

1 **SEC. 917. ESTABLISHMENT OF UNITED STATES ROBOTIC**
2 **AND AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS COMMAND.**

3 Chapter 6 of title 10, United States Code, is amended
4 by inserting after the item relating to section 167 the fol-
5 lowing new section:

6 **“§ 167a. Unified combatant command for robotic and**
7 **autonomous systems**

8 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—With the advice and assist-
9 ance of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the
10 President, through the Secretary of Defense, may estab-
11 lish under section 161 of this title a unified combatant
12 command for robotic and autonomous systems, to be
13 known as the ‘United States Robotic and Autonomous
14 Systems Command’ (in this section referred to as
15 ‘RASCOM’).

16 “(b) MISSION.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the authority
18 prescribed in section 164(c) of this title, if RASCOM
19 is established under subsection (a), the Commander
20 of RASCOM shall be responsible for, and have the
21 authority to conduct, all functions relating to robotic
22 and autonomous systems assigned by the Secretary
23 of Defense, including force generation, joint train-
24 ing, interoperability, doctrine development, and oper-
25 ational employment through other combatant com-
26 mands.

1 “(2) EXCLUSIONS.—The Commander of
2 RASCOM shall not be responsible for—

3 “(A) space systems;

4 “(B) autonomous cyber capabilities;

5 “(C) nuclear command, control, and com-
6 munications systems;

7 “(D) integrated air and missile defense
8 sensing; or

9 “(E) Integrated Tactical Warning and At-
10 tack Assessment capabilities.

11 “(c) SERVICE COMPONENT COMMANDS AND FORCE
12 GENERATION.—

13 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—If RASCOM is estab-
14 lished under subsection (a), the Army, Navy, Marine
15 Corps, and Air Force shall each establish a service
16 component command under RASCOM to support
17 force generation, organization, training, and equip-
18 ping of forces for robotic and autonomous systems
19 operations.

20 “(2) CAREER PATHS AND TRAINING PIPE-
21 LINES.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each service compo-
23 nent command established under paragraph (1)
24 shall include dedicated career paths, military
25 occupational specialties (or equivalent ratings),

1 promotion tracks, and training pipelines for
2 personnel assigned to robotic and autonomous
3 systems duties.

4 “(B) INCLUSION IN MANPOWER RE-
5 PORTS.—If RASCOM is established under sub-
6 section (a), the Secretary of Defense, in coordi-
7 nation with the Secretaries of the military de-
8 partments concerned, shall ensure that the ca-
9 reer paths, specialties, tracks, and pipelines de-
10 scribed in subparagraph (A) are integrated into
11 the personnel management systems of the re-
12 spective armed forces and reported in the an-
13 nual manpower reports required under section
14 115a of this title.

15 “(d) SUBORDINATE UNIFIED COMMANDS.—If
16 RASCOM is established under subsection (a), the Com-
17 mander of RASCOM shall establish subordinate unified
18 commands to operate under the operational control of each
19 geographic combatant command or other combatant com-
20 mand identified by the Secretary of Defense for the pur-
21 pose of integrating robotic and autonomous systems capa-
22 bilities into theater operations. Such subordinate unified
23 commands shall be funded and resourced through
24 RASCOM.

1 “(e) LIMITATION ON EXERCISE OF COMMAND AU-
2 THORITY.—

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—If RASCOM is established
4 under subsection (a), the Commander of RASCOM
5 may not command or exercise operational control
6 over operations or forces within the area of responsi-
7 bility of any other combatant command unless—

8 “(A) the combatant commander of that
9 command transfers operational control to the
10 Commander of RASCOM; or

11 “(B) specifically directed by the Secretary
12 of Defense.

13 “(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
14 this section shall be construed to limit the authority
15 of the Secretary of Defense under section 162 or
16 164 of this title.

17 “(f) JOINT SUBORDINATE UNIFIED COMMAND.—If
18 RASCOM is established under subsection (a), the Com-
19 mander of RASCOM shall establish a joint subordinate
20 unified command to be responsible for—

21 “(1) generating requirements for robotic and
22 autonomous systems;

23 “(2) ensuring interoperability and establishing
24 standards across the joint force;

1 “(3) planning and conducting joint exercises
2 and training;

3 “(4) developing tactics, techniques, and proce-
4 dures;

5 “(5) exercising special test and evaluation au-
6 thorities for acquisition projects as provided in sub-
7 section (h); and

8 “(6) establishing standards for human systems
9 integration in coordination with the Assistant Sec-
10 retary of Defense for Health Affairs and the Sur-
11 geons General of the military departments.

12 “(g) OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION AU-
13 THORITY.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—If RASCOM is established
15 under subsection (a), the Commander of RASCOM
16 shall—

17 “(A) serve as the principal operational test
18 and evaluation functional authority for all pro-
19 grams involving robotic and autonomous sys-
20 tems; and

21 “(B) in that capacity—

22 “(i) determine operational effective-
23 ness and operational suitability; and

24 “(ii) have authority to designate and
25 establish test ranges, develop test plans,

1 and issue independent reports on such pro-
2 grams.

