

## TITLE XII—MATTERS RELATING TO FOREIGN NATIONS

### Subtitle A—Assistance and Training

#### **Support of special operations for irregular warfare (sec. 1201)**

The committee recommends a provision that would authorize the Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the relevant Chief of Mission, to expend up to \$10.0 million annually through fiscal year 2021 to provide support to foreign forces, irregular forces, groups, or individuals engaged in supporting or facilitating ongoing irregular warfare operations by U.S. Special Operations Forces (SOF).

The committee notes with concern that adversarial nations are becoming more aggressive in challenging U.S. interests and partnerships and destabilizing regional order through the use of asymmetric means that often fall below the threshold of traditional armed conflict, often referred to as the “grey zone.” The committee notes that the ability of U.S. SOF to conduct low-visibility, irregular warfare operations in politically sensitive environments make them uniquely suited to counter the malign activities of our adversaries in this domain. However, the committee is concerned that the Secretary of Defense lacks sufficient authority to provide support for irregular warfare operations by U.S. SOF to counter this growing threat and therefore believes that granting this authority will provide the Secretary with the necessary options and flexibility to achieve U.S. military objectives.

#### **Modification of authority on support of special operations to combat terrorism (sec. 1202)**

The Committee recommends a provision that would make modifications to section 127e of title 10, United States Code related to oversight responsibilities and reporting requirements.

#### **Modifications of certain authority in connection with reform of defense security cooperation programs and activities (sec. 1203)**

The committee recommends a provision that would clarify the programs sufficient to satisfy the requirement for institutional capacity building pursuant to section 333(c)(4) of title 10, United States Code. The provision would also modify the Ministry of Defense Advisor program under section 332 of title 10, United States Code. The committee continues to strongly believe that strengthening the institutional capacity of foreign security partners to more effectively manage and employ security forces is vital to the long-term success of Department of Defense security cooperation programs.