

Amendment to H.R. 2670

National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024

Offered by: Mr. Banks _____

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 2670, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

Providing 1-Star Billet for Navy Conventional Prompt Strike Program

The committee notes that hypersonic weapons development is a major priority for the United States to deter and defeat potential adversaries. The Navy's development of hypersonic weapons, such as the Navy's Conventional Prompt Strike (CPS) system, are a core part of the United States' ability to meet this goal. The committee is concerned that the Navy may face challenges in recruiting high-level military and civilian talent and establishing the talent pipeline necessary for the Conventional Prompt Strike system, as Navy Strategic Systems Programs (SSP) has no one-star or two-star flag officer billets. The committee is further concerned that a lack of a such billets at SSP and the lack of a flag officer leading the CPS program may undermine CPS development.

Therefore, no later than March 1, 2024, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Chief of Naval Operations, to provide a report to the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate on the following matters:

- (1) A description of the challenges which Navy Strategic Systems Programs, and the Conventional Prompt Strike Program specifically, has in recruiting high-level civilian and military talent for hypersonic weapons development and testing programs and in establishing and maintaining a talent pipeline for such development and testing;
- (2) A description of the strategic importance of the Conventional Prompt Strike program and the rank of officers in charge of equivalent programs in the Army and Air Force;
- (3) A description of how a lack of one-star or two-star billets at Navy Strategic Systems Programs and leading the Conventional Prompt Strike Program reduces the desire of highly-qualified O-5 and O-6 military officers to serve at Navy Strategic Systems Programs installations and work on the Conventional Prompt Strike Program due to a lack of promotability;
- (4) A plan to re-allocate an existing one-star billet within the Navy to the Navy Strategic Systems Programs to serve as Director of the Conventional Prompt Strike Program; and
- (5) An analysis of the merits of the various Navy Strategic Systems Programs facilities at which the additional one-star billet could be located, with an emphasis on Navy installations where Conventional Prompt Strike research and development is currently conducted.