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Washington, D.C.— Today, Congressman Duncan Hunter, a member of the House Armed Services Committee, was named to the congressional conference committee that will negotiate differences between the House and Senate versions of the Fiscal Year 2012 National Defense Authorization Act.

“This is a critical time for America’s national defense,” said Hunter, a Marine combat veteran of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. “Not only are we engaged in Afghanistan, with men and women in harm’s way, but there are serious threats on the horizon with China’s ongoing militarization, Iran’s pursuit of advanced technology and nuclear weapons, and shifting terrorist organizations. I appreciate the opportunity to be a part of negotiations on such an important bill as Congress continues its work to strengthen U.S. security and prepares to deal with a new set of budget challenges.”

House Armed Services Committee Chairman Howard “Buck” McKeon (CA-25) added, “Congressman Hunter has been a productive member of the Armed Services Committee. The National Defense Authorization Act for 2012 is a vital piece of legislation. It ensures that our troops, who are defending us around the world, have the resources they need to keep us safe. For forty-nine years, Congress has passed the defense bill, and I am honored to have Duncan Hunter at my side as we close out the fiftieth NDAA. Over the next few days, the House and Senate will have to work through several important issues. I know Congressman Hunter will offer valuable insight as we put together the best possible legislation for our men and women in uniform.”

During consideration of the National Defense Authorization Act, the House accepted several initiatives proposed by Representative Hunter, including:

- An amendment strongly encouraging the Navy to name a ship after Marine Corps Sergeant Rafael Peralta;

- The War Memorial Protection Act, introduced by Hunter. The legislation provides for the protection of religious symbols connected to war memorials on federal property;
- A provision preventing the Department of Defense from restricting recruitment for students with state-recognized diplomas from a charter school or online high school;
- An amendment reforming Travel and Transportation Allowances for Non-Medical-Attendants (NMAs) caring for seriously ill and wounded service members. The amendment allows all qualified NMAs to receive full travel and other compensation while caring for a loved one in outpatient care.