



Legislative Bulletin.....May 11, 2006

Contents:

H.R. 5122—Amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007, **Part I**

H.R. 5122, the National Defense Authorization Act (sponsored by Rep. Hunter, R-CA), is scheduled to be considered on the House floor on Wednesday, May 11th, subject to a structured rule (H.Res. 806). Reportedly, consideration of H.R. 5122 will be completed tomorrow under a second structured rule. Below are the summaries of the eight amendments made in order under the first rule. All amendments are debatable for 10 minutes unless otherwise noted. Note: summaries are based on RSC staff's review of actual amendment text. For a summary of the underlying bill, see a separate RSC document released earlier today.

1. Hunter (R-CA). Manager's Amendment. Increases by \$4 million, authorizations for the Army for "Other Procurement" for a Call for Fire Trainer II/Joint Fires and Effects Trainer System. Decreases by \$4 million, the authorization for Army Research and Development. Provides \$6 million for the Science Engineering Lab Data Integration program at the Ogden Air Logistics Center in Utah, and reduces the Defense-wide research and development fund by \$6 million. Requires the Secretary of Defense to submit a report on means to improve retention of members of the special operations forces. Strikes Section 662 from the underlying bill, which requires DoD to conduct a test to determine the feasibility of purchasing disability accessible golf carts for various military golf carts. **However, the amendment replaces this section with a new pilot for disability accessible golf carts at military courses, which includes developing a plan for placing these cards at all military golf courses.** Permits the Secretary of the Army to convey Army Reserve Center land in Allison Park, PA, to the local school district. Strikes sections 2853, 2854, 2855, which provided for the naming of military buildings after Representatives Hefley (R-CO), Evans (D-IL), and Boehlert (R-NY), which is in violation of House Rules.

2. Andrews (D-NJ). Requires the Secretary of Defense to conduct an epidemiological study to determine whether any human populations have been affected by military munitions ocean disposal sites.

3. Davis (D-CA)/Harman (D-CA)/Sanchez, Loretta (D-CA). Permits abortions on-demand to be performed in any overseas U.S. military facility. **(20 minutes)** Under current law, the use of military facilities for abortions is prohibited, except for life of the mother, rape, and incest situations (enacted as part of the U.S. Code in 1996). Though the Davis amendment would allow pregnant mothers to pay for their own military facility abortions, taxpayers would still be required to subsidize the purchase of the abortion equipment and the salary for the abortionist, among other

costs. The Davis amendment mirrors an amendment that Rep. Loretta Sanchez has offered in past years and that the House has rejected every year since 1996. Last year, a vote on this exact amendment failed 201-227. To view this vote, please visit this site: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2003/roll215.xml>.

RSC Note: When President Clinton allowed abortions in military facilities from 1993 to 1996, all military physicians (as well as many nurses and supporting personnel) refused to perform or assist in elective abortions. In response, the Clinton Administration sought to hire a civilian to do abortions. While the current Administration hopefully would not do this, future Administrations could.

4. Jackson-Lee (D-TX). Adds to the factors that must be taken into consideration when recalling a reservist to service, including the frequency of assignment over the duration of a reservist's career.

5. Tanner (D-TN). Expresses a Sense of Congress that the Army should continue to evaluate and consider the potential benefits of converting to six-month deployments for members of the Army, Army National Guard, and Army Reserves in connection with service in Iraq and Afghanistan, including potential impacts on the reduced deployment periods on soldier morale, recruiting and retention, readiness, and military operations. Current the standard deployment for the Army is one year. Requires the Secretary of the Army to submit a report to Congress containing: 1) the results of any studies conducted on soldiers and families regarding reduced deployment periods in Iraq and Afghanistan; 2) potential plans for the DoD to implement such reduced deployment times; 3) the Army's potential plans for the implementation of such reduced deployment periods; and 4) a discussion of the potential benefits and drawbacks associated with implementation of such reduced deployment times.

6. Franks (R-AZ). Expresses the Sense of Congress that DoD should continue to provide space-available travel on military aircraft for humanitarian reasons to Iraqi children who would otherwise have no means available to seek urgently needed medical care such as that provided by a humanitarian organization in Amman, Jordan. Authorizes, within the amount provided in section 301 for Operation and Maintenance, \$1 million for DoD support of the Peace Through Health Care Initiative, and reduces by \$1 million the amount provided for Budget Activity 4. According to the sponsor, there is an error in the amendment as submitted, and a UC will be offered tonight or tomorrow making a technical correction providing that an account of unspent DoD funds will be reduced by \$1 million to offset the increase for the Peace Through Health Care Initiative.

7. Simmons (R-CT)/Davis, Tom (R-VA). Prohibits DoD from revoking expired security clearances from defense contractors until an investigation moratorium and backlog is eliminated. Does not change the security clearance investigation process or prevent the department from revoking security clearances for national security purposes. According to the sponsor's office, "the Defense Security Service recently announced without warning that it has stopped accepting applications for industrial security clearances and renewals. ...[This amendment] would simply prevent the Department of Defense from revoking expired security clearances from defense contractors until the investigation moratorium and backlog is eliminated."

8. Gutknecht (R-MN)/Kline (R-MN)/Peterson (D-MN)/Ramstad (R-MN)/Oberstar (D-MN)/McCollum (D-MN)/Kennedy (R-MN)/Sabo (D-MN). Expresses the Sense of Congress that

the Secretary of the Army should promptly correct the pay inequity in its assignment incentive pay system. Depending on method of call to active duty, some Guardsmen and Reservists serving in the same unit in Iraq and Afghanistan will be eligible for assignment incentive pay (\$1,000 extra per month) after reaching 730 days on active duty, while others will not. The Army must submit to Congress within 30 days after enactment a report specifying how many soldiers, both active and reserve, were affected by this pay disparity and proposed remedies or courses of action to correct the inequity.

According to one of the sponsors, this amendment would “correct a wrong that is affecting nearly 400 Minnesota National Guardsmen who are now serving in Iraq. The amendment would direct the U.S. Army to correct a pay situation that could cost these soldiers up to \$7,000 in lost incentive pay – pay that members who serve in their same unit are eligible to receive.”
