

**AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT
OF H.R. 1960
OFFERED BY MR. COLLINS OF NEW YORK**

Page 463, after line 6, insert the following:

1 **SEC. 1090. SENSE OF CONGRESS TO MAINTAIN A STRONG**
2 **NATIONAL GUARD AND MILITARY RESERVE**
3 **FORCE.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

5 (1) The first volunteer militia unit in America
6 was formed in 1636 in Massachusetts Bay, followed
7 by other units in the colonies of Virginia and Con-
8 necticut. The American founding fathers wrote arti-
9 cle I, section 8, of the United States Constitution to
10 keep the militia model, authorizing a standing mili-
11 tary force that could organize, train, and equip mili-
12 tia volunteers when needed.

13 (2) In World War I, nearly all National
14 Guardsmen were mobilized into Federal service, and
15 while they represented only 15 percent of the total
16 United States Army, they comprised 40 percent of
17 the American divisions sent to France and sustained
18 43 percent of the casualties in combat. In World
19 War II, the National Guard comprised 19 Army di-

1 visions and 29 observation squadrons with aircraft
2 assigned to the United States Army Air Forces.

3 (3) On September 11, 2001, the first fighter
4 jets over New York City and Washington, DC, were
5 Air National Guard F-15 and F-16 aircraft from
6 Massachusetts and North Dakota, with over 400
7 more Air National Guard fighter aircraft on alert by
8 that afternoon. Over 600,000 Air and Army Na-
9 tional Guard soldiers and airmen have deployed in
10 the many campaigns since 9/11.

11 (4) Air and Army National Guard soldiers and
12 airmen have been involved in countless domestic re-
13 sponse missions, including missions in response to
14 hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and forest fires includ-
15 ing the more recent events of Superstorm Sandy and
16 the tornados in Oklahoma.

17 (5) The volunteer National Guard and Reserve
18 have time and again demonstrated their readiness to
19 meet operational requirements through cost-effective
20 means.

21 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
22 gress that—

23 (1) the Secretary of Defense should make every
24 effort to ensure the Military Reserve and National
25 Guard forces are sustained by a fully manned and

1 fully funded force and that the United States fulfill
2 its longstanding commitment to unyielding readiness
3 in terms of defense;

4 (2) the Secretary of Defense should act with
5 the knowledge that the National Guard and Reserve
6 are critical components to the Armed Forces, par-
7 ticularly as means of preserving combat power dur-
8 ing a time of budget austerity; and

9 (3) Congress repudiates proposals to diminish
10 the National Guard or Reserve and affirms the
11 growth of these components as circumstances war-
12 rant.

