SEC. 504. STANDARDIZATION OF GRADE FOR CERTAIN MEDICAL AND DENTAL BRANCH 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".

(3) CHIEF OF THE VETERINARY CORPS.—Section 3084 of such title is amended—

(A) by striking "brigadier general" in the second sentence and inserting "colonel"; and

(B) by striking the third sentence.

(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.

(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".

(2) ASSISTANT SURGEON GENERAL FOR DENTAL SERVICES.—Section 8081 of such title is amended by striking "major general" in the second sentence and inserting "brigadier general".

(d) TRANSITION.—In the case of an officer who on the date of the enactment of this Act is serving in a position that is covered by an amendment made by this section, the continued service of that officer in such position after the date of the enactment of this Act shall not be affected by that amendment.

[Please note: The "Changes to Existing Law" section below sets out in red-line format how the legislative text would amend existing law.]

Section-by-Section Analysis

This proposal would standardize the grade for certain medical branch chief positions and reduce 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. Additionally, the proposal would downgrade the grade for the Chief of the Army Veterinary Corps from brigadier general to colonel.

The medical branch chief positions that would be affected are those identified in the memorandum of the Secretary of Defense of March 14, 2011, titled, "Track Four Efficiency Initiatives Decisions". That memorandum directed the Department "[t]o standardize/downgrade Medical Branch Chiefs from O8 to O7 (e.g. Nurse, Dentist)" (page 29).

The proposal includes a provision to ensure that the amendments could not be construed as affecting the incumbents in the affected positions as of the enactment of the proposal.

Budgetary Implications: In addition to meeting the "Track Four Efficiency Initiative" requirements, there would be an additional cost savings from the grade reductions. The budget table below provides numbers broken out by Service. The Marine Corps requirements are covered by the Navy.

RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS ($MILLIONS)								
	FY 2016	**FY 2017**	**FY 2018**	**FY 2019**	**FY 2020**	**Appropriation From**	**Budget Activity**	**Dash-1 Line**

								Item
Army	-.069	-.069	-.070	-.071	-.072	Military Personnel, Army	01	05
Navy	-.026	-.026	-.026	-.027	-.027	Military Personnel, Navy	01	05
Marine Corps	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Air Force	-.052	-.052	-.053	-.053	-.054	Military Personnel, Air Force	01	05
Total	-.146	-.148	-.149	-.151	-.152			

NUMBER OF PERSONS AFFECTED								
	FY 2016	**FY 2017**	**FY 2018**	**FY 2019**	**FY 2020**	**Appropriation To**	**Budget Activity**	**Dash-1 Line Item**
Army	03	03	03	03	03	Military Personnel, Army	01	05
Navy	01	01	01	01	01	Military Personnel, Navy	01	05
Marine Corps	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Air Force	02	02	02	02	02	Military Personnel, Air Force	01	05
Total	06	06	06	06	06			

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

SUBTITLE B—ARMY

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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

(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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§ 3084. Chief of Veterinary Corps: grade

The Chief of the Veterinary Corps of the Army shall be appointed from among officers of the Veterinary Corps. The Chief of the Veterinary Corps serves in the grade of ~~brigadier general~~ colonel. ~~An officer appointed to that position who holds a lower grade shall be appointed in the grade of brigadier general.~~

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SUBTITLE C—NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

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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.

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SUBTITLE D—AIR FORCE

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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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