

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5063

To direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a joint task force to improve the research and development of lighter weight body armor.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 15, 2010

Ms. TSONGAS (for herself and Mr. KISSELL) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a joint task force to improve the research and development of lighter weight body armor.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Light Weight Armor
5 Research Requirements for Individual Operational Readiness
6 Act” or the “LT WARRIOR Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT TASK FORCE ON LIGHT-**
8 **WEIGHT BODY ARMOR.**

9 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Defense
10 shall establish a joint task force, to be known as “Joint

1 Task Force Light Weight Armor Research Requirements
2 for Individual Operational Readiness” or “JTF–LT WAR-
3 RIOR”, to—

4 (1) synchronize efforts among the military de-
5 partments to identify and examine the requirements
6 for lighter weight body armor; and

7 (2) serve as the centralized body for deter-
8 mining and coordinating issues regarding lightweight
9 body armor and other personal protective equipment,
10 including the required attributes of such armor and
11 the development and procurement of such armor and
12 equipment.

13 (b) COMPOSITION.—

14 (1) MEMBERSHIP.—The task force shall consist
15 of not more than 20 members, to be appointed by
16 the Secretary as follows:

17 (A) At least one member shall be ap-
18 pointed from each of the Army, Navy, Air
19 Force, and Marine Corps.

20 (B) At least one member shall represent
21 the Natick Soldier Research, Development and
22 Engineering Center of the Army.

23 (C) At least one member shall represent
24 the Defense Logistics Agency.

1 (D) At least one member shall represent
2 the United States Special Operations Com-
3 mand.

4 (E) At least one member shall represent
5 the Program Executive Office Soldier.

6 (F) At least one member shall represent
7 the Test and Evaluation Command of the
8 Army.

9 (G) At least one member shall represent
10 the Defense Standardization Program Office.

11 (H) Other members representing other en-
12 tities considered appropriate by the Secretary.

13 (2) PRIVATE ENTITIES.—In appointing mem-
14 bers to the task force, the Secretary may consider
15 including representatives from industry, including
16 developers, manufacturers, and testing personnel.

17 (3) DEADLINE.—The members of the task force
18 shall be appointed not later than 30 days after the
19 date of the enactment of this Act.

20 (4) CHAIR.—Of a member appointed under
21 paragraph (1) who is a member of the Armed
22 Forces, the Secretary shall designate a chair of the
23 task force.

24 (c) RECOMMENDATIONS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than six months
2 after the date on which all members of the task
3 force have been appointed, and each six month pe-
4 riod thereafter for a period of 18 months, the task
5 force shall submit to the Secretary a report recom-
6 mending ways in which the Secretary and each Sec-
7 retary of a military department may more effectively
8 address the research, development, and procurement
9 requirements regarding reducing the weight of body
10 armor.

11 (2) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The reports re-
12 quired under paragraph (1) shall include an assess-
13 ment of the following:

14 (A) The requirement for lighter weight
15 body armor and personal protective equipment.

16 (B) Innovative design ideas for more mod-
17 ular body armor that allow for scalable protec-
18 tion levels for various missions and threats.

19 (C) Research, development, acquisition,
20 and funding objectives specifically dedicated to
21 reducing the weight of body armor and other
22 personal protective equipment items.

23 (D) The efficiency and effectiveness of cur-
24 rent body armor funding procedures and proc-
25 esses.

1 (E) Industry concerns, capabilities, and
2 willingness to invest in the development and
3 production of lightweight body armor initiatives.

4 (3) METHODOLOGY.—In submitting the reports
5 under paragraph (1), the task force shall consider as
6 bases for making assessments—

7 (A) the findings and recommendations of
8 previous reviews and the efforts of similar co-
9 ordination boards;

10 (B) the views of operations, combat, and
11 materiel developers; and

12 (C) other factors the task force considers
13 appropriate.

14 (d) FINAL REPORT.—

15 (1) REQUIREMENT.—The task force shall sub-
16 mit to the Secretary of Defense and each Secretary
17 of a military department a final report on the activi-
18 ties of the task force.

19 (2) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The report shall in-
20 clude the following:

21 (A) An assessment of the ability of the De-
22 partment of Defense to support the requirement
23 for lightweight body armor.

24 (B) An assessment of any barriers pre-
25 venting the development of lighter weight body

1 armor (including such barriers with respect to
2 technical, institutional, or financial problems).

3 (C) The need for dedicated research and
4 development funding specifically for reducing
5 the weight of body armor.

6 (D) Other areas of concern not previously
7 mentioned or addressed by equipping boards,
8 body armor producers, or program managers.

9 (E) The final findings and conclusions of
10 the task force.

11 (F) Any recommendations for changes to
12 procedures and policy the task force considers
13 appropriate.

14 (3) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than
15 60 days after the receipt of the report under para-
16 graph (1), the Secretary of Defense shall submit to
17 the congressional defense committees the report, to-
18 gether with an evaluation of the report from the
19 Secretary of Defense and each Secretary of a mili-
20 tary department.

21 (e) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.—

22 (1) COMPENSATION.—

23 (A) Each member of the task force who is
24 a member of the Armed Forces or a civilian of-
25 ficer or employee of the United States shall

1 serve without compensation (other than com-
2 pensation to which entitled as a member of the
3 Armed Forces or an officer or employee of the
4 United States, as the case may be).

5 (B) Other members of the task force shall
6 be appointed in accordance with, and subject to,
7 section 3161 of title 5, United States Code.

8 (2) OVERSIGHT.—The Under Secretary of De-
9 fense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics,
10 shall provide oversight of the task force.

11 (3) LOGISTICS.—The Washington Headquarters
12 Services of the Department of Defense shall provide
13 the task force with personnel, facilities, and other
14 administrative support as necessary for the perform-
15 ance of the duties of the task force.

16 (f) TERMINATION.—The task force shall terminate
17 90 days after the date on which the final report is sub-
18 mitted under subsection (d).

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