SEC. 1206. ENHANCED AUTHORITY FOR PROVISION OF SUPPORT TO FOREIGN MILITARY LIAISON OFFICERS OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES WHILE ASSIGNED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) ELIGIBILITY.—Subsection (a) of section 1051a of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking "The Secretary of Defense" and inserting "Subject to subsection (d), the Secretary of Defense" and

(B) by striking "involved in a military operation with the United States"; and

(C) by striking "temporarily";

(2) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ", component command,"; and

(B) by striking "in connection with the planning for, or conduct of, a military operation"; and

(3) in paragraph (2), by striking "To the headquarters of" and all that follows and inserting "To the Joint Staff.".

(b) TRAVEL, SUBSISTENCE, AND MEDICAL CARE EXPENSES.—Subsection (b) of such section is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)–

(A) by striking "to the headquarters of a combatant command"; and

(B) by inserting "or by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as appropriate" before the period at the end; and

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking "if such travel" and all that follows and inserting "if such travel meets each of the following conditions:

"(A) The travel is in support of the national interests of the United States.

"(B) The commander of the relevant combatant command or the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as applicable, directs round-trip travel from the assigned location to one or more travel locations.".

(c) TERMS OF REIMBURSEMENT.—Subsection (c) of such section is amended—

(1) by striking "To the extent that the Secretary determines appropriate, the" and inserting "The"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new sentence: "The terms of reimbursement shall be specified in the appropriate international agreement used to assign the liaison officer to a combatant command or to the Joint Staff.".

(d) LIMITATIONS AND OVERSIGHT.— Such section is further amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (f); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection (d):

"(d) LIMITATIONS AND OVERSIGHT.—(1) The number of liaison officers supported under subsection (b)(1) may not exceed 60 at any one time, and the amount of unreimbursed support for any such liaison officer under that subsection in any fiscal year may not exceed $200,000 (in fiscal year 2014 constant dollars).

"(2) The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall be responsible for oversight of the use of the authority under this section, including implementation of the limitations in paragraph (1).".

(e) SECRETARY OF STATE CONCURRENCE.—Such section is further amended by inserting

after subsection (d), as added by subsection (d)(2),the following new subsection (e):

"(e) SECRETARY OF STATE CONCURRENCE.—The authority of the Secretary of Defense to provide administrative services and support under subsection (a) for the performance of duties by a liaison officer of another nation may be exercised only with respect to a liaison officer of another nation whose assignment as described in that subsection is accepted by the Secretary of Defense with the concurrence of the Secretary of State.".

(f) DEFINITION.—Subsection (f) of such section, as redesignated by subsection (d)(1), is amended by inserting "training programs conducted to familiarize, orient, or certify liaison personnel regarding unique aspects of the assignments of the liaison personnel," after "police protection,".

Section-by-Section Analysis

This proposal would amend section 1051a of title 10, United States Code, to provide the Department of Defense (DoD) the authority to continue to benefit from the unique contributions of liaison officers from other countries ("liaison officers") beyond the conclusion of current named military operations (e.g., Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan).

Specifically, this proposal would enable United States Central Command (USCENTCOM), United States Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM), and United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) to continue providing administrative and/or financial support to liaison officers from other countries even though the liaison officer's nation is not involved in a military operation with the United States. The proposed amendment would fill an existing gap in current legislation that does not expressly extend in law the authority of the Secretary of Defense (SecDef) to provide administrative and financial support to liaison officers from developing countries regardless of involvement in current named military operations.

Currently, approximately 54 liaison officers are supported in some part by DoD pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1051a. The proposed amendment would authorize DoD to continue support for these officers beyond the conclusion of current named military operations

Liaison officers from developing countries serving within Headquarters (HQ) USCENTCOM have continuously proven their value to USCENTCOM and DoD. Established in 2001, the Coalition Coordination Center is the primary coordination office at the strategic level between U.S. and Coalition governments. The Combined Strategic Analysis Group (CSAG), established in 2002 as the Combined Planning Group (CPG), is a unique organization within HQ

USCENTCOM. It is staffed with senior level foreign military liaison officers from developing countries who advise the USCENTCOM Commander (CDR) on the most critical and complex geo-strategic issues facing the command from a true international perspective. In addition, the CSAG prepares special studies and analysis for the CDR on issues that affect the medium to long-term risk, effects, and consequences within the areas of responsibility (AOR) of U.S. combatant commanders. The CCC and CSAG are co-located with the USCENTCOM Strategy, Plans & Policy Directorate (J5). In addition, after more than 12 years of managing these liaison officers, USCENTCOM staff has a good understanding of the costs associated with supporting them and is confident of their budget table predictions.

