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1600 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301-1600

APR 28 2004

The Honorable Richard B. Cheney
President of the Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

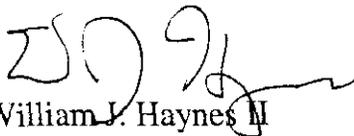
Dear Mr. President:

The Department of Defense requests that the Congress enact the enclosed legislative initiatives as part of the National Defense Authorization Bill for Fiscal Year 2005.

The purpose of each proposal is stated in the accompanying section-by-section analysis.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that there is no objection, from the standpoint of the Administration's program, to the presenting of these legislative proposals for your consideration and the consideration of Congress.

Sincerely,


William J. Haynes II

Enclosure
As Stated





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The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Speaker:

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "WJ Haynes II", written over the printed name.

William J. Haynes II

Enclosure
As Stated



**SEC. ____ . ASSISTANCE TO IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN, AND OTHER FRIENDLY
NEARBY REGIONAL NATIONS.**

1 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, within the limitation
2 established in subsection (c), the Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of
3 State, may provide assistance in Fiscal Year 2005 to military or security forces in Iraq,
4 Afghanistan, and other friendly nearby regional nations to enhance their capability to combat
5 terrorism and to support U.S. military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

6 (b) TYPES OF ASSISTANCE.—Assistance provided under subsection (a) may include the
7 provision of equipment, supplies, services, training, and funding.

8 (c) FUNDING LIMITATION.—Assistance provided under subsection (a) may not exceed
9 \$500,000,000 in fiscal year 2005 from funds made available to the Department of Defense for
10 operation and maintenance.

11 (d) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.—The authority to provide assistance under this section is in
12 addition to any other authority in this Act to provide assistance to foreign nations.

13 (e) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary of Defense shall notify the
14 congressional defense committees not less than 7 days before providing assistance under the
15 authority of this section.

Section-by-Section Analysis

This section would authorize the Department of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, to provide support Iraq, Afghanistan and other friendly nearby regional nations to combat terrorism and to support military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Assistance provided under this authority could include the provision of equipment, supplies, services, training, and funding. The value of assistance that could be provided under this authority would be limited to a total of \$500,000,000 in fiscal year 2005.

In the absence of the provision of such assistance, many countries that share our goals in

the fight against terrorism are unable to effectively contribute to that fight. By increasing the number of other countries that are able to effectively participate in such operations, the requirements imposed on U.S. military forces to carry out such missions could be substantially reduced in many cases.

It is envisioned that this authority would be used by DoD to provide necessary assistance often to developing countries to permit the national forces of those countries to meet threats, to form a more effective force, or to reduce or in some situations eliminate the requirement for U.S. military participation.

SEC. ____ . COMMANDERS'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM.

During the current fiscal year, from funds made available in the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2005, for operation and maintenance, not to exceed \$300,000,000 may be used, notwithstanding any other provision of law, to fund the Commander's Emergency Response Program, established by the Administrator of the Coalition Provisional Authority for the purpose of enabling military commanders in Iraq to respond to urgent humanitarian relief and reconstruction requirements within their areas of responsibility by carrying out programs that will immediately assist the Iraqi people, and to fund a similar program to assist the people of Afghanistan.

Section-by-Section Analysis

The Commander's Emergency Response Program is a high impact program that is instrumental in our efforts to secure and stabilize Iraq and Afghanistan. It is a source of ready cash, which enables commanders to respond immediately to urgent humanitarian relief (e.g., provide food and health care) and reconstruction (e.g., repair schools, hospitals, and bridges) requirements. The program builds trust and support at the grassroots level and provides results that people can see.