SEC. ___. INTER-EUROPEAN AIR FORCES ACADEMY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 907 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 9415 the following new section:

"§9416. Inter-European Air Forces Academy

"(a) OPERATION.—The Secretary of the Air Force may operate the Air Force education and training facility known as the Inter-European Air Forces Academy for the purpose of providing military education and training to military personnel of countries that are members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization or signatories to the Partnership for Peace Framework Documents.

"(b) ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES.—(1) No foreign force may be trained under the authority of this section without the concurrence of the Secretary of State.

"(2) Without prejudice to the inclusion of other forces, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State shall, not later than July 1 of each year agree to a list of countries whose forces will be eligible to attend the academy in the following fiscal year.

"(3) The Secretary of the Air Force may not use the authority in subsection (a) to provide assistance to any foreign country that is otherwise prohibited from receiving such type of assistance under any other provision of law.

"(c) COSTS.—The costs of operating and maintaining the Inter-European Air Forces Academy may be paid from funds available for operation and maintenance of the Air Force.

"(d) SUPPLIES AND CLOTHING.—The Secretary of the Air Force may, under such conditions as the Secretary may prescribe, provide to a person receiving training under this chapter—

"(1) transportation incident to the training;

"(2) supplies and equipment to be used during the training; and

"(3) billeting, food, and health services.

"(e) LIVING ALLOWANCE.—The Secretary of the Air Force may pay to a person receiving training under this chapter a living allowance at a rate to be prescribed by the Secretary, taking into account the amount of living allowances authorized for a member of the armed forces under similar circumstances.

"(f) MAINTENANCE.—The Secretary of the Air Force may authorize such expenditures from the appropriations of the Air Force as the Secretary considers necessary for the efficient and effective maintenance of the Program in accordance with this chapter.".

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 9415 the following new item:

"9416. Inter-European Air Forces Academy.".

Section-by-Section Analysis

This proposal would authorize the establishment of the Inter-European Air Forces Academy, whose purpose would be to develop allied and partner non-commissioned officers (NCO) and junior officers in order to support modern alliance and coalition fighter, mobility and airfield operations. It would be modeled after the very successful Inter-American Air Forces Academy (10 U.S.C. 9415), and limited to military personnel of countries that are members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), or signatories to the Partnership for Peace Framework Documents. It would require concurrence of the Secretary of State in connection with the training of foreign forces.

In accordance with U.S. National Security Strategy and implementing strategies and plans including the Guidance for the Employment of the Force, Headquarters U.S. European Command (USEUCOM) has directed the Air Force to assist in aviation professionalization to increase regional stability and support future coalition operations. The proposal is necessary because the Air Force does not currently have authority to operate a separate academy directed at developing the aviation capabilities of aspiring, recently acceded NATO and Partnership for Peace countries. Force development and organization is a national responsibility; therefore, they are not addressed by regional security organizations such as NATO. Without this new authority, we should expect little change in how our allies organize and operate their Air Forces. This authority is required to establish a program, including its supporting organization and facilities, to institute change for more effective allies in the future.

Although there are funding programs available for this kind of training—for example, International Military Education and Training—there are no appropriate programs that can deliver the kind of training that this proposal would authorize. That is why legislation is necessary.

The academy would consist of a dedicated program and curriculum to train NCO and company grade officers of allied and partner air forces, primarily from Eastern Europe. These Air Forces possess an ingrained tradition, developed and instilled throughout the Cold War, of highly centralized control. In terms of coalition operations, that model is not one that can usefully serve the fluid situations of today's asymmetric warfare, typified by our current engagements. The model is also unsustainable given the leaner defense budgets that all of our potential coalition partners face today. These are, of course, the same countries that have been and are currently providing the majority of our coalition partners in Iraq and Afghanistan. This program will enable more effective interoperability and host nation support for those of these countries which host U.S. forces, particularly U.S. ballistic missile defense facilities and potential future operations.

