At the end of subtitle J of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5. GAO STUDY OF MEMBERS ABSENT WITHOUT LEAVE OR ON UNAUTHORIZED ABSENCE.

(a) STUDY; REPORT.—Not later than September 30, 2021, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives a report containing the results of a study regarding how the Armed Forces handle cases of members absent without leave or on unauthorized absence.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The study under this section shall include the following:

(1) The procedures and guidelines established by each Armed Force for the investigation of such a case.

(2) The guidelines for distinguishing between—

(A) common cases;

(B) cases that may involve foul play or accident; and
(C) cases wherein the member may be in danger.

(3) The current guidelines for cooperation and coordination between military investigative agencies and—

(A) local law enforcement agencies; and

(B) Federal law enforcement agencies.

(4) The current guidelines for use of traditional and social media in conjunction with such cases.

(5) Military resources available for such cases and any apparent shortfalls in such resources.

(6) How the procedures for such cases vary between Armed Forces.

(7) How the procedures described in paragraph (6) vary from procedures used by local and Federal law enforcement.

(8) Best practices for responding to and investigating such cases.

(9) Any other matter the Comptroller General determines appropriate.