

**STATEMENT OF
CONGRESSWOMAN LAURA RICHARDSON, OF CALIFORNIA**

**IN SUPPORT OF RICHARDSON AMENDMENTS
TO H.R. 1540
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FY 2012**

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

May 27, 2011

Chairman Dreier, Ranking Member Slaughter, and Members of the Committee on Rules:

Thank you for allowing to me to speak in support of the RICHARDSON Amendment to H.R. 1540, the Defense Authorization Act of 2011. Let me also thank Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith for their work on this bill and their devotion to the men and women of the Armed Forces.

Richardson Amendment #1

Richardson Amendment #1 improves the bill by instructing the TRANSPORTATION COMMAND (TRANSCOM) to update and expand the PORT LOOK 2008 Strategic Seaports study. This amendment was included in last year's defense authorization act and I believe should be included again and in each year to come to make sure this study remains up to date.

- This study remains a crucial tool to ensure that our ports are ready to respond in the case of an emergency,
- As we strive to improve our infrastructure in and around our strategic ports, we must fully understand how the entire port area

can serve our defense forces and what improvements are necessary.

Richardson Amendment #2

I would like to thank the Armed Services Committee for accepting my second amendment en bloc. This amendment increases the effectiveness of the Northern Command ("NORTHCOM"). NORTHCOM was created on 1 October 2002 in the aftermath of the 11 September 2001 attacks, its mission is to protect the United States homeland and support local, state, and federal authorities. In case of national emergencies, natural or man-made, which are happening all too frequently these days, its Air Forces Northern National Security Emergency Preparedness Directorate will take charge of the situation or event.

My amendment will express the sense of Congress that NORTHCOM:

- Develop and has in place a leadership strategy that will strengthen and foster institutional and interpersonal relationships with state and local governments and;
- Utilizes training programs to teach key personnel how to lead effectively in the event of a disaster and during uncertain times.

The purpose for NorthCom's existence is to bring the capabilities and the resources of the U.S. military to the assistance of the American people during a catastrophic disaster. NORTHCOM leaders will be much more effective in saving lives, protecting assets, and enhancing resilience after the disaster has occurred if they are trained in the

techniques of effective engagement with civilian leadership. My amendment demonstrates congress's support for such training.

I also would like to note my strong support for the Garamendi amendment to strike section 1034 from the bill. This is a broad and unwarranted expansion of executive power and an ill-considered enlargement of the "War on Terror."

I am concerned that this will shift resources away from preventing an attack and towards an unachievable military defeat of terrorist groups. This expansive new definition for the use of force is both unnecessary and potentially dangerous, particularly since Section 1034 does not require the President to obtain the express approval of Congress prior to using military force.

For these reasons, I urge the Rules Committee to make my amendments in order. Thank you.