

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7444

To direct the Secretary of Defense to review and report to Congress on the status of the professional military education enterprise, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 1, 2020

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

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Defense to review and report to Congress on the status of the professional military education enterprise, and for other purposes.

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 “Professional Military
5 Education Review Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. TRANSFORMATION OF THE PROFESSIONAL MILI-**
7 **TARY EDUCATION ENTERPRISE.**

8 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
9 gress that—

1 (1) professional military education is founda-
2 tional to the development of ethical and effective
3 military leaders and vital to national security;

4 (2) oversight of professional military education
5 is an essential part of Congress' constitutional re-
6 sponsibilities to regulate and maintain the Armed
7 Forces of the United States;

8 (3) reform of the professional military edu-
9 cation system, as directed by the congressional de-
10 fense committees, has played a central role in the in-
11 stitutionalization of jointness as envisioned by the
12 Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorga-
13 nization Act of 1986 (Public Law 99–433);

14 (4) the Goldwater-Nichols professional military
15 education model has served the Nation well since the
16 end of the Cold War by enabling successful joint
17 military operations across the spectrum of conflict;

18 (5) recent changes in the national security envi-
19 ronment require that the professional military edu-
20 cation enterprise adapt to prepare the joint force to
21 successfully defend American interests in evolving
22 areas of strategic competition; and

23 (6) the Department of Defense must transform
24 the professional military education enterprise to
25 meet these challenges by emphasizing focused and

1 rigorous intellectual study reflecting the hard won
2 strategic insights of history, while leveraging ad-
3 vancements in the modern learning environment.

4 (b) LIMITATION.—None of the funds authorized to
5 be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available
6 for fiscal year 2021 for the Department of Defense may
7 be obligated or expended to consolidate, close, or signifi-
8 cantly change the curriculum of the National Defense Uni-
9 versity or any institution of professional military education
10 of an Armed Force until a period of 120 days has elapsed
11 following the date on which the Under Secretary of De-
12 fense for Personnel and Readiness submits the report re-
13 quired under subsection (c).

14 (c) REPORT REQUIRED.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
16 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
17 retary of Defense, acting through the Under Sec-
18 retary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, shall
19 submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the
20 Senate and the House of Representatives a report on
21 the status of the professional military education en-
22 terprise.

23 (2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under
24 paragraph (1) shall include the following:

25 (A) A consolidated summary that—

1 (i) lists all components of the profes-
2 sional military education enterprise of the
3 Department of Defense, including all asso-
4 ciated schools, programs, research centers,
5 and support activities; and

6 (ii) for each such component, identi-
7 fies the assigned personnel strength, an-
8 nual student throughput, and budget de-
9 tails covering the period of three fiscal
10 years preceding the date of the report.

11 (B) An assessment of the effectiveness and
12 shortfalls of the existing professional military
13 education enterprise as measured against grad-
14 uate utilization, post-graduate evaluations, and
15 the education and force development require-
16 ments of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of
17 Staff and the Chiefs of the Armed Forces.

18 (C) Recommendations to improve the intel-
19 lectual readiness of the joint force through re-
20 forms designed to—

21 (i) improve the warfighting readiness,
22 intellectual fitness, and cognitive ingenuity
23 of military leaders;

24 (ii) promote development of strategic
25 thinkers capable of developing integrated

1 political-military and cross-domain strate-
2 gies and new doctrinal concepts;

3 (iii) enhance the effectiveness, coher-
4 ence, and efficiency of individual service
5 approaches to professional military edu-
6 cation;

7 (iv) improve the depth and rigor of
8 professional military education curriculum
9 in alignment with national defense strategy
10 pacing threats while enhancing strategic
11 relationships and operational integration
12 with key allies and international security
13 partners; and

14 (v) foster the deliberate development
15 of world-class faculty through increasing
16 the value of faculty assignments and other
17 appropriate measures.

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