

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4112

To direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish national emergency centers on military installations.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 20, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (for himself, Mr. OWENS, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish national emergency centers on military installations.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Emergency
5 Centers Establishment Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY CEN-**
2 **TERS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with the require-
4 ments of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security
5 shall establish not fewer than 6 national emergency cen-
6 ters on military installations.

7 (b) PURPOSE OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY CEN-
8 TERS.—The purpose of a national emergency center shall
9 be to use existing infrastructure—

10 (1) to provide temporary housing, medical, and
11 humanitarian assistance to individuals and families
12 dislocated due to an emergency or major disaster;

13 (2) to provide centralized locations for the pur-
14 poses of training and ensuring the coordination of
15 Federal, State, and local first responders;

16 (3) to provide centralized locations to improve
17 the coordination of preparedness, response, and re-
18 covery efforts of government, private, and not-for-
19 profit entities and faith-based organizations; and

20 (4) to meet other appropriate needs, as deter-
21 mined by the Secretary of Homeland Security.

22 **SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF MILITARY INSTALLATIONS AS NA-**
23 **TIONAL EMERGENCY CENTERS.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the
25 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Home-
26 land Security, in consultation with the Secretary of De-

1 fense, shall designate not fewer than 6 military installa-
2 tions as sites for the establishment of national emergency
3 centers.

4 (b) MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.—A site designated as
5 a national emergency center shall be—

6 (1) capable of meeting for an extended period
7 of time the housing, health, transportation, edu-
8 cation, and humanitarian needs of a large number of
9 individuals affected by an emergency or major dis-
10 aster;

11 (2) environmentally safe and shall not pose a
12 health risk to individuals who may use the center;

13 (3) capable of accommodating major disaster
14 preparedness and response drills, operations, and
15 procedures; and

16 (4) easily accessible at all times, including dur-
17 ing an emergency or major disaster.

18 (c) LOCATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY CEN-
19 TERS.—There shall be established not fewer than one na-
20 tional emergency center in each of the following areas:

21 (1) The area consisting of Federal Emergency
22 Management Agency Regions I, II, and III.

23 (2) The area consisting of Federal Emergency
24 Management Agency Region IV.

1 (3) The area consisting of Federal Emergency
2 Management Agency Regions V and VII.

3 (4) The area consisting of Federal Emergency
4 Management Agency Region VI.

5 (5) The area consisting of Federal Emergency
6 Management Agency Regions VIII and X.

7 (6) The area consisting of Federal Emergency
8 Management Agency Region IX.

9 (d) PREFERENCE FOR DESIGNATION OF CLOSED
10 MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.—Wherever possible, the Sec-
11 retary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Sec-
12 retary of Defense, shall designate a closed military instal-
13 lation as a site for a national emergency center. If the
14 Secretaries of Homeland Security and Defense jointly de-
15 termine that there is not a sufficient number of closed
16 military installations that meet the requirements of sub-
17 sections (b) and (c), the Secretaries shall jointly designate
18 portions of existing military installations other than closed
19 military installations as national emergency centers.

20 (e) TRANSFER OF CONTROL OF CLOSED MILITARY
21 INSTALLATIONS.—If a closed military installation is des-
22 igned as a national emergency center, not later than 180
23 days after the date of designation, the Secretary of De-
24 fense shall transfer to the Secretary of Homeland Security

1 administrative jurisdiction over such closed military instal-
2 lation.

3 (f) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR JOINT USE OF
4 EXISTING MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.—If an existing
5 military installation other than a closed military installa-
6 tion is designated as a national emergency center, not
7 later than 180 days after the date of designation, the Sec-
8 retary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of Defense
9 shall enter into a cooperative agreement to provide for the
10 establishment of the national emergency center.

11 (g) REPORTS.—

12 (1) PRELIMINARY REPORT.— Not later than 90
13 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
14 Secretary of Homeland Security, acting jointly with
15 the Secretary of Defense, shall submit to Congress
16 a report that contains for each designated site—

17 (A) an outline of the reasons why the site
18 was selected;

19 (B) an outline of the need to construct, re-
20 pair, or update any existing infrastructure at
21 the site;

22 (C) an outline of the need to conduct any
23 necessary environmental clean-up at the site;

24 (D) an outline of preliminary plans for the
25 transfer of control of the site from the Sec-

1 retary of Defense to the Secretary of Homeland
2 Security, if necessary under subsection (e); and

3 (E) an outline of preliminary plans for en-
4 tering into a cooperative agreement for the es-
5 tablishment of a national emergency center at
6 the site, if necessary under subsection (f).

7 (2) UPDATE REPORT.—Not later than 120 days
8 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
9 retary of Homeland Security, acting jointly with the
10 Secretary of Defense, shall submit to Congress a re-
11 port that contains for each designated site—

12 (A) an update on the information con-
13 tained in the report as required by paragraph
14 (1);

15 (B) an outline of the progress made to-
16 ward the transfer of control of the site, if nec-
17 essary under subsection (e);

18 (C) an outline of the progress made toward
19 entering a cooperative agreement for the estab-
20 lishment of a national emergency center at the
21 site, if necessary under subsection (f); and

22 (D) recommendations regarding any au-
23 thorizations and appropriations that may be
24 necessary to provide for the establishment of a
25 national emergency center at the site.

1 (3) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year
2 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
3 retary of Homeland Security, acting jointly with the
4 Secretary of Defense, shall submit to Congress a re-
5 port that contains for each designated site—

6 (A) finalized information detailing the
7 transfer of control of the site, if necessary
8 under subsection (e);

9 (B) the finalized cooperative agreement for
10 the establishment of a national emergency cen-
11 ter at the site, if necessary under subsection (f);
12 and

13 (C) any additional information pertinent to
14 the establishment of a national emergency cen-
15 ter at the site.

16 (4) ADDITIONAL REPORTS.—The Secretary of
17 Homeland Security, acting jointly with the Secretary
18 of Defense, may submit to Congress additional re-
19 ports as necessary to provide updates on steps being
20 taken to meet the requirements of this Act.

21 **SEC. 4. LIMITATIONS ON STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.**

22 This Act does not affect—

23 (1) the authority of the Federal Government to
24 provide emergency or major disaster assistance or to
25 implement any disaster mitigation and response pro-

1 gram, including any program authorized by the Rob-
2 ert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency As-
3 sistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.); or

4 (2) the authority of a State or local government
5 to respond to an emergency.

6 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

7 There is authorized to be appropriated \$125,000,000
8 for each of fiscal years 2006 and 2007 to carry out this
9 Act. Such funds shall remain available until expended.

10 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

11 In this Act, the following definitions apply:

12 (1) **CLOSED MILITARY INSTALLATION.**—The
13 term “closed military installation” means a military
14 installation, or portion thereof, approved for closure
15 in 2005 under the Defense Base Closure and Re-
16 alignment Act of 1990 (part A of title XXIX of
17 Public Law 101–510; 10 U.S.C. 2687 note).

18 (2) **EMERGENCY.**—The term “emergency” has
19 the meaning given such term in section 102 of the
20 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
21 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122).

22 (3) **MAJOR DISASTER.**—The term “major dis-
23 aster” has the meaning given such term in section
24 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
25 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122).

1 (4) MILITARY INSTALLATION.—The term “mili-
2 tary installation” has the meaning given such term
3 in section 2910 of the Defense Base Closure and Re-
4 alignment Act of 1990 (part A of title XXIX of
5 Public Law 101–510; 10 U.S.C. 2687 note).

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