

adversely affect Department of Defense capabilities and technologies, to include the possible exposure of tactics, techniques, and procedures. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with other relevant Federal departments and agencies as appropriate, to conduct an assessment of the current statutory and regulatory framework governing real property transactions involving the Federal Government and foreign-controlled entities within the United States as they relate to military readiness and national security. The review should address:

(1) The processes by which the Department of Defense and the military services assess national security risks posed by foreign investments in Federal properties or facilities within proximity of Department of Defense operating areas or installations;

(2) Actions that may be taken by the Department of Defense to mitigate such risks;

(3) The manner in which the Department of Defense coordinates efforts with other Federal agencies to monitor proposed real property transactions involving the Federal Government and foreign-controlled entities within the United States; and

(4) Procedures by which the Secretary of Defense could communicate concerns to other Federal departments and agencies regarding a proposed real property transaction with a foreign-controlled entity due to proximity to Department of Defense facilities, ranges, or operating areas.

The committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a report to the congressional defense committees not later than January 5, 2015, on the findings of the review and on any recommendations that the Secretary may have for improving the current statutory and regulatory framework for monitoring real property transactions involving the Federal Government and foreign-controlled entities within the United States for possible national security implications. Within 90 days after the date of submission, the Comptroller General of the United States should conduct a sufficiency review of the report submitted by the Secretary and report the results of that review to the congressional defense committees.

TITLE XII—MATTERS RELATING TO FOREIGN NATIONS

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Monitoring of Ongoing Construction Activities in Afghanistan

The committee is aware that there may be limitations in the ability of U.S. forces to access all parts of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to monitor ongoing Department of Defense construction activities after December 31, 2014. Therefore, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives, not later than December 15, 2014, on plans to monitor such activities after December 31, 2014.

Report on Financial Management Capacity of Afghan Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Interior

In November 2013, the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) issued a report titled, "Comprehensive Risk Assessments of MOD and MOI Financial Management Capacity Could Improve Oversight of Over \$4 Billion in Direct Assistance Funding" (SIGAR-14-12-SP). The report evaluated whether Department of Defense funds provided to the Ministry of Defense (MOD) and the Ministry of Interior (MOI) of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan are properly managed and safeguarded to protect against fraud, waste, and abuse. The Department of Defense reported to SIGAR that, as of September 2013, it committed \$4.2 billion and disbursed nearly \$3.0 billion in direct assistance to the Afghan MOD and MOI for the sustainment of the Afghanistan National Security Forces (ANSF), including procurement of food, goods, and services; funding salaries; and funding minor construction.

The committee believes that an assessment of the financial management capacity of the Afghan MOD and MOI will improve the protection of U.S. direct assistance to Afghanistan to fund and equip the ANSF and ensure the assistance is used as intended. The committee also believes that an assessment of any associated risks for U.S. funds will assist the Department of Defense in developing mitigation measures to address any such risks.

Therefore, the committee directs the Inspector General of the Department of Defense to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the financial management capacity and risks within the Afghan MOD and the MOI. The Inspector General should also assess the capacity and risks within the Afghan Ministry of Finance, to the extent the Inspector General determines that such an assessment is required to protect Department funds and would not duplicate efforts conducted by other agencies of the U.S. Government. Such assessment should:

- (1) Identify core financial management functions within the Afghan MOD and MOI, including: financial management and accounting capacity; financial accountability and control environment; procurement and asset management capacity; contracting mechanisms and processes; and management of personnel systems;
- (2) Identify major risks and mitigation strategies deemed necessary for ensuring that the MOD and MOI are able to manage U.S. direct assistance; and
- (3) Assess how a post-2014 United States and North Atlantic Treaty Organization residual military presence to train, advise, and assist the ANSF would help mitigate any risk in the financial management capacity of the Afghan MOD and MOI.

The committee further directs the Inspector General to provide a report on the results of the assessment to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives by December 31, 2014.

