

tionally sensitive matters, the Director of National Intelligence and the heads of all departments, agencies, and other entities of the United States Government involved in intelligence activities shall—

(1) keep the congressional intelligence committees fully and currently informed of all intelligence activities, other than a covert action (as defined in section 413b(e) of this title), which are the responsibility of, are engaged in by, or are carried out for or on behalf of, any department, agency, or entity of the United States Government, including any significant anticipated intelligence activity and any significant intelligence failure; and

(2) furnish the congressional intelligence committees any information or material concerning intelligence activities (including the legal basis under which the intelligence activity is being or was conducted), other than covert actions, which is within their custody or control, and which is requested by either of the congressional intelligence committees in order to carry out its authorized responsibilities.

(b) Form and contents of certain reports

Any report relating to a significant anticipated intelligence activity or a significant intelligence failure that is submitted to the congressional intelligence committees for purposes of subsection (a)(1) of this section shall be in writing, and shall contain the following:

(1) A concise statement of any facts pertinent to such report.

(2) An explanation of the significance of the intelligence activity or intelligence failure covered by such report.

(c) Standards and procedures for certain reports

The Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the heads of the departments, agencies, and entities referred to in subsection (a) of this section, shall establish standards and procedures applicable to reports covered by subsection (b) of this section.

(July 26, 1947, ch. 343, title V, § 502, as added Pub. L. 102-88, title VI, § 602(a)(2), Aug. 14, 1991, 105 Stat. 442; amended Pub. L. 107-108, title III, § 305, Dec. 28, 2001, 115 Stat. 1398; Pub. L. 107-306, title III, § 353(b)(3)(B), Nov. 27, 2002, 116 Stat. 2402; Pub. L. 108-458, title I, § 1071(a)(1)(W), (X), Dec. 17, 2004, 118 Stat. 3689; Pub. L. 111-259, title III, § 331(b), Oct. 7, 2010, 124 Stat. 2685.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 502 of act July 26, 1947, ch. 343, was renumbered section 504 and is classified to section 414 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

2010—Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 111-259 inserted “(including the legal basis under which the intelligence activity is being or was conducted)” after “concerning intelligence activities”.

2004—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 108-458, § 1071(a)(1)(W), substituted “Director of National Intelligence” for “Director of Central Intelligence” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 108-458, § 1071(a)(1)(X), substituted “Director of National Intelligence” for “Director of Central Intelligence”.

2002—Subsecs. (a), (b). Pub. L. 107-306 substituted “congressional intelligence committees” for “intelligence committees” wherever appearing.

2001—Pub. L. 107-108 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a), inserted heading, and added subsecs. (b) and (c).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2004 AMENDMENT

For Determination by President that amendment by Pub. L. 108-458 take effect on Apr. 21, 2005, see Memorandum of President of the United States, Apr. 21, 2005, 70 F.R. 23925, set out as a note under section 401 of this title.

Amendment by Pub. L. 108-458 effective not later than six months after Dec. 17, 2004, except as otherwise expressly provided, see section 1097(a) of Pub. L. 108-458, set out in an Effective Date of 2004 Amendment; Transition Provisions note under section 401 of this title.

FURNISHING OF INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION TO SENATE AND HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEES ON INTELLIGENCE

Pub. L. 102-88, title IV, § 405, Aug. 14, 1991, 105 Stat. 434, provided that:

“(a) FURNISHING OF SPECIFIC INFORMATION.—In accordance with title V of the National Security Act of 1947 [50 U.S.C. 413 et seq.], the head of any department or agency of the United States involved in any intelligence activities which may pertain to United States military personnel listed as prisoner, missing, or unaccounted for in military actions shall furnish any information or documents in the possession, custody, or control of the department or agency, or person paid by such department or agency, whenever requested by the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives or the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

“(b) ACCESS BY COMMITTEES AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.—In accordance with Senate Resolution 400, Ninety-Fourth Congress, and House Resolution 658, Ninety-Fifth Congress, the committees named in subsection (a) shall, upon request and under such regulations as the committees have prescribed to protect the classification of such information, make any information described in subsection (a) available to any other committee or any other Member of Congress and appropriately cleared staff.”

§ 413b. Presidential approval and reporting of covert actions

(a) Presidential findings

The President may not authorize the conduct of a covert action by departments, agencies, or entities of the United States Government unless the President determines such an action is necessary to support identifiable foreign policy objectives of the United States and is important to the national security of the United States, which determination shall be set forth in a finding that shall meet each of the following conditions:

(1) Each finding shall be in writing, unless immediate action by the United States is required and time does not permit the preparation of a written finding, in which case a written record of the President’s decision shall be contemporaneously made and shall be reduced to a written finding as soon as possible but in no event more than 48 hours after the decision is made.

