SEC. 1209. THREE-YEAR EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO WAIVE REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR NONGOVERNMENTAL PERSONNEL AT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE REGIONAL CENTERS FOR SECURITY STUDIES.

Paragraph (1) of section 941(b) of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 10 U.S.C. 184 note), is amended by striking "through 2012" and inserting "through 2015".

Section-by-Section Analysis

This proposal would extend for three years the current authority under section 941(b) of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Pub. L. 110-417; 122 Stat. 4577; 10 U.S.C. 184 note, as amended by section 941 of the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (Pub. L. 111-383, 124 Stat. 4340)) for the five Regional Centers for Security Studies of the Department of Defense (DoD) to waive the reimbursement costs required under section 184(f) of title 10, United States Code, for personnel of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and international organizations (IOs) to participate in activities of the Centers. The current authority expires at the end of fiscal year 2012.

Its purpose is to increase the Centers' authority to create communities of influence, to realize efficiencies, and to enhance the capability of our foreign partners to contribute to overseas contingency operations. To do so, this proposal emphasizes educational outreach to defense and security-related nongovernmental personnel.

The Department's experience with counterinsurgencies demonstrates the need to reach out to a broader cadre of participants to include nongovernmental counterparts who increasingly work alongside U.S. forces during post-conflict and disaster response activities. This proposal is consistent with the vision of the Secretary of Defense to use the Regional Centers as key strategic communication tools to enhance regional security through the creation of collaborative communities of interest among military and civilian officials; strengthen sustainable institutional capacity at national and transnational levels to enhance national, regional and international security; foster defense support to civil authorities in dealing with disasters; and promote critical thinking on a global security challenges.

In order to further realize this vision, the Department proposes the Regional Centers extend the fiscal year (FY) 2009 program, which was extended in FY 2011, for three years to reach out to personnel from nongovernmental organizations that may cooperate with the DoD during operations worldwide, and report annually to Congress on the authority to fund nongovernmental personnel to participate in regional center programs.

Through the program, the Regional Centers invite personnel from nongovernmental organizations based on requests and recommendations from the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Policy, the U.S. Department of State and other relevant agencies, partner nations, and other stakeholders within the communities of interest. These organizations participate alongside, or in the vicinity of, U.S. forces during post-conflict stability operations and/or disaster management operations; their participation has a direct benefit to DoD operations, and plays a significant role in countering violent extremism, providing civil society oversight of foreign partner security sectors, and/or engage in sustainable development and stabilization activities where U.S. or foreign partner security forces are actively engaged (e.g., health affairs).

The aim of the program is to include, when appropriate, at least one nongovernmental representative in selected program events. In FY 2009 and FY 2010, the Regional Centers waived the costs for sixty-six nongovernmental personnel to attend activities (FY 2009: participants – 17/ participant days – 170; FY 2010: participants – 49/ participant days - 711), ranging from Senior Leaders Seminars and Maritime Safety and Security Workshops to Comprehensive Crisis Management and Statecraft, Peacekeeping and Nation Building courses. Examples of nongovernmental organizations represented during these activities include: the African Union (AU), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), InterAction, International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Organization for Security Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (UNOCHA).

The impact of nongovernmental representation in Regional Center activities has been significant and multifaceted. Nongovernmental participation provided military and defense civilians the opportunity to interact with these organizations inside the classroom and that has facilitated better relationships and activities on the ground. Additionally, it enhanced the classroom experience by: offering alternative perspectives that augment the military-to-military knowledge exchange; educating military and defense civilians on nongovernmental efforts and how they respond to national, regional, and international security needs; and injecting real-world experiences that create greater contextual understanding of course material.

Budget Implications: This proposal would extend for three years the existing authority to use Regional Center appropriated funds to support the program (approximately $1,000,000 annually).

RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS ($MILLIONS)								
	FY 2013	**FY 2014**	**FY 2015**	**FY 2016**	**FY 2017**	**Appropriation From**	**Budget Activity**	**Dash-1 Line Item**
Regional Centers	+1.0	+1.0	+1.0			O&M, DW	04	4GTD
Total	+1.0	+1.0	+1.0					

Changes to Existing Law: This proposal would make the following amendment to section 941(b) of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (P. L.110-417, as amended by P. L. 111-383):

DUNCAN HUNTER NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009

SEC. 941. ENHANCEMENT OF AUTHORITIES RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE REGIONAL CENTERS FOR SECURITY STUDIES.

(a) ***

(b) TEMPORARY WAIVER OF REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR NONGOVERNMENTAL PERSONNEL.—

(1) AUTHORITY FOR TEMPORARY WAIVER.—In fiscal years 2009 through ~~2012~~ 2015, the Secretary of Defense may, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, waive reimbursement otherwise required under subsection (f) of section 184 of title 10, United States Code, of the costs of activities of Regional Centers under such section for personnel of nongovernmental and international organizations who participate in activities of the Regional Centers that enhance cooperation of nongovernmental organizations and international organizations with United States forces if the Secretary of Defense determines that attendance of such personnel without reimbursement is in the national security interests of the United States.

(2) LIMITATION.—The amount of reimbursement that may be waived under paragraph (1) in any fiscal year may not exceed $1,000,000.

(3) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary of Defense shall include in the annual report under section 184(h) of title 10, United States Code, in each year through 2013 information on the attendance of personnel of nongovernmental and international organizations in activities of the Regional Centers during the preceding fiscal year for which a waiver of reimbursement was made under paragraph (1), including information on the costs incurred by the United States for the participation of personnel of each nongovernmental or international organization that so attended.