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COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

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COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
Washington, DC, Wednesday, January 14, 2009.

The committee met, pursuant to call, at 10:00 a.m., in room 2118, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Ike Skelton (chairman of the committee) presiding.

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will come to order.

This is our organizational meeting for our members. The senior members, the previous members of earlier sessions, know that we start on time, and if you don't come on time, you will find yourself at the bottom of the totem pole when it comes to the questions to ask the witnesses.

We will do our best to live by the five-minute rule so everybody has an opportunity to ask questions. We ask that you be here on time and that we conduct our official business as rapidly as possible.

Thank you for being with us today. We have four items of official business to consider: the adoption of the committee rules; the approval of the committee's oversight plan; the approval of the committee's protocol for the handling of classified material; and last, but highly important, is the appointment of our fantastic committee staff.

We have 12 new members joining, 1 returning member. Ranking Member McHugh and I will welcome each of you individually a bit later. But let me begin by complimenting our Republican Conference for choosing such an excellent Ranking Member as John McHugh. I am absolutely thrilled. John has been an outstanding advocate on behalf of his constituents, the Army at Fort Drum, and the entire United States military for nearly two decades, and, beyond that, John has been a great friend. I look forward to our partnership in leading this committee and continuing its excellent bipartisan tradition that we have. I ask all of you to officially welcome and congratulate John McHugh.

[Applause.]

The CHAIRMAN. John, we will call on you just a bit later. Thank you.

Our committee continues to be in strong demand among new members. When I first came a good number of years ago, there were a good number of temporary members that had to be talked into taking a slot on this committee to fill it out. That is not the case today; it is in high demand. It is not only because of the enormous national security challenges, but due to the excellent work that we have accomplished in recent years.

We have continued to pass important, substantive, annual defense authorization bills—that is our job—even when many questioned the fact that it couldn't be done. I know we will continue the tradition of consistent, high-quality legislation with a bipartisan commitment.

One of our tasks here today is, adopt our oversight plan for the next two years. There is a plaque in front that states what our job is. It quotes the Constitution, Article I, Section 8, "The Congress shall have the power to raise and support armies . . . to provide and maintain a navy . . . and to make rules for the government and regulation for the land and naval forces."

We do that. We changed the culture, for instance, under the rules and regulations part of that constitutional provision back when we passed the, now well-known, Goldwater-Nichols jointness legislation, which, by the way, took us a little over four years to get done.

With a new Administration taking office, we remain engaged in two wars. Afghanistan clearly needs additional resources and a new strategic approach. We must ensure we eliminate the threat to the American homeland from the Afghan-Pakistan border. We must do what we can, carefully and responsibly, in drawing down forces in Iraq. At the same time, we must guard against future threats to this Nation by developing a solid national security system and a security strategy providing for the strength and readiness for our military and resetting its equipment and training capabilities. We must maintain the vitality of the all-volunteer force and ensure that we retain high-quality troops and their families. We must do all of this, and many other things, at a time when our Nation faces severe economic constraints. None of this, ladies and gentlemen, will be easy, but we are going to have to pull together to make it happen.

I truly hope—and I speak to our new members especially—I hope you enjoy the experience of this committee. I think it is the best committee in the House of Representatives. National security is of the highest importance. Be an active member. I want you to do more than just attend the hearings, though I want you to attend the hearings. Do your homework. Study for the upcoming hearing. Be ready to ask questions. Attend the subcommittee hearings. Educate yourself with readings and briefings, visits to military installations, whether they be domestic or abroad.

I found that we have at our fingertips, literally, the opportunity to have briefings on any subject we wish from our excellent staff. I have been the recipient of many staff briefings. The Library of Congress, CRS, Congressional Research Service, are tickled to death to give you a briefing on any subject. Give them a few days' notice, and they will come over and do it. The military itself will give you briefings. The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) gives briefings—the State Department. It is up to us to educate ourselves, to continually do that as a never-ending process.

