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news release

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DE LA GARZA PRAISES SUPER ARMORY AUTHORIZATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 30 September 1993

WASHINGTON--Texas Congressman Kika de la Garza said that a \$5.6 million "super armory" in Weslaco is closer to becoming a reality following the House passage of the Defense Authorization Act.

"This armory is good news for everyone," de la Garza said. "It streamlines the National Guard while keeping them a strong force, and it will inject millions into the area economy."

By including the armory in the authorization, five outdated and overcrowded South Texas armories will be consolidated into one. The authorization comes after months of efforts by Congressman de la Garza to work with the Texas National Guard Armory Board and the House Armed Services and Appropriations committees to fund and locate the facility in the 15th District. In June the House passed an appropriations bill which included the armory.

Texas National Guard officials estimate that the armory will employ some 70 people and will serve as the home base for up to 500 Guard troops. The creation of the super armory is part of a Congressional effort to have National Guard and Reserve forces construct facilities that reduce operating costs through the joint use of installations. The armory will house assembly and dining halls, a rifle range, classrooms and supply rooms, and the maintenance shop for the Bradley fighting vehicle.

The Defense Authorization Bill now moves to the Senate for further consideration.

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