to support national security requirements.

Section 323—Inclusion of Army Arsenals Capabilities in Solicitations

This section would require Program Executive Officers and Program Managers to solicit information from Government-owned arsenals when undertaking a make-or-buy analysis, notify Government-owned arsenals of the requirement, and allow arsenals that have the capability to fulfill a manufacturing requirement to submit a proposal for the requirement.

The committee notes that in addition to directly soliciting information from the arsenals, Program Executive Officers and Program Managers may utilize the Materiel Enterprise Capabilities Database (MEC-D) and other organic industrial base enterprise-wide capabilities information. The committee notes that utilization of the MEC-D provides quick access to organic industrial base capabilities information and assists in consideration of manufacturing and repair requirements. The committee commends the Army for development of the MEC-D and encourages its use.

SUBTITLE D—REPORTS

Section 331—Additional Reporting Requirements Relating to Personnel and Unit Readiness

This section would amend the report required under section 482 of title 10, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Defense to report to the congressional defense committees on the ability of the geographic and functional combatant commanders to successfully meet their respective contingency and operational plans and key mission essential tasks. This section would also require the report to include an assessment by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs

of Staff of the level of risk incurred by using contract support in contingency operations. In addition, this section adds a quarterly readiness reporting requirement for the defense combat support agencies to section 482 of title 10, United States Code. These reports would have to include readiness trends and indicators and an assessment of an agency's ability to execute formal operational plans and to support contingency operations.

The committee is concerned that it does not receive comprehensive reporting on the geographic and functional combatant commanders' ability to successfully execute the full range of their respective operational and contingency plans. The committee believes that absent this information, its ability to make informed oversight decisions regarding the readiness of U.S. forces may be degraded. The committee understands that this lack of visibility may be, in part, due to classification issues. The committee encourages the Secretary of Defense to submit multiple annexes as required to provide complete and timely readiness information to the congressional defense committees.

The committee is also concerned that it lacks visibility on the readiness of the various combat support agencies. These agencies are a key readiness enabler, and the inability to understand how they contribute to military readiness limits the ability of Congress to provide effective oversight of military readiness.

Section 332—Repeal of Annual Comptroller General Report on Army Progress

This section would repeal the requirement that the Comptroller General of the United States report on the Army's progress in moving to a modular force design as the Army has completed the transition.

Section 333—Revision to Requirement for Annual Submission of Information Regarding Information Technology Capital Assets

This section would amend the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107-314; 10 U.S.C. 221 note) to align Department of Defense high-threshold information technology Capital Asset reporting with the Department's Major Automated Information Systems reporting and its Exhibit 300 reporting to the Office of Management and Budget.

SUBTITLE E—LIMITATIONS AND EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY

Section 341—Limitation on Reduction of Force Structure at Lajes Air Force Base, Azores

This section would prohibit the Secretary of the Air Force from reducing the force structure at Lajes Air Force Base, Azores, based on the force structure in existence on October 1, 2013, until the Secretary of Defense briefs the congressional defense committees. This brief shall specifically assess the efficacy of Lajes Air Force Base, Azores in support of the United States overseas force posture.

Section 342—Prohibition on Performance of Department of Defense
Flight Demonstration Teams Outside the United States

This section would place a 2 year moratorium on the Department of Defense use of funds for airshows outside the United States.

SUBTITLE F—OTHER MATTERS

Section 351—Requirement to Establish Policy on Joint Combat
Uniforms

This section would establish as national policy a requirement for all the U.S. military services to use a joint combat camouflage uniform, with certain exceptions.

The committee notes that the Department of Defense has not complied with section 352 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–84) which required the military departments to establish joint criteria for future ground combat uniforms. Rather than continue on a course that does not, as the Government Accountability Office reported, meet statutory requirements for the development of service-unique uniforms that provide service members equivalent levels of performance and protection nor minimize risk to individuals operating in the joint battle space, the committee instead adopts a path that would provide standardization and economies of scale while at the same time ensuring new uniforms are joint, effective, compatible with troops' personal equipment, and suitable to operational needs.