SEC. 502. STANDARDIZATION OF GRADE FOR CERTAIN MEDICAL AND DENTAL BRANCH CHIEF POSITIONS.

(a) ARMY.—

(1) CHIEF OF NURSE CORPS.—Section 3069(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking "major general" in the second sentence and inserting "brigadier general".

(2) DEPUTY AND ASSISTANT CHIEFS OF BRANCHES.—Section 3039(b) of such title is amended by striking "major general" in the last sentence and inserting "brigadier general".

(b) NAVY.—

(1) CHIEF OF DENTAL CORPS.—Section 5138(a) of such title is amended by striking "not below" and inserting "in".

(2) DIRECTOR OF NURSE CORPS.—Section 5150(c) of such title is amended—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking "rear admiral" the first place it appears and all that follows through "Service Corps" and inserting "rear admiral (lower half)"; and

(B) by striking the last sentence.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 526(a)(2) of such title is amended by striking "160" and inserting "161".

(c) AIR FORCE.—

(1) CHIEF OF NURSE CORPS.—Section 8069(b) of such title is amended by striking "major general" in the second sentence and inserting "brigadier general".

1 (2) ASSISTANT SURGEON GENERAL FOR DENTAL SERVICES.—Section 8081 of

2 such title is amended by striking "major general" in the second sentence and inserting

3 "brigadier general".

Section-by-Section Analysis

The proposal conforms to the Secretary of Defense's March 14, 2011 memorandum on Track Four Efficiency Initiatives Decisions. It standardizes the medical branch chief positions identified in the memorandum and reduces their respective grades from major general to brigadier general, in the case of the Army and Air Force, and from rear admiral to rear admiral (lower half), in the case of the Navy.

Budgetary Implications: The Secretary of Defense's 14 March 2011 memorandum, "Track Four Efficiency Initiatives Decisions" (page 29) directed us "to standardize/downgrade Medical Branch Chiefs 08 to 07 (e.g., Nurse, Dentist)." Because there will be cost savings from these reductions, a budget table is provided below that provides numbers broken out by Service.

NUMBER OF PERSONNEL AFFECTED									
	FY 2012	**FY 2013**	**FY 2014**	**FY 2015**	**FY 2016**	**FY 2017**	**Appropriation To**	**Budget Activity**	**Line Item**
Army	N/A	02	02	02	02	02	MILPERS	01	05
Navy	N/A	01	01	01	01	01	MILPERS	01	05
Marine Corps	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Air Force	N/A	02	02	02	02	02	MILPERS	01	05
Total	N/A	05	05	05	05	05			

RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS ($MILLIONS)									
	FY 2012	**FY 2013**	**FY 2014**	**FY 2015**	**FY 2016**	**FY 2017**	**Appropriation From**	**Budget Activity**	**Line Item**
Army	N/A	-.059	-.061	-.063	-.065	-.066	MILPERS	01	05
Navy	N/A	-.030	-.031	-.032	-.033	-.034	MILPERS	01	05
Marine Corps	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Air Force	N/A	-.056	-.057	-.059	-.060	-.062	MILPERS	01	05
Total	N/A	-.145	-.149	-.154	-.158	-.162			

Changes to Existing Laws: This proposal would make the following changes to sections in title 10 United States Code.

TITLE 10, UNITED STATES CODE

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§ 526. Authorized strength: general and flag officers on active duty

(a) Limitations. The number of general officers on active duty in the Army, Air Force, and Marine Corps, and the number of flag officers on active duty in the Navy, may not exceed the number specified for the armed force concerned as follows:

(1) For the Army, 230.
(2) For the Navy, ~~160~~161.
(3) For the Air Force, 208.
(4) For the Marine Corps, 60.

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§ 3039. Deputy and assistant chiefs of branches

(a) Each officer named in section 3036 of this title shall have, in addition to the assistants prescribed by subsections (b) and (c) and by section 3037 of this title, such deputies and assistants as the Secretary of the Army may prescribe. Each such deputy and assistant shall be an officer detailed by the Secretary to that position from the officers of the Army for a tour of duty of not more than four years, under a procedure prescribed by the Secretary similar to that prescribed in section 3036 of this title.

(b) There is an Assistant Surgeon General appointed from the officers of the Dental Corps, as prescribed in section 3036 of this title. The Assistant Surgeon General is Chief of the Dental Corps and is responsible for making recommendations to the Surgeon General and through the Surgeon General to the Chief of Staff on all matters concerning dentistry and the dental health of the Army. An appointee who holds a lower regular grade shall be appointed in the regular grade of ~~major~~ brigadier general.

