

Subsec. (d)(4). Pub. L. 113-291, §916(d)(2)(B), added par. (4).

Subsec. (f)(1). Pub. L. 113-291, §916(d)(3)(A), substituted “In carrying out the program, the designated Agency Director shall ensure coordination” for “In establishing and carrying out the program, the Secretary of Defense shall coordinate”.

Subsec. (f)(2). Pub. L. 113-291, §916(d)(3)(B), inserted “staff” after “National Security Council” and struck out “POW/MIA accounting community” after “Department of Defense”.

Subsec. (f)(3). Pub. L. 113-291, §916(d)(3)(C), added par. (3).

2009—Pub. L. 111-84 amended section generally. Prior to amendment, section consisted of subssecs. (a) to (d) relating to review of status of missing person cases arising before enactment of this chapter.

1999—Subsec. (a)(2)(A), (B). Pub. L. 106-65 substituted “November 18, 1997,” for “the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998”.

1997—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 105-85, §599(e)(1), added subsec. (a) and struck out former subsec. (a) which read as follows:

“(a) REVIEW OF STATUS.—In the case of an unaccounted for person covered by section 1501(c) of this title who is described in subsection (b), if new information that could change the status of that person is found or received by a United States intelligence agency, by a Department of Defense agency, or by a person specified in section 1504(g) of this title, that information shall be provided to the Secretary of Defense with a request that the Secretary evaluate the information in accordance with sections 1505(c) and 1505(d) of this title.”

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 105-85, §599(e)(2), added subsec. (d).

1996—Pub. L. 104-201, §578(f)(2)(A), struck out “, special interest” after “Preenactment” in section catchline.

Subsecs. (c), (d). Pub. L. 104-201, §578(f)(1), redesignated subsec. (d) as (c) and struck out former subsec. (c) which read as follows:

“(c) SPECIAL RULE FOR PERSONS CLASSIFIED AS ‘KIA/BNR’.—In the case of a person described in subsection (b) who was classified as ‘killed in action/body not recovered’, the case of that person may be reviewed under this section only if the new information referred to in subsection (a) is compelling.”

#### Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

##### IMPLEMENTATION

Pub. L. 111-84, div. A, title V, §541(d), Oct. 28, 2009, 123 Stat. 2298, provided that:

“(1) PRIORITY.—A priority of the program required by section 1509 of title 10, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a), to resolve missing person cases arising before the enactment of chapter 76 of such title by section 569 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1996 (Public Law 104-106; 110 Stat. 336) [approved Feb. 10, 1996] shall be the return of missing persons to United States control alive.

“(2) ACCOUNTING FOR GOAL.—In implementing the program, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the officials specified in subsection (f)(1) of section 1509 of title 10, United States Code, shall provide such funds, personnel, and resources as the Secretary considers appropriate to increase significantly the capability and capacity of the Department of Defense, the Armed Forces, and commanders of the combatant commands to account for missing persons so that, beginning with fiscal year 2015, the POW/MIA accounting community has sufficient resources to ensure that at least 200 missing persons are accounted for under the program annually.

“(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) The term ‘accounted for’ has the meaning given such term in section 1513(3)(B) of title 10, United States Code.

“(B) The term ‘POW/MIA accounting community’ has the meaning given such term in section 1509(b)(2) of such title.”

#### § 1510. Applicability to Coast Guard

(a) DESIGNATED OFFICER TO HAVE RESPONSIBILITY.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall designate an officer of the Department of Homeland Security to have responsibility within the Department of Homeland Security for matters relating to missing persons who are members of the Coast Guard.

(b) PROCEDURES.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall prescribe procedures for the determination of the status of persons described in section 1501(c) of this title who are members of the Coast Guard and for the collection, analysis, review, and update of information on such persons. To the maximum extent practicable, the procedures prescribed under this section shall be similar to the procedures prescribed by the Secretary of Defense under section 1501(b) of this title.

(Added Pub. L. 104-106, div. A, title V, §569(b)(1), Feb. 10, 1996, 110 Stat. 349; amended Pub. L. 107-296, title XVII, §1704(b)(1), Nov. 25, 2002, 116 Stat. 2314.)

#### Editorial Notes

##### AMENDMENTS

2002—Pub. L. 107-296 substituted “of Homeland Security” for “of Transportation” wherever appearing.

#### Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

##### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2002 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 107-296 effective on the date of transfer of the Coast Guard to the Department of Homeland Security, see section 1704(g) of Pub. L. 107-296, set out as a note under section 101 of this title.

#### § 1511. Return alive of person declared missing or dead

(a) PAY AND ALLOWANCES.—Any person (except for a person subsequently determined to have been absent without leave or a deserter) in a missing status or declared dead under subchapter VII of chapter 55 of title 5 or chapter 10 of title 37 or by a board appointed under this chapter who is found alive and returned to the control of the United States shall be paid for the full time of the absence of the person while given that status or declared dead under the law and regulations relating to the pay and allowances of persons returning from a missing status.

(b) EFFECT ON GRATUITIES PAID AS A RESULT OF STATUS.—Subsection (a) shall not be interpreted to invalidate or otherwise affect the receipt by any person of a death gratuity or other payment from the United States on behalf of a person referred to in subsection (a) before February 10, 1996.

