119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To modify the organization of the Department of Defense with respect to special-operations peculiar matters, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BUDD introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To modify the organization of the Department of Defense with respect to special-operations peculiar matters, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Office of Strategic Services Act of 2026''.

SEC. 2. ORGANIZATION OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE WITH RESPECT TO SPECIAL-OPERATIONS PECULIAR MATTERS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR STRATEGIC SERVICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 4 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 136 the following new section:

"§ 136a. Under Secretary of Defense for Strategic Services

''(a) IN GENERAL.—There is an Under Secretary of Defense for Strategic Services, appointed from civilian life by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. A person may not be appointed as Under Secretary within seven years after relief from active duty as a commissioned officer of a regular component of an armed force.

''(b) DUTIES AND POWERS.—Subject to the authority, direction, and control of the Secretary of Defense, the Under Secretary of Defense for Strategic Services shall—

''(1) be responsible for the overall supervision (including oversight of policy and resources) of special operations activities (as defined in section 167(k) of this title) of the Department of Defense and have the authority to issue binding policy, direction, and oversight consistent with section 167 of this title;

''(2) be the principal civilian adviser to the Secretary of Defense on special-operations peculiar matters and (after the Secretary and Deputy Secretary)

be the principal special-operations peculiar official within the senior management of the Department of Defense, including with respect to special-operations peculiar acquisition, resources, equipment, and related administrative matters;

''(3) exercise authority, direction, and control of all special-operations peculiar administrative matters relating to the organization, training, and equipping of special operations forces through the administrative chain of command specified in section 167(f) of this title; and

''(4) be responsible for all special operations-peculiar budgetary matters.

''(c) PRECEDENCE IN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—

''(1) PRECEDENCE IN MATTERS OF RESPONSIBILITY.—With regard to all matters for which the Under Secretary has responsibility by the direction of the Secretary of Defense or by law, the Under Secretary takes precedence in the Department of Defense after the Secretary and the Deputy Secretary.

''(2) PRECEDENCE IN OTHER MATTERS.—With regard to all matters other than the matters for which the Under Secretary has responsibility by the direction of the Secretary or by law, the Under Sec-

retary takes precedence in the Department of Defense after the Secretary, the Deputy Secretary, and the Secretaries of the military departments.''.

(2) REPEAL OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR SPECIAL OPERATIONS AND LOW-INTENSITY CONFLICT.—Section 138(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (2).

(3) TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS, DUTIES, PERSONNEL, ETC.—All functions, powers, duties, authorities, responsibilities, personnel, property, records, contracts, delegations, directives, regulations, administrative actions, and unobligated balances of appropriations vested in the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act are transferred to the Under Secretary of Defense for Strategic Services established by section 136a of title 10, United States Code, as added by paragraph (1).

(4) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regulation, guidance, directive, or other document to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict shall, on and after the date of the enactment of this Act, be deemed to refer to the Under Secretary of Defense for Stra-

tegic Services established by section 136a of title 10, United States Code, as added by paragraph (1).

(5) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection or an amendment made by this subsection shall be construed to limit, transfer, or diminish any authority or responsibility vested by law in the Commander of the United States Special Operations Command on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) REDESIGNATION OF SECRETARIAT FOR SPECIAL OPERATIONS AS OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 139b of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in the section heading, by striking "**Secretariat for Special Operations**" and inserting "**Office of Strategic Services**";

(B) in subsection (a)—

(i) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following new paragraph (1):

"(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to fulfill the responsibilities of the Under Secretary of Defense for Strategic Services specified in section 136a(b) of this title, there shall be within the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Strategic Services

an office to be known as the 'Office of Strategic Services' (in this subsection referred to as the 'Office').'';

(ii) in paragraph (2)—

(I) by striking ''Secretariat'' and inserting ''Office''; and

(II) by striking ''Assistant Secretary'' and inserting ''Under Secretary'';

(iii) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following new paragraph (3):

''(3) DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARIES.—There shall be in the Office—

''(A) a Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategic Services; and

''(B) such other Deputy Assistant Secretaries as the Under Secretary consider appropriate.''; and

(iv) in paragraph (4)—

(I) by striking ''Secretariat'' each place it appears and inserting ''Office''; and

(II) by striking ''Assistant Secretary'' each place it appears and inserting ''Under Secretary''; and

(C) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking ''section 138(b)(2)(A)(i) of this title, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict'' and inserting ''section 136a(b) of this title, the Under Secretary of Defense for Strategic Services''; and

(ii) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking ''Assistant Secretary'' and inserting ''Under Secretary''.

