SEC. 1206. UNITED STATES PARTICIPATION IN HEADQUARTERS EUROCORPS.

(a) PARTICIPATION AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of Defense may, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, authorize the participation of members of the Armed Forces and Department of Defense civilian personnel as members of the staff of Headquarters Eurocorps for the purpose of integrating United States subject matter experts into the nucleus of the growing defense structure of the European Union.

(b) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—The participation of members of the Armed Forces or Department of Defense civilian personnel as members of the staff of Headquarters Eurocorps shall be in accordance with the terms of one or more memoranda of understanding entered into by the Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, and Headquarters Eurocorps.

(2) COST-SHARING ARRANGEMENTS.—If Department of Defense facilities, equipment, or funds are used to support Headquarters Eurocorps, the memoranda of understanding under paragraph (1) shall provide details of any cost-sharing arrangement or other funding arrangement.

(c) AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS.—

(1) AVAILABILITY.—Funds appropriated to the Department of Defense for operation and maintenance are available as follows:

(A) To pay the United States' share of the operating expenses of the Headquarters Eurocorps.

(B) To pay the costs of the participation of members of the Armed Forces and Department of Defense civilian personnel participating as members of the

staff of the Headquarters Eurocorps, including the costs of expenses of such participants.

(2) LIMITATION.—No funds may be used under this section to fund the pay or salaries of members of the Armed Forces and Department of Defense civilian personnel who participate as members of the staff of the Headquarters, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Rapid Deployable Corps under this section.

(d) DEFINITION.—The term "Headquarters Eurocorps" refers to the multinational military headquarters, established on October 1, 1993, which is one of the High Readiness Forces (Land) associated with the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps of NATO.

Section-by-Section Analysis

This proposal would permit the Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, to authorize the participation of members of the armed forces and Department of Defense (DoD) civilian personnel as members of the staff of Headquarters Eurocorps, one of the seven "Rapid Deployable Corps" associated with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

This provision is necessary because the United States currently has no authority to assign personnel to Eurocorps.

Based in Strasbourg, France, Eurocorps is a multinational army corps that deploys on the authority of the committee made up of its five "framework" nations -- Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg and Spain -- on missions relating to the United Nations, NATO, and the European Union. Since 2002, Eurocorps has had a technical agreement with NATO and can be used for NATO missions. Even though it has led both the International Security Assistance Force (2004-2005) and the Land Component of the NATO Response Force (2006-2007), it is not part of NATO as such.

The United States is an active participant in the other six Rapid Reaction Corps in the NATO Force Structure, currently contributing a total of 98 personnel to those corps. These contributions carry both military and politico-military significance, which would be amplified through this authorizing provision. In particular, by participating in Eurocorps, the U.S. would garner an inside perspective into the burgeoning defense system of the European Union (E.U.), and ensure that U.S. perspectives and equities are taken into consideration by the E.U. planners and commanders at the working level.

This proposal, which is patterned after the existing authority in 10 U.S.C. 2350m (relating to DoD support to NATO Centers of Excellence), would allow DoD to realize these benefits by creating a clear legal authority for DoD support to Eurocorps. Because Eurocorps is generally not eligible for NATO common funding and because it is not an organization with status under the Paris Protocol, authorities and procedures authorizing DoD support to a formal NATO organization do not apply.

Budget Implications: We estimate the costs of this proposal to be primarily the U.S. share of the operating expenses in headquarters, Eurocorps, (see subsection (c)(1)(A) of the proposal) which has been agreed to be $10,000 per U.S. billet. We estimate seven billets in headquarters, with an annual cost $70,000 per year.

These seven billets are being transferred from four NATO Rapid Deployable Corps, where the average charge per billet is $30,000, which would result in a net savings of $20,000 per billet, or $140,000.

Since these billets are merely being transferred from other European locations, we expect that the costs of expenses of the U.S. participants (see subsection (c)(1)(B) of the proposal) to be substantially equivalent to the costs being incurred at the current locations, resulting in no net change as a result of the legislation.

RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS ($MILLIONS)								
	FY 2013	**FY 2014**	**FY 2015**	**FY 2016**	**FY 2017**	**Appropriation From**	**Budget Activity**	**Dash-1 Line Item**
	+.07	+.07	+.07	+.07	+.07	Army O&M	04	441
Total	+.07	+.07	+.07	+.07	+.07			

Changes to Existing Law: This proposal would be a free-standing provision and would not change any current law.