

(E) the impact of such recommended reductions on the deterrence and extended deterrence capabilities of the United States; and

(2) the Commander of the United States Strategic Command shall certify to the appropriate congressional committees whether such recommended reductions in the nuclear forces of the United States will—

(A) impair the ability of the United States to address—

- (i) unplanned strategic or geopolitical events; or
- (ii) technical challenge; or

(B) degrade the deterrence or assurance provided by the United States to friends and allies of the United States.

(b) FORM.—The reports required by subsection (a)(1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means the following:

- (1) The congressional defense committees.
- (2) The Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

(Added Pub. L. 112-239, div. A, title X, §1036(a), Jan. 2, 2013, 126 Stat. 1924; amended Pub. L. 113-291, div. A, title X, §1071(c)(10), Dec. 19, 2014, 128 Stat. 3509.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2014—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 113-291 substituted “(50 U.S.C. 3003(4))” for “(50 U.S.C. 401a(4))” in introductory provisions.

#### § 497. Notification required for reduction, consolidation, or withdrawal of nuclear forces based in Europe

(a) NOTIFICATION.—Upon any decision to reduce, consolidate, or withdraw the nuclear forces of the United States that are based in Europe, the President shall transmit to the appropriate congressional committees a notification containing—

(1) justification for such reduction, consolidation, or withdrawal; and

(2) an assessment of how member states of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, in light of such reduction, consolidation, or withdrawal, assess the credibility of the deterrence capability of the United States in support of its commitments undertaken pursuant to article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty, signed at Washington, District of Columbia, on April 4, 1949, and entered into force on August 24, 1949 (63 Stat. 2241; TIAS 1964).

(b) PRIOR NOTIFICATION REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall transmit the notification required by subsection (a) by not later than 60 days before the date on which the President commences a reduction, consolidation, or withdrawal of the nuclear forces of the United States that are based in Europe described in such notification.

(2) EXCEPTION.—The limitation in paragraph (1) shall not apply to a reduction, consolidation, or withdrawal of nuclear weapons of the

United States that are based in Europe made to ensure the safety, security, reliability, and credibility of such weapons.

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

(Added Pub. L. 112-239, div. A, title X, §1037(b)(1), Jan. 2, 2013, 126 Stat. 1926.)

#### § 497a. Notification required for reduction or consolidation of dual-capable aircraft based in Europe

(a) NOTIFICATION.—Not less than 90 days before the date on which the Secretary of Defense reduces or consolidates the dual-capable aircraft of the United States that are based in Europe, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a notification of such planned reduction or consolidation, including the following:

(1) The reasons for such planned reduction or consolidation.

(2) Any effects of such planned reduction or consolidation on the extended deterrence mission of the United States.

(3) The manner in which the military requirements of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) will continue to be met in light of such planned reduction or consolidation.

(4) A statement by the Secretary on the response of NATO to such planned reduction or consolidation.

(5) Whether there is any change in the force posture of the Russian Federation as a result of such planned reduction or consolidation, including with respect to the nonstrategic nuclear weapons of Russia that are within range of the member states of NATO.

(b) DUAL-CAPABLE AIRCRAFT DEFINED.—In this section, the term “dual-capable aircraft” means aircraft that can perform both conventional and nuclear missions.

(Added Pub. L. 113-66, div. A, title X, §1051(b)(1), Dec. 26, 2013, 127 Stat. 858.)

#### § 498. Unilateral change in nuclear weapons stockpile of the United States

(a) IN GENERAL.—Other than pursuant to a treaty, if the President has under consideration to unilaterally change the size of the total stockpile of nuclear weapons of the United States by more than 25 percent, prior to doing so the President shall initiate a Nuclear Posture Review.

(b) TERMS OF REFERENCE.—Prior to the initiation of a Nuclear Posture Review under this section, the President shall determine the terms of reference for the Nuclear Posture Review, which the President shall provide to the congressional defense committees.

(c) NUCLEAR POSTURE REVIEW.—Upon completion of a Nuclear Posture Review under this section, the President shall submit the Nuclear