(2) Except as permitted by paragraph (1), a finding may not authorize or sanction a covert action, or any aspect of any such action, which already has occurred.

(3) Each finding shall specify each department, agency, or entity of the United States Government authorized to fund or otherwise participate in any significant way in such ac-

tion. Any employee, contractor, or contract agent of a department, agency, or entity of the United States Government other than the Central Intelligence Agency directed to participate in any way in a covert action shall be subject either to the policies and regulations of the Central Intelligence Agency, or to written policies or regulations adopted by such department, agency, or entity, to govern such participation.

(4) Each finding shall specify whether it is contemplated that any third party which is not an element of, or a contractor or contract agent of, the United States Government, or is not otherwise subject to United States Government policies and regulations, will be used to fund or otherwise participate in any significant way in the covert action concerned, or be used to undertake the covert action concerned on behalf of the United States.

(5) A finding may not authorize any action that would violate the Constitution or any statute of the United States.

(b) Reports to congressional intelligence committees; production of information

To the extent consistent with due regard for the protection from unauthorized disclosure of classified information relating to sensitive intelligence sources and methods or other exceptionally sensitive matters, the Director of National Intelligence and the heads of all departments, agencies, and entities of the United States Government involved in a covert action—

(1) shall keep the congressional intelligence committees fully and currently informed of all covert actions which are the responsibility of, are engaged in by, or are carried out for or on behalf of, any department, agency, or entity of the United States Government, including significant failures; and

(2) shall furnish to the congressional intelligence committees any information or material concerning covert actions (including the legal basis under which the covert action is being or was conducted) which is in the possession, custody, or control of any department, agency, or entity of the United States Government and which is requested by either of the congressional intelligence committees in order to carry out its authorized responsibilities.

(c) Timing of reports; access to finding

(1) The President shall ensure that any finding approved pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be reported in writing to the congressional intelligence committees as soon as possible after such approval and before the initiation of the covert action authorized by the finding, except as otherwise provided in paragraph (2) and paragraph (3).

(2) If the President determines that it is essential to limit access to the finding to meet extraordinary circumstances affecting vital interests of the United States, the finding may be reported to the chairmen and ranking minority members of the congressional intelligence committees, the Speaker and minority leader of the House of Representatives, the majority and minority leaders of the Senate, and such other member or members of the congressional leadership as may be included by the President.

(3) Whenever a finding is not reported pursuant to paragraph (1) or (2) of this section,¹ the President shall fully inform the congressional intelligence committees in a timely fashion and shall provide a statement of the reasons for not giving prior notice.

(4) In a case under paragraph (1), (2), or (3), a copy of the finding, signed by the President, shall be provided to the chairman of each congressional intelligence committee.

(5)(A) When access to a finding, or a notification provided under subsection (d)(1), is limited to the Members of Congress specified in paragraph (2), a written statement of the reasons for limiting such access shall also be provided.

(B) Not later than 180 days after a statement of reasons is submitted in accordance with subparagraph (A) or this subparagraph, the President shall ensure that—

(i) all members of the congressional intelligence committees are provided access to the finding or notification; or

(ii) a statement of reasons that it is essential to continue to limit access to such finding or such notification to meet extraordinary circumstances affecting vital interests of the United States is submitted to the Members of Congress specified in paragraph (2).

(d) Changes in previously approved actions

(1) The President shall ensure that the congressional intelligence committees, or, if applicable, the Members of Congress specified in subsection (c)(2) of this section, are notified in writing of any significant change in a previously approved covert action, or any significant undertaking pursuant to a previously approved finding, in the same manner as findings are reported pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

(2) In determining whether an activity constitutes a significant undertaking for purposes of paragraph (1), the President shall consider whether the activity—

(A) involves significant risk of loss of life;

(B) requires an expansion of existing authorities, including authorities relating to research, development, or operations;

(C) results in the expenditure of significant funds or other resources;

(D) requires notification under section 414 of this title;

(E) gives rise to a significant risk of disclosing intelligence sources or methods; or

(F) presents a reasonably foreseeable risk of serious damage to the diplomatic relations of the United States if such activity were disclosed without authorization.

(e) “Covert action” defined

As used in this subchapter, the term “covert action” means an activity or activities of the United States Government to influence political, economic, or military conditions abroad, where it is intended that the role of the United States Government will not be apparent or acknowledged publicly, but does not include—

(1) activities the primary purpose of which is to acquire intelligence, traditional counterintelligence activities, traditional activities to improve or maintain the operational secu-

¹ So in original. Probably should be “subsection.”

rity of United States Government programs, or administrative activities;

(2) traditional diplomatic or military activities or routine support to such activities;

(3) traditional law enforcement activities conducted by United States Government law enforcement agencies or routine support to such activities; or

(4) activities to provide routine support to the overt activities (other than activities described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3)) of other United States Government agencies abroad.