The committee is cognizant of the security situation in Afghanistan and of other challenges that may affect the Inspector General's ability to carry out such an

assessment. The committee understands that the Inspector General would conduct the assessment in phases to accommodate these challenges. If the Inspector General cannot complete the assessment and deliver the required report by December 31, 2014, the Inspector General should notify the committees of the reasons the assessment cannot be completed by that date and include in such notification the date the Inspector General expects that the assessment will be completed and submitted.

Report on Operational Contract Support in U.S. Africa Command

While much attention has been paid to the use of contractors by the Department of Defense to support the large-scale operations in the Republic of Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the committee recognizes the Department uses contractors to support myriad efforts in other locations around the globe. Specifically, within U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM), the Department relies heavily on contractors to provide logistical, linguistic, intelligence, and transportation support to ongoing training, advising, and other assistance missions. While the challenges and deficiencies regarding the planning, management, and oversight of contractors in Iraq and Afghanistan have been well documented, and the Department has taken several steps to address these challenges, the committee notes that the challenges associated with contractor support for other types of operations in other regions could be substantially different. In addition to broader concerns regarding planning, management, and oversight of contracts of this nature, the committee is concerned about the extent to which the Department may face operational contract support challenges in AFRICOM.

Therefore, the committee directs the Comptroller General of the United States to examine the processes AFRICOM uses to plan, manage, and oversee contractors that support its military operations conducted in Africa. Specifically, the review should include an assessment of the following:

- (1) The extent to which AFRICOM uses contractors to support its programs and operations and the appropriateness of how AFRICOM uses contractors to support such programs and operations;
- (2) The extent to which AFRICOM depends on the Department of State to provide operational contract support to its activities in Africa and the potential challenges associated with this support;
- (3) The organizational structure in place at AFRICOM and its subordinate commands to manage operational contract support, including planning for the use of contractors and oversight of contractors during operations, as well as the systems and processes for tracking contractors throughout operations;
- (4) The processes used to vet non-United States contractors and contractor employees; and
- (5) Any other issues the Comptroller General determines appropriate with respect to the Department of Defense's operational contract support in AFRICOM.

The committee directs the Comptroller General of the United States to provide a briefing to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives by March 1, 2015, on the above assessment, with a follow-on report delivered to those committees not later than April 15, 2015.

Report on U.S. Army Regionally Aligned Brigade in Africa

In 2013, U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) became the first geographic combatant command to receive a regionally aligned force (RAF). Under the regionally aligned force concept, the Army will align designated units to specific regions and deploy small groups of personnel from those units to conduct security force assistance activities, leaving the rest of the units at their home stations. These activities include exercises, training events, and other security cooperation and security force assistance activities. The RAF units are expected to maintain readiness for their core mission even as they support the geographic combatant commander's needs. The Army has designated one brigade to serve as the regionally aligned force for AFRICOM.

The committee is concerned about potential overlaps in roles and responsibilities, and notes that there are other Department of Defense security force assistance activities underway in Africa, including Africa Contingency Operations Training and Assistance efforts and the National Guard's State Partnership Program. Furthermore, the committee is concerned that these additional mission requirements and the dispersion of the RAF may impact the ability of the force to maintain readiness for its core mission. Elsewhere in this report, the committee expresses support for the Army's RAF concept but also states various concerns. In addition, elsewhere in this Act, the committee includes a provision that would require the Secretary of the Army to submit an assessment of the RAF to the congressional defense committees concurrent with the submission of the President's budget for fiscal year 2016.

As a complement to this assessment, the committee directs the Comptroller General of the United States to evaluate the employment of the RAF in Africa. The Comptroller General's evaluation should be informed by the required Army assessment and include the following:

(1) The extent to which AFRICOM has defined the intended roles, responsibilities, goals, objectives, and required capabilities for the use of the regionally aligned brigade to conduct security force assistance activities, to include evaluating the impact of conducted activities;

(2) The extent to which AFRICOM has identified and mitigated potential overlap between the requirements and capabilities of the regionally aligned brigade and other Department of Defense security force assistance activities within AFRICOM;

(3) The extent to which the regionally aligned brigade has been able to meet AFRICOM requirements to conduct security force assistance activities, to include