The asymmetrical demands of the military operations over the past 12 years necessitated that DoD make changes to the way U.S. forces plan and conduct global, regional, and local operations in concert with Allies, partners, and coalition members. One change has been the integration of foreign military liaison officers from developing countries into and alongside U.S. military staffs. After the events of September 11, 2001, the coalition of nations that supported U.S. planning efforts in coalition military operations was initially established by assigning foreign military liaison officers from developing countries to HQ USCENTCOM. The Coalition has played an invaluable role in coordinating international personnel and logistics support for multiple humanitarian assistance operations within the USCENTCOM AOR.

To maintain these very important foreign liaison officers in their current capacity, 10 U.S.C. 1051a must be amended to apply in contexts other than military operations. Justification for a robust and enduring presence of liaison officers from developing countries at combatant command HQs and the Joint Staff is consistent with the U.S. National Security Strategy and aligns with the intent of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for "nesting our efforts to build partner capacity with broader national security priorities, consolidating our institutional processes, and improving coordination across agencies." For example, HQ USCENTCOM planning assumes the security situation in the AOR will demand the ability to constitute *ad hoc* coalitions into the future. USCENTCOM's experience over the past 12 years shows that maintenance of a strong presence of partner nations within the HQ is the best and most cost-effective option to harmonize future coalition warfare.

Other combatant commands would benefit greatly from this authority. For example, USTRANSCOM)is responsible for strategic transportation of DoD personnel and cargo to any location on the globe. As such, it routinely engages in discussions with host nations and their military personnel in order to maintain enroute infrastructure sufficient to enable the establishment of a DoD air or sea bridge to any new area of conflict on short notice. The ability to have liaison officers from other nations should facilitate obtaining transit access on favorable terms and conditions from those nations.

Placing the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in charge of administering the program with a maximum of 60 liaison officers at combatant commands and the Joint Staff and with no more than $200,000 per fiscal year in non-reimbusable support per officer, not to exceed $12 million dollars in total program costs per fiscal year across DOD, would provide the necessary oversight to ensure that only essential liaison officers are included.

USSOCOM has effectively used a Global Special Operations Forces Network (GSN) in support of current operations. The January 2012 Defense Strategic Guidance envisions U.S. Armed Forces applying innovative, low-cost, and small-footprint approaches; building capacity and competence of partner forces; and pursuing new security partnerships while maintaining key military-to-military relations. Likewise, it requires U.S. Special Operations Forces (SOF) to be agile, flexible, and ready for the full range of contingencies. USSOCOM proposes to support this strategy by continuing a robust GSN inclusive of partner nation SOF, SOF enablers and the inter-agency. This network will enable U.S. SOF and conventional forces by increasing interoperability, strengthening relationships that serve U.S. interests, and building partnerships that increase the global reach of U.S. forces. To effectively leverage the GSN, USSOCOM must maintain a robust foreign liaison officer presence at USSOCOM HQ after the expiration of current named operations.

This proposal would make the corresponding changes required to 10 U.S.C. 1051a to sustain the benefit provided by foreign liaison officers. It would facilitate partner nation participation to assist the United States in a wider range of partnerships, cooperative ventures, and burden-sharing efforts. It would allow like-minded countries to better plan and utilize resources when addressing common threats and mitigate similar national fiscal constraints. Lastly, it would enhance the attributes of trust, interoperability, and confidence-building; indispensable characteristics that must be formed before the initiation of a crisis.

Budget Implications: 41 liaison officers from developing countries are currently receiving various levels of support under 10 U.S.C. 1051a during their assignment as liaison officers at HQ USCENTCOM.

Expenses covered include:

- Round trip transportation from their home nation;
- Per diem;
- Lodging;
- Local area ground transportation;
- Medical care (which is provided at military medical facilities located on MacDill Air Force Base).

The following projections include all of these expenses, as well as the annual expense for infrastructure (e.g., building, support, and office furniture), utilities, and workstation support used by foreign military liaison officers from developing countries. Out-year projections are based on current numbers of supported foreign military liaison officers from developing nations remaining at status quo.

If enacted, this proposal may increase by a *de minimus* amount the budgetary requirements of DoD with a maximum of less than $12 million annual costs for all combatant commands and the Joint Staff. As most countries can afford to fund their liaison officers, it is anticipated that only a small number of officers would need thissupport. DoD has been involved in the evacuation of U. . citizens out of dangerous area and in supporting partner nation governments in the event of hostilities regardless of location. The ability to build an air or sea bridge quickly to move

personnel and equipment to the needed location would be greatly facilitated by having liaison officers from nations around the globe that would be likely locations for enroute stops on the air bridge. Some of those countries are likely to be in developing areas with insufficient funding to maintain a liaison officer in the United States without assistance. As any deviation from the straightest path to the new area of conflict can result in millions of dollars in increased transportation and fuel costs, the proposal should be budget scored as zero or as a net savings if it would result in reduced operating costs for the Department.

RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS ($MILLIONS)									
	FY 2015	**FY 2016**	**FY 2017**	**FY 2018**	**FY 2019**	**Appropriation From**	**Budget Activity**	**Dash-1 Line Item**	**Program Element**
	$3.7	$3.7	$3.7	$3.7	$3.7	Air Force Operation & Maintenance	BA04/ A1010F	44A	
	$3.8	$3.8	$3.8	$3.8	$3.8	Air Force Operation & Maintenance - fixed	BA01/ 21138F	15B	
	.5	.7	.9	1.1	1.3	O&M, DW	01	1150491 BB	1PL2
	$0.0	$0.2	$0.2	$0.2	$0.2	Transportation Working Capital Fund 97X4930	BA1	021A	
TOTAL	$8.0	$8.4	$8.6	$8.8	$9.0				

Changes to Existing Law: This proposal would make the following changes to section 1051a of title 10, United States Code:

§ 1051a. Liaison officers of certain foreign nations; administrative services and support; travel, subsistence, medical care, and other personal expenses

(a) AUTHORITY .~~ The~~ Subject to subsection (d), the Secretary of Defense may provide administrative services and support for the performance of duties by a liaison officer of another nation i~~nvolved in a military operation with the United States~~ while the liaison officer is assigned ~~temporarily~~ as follows:

(1) To the headquarters of a combatant command~~, component command,~~ or subordinate operational command of the United States ~~in connection with the planning for, or conduct of, a military operation.;~~

(2) ~~To the headquarters of the combatant command assigned by the Secretary of Defense the mission of joint warfighting experimentation and joint forces training~~ To the Joint Staff.

(b) TRAVEL, SUBSISTENCE, AND MEDICAL CARE EXPENSES.—(1) The Secretary may pay the expenses specified in paragraph (2) of a liaison officer of a developing country in connection with the assignment of that officer as described in subsection (a), if the assignment is requested by the commander of the combatant command or by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as appropriate.

(2) Expenses of a liaison officer that may be paid under-paragraph (1) in connection with an assignment described in that paragraph are the following:

(A) Travel and subsistence expenses.

(B) Personal expenses directly necessary to carry out the duties of that officer in connection with that assignment.

(C) Expenses for medical care at a civilian medical facility if—

(i) adequate medical care is not available to the liaison officer at a local military medical treatment facility;

(ii) the Secretary determines that payment of such medical expenses is necessary and in the best interests of the United States; and

(iii) medical care is not otherwise available to the liaison officer pursuant to any treaty or other international agreement.

(3) The Secretary may pay the mission-related travel expenses of a liaison officer described in subsection (a) ~~if such travel is in support of the national interests of the United States and the commander of the headquarters to which the liaison officer is temporarily assigned directs round-trip travel from the assigned headquarters to one or more locations.~~ if such travel meets each of the following conditions:

(A) The travel is in support of the national interests of the United States.

(B) The commander of the relevant combatant command or the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as applicable, directs round-trip travel from the assigned location to one or more travel locations.

(c) REIMBURSEMENT.~~—To the extent that the Secretary determines appropriate, the~~The Secretary may provide the services and support authorized by subsection (a) and the expenses authorized by subsection (b) with or without reimbursement from (or on behalf of) the recipients. The terms of reimbursement shall be specified in the appropriate international agreement used to assign the liaison officer to a combatant command or to the Joint Staff.

(d) LIMITATIONS AND OVERSIGHT.—(1) The number of liaison officers supported under subsection (b)(1) may not exceed 60 at any one time, and the amount of unreimbursed support for any such liaison officer under that subsection in any fiscal year may not exceed $200,000 (in fiscal year 2014 constant dollars).

(2) The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall be responsible for oversight of the use of the authority under this section, including implementation of the limitations in paragraph (1).

(e) SECRETARY OF STATE CONCURRENCE.—The authority of the Secretary of Defense to provide administrative services and support under subsection (a) for the performance of duties by a liaison officer of another nation may be exercised only with respect to a liaison officer of another nation whose assignment as described in that subsection is accepted by the Secretary of Defense with the concurrence of the Secretary of State.

(~~d~~f) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term "administrative services and support" includes base or installation support services, office space, utilities, copying services, fire and police protection, training programs conducted to familiarize, orient, or certify liaison personnel regarding unique aspects of the assignments of the liaison personnel, and computer support.