I cannot say enough about our excellent staff. In a few moments, we will be officially hiring and rehiring them. I think they are the best in the House of Representatives, just real professionals.

Visit with our troops overseas when you can. They like to see you. They like to tell you what they are doing and why they think it is important as to why they are there.

Last, share your thoughts with your subcommittee chairmen, with your ranking members, and be as active as you possibly can. I know how my history professors and my law school professors felt when they addressed their students, because I think they had the attitude that this is the only course you are taking. I know you have other subcommittees, but I expect you to do your homework for this committee, and I guess my syndrome is like the professor that says, "You don't have anything else to worry about except this committee."

Well, thank you for being with us, and we look forward to working with you. On top of it, you will find through the years that you will make close friendships on both sides of the aisle in this committee, and, as a result, it makes your work all the more enjoyable and easy.

Let me introduce the members that we have. I will ask John McHugh to follow me with his opening remarks and introduction of others, if I may. But let me start with a member, and here he is, a member who is no stranger to our committee, Jim Langevin. We welcome him back from his leave of absence from our committee. Jim served on our committee during the 107th through the 109th Congresses and for a couple of months during the 110th, and we are thrilled to have him back.

Jim, welcome back. You are official now.

[Applause.]

The CHAIRMAN. Glenn Nye, representing the Second District of Virginia. Glenn, raise your hand.

Glenn represents one of the largest military populations in our country. His district includes numerous military installations, the world's largest naval station in Norfolk. Glenn is a former Foreign Service officer, who served in Kosovo, served in the West Bank, Afghanistan, most recently in Iraq.

Glenn, we are certainly pleased to have you with us, and we welcome you.

[Applause.]

The CHAIRMAN. From the First District of Maine, Chellie Pingree. Chellie's district is home to the Naval Air Station at Brunswick, the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. Chellie previously served as the senate majority leader in the Maine Senate, representing her island community of North Haven, Maine.

We are delighted, Chellie, to have you, and welcome you to our committee.

Chellie, raise your hand.

[Applause.]

The CHAIRMAN. Larry Kissell from the Eighth District of North Carolina. Larry's district includes part of Fort Bragg, home to the 18th Airborne, 82nd Airborne Division, Army Special Operations Command, and, of course, the Golden Knights, which we all know. Larry was a high school social studies teacher before joining us. We welcome him.

Larry, raise your hand so we can see you.

[Applause.]

The CHAIRMAN. This next gentleman got his start in the Fourth Congressional District of Missouri, so a special welcome to him. Martin Heinrich represents the First District of New Mexico. It has a sizable defense industry, including Kirtland Air Force Base, as well as the Department of Energy's Sandia National Laboratory. Prior to winning his congressional race, Martin served as the president of the Albuquerque City Council and, most important, born in Cole Camp, Missouri, in my district.

Raise your hand.

[Applause.]

The CHAIRMAN. If you think he has a Missouri drawl, it is real.

Frank Kratovil. Did I pronounce it correctly Frank? Frank comes from the First District in Maryland, a district home to a significant military and civilian population who work at nearby military installations, including the Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Fort Meade, Wallops Island and, of course, the Naval Academy. Frank previously served six years as the state's attorney of Queen Anne's County on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

Frank, would you raise your hand?

We welcome you, sir.

[Applause.]

The CHAIRMAN. From the 29th District of New York, Eric J.J. Massa. Some of us know Eric from his service as a staffer on our committee here. Eric is also a retired Navy commander and a former staffer to retired General Wes Clark. He brings a long resume in military policy; the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Officially, Eric, we welcome you back. Raise your hand.

[Applause.]

The CHAIRMAN. Finally, from the great State of Alabama let me introduce Bobby Bright from the Second District of Alabama, the home of Fort Rucker, Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base. Bobby is the former mayor of Montgomery, Alabama, for nine years. We are very excited to have a good Alabama friend with us.

Bobby Bright, raise your hand. Welcome.

[Applause.]

The CHAIRMAN. We hope you enjoy your experience and plan on working hard. We are fortunate to have such talented folks join our committee.

