

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 118-

36

OFFERED BY MR. POCAN OF WISCONSIN

At the end of subtitle C of title V of division A, add the following:

1 **SEC. 5___ . TIGER TEAM FOR OUTREACH TO FORMER MEM-**
2 **BERS.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF TIGER TEAM.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after
5 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
6 of Defense shall establish a team (commonly known
7 as a “tiger team” and referred to in this section as
8 the “Tiger Team”) responsible for conducting out-
9 reach to build awareness among former members of
10 the Armed Forces of the process established pursu-
11 ant to section 527 of the National Defense Author-
12 ization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116–
13 92; 10 U.S.C. 1552 note) for the review of discharge
14 characterizations by appropriate discharge boards.
15 The Tiger Team shall consist of appropriate per-
16 sonnel of the Department of Defense assigned to the
17 Tiger Team by the Secretary for purposes of this
18 section.

1 (2) TIGER TEAM LEADER.—One of the individ-
2 uals assigned to the Tiger Team under paragraph
3 (1) shall be a senior-level officer or employee of the
4 Department who shall serve as the lead official of
5 the Tiger Team (in this section referred to as the
6 “Tiger Team Leader”) and who shall be accountable
7 for the activities of the Tiger Team under this sec-
8 tion.

9 (3) REPORT ON COMPOSITION.—Not later than
10 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,
11 the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report set-
12 ting forth the names of the personnel of the Depart-
13 ment assigned to the Tiger Team pursuant to this
14 subsection, including the positions to which such
15 personnel are assigned. The report shall specify the
16 name of the individual assigned as Tiger Team
17 Leader.

18 (b) DUTIES.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Tiger Team shall con-
20 duct outreach to build awareness among veterans of
21 the process established pursuant to section 527 of
22 the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal
23 Year 2020 for the review of discharge characteriza-
24 tions by appropriate discharge boards.

1 (2) COLLABORATION.—In conducting activities
2 under this subsection, the Tiger Team Leader shall
3 identify appropriate external stakeholders with
4 whom the Tiger Team shall work to carry out such
5 activities. Such stakeholders shall include the fol-
6 lowing:

7 (A) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

8 (B) The Archivist of the United States.

9 (C) Representatives of veterans service or-
10 ganizations.

11 (D) Such other stakeholders as the Tiger
12 Team Leader considers appropriate.

13 (3) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 210 days
14 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
15 retary of Defense shall submit to Congress the fol-
16 lowing:

17 (A) A plan setting forth the following:

18 (i) A description of the manner in
19 which the Secretary, working through the
20 Tiger Team and in collaboration with ex-
21 ternal stakeholders described in paragraph
22 (2), shall identify individuals who meet the
23 criteria in section 527(b) of the National
24 Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year

1 2020 for review of discharge characteriza-
2 tion.

3 (ii) A description of the manner in
4 which the Secretary, working through the
5 Tiger Team and in collaboration with the
6 external stakeholders, shall improve out-
7 reach to individuals who meet the criteria
8 in section 527(b) of the National Defense
9 Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 for
10 review of discharge characterization, in-
11 cluding through—

12 (I) obtaining contact information
13 on such individuals; and

14 (II) contacting such individuals
15 on the process established pursuant to
16 section 527 of the National Defense
17 Authorization Act for Fiscal Year
18 2020 for the review of discharge char-
19 acterizations.

20 (B) A description of the manner in which
21 the work described in clauses (i) and (ii) of sub-
22 paragraph (A) will be carried out, including an
23 allocation of the work among the Tiger Team
24 and the external stakeholders.

1 (C) A schedule for the implementation,
2 carrying out, and completion of the plan re-
3 quired under subparagraph (A).

4 (D) A description of the additional fund-
5 ing, personnel, or other resources of the De-
6 partment required to carry out the plan re-
7 quired under subparagraph (A), including any
8 modification of applicable statutory or adminis-
9 trative authorities.

10 (4) IMPLEMENTATION OF PLAN.—

11 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall im-
12 plement and carry out the plan submitted under
13 subparagraph (A) of paragraph (3) in accord-
14 ance with the schedule submitted under sub-
15 paragraph (C) of that paragraph.

16 (B) UPDATES.—Not less frequently than
17 once every 90 days after the submittal of the
18 report under paragraph (3), the Tiger Team
19 shall submit to Congress an update on the car-
20 rying out of the plan submitted under subpara-
21 graph (A) of that paragraph.

22 (5) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 3 years
23 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
24 Tiger Team shall submit to the Committees on
25 Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Rep-

1 representatives a final report on the activities of the
2 Tiger Team under this subsection. The report shall
3 set forth the following:

4 (A) The number of individuals discharged
5 under former section 654 or a similar policy
6 prior to the enactment of former section 654.

7 (B) The number of individuals described in
8 subparagraph (A) who availed themselves of a
9 review of discharge characterization (whether
10 through discharge review or correction of mili-
11 tary records) through a process established
12 prior to the enactment of this Act.

13 (C) The number of individuals contacted
14 through outreach conducted pursuant to this
15 section.

16 (D) The number of individuals described in
17 subparagraph (A) who availed themselves of a
18 review of discharge characterization through the
19 process established pursuant to section 527 of
20 the National Defense Authorization Act for Fis-
21 cal Year 2020.

22 (E) The number of individuals described in
23 subparagraph (D) whose review of discharge
24 characterization resulted in a change of charac-
25 terization to honorable discharge.

1 (F) The total number of individuals de-
2 scribed in subparagraph (A), including individ-
3 uals also covered by subparagraph (E), whose
4 review of discharge characterization since Sep-
5 tember 20, 2011, resulted in a change of char-
6 acterization to honorable discharge.

7 (6) TERMINATION.—On the date that is 60
8 days after the date on which the final report re-
9 quired by paragraph (5) is submitted, the Secretary
10 shall terminate the Tiger Team.

11 (c) ADDITIONAL REPORTS.—

12 (1) REVIEW.—The Secretary of Defense shall
13 conduct a review of the consistency and uniformity
14 of the reviews conducted pursuant to section 527 of
15 the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal
16 Year 2020.

17 (2) REPORTS.—Not later than 270 days after
18 the date of the enactment of this Act, and each year
19 thereafter for a four-year period, the Secretary of
20 Defense shall submit to Congress a report on the re-
21 views under paragraph (1). Such reports shall in-
22 clude any comments or recommendations for contin-
23 ued actions.

24 (d) RELIEF FOR IMPACTED FORMER MEMBERS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense
2 shall review and update existing guidance to ensure
3 that the appropriate discharge board for the military
4 departments concerned shall review a discharge
5 characterization of the covered member as required
6 under section 527 of the National Defense Author-
7 ization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 at the request of
8 a covered member, or their representative, notwith-
9 standing any requirements to provide documentation
10 necessary to initiate a review of a discharge charac-
11 terization.

12 (2) EXCEPTION.—The appropriate discharge
13 board for the military departments concerned shall
14 not be required to initiate a request for a review of
15 a discharge as described in paragraph (1) if there is
16 evidence available to the discharge board that is un-
17 related to the material request of the covered mem-
18 ber or the representative of the covered member but
19 that would have reasonably substantiated the dis-
20 charge decision of the military department.

21 (e) FORMER SECTION 654 DEFINED.—In this sec-
22 tion, the term “former section 654” means section 654
23 of title 10, United States Code, as in effect before such

1 section was repealed pursuant to Public Law 111–321 (10
2 U.S.C. 654 note).