(Added Pub. L. 104-106, div. A, title V, §569(b)(1), Feb. 10, 1996, 110 Stat. 349; amended Pub. L. 107-107, div. A, title X, §1048(c)(10), Dec. 28, 2001, 115 Stat. 1226.)

**Editorial Notes**

## AMENDMENTS

2001—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 107-107 substituted “February 10, 1996” for “the date of the enactment of this chapter”.

**§ 1512. Effect on State law**

(a) NONPREEMPTION OF STATE AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to invalidate or limit the power of any State court or administrative entity, or the power of any court or administrative entity of any political subdivision thereof, to find or declare a person dead for purposes of such State or political subdivision.

(b) STATE DEFINED.—In this section, the term “State” includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any territory or possession of the United States.

(Added Pub. L. 104-106, div. A, title V, §569(b)(1), Feb. 10, 1996, 110 Stat. 349.)

**§ 1513. Definitions**

In this chapter:

(1) The term “missing person” means—

(A) a member of the armed forces on active duty who is in a missing status; or

(B) a civilian employee of the Department of Defense or an employee of a contractor of the Department of Defense who serves in direct support of, or accompanies, the armed forces in the field under orders and who is in a missing status.

Such term includes an unaccounted for person described in subsection (a) of section 1509 of this title who is required by subsection (c) of such section to be considered a missing person.

(2) The term “missing status” means the status of a missing person who is determined to be absent in a category of any of the following:

(A) Missing.

(B) Missing in action.

(C) Interned in a foreign country.

(D) Captured.

(E) Beleaguered.

(F) Besieged.

(G) Detained in a foreign country against that person’s will.

(3) The term “accounted for”, with respect to a person in a missing status, means that—

(A) the person is returned to United States control alive;

(B) the remains of the person are recovered to the extent practicable and, if not identifiable through visual means as those of the missing person, are identified as those of the missing person by a practitioner of an appropriate forensic science; or

(C) credible evidence exists to support another determination of the person’s status.

(4) The term “primary next of kin”, in the case of a missing person, means the individual authorized to direct disposition of the remains of the person under section 1482(c) of this title.

(5) The term “member of the immediate family”, in the case of a missing person, means the following:

(A) The spouse of the person.

(B) A natural child, adopted child, stepchild, or illegitimate child (if acknowledged by the person or parenthood has been established by a court of competent jurisdiction) of the person, except that if such child has not attained the age of 18 years, the term means a surviving parent or legal guardian of such child.

(C) A biological parent of the person, unless legal custody of the person by the parent has been previously terminated by reason of a court decree or otherwise under law and not restored.

(D) A brother or sister of the person, if such brother or sister has attained the age of 18 years.

(E) Any other blood relative or adoptive relative of the person, if such relative was given sole legal custody of the person by a court decree or otherwise under law before the person attained the age of 18 years and such custody was not subsequently terminated before that time.

(6) The term “previously designated person”, in the case of a missing person, means an individual designated by the person under section 655 of this title for purposes of this chapter.

(7) The term “classified information” means any information the unauthorized disclosure of which (as determined under applicable law and regulations) could reasonably be expected to damage the national security.

(8) The term “theater component commander” means, with respect to any of the combatant commands, an officer of any of the armed forces who (A) is commander of all forces of that armed force assigned to that combatant command, and (B) is directly subordinate to the commander of the combatant command.

(9) The term “survival, evasion, resistance, and escape debriefing” means an interview conducted with a person described in section 1501(c) of this title who is returned to United States control in order to record the person’s experiences while surviving, evading, resisting interrogation or exploitation, or escaping.

(Added Pub. L. 104-106, div. A, title V, §569(b)(1), Feb. 10, 1996, 110 Stat. 350; amended Pub. L. 104-201, div. A, title V, §578(a)(4), (b)(3), Sept. 23, 1996, 110 Stat. 2536; Pub. L. 105-85, div. A, title V, §599(a)(4), (b)(2), Nov. 18, 1997, 111 Stat. 1768; Pub. L. 106-65, div. A, title X, §1066(a)(15), Oct. 5, 1999, 113 Stat. 771; Pub. L. 111-84, div. A, title V, §541(c), Oct. 28, 2009, 123 Stat. 2298; Pub. L. 113-66, div. A, title V, §582(b), Dec. 26, 2013, 127 Stat. 776; Pub. L. 113-291, div. A, title X, §1071(f)(15), Dec. 19, 2014, 128 Stat. 3510; Pub. L. 114-328, div. A, title IX, §953(c), Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2376.)

**Editorial Notes**

## AMENDMENTS

2016—Par. (3)(B). Pub. L. 114-328 inserted “to the extent practicable” after “are recovered”.

2014—Par. (1). Pub. L. 113-291 substituted “subsection (c)” for “subsection (b)” in concluding provisions.

2013—Par. (9). Pub. L. 113-66 added par. (9).

2009—Par. (1). Pub. L. 111-84 substituted “subsection (a) of section 1509 of this title who is required by sub-