3 “(2) EXCLUSION OF PROGRAMS ON OVERSIGHT
4 LIST OF DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONAL TEST AND
5 EVALUATION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be
6 construed to limit the oversight responsibilities of
7 the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation
8 with respect to programs on the oversight list of the
9 Director.

10 “(h) LIMITED ACQUISITION AUTHORITY.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—If RASCOM is established
12 under subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense may
13 delegate contracting authorities to the Commander
14 of RASCOM sufficient to enable the Commander—

15 “(A) subject to paragraph (2), to procure
16 limited quantities of robotic and autonomous
17 systems equipment and associated capabilities
18 (including unmanned platforms, attritable sys-
19 tems, swarms, mission kits, and related artifi-
20 cial intelligence-enabled autonomy, command
21 and control, and counter-unmanned systems)
22 for experimental, test and evaluation, rapid
23 prototyping, and initial fielding purposes; and

24 “(B) to procure, operate, and sustain
25 robotic and autonomous systems equipment and

1 capabilities that one or more military depart-
2 ments have included in a marketplace, catalog,
3 or other pre-priced contracting vehicle with es-
4 tablished pricing and agreed-upon terms and
5 conditions.

6 “(2) LIMITATION.—The Commander may not
7 enter into a contract under paragraph (1)(A) to pro-
8 cure robotic and autonomous systems equipment and
9 associated capabilities the cost of which exceeds
10 \$20,000,000.

11 “(i) MAJOR FORCE PROGRAM.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—If RASCOM is established
13 under subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense shall
14 establish and maintain a separate major force pro-
15 gram category for RASCOM in—

16 “(A) the future-years defense program
17 submitted to Congress under section 221 of this
18 title; and

19 “(B) all budget justification materials sub-
20 mitted to Congress in support of the budget of
21 the Department of Defense for a fiscal year (as
22 submitted to Congress with the budget of the
23 President under section 1105(a) of title 31).

24 “(2) REQUIREMENTS FOR BUDGET JUSTIFICA-
25 TION MATERIALS.—If RASCOM is established under

1 subsection (a), the major force program category for
2 RASCOM required by paragraph (1) shall—

3 “(A) be presented distinctly in the budget
4 justification materials described in paragraph
5 (1)(B); and

6 “(B) include all resources required for the
7 force generation, training, equipping, and
8 sustainment of robotic and autonomous systems
9 capabilities.

10 “(j) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—If RASCOM is established
12 under subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense shall,
13 not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
14 ment of the National Defense Authorization Act for
15 Fiscal Year 2027, and annually thereafter for the
16 following five fiscal years, submit to the congres-
17 sional defense committees a report on the implemen-
18 tation and status of RASCOM.

19 “(2) ELEMENTS.—Each report required under
20 paragraph (1) shall include the following:

21 “(A) A description of the establishment
22 and manning of RASCOM, each service compo-
23 nent command, and the subordinate unified
24 commands, including timelines for full oper-
25 ational capability.

1 “(B) An assessment of the status of dedi-
2 cated career paths, training pipelines, and force
3 generation activities across the armed forces.

4 “(C) A summary of interoperability stand-
5 ards, tactics, techniques, and procedures devel-
6 oped, and joint exercises conducted.

7 “(D) An evaluation of RASCOM’s per-
8 formance as the operational test and evaluation
9 functional authority, including any rec-
10 ommendations for adjustments to the exception
11 for major defense acquisition programs on the
12 oversight list of the Director of Operational
13 Test and Evaluation.

14 “(E) A detailed accounting of resources al-
15 located through the major force program estab-
16 lished under subsection (i), including any chal-
17 lenges in execution or service equities.

18 “(F) Any other matters the Secretary de-
19 termines appropriate, including recommenda-
20 tions for legislative changes to improve the ef-
21 fectiveness of RASCOM.

22 “(k) ROBOTIC AND AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS DE-
23 FINED.—In this section, the term ‘robotic and autono-
24 mous systems’ includes unmanned aerial, maritime,
25 ground, and subsurface platforms, attritable systems,

1 swarms, and associated artificial intelligence-enabled au-
2 tonomy and counter-unmanned systems capabilities.”.

3 **Subtitle C—Other Department of**
4 **Defense Organization and Man-**
5 **agement Matters**

6 **SEC. 921. ORGANIZATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES RELATING**
7 **TO UNMANNED SYSTEMS.**

8 (a) DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY REQUIREMENTS.—

9 (1) PLAN FOR CONSOLIDATION OF RESPON-
10 SIBILITIES.—Not later than 180 days after the date
11 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the
12 Navy shall submit to the congressional defense com-
13 mittees a plan to consolidate the responsibilities for
14 generating, organizing, training, and equipping all
15 unmanned systems in the Department of the Navy
16 (other than Group 4 and Group 5 unmanned aerial
17 systems) under a single accountable official for inte-
18 grating Marine Corps stand-in forces and Navy
19 hedge forces with unmanned systems across all do-
20 mains.

21 (2) PLAN FOR REORGANIZATION OF OFFICE OF
22 CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS.—Not later than 180
23 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
24 Chief of Naval Operations shall submit to the con-
25 gressional defense committees a plan for the reorga-