(f) Prohibition on covert actions intended to influence United States political processes, etc.

No covert action may be conducted which is intended to influence United States political processes, public opinion, policies, or media.

(g) Notice and general description where access to finding or notification limited; maintenance of records and written statements

(1) In any case where access to a finding reported under subsection (c) or notification provided under subsection (d)(1) is not made available to all members of a congressional intelligence committee in accordance with subsection (c)(2), the President shall notify all members of such committee that such finding or such notification has been provided only to the members specified in subsection (c)(2).

(2) In any case where access to a finding reported under subsection (c) or notification provided under subsection (d)(1) is not made available to all members of a congressional intelligence committee in accordance with subsection (c)(2), the President shall provide to all members of such committee a general description regarding the finding or notification, as applicable, consistent with the reasons for not yet fully informing all members of such committee.

(3) The President shall maintain—

(A) a record of the members of Congress to whom a finding is reported under subsection (c) or notification is provided under subsection (d)(1) and the date on which each member of Congress receives such finding or notification; and

(B) each written statement provided under subsection (c)(5).

(July 26, 1947, ch. 343, title V, § 503, as added Pub. L. 102-88, title VI, § 602(a)(2), Aug. 14, 1991, 105 Stat. 442; amended Pub. L. 107-306, title III, § 353(b)(3)(C), (8), Nov. 27, 2002, 116 Stat. 2402; Pub. L. 108-458, title I, § 1071(a)(1)(Y), Dec. 17, 2004, 118 Stat. 3689; Pub. L. 111-259, title III, § 331(c), Oct. 7, 2010, 124 Stat. 2685.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 503 of act July 26, 1947, ch. 343, was renumbered section 505 and is classified to section 415 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

2010—Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 111-259, § 331(c)(1), inserted “(including the legal basis under which the covert action is being or was conducted)” before “which is in the possession”.

Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 111-259, § 331(c)(2)(A), inserted “in writing” after “be reported”.

Subsec. (c)(4). Pub. L. 111-259, § 331(c)(2)(B), redesignated second sentence of par. (4) as (5)(A).

Subsec. (c)(5)(A). Pub. L. 111-259, § 331(c)(2)(C)(i), inserted “, or a notification provided under subsection (d)(1),” before “is limited” and “written” before “statement”.

Pub. L. 111-259, § 331(c)(2)(B), redesignated second sentence of par. (4) as (5)(A).

Subsec. (c)(5)(B). Pub. L. 111-259, § 331(c)(2)(C)(ii), added subpar. (B).

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 111-259, § 331(c)(3), designated existing provisions as par. (1), inserted “in writing” after “notified”, and added par. (2).

Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 111-259, § 331(c)(4), added subsec. (g).

2004—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 108-458 substituted “Director of National Intelligence” for “Director of Central Intelligence” in introductory provisions.

2002—Subsecs. (b), (c)(1) to (3). Pub. L. 107-306, § 353(b)(3)(C), substituted “congressional intelligence committees” for “intelligence committees” wherever appearing.

Subsec. (c)(4). Pub. L. 107-306, § 353(b)(8), substituted “congressional intelligence committee” for “intelligence committee”.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 107-306, § 353(b)(3)(C), substituted “congressional intelligence committees” for “intelligence committees”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2004 AMENDMENT

For Determination by President that amendment by Pub. L. 108-458 take effect on Apr. 21, 2005, see Memorandum of President of the United States, Apr. 21, 2005, 70 F.R. 23925, set out as a note under section 401 of this title.

Amendment by Pub. L. 108-458 effective not later than six months after Dec. 17, 2004, except as otherwise expressly provided, see section 1097(a) of Pub. L. 108-458, set out in an Effective Date of 2004 Amendment; Transition Provisions note under section 401 of this title.

§ 413c. Communications with the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives

(a) Requests of committees

The Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, the Director of a national intelligence center, or the head of any element of the intelligence community shall, not later than 45 days after receiving a written request from the Chair or ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate or the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives for any existing intelligence assessment, report, estimate, or legal opinion relating to matters within the jurisdiction of such Committee, make available to such committee such assessment, report, estimate, or legal opinion, as the case may be.

(b) Assertion of privilege

(1) In general

In response to a request covered by subsection (a), the Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, the Director of a national intelligence center, or the head of any element of the intelligence community shall provide to the Committee making such request the document or information covered by such request unless the President determines that such document or information shall not be provided because the President is asserting a privilege pursuant to the Constitution of the United States.

(2) Submission to Congress

The White House Counsel shall submit to Congress in writing any assertion by the