

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1540, AS REPORTED**  
**OFFERED BY MR. WELCH OF VERMONT**

At the end of subtitle B of title XII, add the following new section:

1 **SEC. 1217. SAFE WITHDRAWAL OF UNITED STATES GROUND**  
2 **FORCES FROM AFGHANISTAN.**

3 (a) COMMENCEMENT OF WITHDRAWAL.—Except as  
4 provided in subsection (b), the Secretary of Defense, in  
5 consultation with military commanders and the Govern-  
6 ment of Afghanistan, shall commence a safe, responsible,  
7 and phased withdrawal of units and members of the Army  
8 and Marine Corps deployed in Afghanistan and military  
9 contractors operating in Afghanistan and funded using  
10 amounts appropriated to the Department of Defense.

11 (b) RETENTION OF FORCES FOR COUNTER-TERRORISM OPERATIONS.—The Secretary of Defense may  
12 continue to deploy units and members of the Army and  
13 Marine Corps in Afghanistan, and military contractors  
14 supporting such forces, to conduct small, targeted counter-  
15 terrorism operations.  
16

17 (c) WITHDRAWAL PLAN.—Not later than 60 days  
18 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
19 of Defense shall submit to Congress the plan for imple-

1 menting the withdrawal of United States ground forces,  
2 military equipment, and military contractors supporting  
3 such forces from Afghanistan as safely and quickly as pos-  
4 sible pursuant to subsection (a). The Secretary shall sub-  
5 mit additional reports on the progress of implementing the  
6 plan every 180 days thereafter.