Now, let me recognize my friend, the gentleman from New York, for remarks and his introductions.

Mr. MCHUGH. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Just a couple of observations. It is amazing to me; I moved about, what, four and one half feet to the right, two chairs, and from over here there are so many more of you than there was just a couple of months ago. I am surprised by that perspective.

Let me join you, Mr. Chairman, in welcoming your new members. Let me say at the outset, I couldn't agree more with the Chairman of this distinguished committee. I share the view you are serving on the most important, the most bipartisan, and the most relevant committee in the House of Representatives, indeed, in the United States Congress. I salute you for having the wisdom, the intelligence, and the ability to be placed on it.

I would also say just as observation, I hope by the time I leave this Congress, I have as many reunion tours as Jim Langevin. He

rivals the Rolling Stones in entrances and exits. But I am absolutely thrilled that Jim is back with us. He and I served on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI) together.

Jim, it is great to see you here again. Thanks so much.

Mr. Chairman, I am going to start off my staff with the high blood pressure rate they have to get used to, and that is to ask you to submit my opening remarks in their entirety.

[The prepared statement of Mr. McHugh can be found in the Appendix on page 81.]

Let me make a few comments off-the-cuff, if I may. First of all, Mr. Chairman, thank you so much for your gracious comments. There is any number of reasons I am honored by this opportunity, the first of which, of course, is the faith and trust that my Conference, the Steering Committee and, most of all, the members on our side of the aisle have placed in me. But not far behind is the fact that I now have the opportunity to work with the gentleman in whom I have such great respect and admiration and affection.

One of the first trips I ever took as a Member of the United States House of Representatives, more particularly a House Armed Services Committee (HASC) member, was with Ike Skelton. He is a gentleman, he is a leader, he is an intellect. I pledge to you, Mr. Chairman, we are going to stand with you in the greatest traditions of this committee where we are provided the opportunity to work together hand in hand to advance the interests of the absolutely tremendous men and women in uniform who serve this Nation, who serve the interest of freedom, liberty, and democracy across this globe. I am looking forward to that, Ike, and I feel blessed for that chance, although I will look to you for leadership and guidance.

I would also say I was surprised to find under the dais here this morning a pile of very large and empty shoes. They represent the folks who have taken the position that I now have the high honor to hold on our side of the aisle; people like Duncan Hunter, our former full committee chairman, our most recent ranking member. People like Jim Saxton and folks who, frankly, I felt I would be still sitting on the left and learning from, who have done such a great job.

I pledge to my members particularly, but to the full committee, I will do everything I can not to fill those shoes, that is beyond my capabilities, but rather to try to uphold the traditions of caring, concern, and high regard that they brought to this committee room and to the responsibilities they held each and every day.

Mr. Chairman, as to our new members, you had a great draft class. We are all involved in sports right now. You have got National Football League (NFL) playoffs and basketball, and *et cetera, et cetera.* But I think we had a pretty good draft class, as well. I hope you will join me in welcoming our five new members.

First of all, Representative Mary Fallin. Mary is no stranger to this House. She was elected in 2006 from the Fifth District of Oklahoma. Prior to being elected to Congress, Mary held numerous elected offices in Oklahoma, including two terms as state representative, and certainly worth noting, she was the first woman

and the first Republican Lieutenant Governor for Oklahoma, elected in 1995.

I can tell you, no one on this committee worked harder, made more phone calls to me, and made a better argument than Mary in coming here, and her sole motivation was to try to advance the position, the welfare, and the interests of men and women in uniform. As well, of course, her presence on this committee will allow her to work with Congressman Boren to represent the significant military interests in Oklahoma, including Fort Sill, Vance Air Force Base, and Tinker Air Force Base, and we are just thrilled Mary is here with us this morning.

[Applause.]

Mr. MCHUGH. I should say, Mr. Chairman, that these are seated in order of rank. Seniority has nothing to do with age, has nothing to do with experience.

