

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3840

To establish the Office of Net Assessment within the Department of Defense.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 9, 2014

Mr. THORNBERRY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To establish the Office of Net Assessment within the
Department of Defense.

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. OFFICE OF NET ASSESSMENT.**

4 (a) POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States to
5 maintain an independent organization within the Depart-
6 ment of Defense to develop and coordinate net assess-
7 ments of the standing, trends, and future prospects of the
8 military capabilities and potential of the United States in
9 comparison with the military capabilities and potential of
10 other countries or groups of countries so as to identify

1 emerging or future threats or opportunities for the United
2 States.

3 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 4 of title 10, United
5 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
6 following new section:

7 **“§ 145. Office of Net Assessment**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There is in the Office of the Sec-
9 retary of Defense an office known as the Office of Net
10 Assessment.

11 “(b) HEAD.—(1) The head of the Office of Net As-
12 sessment shall be appointed by the Secretary of Defense.
13 The head shall be a member of the Senior Executive Serv-
14 ice.

15 “(2) The head of the Office of Net Assessment may
16 communicate views on matters within the responsibility of
17 the head directly to the Secretary without obtaining the
18 approval or concurrence of any other official within the
19 Department of Defense.

20 “(3) The head of the Office of Net Assessment shall
21 report directly to the Secretary. The Secretary may not
22 delegate the authority under this paragraph.

23 “(c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Office of Net Assess-
24 ment shall develop and coordinate net assessments with
25 respect to the standing, trends, and future prospects of

1 the military capabilities and potential of the United States
2 in comparison with the military capabilities and potential
3 of other countries or groups of countries to identify emerg-
4 ing or future threats or opportunities for the United
5 States.

6 “(d) BUDGET.—In the budget materials submitted to
7 the President by the Secretary of Defense in connection
8 with the submittal to Congress, pursuant to section 1105
9 of title 31, of the budget for any fiscal year after fiscal
10 year 2014, the Secretary shall ensure that a separate,
11 dedicated program element is assigned for the Office of
12 Net Assessment.

13 “(e) NET ASSESSMENT DEFINED.—In this section,
14 the term ‘net assessment’ means the comparative analysis
15 of military, technological, political, economic, and other
16 factors governing the relative military capability of na-
17 tions.”.

18 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
19 tions at the beginning of chapter 4 of such title is
20 amended by adding at the end the following new
21 item:

“145. Office of Net Assessment.”.