(c) There are two assistants to the Chief of Engineers appointed as prescribed in section 3036 of this title. An appointee who holds a lower regular grade shall be appointed in the regular grade of brigadier general.

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§ 3069. Army Nurse Corps: composition; Chief and assistant chief; appointment; grade

(a) The Army Nurse Corps consists of the Chief and assistant chief of that corps and other officers in grades prescribed by the Secretary of the Army.

(b) The Secretary of the Army shall appoint the Chief from the officers of the Regular Army in that corps whose regular grade is above lieutenant colonel and who are recommended by the Surgeon General. An appointee who holds a lower regular grade shall be appointed in the

regular grade of ~~major~~ brigadier general. The Chief serves during the pleasure of the Secretary, but not for more than four years, and may not be reappointed to the same position.

(c) The Surgeon General shall appoint the assistant chief from the officers of the Regular Army in that corps whose regular grade is above lieutenant colonel. The assistant chief serves during the pleasure of the Surgeon General, but not for more than four years and may not be reappointed to the same position.

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§ 5138. Bureau of Medicine and Surgery: Dental Corps; Chief; functions

(a) An officer of the Dental Corps ~~not below~~ in the grade of rear admiral (lower half) shall be detailed as Chief of the Dental Corps.

(b) The Chief of the Dental Corps is entitled to the same privileges of retirement as provided for chiefs of bureaus in section 5133 of this title.

(c) The dental functions of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery shall be defined and prescribed by Bureau directives, and if necessary by regulations of the Secretary of the Navy, so that all such functions are under the direction of the Dental Corps. All matters relating to dentistry shall be referred to the Chief of the Dental Corps.

(d) The Chief of the Dental Corps shall—

(1) establish professional standards and policies for dental practice;

(2) initiate and recommend action pertaining to complements, strength, appointments, advancement, training assignment, and transfer of dental personnel; and

(3) serve as the advisor for the Bureau on all matters relating directly to dentistry.

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§ 5150. Staff corps of the Navy

(a) The staff corps of the Navy are—

(1) the Medical Corps;

(2) the Dental Corps;

(3) the Judge Advocate General's Corps;

(4) the Chaplain Corps; and

(5) such other staff corps as may be established by the Secretary of the Navy under subsection (b).

(b)(1) The Secretary of the Navy may establish staff corps of the Navy in addition to the Medical Corps, the Dental Corps, the Judge Advocate General's Corps, and the Chaplain Corps. The Secretary may designate commissioned officers in, and may assign members to, any such staff corps.

(2) Subject to subsection (c), the Secretary of the Navy may provide for the appointment of the chief of any staff corps established under this subsection.

(c) The Secretary of the Navy, whenever the needs of the service require, may convene a selection board under section 611(a) of this title to select an officer in the Nurse Corps or in the Medical Service Corps (if such corps has been established under subsection (a)) for promotion to the grade of rear admiral (lower half)~~, in the case of an officer in the Nurse Corps, or rear admiral (lower half), in the case of an officer in the Medical Service Corps~~. An officer promoted pursuant to such a selection shall be appointed by the Secretary to the position of Director of the Nurse Corps or Director of the Medical Service Corps, respectively, for a term of four years, to serve at the pleasure of the Secretary. ~~For the purpose of computing the total number of flag officers in the staff corps of the Navy under section 526 of this title, an officer so appointed shall be considered an additional number in grade~~**.**

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§ 8069. Air Force nurses: Chief and assistant chief; appointment; grade

(a) Positions of Chief and assistant chief. There are a Chief and assistant chief of the Air Force Nurse Corps.

(b) Chief. The Secretary of the Air Force shall appoint the Chief from the officers of the Regular Air Force designated as Air Force nurses whose regular grade is above lieutenant colonel and who are recommended by the Surgeon General. An appointee who holds a lower regular grade shall be appointed in the regular grade of ~~major~~ brigadier general. The Chief serves during the pleasure of the Secretary.

(c) Assistant chief. The Surgeon General shall appoint the assistant chief from the officers of the Regular Air Force designated as Air Force nurses whose regular grade is above lieutenant colonel.

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§ 8081. Assistant Surgeon General for Dental Services.

There is an Assistant Surgeon General for Dental Services in the Air Force who is appointed by the Secretary of the Air Force upon the recommendation of the Surgeon General from officers of the Air Force above the grade of lieutenant colonel who are designated as dental officers under section 8067(b) of this title. An appointee who holds a lower regular grade shall be appointed in the regular grade of ~~major~~ brigadier general. The Assistant Surgeon General for Dental Services serves at the pleasure of the Secretary.

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