The centralized structures of Eastern Europe Air Forces are overly dependent on select officers. This creates bottlenecks, encourages procedural short-cuts to avoid bureaucracy and de-motivates subordinates. This organizational culture leads to an ineffective organization that cannot adapt to change unless directed to do so. These organization's capabilities are often not repeatable or sustainable over the long term. This limits the operational effectiveness and ability to contribute for our current coalition partners in Afghanistan, as well as impacting Alliance capabilities for future coalition operations. That outdated model cannot usefully serve the fluid situations of coalition operations in today's asymmetric warfare.

Accordingly, with respect to junior and non-commissioned officers, the new academy's challenge and objective would be to develop an understanding of how to delegate effectively and take responsibility for their work in management environments typified by de-centralized organizations. The academy would also work to instill an understanding in company grade officers of the importance of working with empowered subordinates, i.e., being able to trust and to effectively delegate responsibility to non-commissioned officers. Accordingly, the Academy's efforts in the medium- and long-term, will increase the aviation capacity of our partners and build stronger coalitions for the future.

Subsection (a) of the proposal would authorize the Secretary of the Air Force to operate the Inter-European Air Forces Academy for the purpose of training the military personnel of countries that are members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization or signatories to the Partnership for Peace Framework Documents, and other countries eligible for assistance under Chapter 5 of Part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2347 et seq.).

Subsection (b) would require Secretary of State concurrence in connection with the training. While the Administration firmly supports the "dual-key" nature of the Defense/State relationship in these matters, we believe that the nature of these large and complex departments requires that we impose an external procedure in order to maximize the efficiency of the process.

Accordingly, proposed subsection (b) would require the Secretaries of Defense and State to agree, not later than July 1 of each year, to a list of countries whose forces would be eligible to use the centers in the following fiscal year. This agreement would not prohibit the inclusion of other forces during the respective fiscal year.

In addition, subsection (b) would provide that the Secretary of the Air Force could not provide assistance to any foreign country that is otherwise prohibited from receiving such type of assistance under any other provision of law.

Subsection (c) would provide that the fixed costs of operating and maintaining the academy could be paid from funds available for operation and maintenance of the Air Force.

Subsection (d), based on 10 U.S.C. 9382 (relating to the Aviation Leadership Program), would authorize the Secretary of the Air Force to provide to a person receiving training under this proposal: (1) transportation incident to the training; (2) supplies and equipment to be used during the training; and (3) billeting, food, and health services.

Subsection (e), based on 10 U.S.C. 9382 (relating to the Aviation Leadership Program), would permit the Secretary of the Air Force to pay a living allowance from the appropriations of the Air Force as the Secretary considers necessary to pay for incidental expenses of student trainees of developed nations in order to preclude financial hardship in a higher cost of living area than their native country.

Subsection (f), based on 10 U.S.C. 9415 (relating to the Inter-American Air Forces Academy), would permit the Secretary of the Air Force to authorize such expenditures from the appropriations of the Air Force as the Secretary considers necessary for the efficient and effective maintenance of the program in accordance with this chapter.

Failure to fund this academy means that the current pace of developing European partner nation Air Forces modernization will continue on a relatively slower path, and the U.S. Air Force would continue to carry the burden for current and future coalition operations until this modernization occurs.

Budgetary Implications: The program would be organized and operated at or near Ramstein Air Base, Germany. The program estimates 160 students per year, based on two classes of 16 students, five times per year. The tuition estimate of $1,200 per student is commensurate with costs for attendees at the United States Air Force Kisling NCO Academy, located at Kapaun Air Station in Germany. Most tuition would be paid using the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) process currently used for foreign military training. In addition to national funds, funding sources for students would include funding available to the country through the Department of State: Foreign Military Financing and International Military Education and Training. Tuition costs would be reimbursed to the U.S. Air Force to offset the costs of operating the Academy.

Our estimates are based on startup costs for equipment and furniture, as well as annual operations and maintenance (O&M) support costs. The personnel estimates below are based on four Officer, four NCO, and three civilian authorizations. The program would employ existing

facilities at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. The Air Force would fund this academy through Program Element Code 84731F, General Skill Training.

Changes to Existing Law: This proposal would add new section 9416 to title 10, United States Code. The text of the new section is set forth in the legislative text above.