

**S. 2410 - NDAA for 2015 - pp. 102-103**

**SEC. 523. SENSE OF SENATE ON VALIDATED GENDER-NEUTRAL OCCUPATIONAL STANDARDS FOR ALL MILITARY OCCUPATIONS.**

It is the sense of the Senate that the Secretaries of the military departments should—

(1) eliminate all unnecessary gender-based barriers to service and integrate women into occupational fields and units currently closed to them to the maximum extent possible;

(2) by not later than September 1, 2015, validate gender-neutral occupational standards for every military occupation, with such standards for each military occupation to be based solely on the necessary and required specific tasks associated with the qualifications and duties performed while serving in or assigned to such military occupation;

(3) ensure that such gender-neutral occupational standards enable the operational capability and combat effectiveness required for the military to meet national defense objectives;

(4) ensure that such validated gender-neutral occupational standards are considered in deter-

mining whether positions and occupations currently closed to service by women are opened;

(5) ensure that the surgeon general of the Armed Force concerned has evaluated the medical requirements and has determined that resources to meet such requirements will be adequate for female members for the military occupations or units to which they will be assigned;

(6) ensure that the Chief of Service of the Armed Force concerned has evaluated the table of equipment for the unit or position for the military occupations or units to which they will be assigned and has determined that all required equipment for female members meets required standards for wear and survivability; and

(7) by not later than January 1, 2016, open all military occupations to service by women who can meet such validated gender-neutral occupational standards for the military occupations to which they will be

assigned, if determined to be in the best interests of the national defense of the United States, and ensure that all members of the Armed Forces, regardless of gender, are assigned to units on the basis of their ability to meet the occupational standards required by such assignment.

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**S. 2410, NDAA for 2015, pp. 143-145**

**SEC. 552. DEFENSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATION, PROSECUTION, AND DEFENSE OF SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE ARMED FORCES.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense shall establish and maintain within the Department of Defense an advisory committee to be known as the “Defense Advisory Committee on Investigation, Prosecution, and Defense of Sexual Assault in the Armed Forces” (in this section referred to as the “Advisory Committee”).

b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The Advisory Committee shall consist of not more than 20 members, appointed by the President from among individuals (other than members of the Armed Forces) who have experience with the investigation, prosecution, and defense of allegations of sexual assault offenses (such as Federal and State prosecutors, judges, law professors, and private attorneys).

(c) **DUTIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Advisory Committee shall advise the Secretary of Defense on the investigation, prosecution, and defense of allegations of rape, forcible sodomy, sexual assault, and other sexual misconduct in the Armed Forces.

(2) **BASIS FOR PROVISION OF ADVICE.**—For purposes of providing advice to the Secretary pursuant to this subsection, the Advisory Committee shall, on an ongoing basis—

(A) select a representative sample of cases involving allegations of rape, forcible sodomy, sexual assault, and other sexual misconduct in the Armed Forces; and

(B) for each case so selected, review the following:

(i) The criminal investigation reports (including reports of investigations that did not substantiate the alleged offense).

(ii) The report on the preliminary hearing conducted pursuant to section 832 of title 10, United States Code (article 32 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice).

(iii) Any recommendations of Staff Judge Advocates and the initial disposition authority on the disposition of such case.

(iv) The findings and sentences of the court-martial, if any, or any non-judicial punishment imposed pursuant to section 815 of title 10, United States Code (article 15 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice).

(v) Any legal reviews that recommended that such case not be referred for prosecution.

(d) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than January 31 each year, the Advisory Committee shall submit to the Secretary of Defense, and to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, a report on the results of the activities of the Advisory Committee pursuant to this section during the preceding year.

(e) TERMINATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Advisory Committee shall terminate on the date that is five years after the date of the establishment of the Advisory Committee pursuant to subsection (a).

(2) CONTINUATION.—The Secretary of Defense may continue the Advisory Committee after the date otherwise provided for the termination of the Advisory Committee under paragraph (1) if the Secretary determines that continuation of the Advisory Committee after that date is advisable and appropriate. If the Secretary determines to continue the Advisory Committee, the Secretary shall submit to the President, and to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, a report on that determination, together with the date through which the Secretary will continue the Advisory Committee.