(2) INCREASES IN STAFF.—

(A) INCREASE IN PERSONNEL FOR OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES.—The Office of Strategic Services may hire 200 employees, in addition to the number of employees of the Secretariat for Special Operations on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(B) INCREASE IN LIMITATION ON PERSONNEL OF OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.—Section 143(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''4,300'' and inserting ''4,500''.

(3) TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS, DUTIES, PERSONNEL, ETC.—All functions, powers, duties, au-

thorities, responsibilities, personnel, property, records, contracts, delegations, directives, regulations, administrative actions, and unobligated balances of appropriations vested in the Secretariat for Special Operations on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act are transferred to the Office of Strategic Services established by section 139b(a) of title 10, United States Code, as amended by paragraph (1).

(4) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regulation, guidance, directive, or other document to the Secretariat for Special Operations shall, on and after the date of the enactment of this Act, be deemed to refer to the Office of Strategic Services established by section 139b(a) of title 10, United States Code, as amended by paragraph (1).

(c) CONTINGENCY PLANNING GUIDANCE FOR SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES.—In the first update, after the date of the enactment of this Act, to the written guidance on the preparation and review of contingency and campaign plans issued under section 113(g)(3) of title 10, United States Code, the Secretary of Defense shall include guidance with respect to the preparation and review of contingency and campaign plans, force levels, and supporting resource levels specific to special operations forces.

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) IRREGULAR WARFARE CENTER.—Section 345(c)(4) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict'' and inserting ''Under Secretary of Defense for Strategic Services''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking '' ''The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict'' and inserting ''The Under Secretary of Defense for Strategic Services''.

(2) SUPPORT OF SPECIAL OPERATIONS FOR IRREGULAR WARFARE.—Section 127d(f) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict'' and inserting ''Under Secretary of Defense for Strategic Services''.

(3) SUPPORT OF SPECIAL OPERATIONS TO COMBAT TERRORISM.—Section 127e(h) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking ''ASD FOR SOLIC'' and inserting ''UNDER

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR STRATEGIC SERVICES''; and

(B) by striking ''Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict'' and inserting ''Under Secretary of Defense for Strategic Services''.

(4) EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR CERTAIN CLANDESTINE ACTIVITIES.—Section 127f of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (i), in the subsection heading, by striking ''ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR SPECIAL OPERATIONS AND LOW INTENSITY CONFLICT'' and inserting ''UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR STRATEGIC SERVICES''; and

(B) by striking ''Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict'' each place it appears and inserting ''Under Secretary of Defense for Strategic Services''.

(5) CHAIN OF COMMAND FOR SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES.—Section 167 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict'' each place it appears and insert-

ing ''Under Secretary of Defense for Strategic Services''.

(6) EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL DEFENSE PROGRAM.—Section 2284(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict'' each place it appears and inserting ''Under Secretary of Defense for Strategic Services''.

(7) SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND URGENT INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES AND CAPABILITIES INITIATIVE.—Section 863 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 (Public Law 119–60; 10 U.S.C. 4001 note) is amended by striking ''Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict'' each place it appears and inserting ''Under Secretary of Defense for Strategic Services''.

(8) CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER AT UNITED STATES NAVAL STATION, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA.—Section 1046 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116–92; 10 U.S.C. 801 note) is amended by striking ''Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict'' each place it ap-

pears and inserting ''Under Secretary of Defense for Strategic Services''.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Under Secretary of Defense for Strategic Services for fiscal year 2027 and each fiscal year thereafter $50,000,000 for the activities of the Office of Strategic Services.