Next in line, Representative Duncan Hunter. You may have heard that name. You may not recognize the package. But much more handsome, much more attractive than the other Duncan Hunter, and we are hoping he will be just as effective. He doesn't need much more of an introduction than that.

Duncan was elected, "Little Dunc," to California's 52nd Congressional District, the district that his dad held for so many years in such distinction, last November. Following September 11th, like thousands upon thousands of other young Americans, Duncan volunteered to join the United States Marine Corps and has since served three combat tours; two in Iraq with the 1st Marine Division, and one in Afghanistan. We are looking forward to Duncan living up to that family name.

Duncan, welcome to you, sir.

[Applause.]

Mr. MCHUGH. Representative Mike Coffman was elected, as all our freshman class was, in 2008 to represent the fine and distinguished people of Colorado's Sixth District. As a former soldier and Marine, Mike served in the Gulf Wars as an infantry officer in Operation Iraqi Freedom, where he worked with the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq on two national elections, among other duties.

It is worth noting that Mike took a leave of absence from his elected positions in Colorado when he twice volunteered to serve his country in combat. We are so proud to have a warrior like Mike with us.

Welcome, sir, to this committee.

[Applause.]

Mr. MCHUGH. Representative Tom Rooney, representing Florida's 16th Congressional District. Tom served in the United States Army Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps, including a stint as a special assistant U.S. attorney at Fort Hood, and taught constitutional and criminal law at the United States Military Academy at West Point. I would be remiss if I didn't congratulate Tom, who holds a master's degree from the University of Florida, for that great institution's second national football championship in three years. We expect Tom to be a champion as well.

Tom, thanks much for joining us.

[Applause.]

Mr. MCHUGH. I jumped Mr. Fleming. Why did I do that? I have no idea, other than I missed it. Representative John Fleming was elected in November to represent Louisiana's Fourth Congressional District, the home of Fort Polk and Barksdale Air Force Base. John is a family physician and served as a medical officer in the United States Navy. As someone who most immediately comes from the Personnel Subcommittee, I can tell you we not only look forward to, but need his contributions to the committee, especially as we grapple with the increasing costs of providing our military men and women and their families with world-class health care.

John, welcome. I apologize. It won't happen again.

[Applause.]

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Chairman, I would now yield back to you, and I thank you for your courtesy.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, John, for your comments, and we are off to a great start. The longest distance in the world is the distance between the front row and the top row. I remember so well when I sat on the front row.

I must tell you an experience I had when I was a freshman on this committee when I joined it in late 1980. The Army came to me and asked me to offer a noncontroversial amendment at the time of a markup for a three million dollar United States Army Museum here in Washington, D.C. "Yeah, be glad to do it. Noncontroversial." So, the markup came, the time came. In the military construction portion I offered my amendment for the noncontroversial United States Army Museum. Every member, Democrat and Republican, on the top row, took off on this amendment, telling me what a horrible, and telling the whole audience what a horrible idea this was. I got three votes from my committee.

Mr. MCHUGH. I was one.

The CHAIRMAN. That's fantastic!

Mr. MCHUGH. I was proud to go down in flames with you.

The CHAIRMAN. Isn't that wonderful? So we hope that——

[Laughter.]

Mr. SPRATT. Ike, tell them about the time you proposed admirals be called commodores before they advanced to the rank of admiral.

The CHAIRMAN. John, thank you.

[Laughter.]

The CHAIRMAN. You will learn that if you really work on a narrow subject, you will own it. And no one is going to try and take it away from you.

We passed the Defense Officer Personnel Management Act (DOPMA) legislation that created a one-star rank in the United States military. They called it "commodore admiral." But it didn't go into effect for a year. And knowing a little bit of naval history, I offered an amendment, got it through, to change the rank from commodore admiral to commodore. It stuck for three years. And those who were most upset about it were the spouses of those who became commodores, because they had stuck it out with their Navy spouse, and they thought they were going to be admirals, and all of a sudden this guy Skelton makes commodores out of them. After three years of being badgered by commodores and admirals and the Secretary of the Navy, I relented, and it is now "rear admiral

(lower half)." You have to have a little fun along the way. So if you pick up a subject like that, sail on and go get it.

