SEC. ___. ONE-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 2013" and inserting "through 2014".

Section-by-Section Analysis

This proposal would extend for one year the current authority under section 941(b) of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Pub. L. 110-417; 10 U.S.C. 184 note, as amended by section 941 of Pub. L. 111-383 (124 Stat. 4340) and section 953 of Pub. L. 112-239 (126 Stat. 1895)) for the five Regional Centers for Security Studies of the Department of Defense (DoD) to waive the reimbursement costs required under subsection (f) of section 184 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 2013.

The purpose of this proposal is to improve the ability of the Regional Centers to meet the objectives laid out in the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy's memorandum, *Policy Guidance for the Department of Defense (DoD) Regional Centers* on February 28, 2011, particularly to "[e]nhance regional security through the creation of collaborative communities of interest among military and civilian officials from States of the region, and examine fundamental causes of relevant security challenges and the most effective means to counter them." Enhancing communities of interest requires a whole-of-society approach to ensure all security cooperation stakeholders are part of the community. This authority enables the Regional Centers to include not only foreign defense officials, but also stakeholders representing security cooperation-related NGOs and IOs.

With this waiver authority, the Regional Centers invite personnel from NGOs and IOs based on requests and recommendations from the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Policy, the U.S. Department of State, and other relevant departments and agencies, partner nations, and other stakeholders within the communities of interest. These NGOs and IOs participate alongside, or in the vicinity of, U.S. forces during post-conflict stability operations and/or disaster management operations. Their participation directly benefits DoD operations, plays a significant role in countering violent extremism, and provides civil society oversight of foreign-partner security sectors. NGOs and IOs may also engage in sustainable development and stabilization activities where U.S. or foreign partner security forces are actively engaged (e.g., health affairs).

The waiver authority will be used, when appropriate, to include at least one NGO or IO representative in selected program events. From FY 2009 through FY 2011, the Regional Centers waived the costs for 130 NGO or IO personnel to attend activities (FY 2009: participants – 17/ participant days – 170; FY 2010: participants – 49/ participant days – 711; FY 2011: participants 64/ participant days – 233), ranging from Senior Leaders Seminars and Maritime Safety and Security Workshops to Comprehensive Crisis Management and Statecraft, Peacekeeping and Nation Building courses. Examples of NGOs and IOs 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 the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (UNOCHA).

Section 953 of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2013 (Pub. L. 112-239) provided for a one-year extension of the waiver authority, through fiscal year 2013. In the joint statement of managers accompanying the conference report on H.R. 4310 of the 112th Congress, the conferees directed the Comptroller General to assess the benefits to DoD of waiving reimbursement costs for personnel of NGOs and IOs to participate in activities of the Regional Centers on an ongoing basis. It is expected that the report findings will determine that DoD gains a great benefit through the implementation of this waiver authority - the impact of NGO and IO representation in Regional Center activities has been significant and multifaceted. NGO and IO participation has provided military and defense civilians the opportunity to interact with these organizations inside the classroom and has facilitated better relationships and activities on the ground. Additionally, it has enhanced the classroom experience by offering alternative perspectives that augment the military-to-military knowledge exchange; educating military and defense civilians on NGO and IO 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: The proposal would extend for one year the already existing temporary authority to use Regional Center appropriated funds to reimburse the costs of NGO and IO personnel (approximately $1,000,000 annually).

RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS ($MILLIONS)								
	FY 2014	**FY 2015**	**FY 2016**	**FY 2017**	**FY 2018**	**Appropriation From**	**Budget Activity**	**Dash-1 Line Item**
Regional Centers	1.0					Operation & Maintenance, Defense-wide	04	4GTD
Total	1.0							

Changes to Existing Law: This proposal would make the following amendments to section 941(b) of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (P. L. 110-417, as amended by section 941 of P. L. 111-383 and section 953 of P.L. 112-239):

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 ~~2013~~ 2014, 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.