

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9279

To amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize more enlisted members of the Armed Forces to attend the Naval Postgraduate School.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 7, 2022

Mr. PANETTA (for himself, Mr. BACON, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. WALTZ, and Mr. FALLON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize more enlisted members of the Armed Forces to attend the Naval Postgraduate School.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Strengthening the
5 Force and Fleet Through Enlisted Education Act” or the
6 “Smart Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

8 It is the sense of Congress that:

1 (1) The demands of the future operating envi-
2 ronment need to be met by the most professional, in-
3 telligent, innovative, and capable servicemembers our
4 Nation has ever produced.

5 (2) Though officers comprise roughly 18 per-
6 cent of the Armed Forces, they receive significantly
7 higher investments into their education up to the
8 PhD level than that of their enlisted counterparts.

9 (3) Investing in enlisted advanced education
10 will strengthen the lethality of the Armed Forces by
11 producing higher quantities of noncommissioned offi-
12 cers able to operate through the intellectual de-
13 mands of complex contingencies, producing military
14 leaders at rates higher than is otherwise feasible
15 with the pool of eligible officers.

16 (4) Conducting research and analysis on the
17 impact of advanced education on enlisted
18 servicemembers performance, promotion rate, mis-
19 conduct, and retention is critical to propelling the
20 Department of Defense's initiatives for a modern,
21 state-of-the art approach to education and research
22 to create and sustain an intellectual overmatch in to-
23 day's warfighting domains.

24 (5) The Naval Postgraduate School serves as a
25 converging point for all branches of the United

1 States military while simultaneously offering innova-
2 tive learning environments that, combined, offers an
3 ideal testing ground to evaluate the potential bene-
4 fits of expanding enlisted higher education across
5 the Joint Force.

6 **SEC. 3. NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL: ATTENDANCE BY**
7 **ENLISTED MEMBERS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a)(2)(D)(iii) of sec-
9 tion 8545 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by
10 striking “only on a space-available basis” and inserting
11 “at a rate of acceptance not to be conditioned by the num-
12 ber of officer applications”.

13 (b) BRIEFING.—Six years after the date of the enact-
14 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall brief the
15 Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House
16 of Representatives on the effects of increasing enrollment
17 of enlisted members at the Naval Postgraduate School
18 pursuant to the amendment made by subsection (a). Such
19 briefing shall include the following elements:

20 (1) Any increase to the lethality of the Armed
21 Forces.

22 (2) Effects on rates of recruitment, promotion
23 (including compensation to members), and retention.

- 1 (3) Effects on malign behavior by members of
- 2 the Armed Forces.

