

1       SEC. 4. (a) Chapter 7 of title 10, United States Code, is  
2 amended by adding at the end thereof the following new sec-  
3 tion:

4       “§ 178. National Military Council

5       “(a)(1) There is in the Department of Defense a Nation-  
6 al Military Council. The Council shall provide to the Presi-  
7 dent and the Secretary of Defense—

8               “(A) advice on matters pertaining to national se-  
9 curity policy, national and military strategy, and the  
10 responsibilities of the national command authorities;  
11 and

12               “(B) independent assessments of the way in which  
13 national security policies and defense programs are car-  
14 ried out by the Department of Defense.

15       “(2) The Council shall, from time to time, make such  
16 recommendations, and such other reports, as it considers ap-  
17 propriate or as the President or Secretary of Defense may  
18 require within its functions under paragraph (1). The Council  
19 shall provide advice on its own initiative as well as by re-  
20 sponding to requests from the President and Secretary of De-  
21 fense. Members of the Council may act individually in provid-  
22 ing advice and assessments in the same manner as the Coun-  
23 cil may act as a body.

24       “(b)(1) The Council shall consist of five members of the  
25 armed forces appointed by the President, by and with the