(10) Quality of life programs.

(11) Family and community programs.

(12) Employment assistance upon separation or retirement of a member or for the spouse of the member.

(13) Reserve component service for members completing service in a regular component.

(14) Disability benefits, including offsets in connection with the receipt of such benefits.

(15) Benefits and services provided under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

(16) Such other benefits and services as the Secretary of Defense considers appropriate.

(c) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON AVAILABILITY ON ONLINE RESOURCES.—The Secretaries of the military departments shall use public service announcements, publications, and such other announcements through the general media as the Secretaries consider appropriate to inform members of the Armed Forces and their families and the general public about the information available through the online resources established pursuant to subsection (a).

(d) IMPLEMENTATION REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the quality and scope of the online resources established pursuant to subsection (a) to provide information about benefits and services for members of the Armed Forces and their families.

SEC. 562. ADDITIONAL MEMBERS ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MILITARY FAMILY READINESS COUNCIL.

(a) RESERVE COMPONENT REPRESENTATION.—Paragraph (1) of section 1781a(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) and (D) as subparagraphs (D) and (E), respectively;

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following new subparagraph (C):

"(C) In addition to the representatives appointed under subparagraph (B)—

"(i) one representative from the Army National Guard or Air National Guard, who shall be appointed by the Secretary of Defense; and

"(ii) one representative from the Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, or Air Force Reserve, who shall be appointed by the Secretary of Defense."; and

(3) in subparagraph (E), as redesignated by paragraph (1), by striking "subparagraph (B)" and inserting "subparagraphs (B) and (C)".

(b) TERM; ROTATION AMONG RESERVE COMPONENTS.—Paragraph (2) of such section is amended—

(1) by striking "paragraph (1)(C)" and inserting "subparagraphs (C) and (D) of paragraph (1)"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new sentences: "Representation on the Council required by clause (i) of paragraph (1)(C) shall rotate between the Army National Guard and Air National Guard. Representation required by clause (ii) of such paragraph shall rotate among the reserve components specified in such clause.".

Authorization and request for award of Distinguished-Service Cross to William T. Miles, Jr., for acts of valor during the Korean War (sec. 553)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 574) that would waive the time limitation contained in section 3744 of title 10, United States Code, and would authorize and request the Secretary of the Army to award the Distinguished-Service Cross to former Sergeant First Class William T. Miles, Jr., for acts of valor during the Korean War.

The Senate amendment contained no similar provision.

The Senate recedes with a technical amendment.

Subtitle G—Military Family Readiness Matters

Establishment of online resources to provide information about benefits and services available to members of the Armed Forces and their families (sec. 561)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 577) that would require the service secretaries to provide certain information to service members and their families at certain points in their career concerning service and veteran benefits, including disability and survivor benefits and mandatory offsets thereto. The provision would also require the service secretaries to provide biennial notice of benefits to all service members, perform public outreach on benefits, and to establish and maintain a website providing comprehensive benefit information to service members and their families. Finally, the provision would require the Secretary of Defense to report to Congress within 1 year on the implementation of the provision.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would require the Secretary of Defense to establish and maintain a website to provide comprehensive benefit information to service members and their families, and to conduct public service outreach on the availability of the website.

The conferees remain concerned that service members and their families lack essential information about the compensation, benefits, services, and programs available to them. Similarly, the conferees believe that many service members, retirees, their families, and their survivors, are unaware, to their detriment, of disability and survivor benefits and statutorily-mandated offsets affecting those benefits. The conferees urge the Department to take necessary initiatives to enhance the knowledge and understanding of service members, retirees, and their survivors concerning pay and compensation matters, veteran benefits, and survivor benefits.

Additional members on Department of Defense Military Family Readiness Council (sec. 562)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 551) that would mandate the addition of two members to the Department of Defense Military Family Readiness Council. One representative would be from the National Guard, and the other representative would be from a reserve component other than the National Guard, and each would be appointed by the Secretary of Defense.

The House bill contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would specify that one representative must be from the Army National Guard or Air National Guard, and the other must be from the Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, or the Air Force Reserve. The amendment would also limit these representatives' terms to 3 years, as well as require that the Guard representative rotate between the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard, and the reserve component representative that is not National Guard must rotate among the specified reserve components.

Support for military families with special needs (sec. 563)

The House bill contained a provision (sec. 710B) that would require coverage under the TRICARE program for any treatment of autism spectrum disorders that a health care professional determines to be medically necessary, and would prohibit the Secretary of Defense from considering applied behavior analysis or other structured behavior programs as special education services not otherwise authorized under TRICARE.

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 553) that would require the Secretary to develop and implement a policy and program to provide community support for military dependent children with autism and their families, including two or more pilot projects to evaluate the effectiveness of various approaches to provide such support.

The House recedes with an amendment that would establish an Office of Community Support for Military Families with Special Needs within the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, which would have the responsibility to develop and implement a comprehensive policy and program of support for military families with special needs, to establish the capability to provide timely access to information and referral services, and to oversee the expansion of case management and individualized support services provided by the military departments. The amendment would also authorize the Secretary to establish a foundation to enhance the Department of Defense's programs, training, and research.

The conferees agree to an increase of $50.0 million to be available for this purpose, which is reflected in the tables for this Act.

The conferees believe that expanding support for families with special needs is a critical requirement for the all-volunteer force. Regrettably such programs have not been a priority for the Department, as evidenced by its failure to implement requirements for expanded services for autism support as required by section 587 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110–181). The conferees are also concerned that enrollment in the Exceptional Family Member Program, which is crucial to ensuring that the needs of eligible dependents are met, is far lower than necessary to reach the estimated 220,000 family members who are eligible for such enrollment.

The conferees expect that implementation of this section will result in substantial improvements in identification and outreach to larger numbers of individuals who need support and coordination of available services, expansion of case management services,