

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5132

To express the sense of Congress concerning the fiscal year 2003 end strengths needed for the Armed Forces to fight the War on Terrorism.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 16, 2002

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

A BILL

To express the sense of Congress concerning the fiscal year 2003 end strengths needed for the Armed Forces to fight the War on Terrorism.

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. FINDINGS CONCERNING FISCAL YEAR 2003 END**
4 **STRENGTHS NEEDED FOR THE ARMED**
5 **FORCES TO FIGHT THE WAR ON TERRORISM.**

6 Congress makes the following findings:

7 (1) Before September 11, 2001, the uniformed
8 chiefs of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine
9 Corps testified before the Committee on Armed
10 Services of the House of Representatives that they

1 did not have sufficient personnel to meet all their
2 current operational requirements.

3 (2) Since September 11, 2001, Admiral Dennis
4 Blair, then-commander of the United States Pacific
5 Command, General Joseph Ralston, commander of
6 the United States European Command, and General
7 William Kernan, commander of United States Joint
8 Forces Command, have testified before that com-
9 mittee that United States military forces are being
10 stressed by the increased operational tempo and
11 have insufficient forces to fully meet their war-fight-
12 ing requirements and to fully execute all assigned
13 missions and that further strains on the Armed
14 Forces may be anticipated.

15 (3) Following the terrorist attacks against the
16 United States on September 11, 2001, Congress
17 adopted a joint resolution (Public Law 107–40) au-
18 thORIZING the President to use all necessary and ap-
19 propriate force against those nations, organizations,
20 and persons he determines planned, authorized, com-
21 mitted, or aided the terrorist attacks that occurred
22 on September 11, 2001.

23 (4) Since the adoption of that resolution,
24 United States Armed Forces have been actively wag-
25 ing war against terrorists and terrorism around the

1 globe in operations known as Operation Noble Eagle
2 and Operation Enduring Freedom.

3 (5) In the prosecution of the war against ter-
4 rorism, thousands of active-duty servicemembers and
5 over 80,000 reservists and National Guard members
6 have participated in Operations Noble Eagle and
7 Enduring Freedom.

8 (6) President Bush has publicly stated numer-
9 ous times that the war on terrorism will continue for
10 some time.

11 (7) United States forces are currently searching
12 for terrorists in Afghanistan, helping fight terrorism
13 in the Philippines, training military forces in the Re-
14 public of Georgia, equipping and training govern-
15 ment forces in Columbia, and aiding the peace proc-
16 ess in the Balkans and Kosovo.

17 (8) The pace of operations for United States
18 military personnel has only increased since Sep-
19 tember 11, 2001, and that pace increases the strain
20 on servicemembers and their families.

21 (9) Prosecuting the war on terrorism will re-
22 quire increased expenditures for military personnel,
23 operations and maintenance, and for the procure-
24 ment of equipment that is lost, expended or con-
25 sumed.

1 (10) In response to the increased missions for
2 military personnel associated with the prosecution of
3 the war on terrorism, the House of Representatives
4 and the Senate, in their respective versions of the
5 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year
6 2003, have each voted to increase the authorizations
7 for military end strengths above the level requested
8 by the President in his defense budget for fiscal year
9 2003.

10 (11) Recent press reports indicate that the Sec-
11 retary of Defense has under consideration substan-
12 tial reductions in military end strengths below the
13 levels proposed to be authorized in the House and
14 Senate versions of the National Defense Authoriza-
15 tion Act for Fiscal Year 2003.

16 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

17 In light of the findings in section 1, it is the sense
18 of Congress that—

19 (1) the increases in end-strength authorizations
20 for the Armed Forces for fiscal year 2003 that are
21 recommended by the Senate and House of Rep-
22 resentatives in their respective versions of the Na-
23 tional Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year
24 2003 are wholly appropriate and justified by the in-

1 creased missions and tempo of operations associated
2 with prosecution of the war against terrorism;

3 (2) the President and Secretary of Defense
4 should not reduce, or seek to reduce, the number of
5 members of the Armed Forces so long as the Nation
6 is at war against terrorism; and

7 (3) the President should support the increase in
8 end-strengths for the Armed Forces recommended
9 by the Senate and House of Representatives for fis-
10 cal year 2003 due to the exigencies of the war
11 against terrorism.

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