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**Washington D.C.** – Congressman Duncan Hunter announced today that he is preparing a list of alternative defense budget efficiencies to counter specific reductions in spending recently proposed by Secretary of Defense Robert Gates. The focus of the budget items under review by Hunter is to achieve greater efficiency in the defense budget and ensure the availability of needed funding for modernization -- including funding for the Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle (EFV).

“These alternative efficiencies will not only highlight examples of waste and unnecessary spending in the annual defense budget, but also deliver substantial cost-savings to prevent any further decline in modernization and production,” said Congressman Hunter, a veteran of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. “Terminating the EFV, for instance, would do far more harm than good, especially when the core competency of the Marine Corps centers on amphibious operations. It’s important that alternatives are on the table.

“I will be working closely with my colleagues, including members of the House Armed Services Committee, to further develop and finalize these efficiencies in the coming months.”

On Wednesday, January 26th, the House Armed Services Committee is holding its first hearing of the 112th Congress on the proposed budget reductions for the Department of Defense and the Secretary of Defense’s efficiency initiatives.