



## U.S. Congressman **DUNCAN HUNTER**

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**National Security Update**



### Hunter to President: Keep Guantanamo Bay Open

At the same time additional combat forces deploy to Afghanistan to engage our terrorist enemies, the Obama Administration is moving forward with its plan to close the Guantanamo Bay prison facility.

Coinciding with this action, the Administration maintains that it will bring Khalid Sheikh Mohammed – the mastermind of the 9/11 attacks and other terrorists to trial through U.S. civilian courts, rather than the commissions process previously established by Congress.

“These decisions have not eliminated or even reduced the global terrorist threat,” said Congressman Hunter. “We are engaging a dangerous enemy in Afghanistan and elsewhere around the world. Preventing future attacks and keeping Americans safe – including those in uniform – depends on our ability to directly confront the terrorist threat. Guantanamo Bay is an important part of this effort and should remain open.”

Hunter continues to call on President Obama to reevaluate the decision to close Guantanamo Bay and reestablish the process for prosecuting terrorists outside the U.S. justice system.

***“Closing Guantanamo Bay unnecessarily raises the threat level for American communities and our military men and women leading the fight against terrorism.”***

***--- Congressman Hunter***

A recent report from the Department of Defense indicates that at least one in seven detainees have returned to terrorist activity after release from Guantanamo Bay. Many of these individuals returned to Afghanistan or Pakistan, rejoining al Qaeda and targeting coalition forces.

As evidenced by this fact, the detainee population at Guantanamo Bay consists of the most dangerous and irreconcilable combatants. The plan to close the facility and bring these dangerous terrorists to the United States, where they will likely be tried or released, fails to address the likelihood that detainees will resume terrorist activity on U.S. soil or abroad.

Recent incidents, such as the tragedy at Fort Hood or the attempted bombing of Northwest Flight 253, demonstrate the threat we continue to face and the importance of establishing a responsible security plan. These actions further underscore the importance of undertaking proactive and consistent steps in the ongoing effort to detect and disrupt potential acts of terrorism.

In addition to opposing the decision to close Guantanamo Bay and providing terrorists the same legal rights afforded American citizens, Congressman Hunter remains a strong advocate of strengthening intelligence gathering capability and enhancing coordination between our federal agencies and international partners.

Legislation introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman Hunter, **H.R. 633**, prevents the transfer of detainees from Guantanamo Bay to San Diego military bases.

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