

New Defense Regulation, Based On Holt Amendment, Requires Personnel to Record Interrogations Conducted on Major U.S. Bases

(Washington, D.C.) – U.S. Rep. Rush Holt (NJ-12), Chair of the Select Intelligence Oversight Panel and a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, today highlighted a new Pentagon regulation that requires military personnel to videotape detainee interrogations conducted on major U.S. bases. The new rule is based on Holt's amendment in the Fiscal Year 2010 Department of Defense Authorization Act to maximize intelligence derived from interrogations and help prevent detainee abuses such as those that happened in Abu Ghraib. Holt has introduced a similar amendment, which would apply to CIA interrogations, in the Intelligence Authorization Bill.

"The Pentagon's long awaited regulation of the provision I secured in last year's National Defense Authorization Act continues the process of putting our detainee policies back on sound legal footing while improving our ability to get actionable intelligence," Holt said. "As President Obama and local law enforcement officials across the country already know, we get better intelligence and protect both the interrogator and the person being interrogated by requiring recordings."

These taped interrogations must be kept at the appropriate level of classification, and will be available to intelligence personnel who could examine them for any potential intelligence benefit. As stated in Holt's amendment and in the new rule, troops in the field in contact with the enemy are not required to videotape or otherwise electronically record tactical questioning sessions of detainees.

Videorecording of interrogations is already employed widely by U.S. law enforcement agencies, and it would help linguists and other counterterrorism specialists get the most information possible out of interrogations. When he was an Illinois State Senator, Barack Obama sponsored legislation to require law enforcement to videotape those in custody in capital cases.

###

