

[§ 490. Repealed. Pub. L. 112–81, div. A, title X, § 1061(10)(A), Dec. 31, 2011, 125 Stat. 1583]

Section, added Pub. L. 110–181, div. A, title IX, § 912(a), Jan. 28, 2008, 122 Stat. 280; amended Pub. L. 111–84, div. A, title X, § 1073(a)(6), Oct. 28, 2009, 123 Stat. 2472, related to management of space cadre personnel and submission of a biennial report.

[§ 490a. Renumbered § 492]

CHAPTER 24—NUCLEAR POSTURE

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| Sec.
491. | Nuclear weapons employment strategy of the United States: reports on modification of strategy. |
| 492. | Biennial assessment and report on the delivery platforms for nuclear weapons and the nuclear command and control system. |
| 492a. | Biennial report on the plan for the nuclear weapons stockpile, nuclear weapons complex, nuclear weapons delivery systems, and nuclear weapons command and control system. |
| 492b. | Biannual briefing on nuclear weapons and related activities. |
| 493. | Reports to Congress on the modification of the force structure for the strategic nuclear weapons delivery systems of the United States. |
| 493a. | Industrial base monitoring for B–21 and Sentinel programs. |
| 494. | Nuclear force reductions. |
| 495. | Strategic delivery systems. |
| 496. | Consideration of expansion of nuclear forces of other countries. |
| 497. | Notification required for reduction, consolidation, or withdrawal of nuclear forces based in Europe. |
| 497a. | Notification required for reduction or consolidation of dual-capable aircraft based in Europe. |
| 498. | Unilateral change in nuclear weapons stockpile of the United States. |
| 499. | Annual assessment of cyber resiliency of nuclear command and control system. |
| 499a. | Collection, storage, and sharing of data relating to nuclear security enterprise and nuclear forces. |
| 499b. | Participation in United States Strategic Command strategic deterrence exercises. |
| 499c. | Portfolio management framework for nuclear forces. |

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2024—Pub. L. 118–159, div. A, title XVI, § 1624(1), Dec. 23, 2024, 138 Stat. 2173, substituted “Biennial” for “Annual” in item 492a. Amendment was made pursuant to operation of section 102 of this title.

2022—Pub. L. 117–263, div. A, title XVI, §§ 1631, 1632, 1634(a), Dec. 23, 2022, 136 Stat. 2934, 2938, added items 492b, 493a, and 499c.

2021—Pub. L. 117–81, div. A, title XVI, § 1631, Dec. 27, 2021, 135 Stat. 2089, added item 499b.

2019—Pub. L. 116–92, div. A, title XVI, § 1665(c)(2), Dec. 20, 2019, 133 Stat. 1774, added item 492a.

2017—Pub. L. 115–91, div. A, title XVI, §§ 1651(b), 1652(b), Dec. 12, 2017, 131 Stat. 1757, 1758, added items 499 and 499a.

2013—Pub. L. 113–66, div. A, title X, § 1051(b)(2), Dec. 26, 2013, 127 Stat. 859, added item 497a.

Pub. L. 112–239, div. A, title X, §§ 1031(b)(1), (3)(C)(i), 1033(b)(2)(A), 1035(b), 1036(b), 1037(b)(2), 1038(b), Jan. 2, 2013, 126 Stat. 1918, 1919, 1921, 1924, 1925, 1927, added chapter heading and items 491 to 498.

§ 491. Nuclear weapons employment strategy of the United States: reports on modification of strategy

(a) **REPORTS.**—By not later than 60 days before the date on which the President implements a nuclear weapons employment strategy of the United States that differs from the nuclear weapons employment strategy of the United States then in force, the President shall submit to Congress a report setting forth the following:

(1) A description of the modifications to the nuclear weapons employment strategy, plans, and options of the United States made by the strategy so issued.

(2) An assessment of effects of such modification for the nuclear posture of the United States.

(3) The implication of such changes on the flexibility and resilience of the strategic forces of the United States and the ability of such forces to support the goals of the United States with respect to nuclear deterrence, extended deterrence, assurance, and defense.

(4) The extent to which such modifications include an increased reliance on conventional or non-nuclear global strike capabilities or missile defenses of the United States.

(b) **ANNUAL BRIEFINGS.**—Not later than March 15 of each year, the Secretary of Defense shall provide to the congressional defense committees a briefing regarding the nuclear weapons employment strategy, plans, and options of the United States.

(c) **REPORTS ON NUCLEAR POSTURE REVIEW IMPLEMENTATION STUDY DECISIONS.**—During each of fiscal years 2022 through 2031, not later than 60 days before the date on which the President carries out the results of the decisions made pursuant to a Nuclear Posture Review Implementation Study that would alter the nuclear weapons employment strategy, guidance, plans, or options of the United States, the President shall—

(1) ensure that the report required by section 492a of this title is transmitted to Congress, if so required under such section;

(2) ensure that the report required under section 494(a)(2)(A) of this title is transmitted to Congress, if so required under such section; and

(3) transmit to the congressional defense committees a report providing the high-, medium-, and low- confidence assessments of the intelligence community (as defined in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4))) as to whether the United States will have significant warning of a strategic surprise or breakout caused by foreign nuclear weapons developments.

(Added Pub. L. 112–81, div. A, title X, § 1046(b)(1), Dec. 31, 2011, 125 Stat. 1579; amended Pub. L. 112–239, div. A, title X, §§ 1031(a), 1032, Jan. 2, 2013, 126 Stat. 1917, 1919; Pub. L. 113–66, div. A, title X, § 1052(b), Dec. 26, 2013, 127 Stat. 861; Pub. L. 113–291, div. A, title X, § 1071(c)(10), Dec. 19, 2014, 128 Stat. 3509; Pub. L. 117–263, div. A, title XVI, § 1637, Dec. 23, 2022, 136 Stat. 2940; Pub. L. 118–31, div. A, title XVIII, § 1801(a)(8), Dec. 22, 2023, 137 Stat. 684.)