



GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
1600 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301-1600

AUG 16 2001

GENERAL COUNSEL

The Honorable Richard B. Cheney  
President of the Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. President:

The Department of Defense proposes the enclosed legislation relating to the reduction of recurring reporting requirements. This proposal is part of the departmental legislative program for the First Session of the 107th Congress and we urge its enactment.

This proposal would eliminate those recurring reporting requirements that impede the ability of the Secretary of Defense to manage the Department. The proliferation of recurring reporting requirements has resulted in an expensive, unnecessary, and time-consuming function of report compilation that detracts from the accomplishment of the Department's other missions. Congressional oversight is plentiful. The Secretary reports frequently and fully to the Congress as to his actions and programs. The Department responds to thousands of constituent inquiries and provides many one-time reports to Congress. Departmental officials conduct many meetings with the Legislative Branch including Members, staffers, and officials from the Government Accounting Office. Our officials testify frequently before Congressional committees and subcommittees. The Department also hosts visits by Members of Congress and their staffs to our installations around the world.

The instant proposal would terminate these recurring reporting requirements as of January 1, 2002. It would require the Secretary of Defense, not later than 60 days after the enactment of this legislation, to identify the reports involved and to recommend whether each report so identified should be retained, modified, or permanently repealed. The provision assumes a subsequent Congressional action pursuant to the Secretary's recommendation. The enclosed bill generally follows the reduction of reporting requirement language that was section 602 of the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-433; 100 Stat. 1066).

The Office of Management and Budget advises that there is no objection from the standpoint of the Administration's program to the presentation of the enclosed legislation to the Congress.

Sincerely,

*William J. Haynes II*  
for William J. Haynes II, Principal Deputy

Enclosure  
As Stated





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GENERAL COUNSEL

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Sincerely,

*David J. Dell'Atto, Principal Deputy*  
for William J. Haynes II

Enclosure  
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**SEC. \_\_\_ . REDUCTION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

1 (a) POLICY.—It is the policy of Congress to reduce the administrative burden placed on  
2 the Department of Defense by requirements for reports, studies, and notifications to be submitted  
3 to Congress through the elimination of outdated, redundant, or otherwise unnecessary reporting  
4 requirements.

5 (b) COMPILATION OF EXISTING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—(1) The Secretary of  
6 Defense shall compile a list of all provisions of law in effect on the date of the enactment of this  
7 Act that require or request the President, with respect to national defense functions of the  
8 Government, or any official or employee of the Department of Defense to submit a report  
9 notification, or study to Congress or any committee of Congress. The preceding sentence does  
10 not apply to a requirement for a report, notification, or study to be submitted one time.

11 (2) The Secretary shall submit to Congress the list compiled under paragraph (1) not later  
12 than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act. The Secretary shall include with such  
13 list (with respect to each report, notification, or study shown on the list) —

14 (A) the date the requirement or request for such report, notification, or study was first  
15 imposed by law and the current legal citation for such requirement or request;

16 (B) the Secretary's assessment of the continuing utility of such report, notification, or  
17 study to Congress and to the executive branch;

18 (C) any recommendation of the Secretary for consolidation of different reports,  
19 notifications, and studies; and

20 (D) to the extent the Secretary deems it appropriate, a draft of legislation to implement  
21 any changes in law recommended by the Secretary and to conform statutory provisions to the

1 elimination of reporting requirements under subsection (c).

2 (c) TERMINATION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Except as provided in subsection (d),  
3 effective on January 1, 2002, each provision of law that is contained in titles 10, 32, or 37,  
4 United States Code, or in any Act authorizing appropriations or making appropriations for  
5 military functions of the Department of Defense (including military construction and military  
6 family housing functions) shall not be effective to the extent such provision requires the  
7 submission of a report, notification, or study.

8 (d) EXCEPTIONS.—Subsection (c) does not apply—

9 (1) to a requirement for a report, notification, or study to be submitted one time; or

10 (2) to a provision of law enacted on or after the date of the enactment of this Act

11 (including any provision enacted by this Act).