[Laughter.]

The CHAIRMAN. Enough of our stories. John, it is great to have you.

Before you is a copy of the Committee Resolution No. 1 concerning the Committee Rules for the 111th Congress. The rules package was coordinated with Mr. McHugh and subsequently provided to all members on Monday, the 12th. Most of the changes in the rules are intended to either make our committee practice and rules to be consistent, or they are intended to conform to the Rules of the House. There are also a handful of miscellaneous and technical changes.

[The following information was submitted for the record.]

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION NO. 1

Resolved, That the Committee on Armed Services, U.S. House of Representatives, adopt the committee rules for the 111th Congress, which are stated in the copy before each Member.

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
111TH CONGRESS

RULE 1. APPLICATION OF HOUSE RULES

The Rules of the House of Representatives are the rules of the Committee on Armed Services (hereinafter referred to in these rules as the "Committee") and its subcommittees so far as applicable.

RULE 2. FULL COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

(a) The Committee shall meet every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., when the House of Representatives is in session, and at such other times as may be fixed by the Chairman of the Committee (hereinafter referred to as the "Chairman"), or by written request of members of the Committee pursuant to clause 2(c) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(b) A Wednesday meeting of the Committee may be dispensed with by the Chairman, but such action may be reversed by a written request of a majority of the members of the Committee.

RULE 3. SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATES

Each subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive evidence, and report to the Committee on all matters referred to it. Insofar as possible, meetings of the Committee and its subcommittees shall not conflict. A subcommittee Chairman shall set meeting dates after consultation with the Chairman, other subcommittee Chairmen, and the Ranking Minority Member of the subcommittee with a view toward avoiding, whenever possible, simultaneous scheduling of Committee and subcommittee meetings or hearings.

RULE 4. JURISDICTION AND MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEES

(a) Jurisdiction

(1) The Committee retains jurisdiction of all subjects listed in clause 1(c) and clause 3(b) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives and retains exclusive jurisdiction for: defense policy generally, ongoing military operations, the organization and reform of the Department of Defense and Department of Energy, counter-drug programs, security and humanitarian assistance (except special operations-related activities) of the Department of Defense, acquisition and industrial base policy, technology transfer and export controls, joint interoperability, the

Cooperative Threat Reduction program, Department of Energy nonproliferation programs, detainee affairs and policy, and inter-agency reform as it pertains to the Department of Defense and the nuclear weapons programs of the Department of Energy. While subcommittees are provided jurisdictional responsibilities in subparagraph (2), the Committee retains the right to exercise oversight and legislative jurisdiction over all subjects within its purview under rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(2) The Committee shall be organized to consist of seven standing subcommittees with the following jurisdictions:

Subcommittee on Air and Land Forces: All Army and Air Force acquisition programs (except strategic missiles, special operations and information technology programs). In addition, the subcommittee will be responsible for deep strike bombers and related systems, National Guard and Army and Air Force reserve modernization, and ammunition programs.

Subcommittee on Military Personnel: Military personnel policy, reserve component integration and employment issues, military health care, military education, and POW/MIA issues. In addition, the subcommittee will be responsible for Morale, Welfare and Recreation issues and programs.

Subcommittee on Readiness: Military readiness, training, logistics and maintenance issues and programs. In addition, the subcommittee will be responsible for all military construction, installations and family housing issues, including the base closure process, and energy policy and programs of the Department of Defense.

Subcommittee on Seapower and Expeditionary Forces: Navy and Marine Corps acquisition programs (except strategic weapons, space, special operations, and information technology programs) and Naval Reserve equipment. In addition, the subcommittee will be responsible for maritime programs under the jurisdiction of the Committee as delineated in paragraphs 5, 6, and 9 of clause 1(c) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces: Strategic weapons (except deep strike bombers and related systems), space programs, ballistic missile defense, intelligence policy and national programs, and Department of Energy national security programs (except non-proliferation programs).

Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities: Department of Defense counter-proliferation and counter-terrorism programs and initiatives. In addition, the subcommittee will be responsible for Special Operations Forces; science and technology policy, including the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and information technology programs; force protection policy; homeland defense and consequence management programs within the Committee's jurisdiction; and related intelligence support.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations: Any matter within the jurisdiction of the Committee, subject to the concurrence of the Chairman of the Committee and, as appropriate, affected subcommittee chairmen. The subcommittee shall have no legislative jurisdiction.

(b) Membership of the Subcommittees

(1) Subcommittee memberships, with the exception of membership on the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, shall be filled in accordance with the rules of the Majority party's caucus and the Minority party's conference, respectively.

(2) The Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations shall be filled in accordance with the rules of the Majority party's caucus and the Minority party's conference, respectively. Consistent with the party ratios established by the Majority party, all other Majority members of the subcommittee shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Committee, and all other Minority members shall be appointed by the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee.

(3) The Chairman of the Committee and Ranking Minority Member thereof may sit as ex officio members of all subcommittees. Ex officio members shall not vote in subcommittee hearings or meetings or be taken into consideration for the purpose of determining the ratio of the subcommittees or establishing a quorum at subcommittee hearings or meetings.

(4) A member of the Committee who is not a member of a particular subcommittee may sit with the subcommittee and participate during any of its hearings but shall not have authority to vote, cannot be counted for the purpose of achieving a quorum, and cannot raise a point of order at the hearing.

RULE 5. COMMITTEE PANELS AND TASK FORCES

(a) Committee Panels

(1) The Chairman may designate a panel of the Committee consisting of members of the Committee to inquire into and take testimony on a matter or matters that fall within the jurisdiction of more than one subcommittee and to report to the Committee.

(2) No panel appointed by the Chairman shall continue in existence for more than six months after the appointment. A panel so appointed may, upon the expiration of six months, be reappointed by the Chairman for a period of time which is not to exceed six months.

(3) Consistent with the party ratios established by the Majority party, all Majority members of the panels shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Committee, and all Minority members shall be appointed by the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee. The Chairman of the Committee shall choose one of the Majority members so appointed who does not currently chair another subcommittee of the Committee to serve as Chairman of the panel. The Ranking Minority Member of the Committee shall similarly choose the Ranking Minority Member of the panel.

(4) No panel shall have legislative jurisdiction.

(b) Committee and Subcommittee Task Forces

(1) The Chairman of the Committee, or a Chairman of a subcommittee with the concurrence of the Chairman of the Committee, may designate a task force to inquire into and take testimony on a matter that falls within the jurisdiction of the Committee or subcommittee, respectively. The Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee or subcommittee shall each appoint an equal number of members to the task force. The Chairman of the Committee or subcommittee shall choose one of the members so appointed, who does not currently chair another subcommittee of the Committee, to serve as Chairman of the task force. The Ranking Minority Member of the Committee or subcommittee shall similarly appoint the Ranking Minority Member of the task force.

(2) No task force appointed by the Chairman of the Committee or subcommittee shall continue in existence for more than three months. A task force may only be reappointed for an additional three months with the written concurrence of the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee or subcommittee whose Chairman appointed the task force.

(3) No task force shall have legislative jurisdiction.

RULE 6. REFERENCE AND CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION

(a) The Chairman shall refer legislation and other matters to the appropriate subcommittee or to the full Committee.

(b) Legislation shall be taken up for a hearing or markup only when called by the Chairman of the Committee or subcommittee, as appropriate, or by a majority of the Committee or subcommittee, as appropriate.

(c) The Chairman, with approval of a majority vote of a quorum of the Committee, shall have authority to discharge a subcommittee from consideration of any measure or matter referred thereto and have such measure or matter considered by the Committee.

(d) Reports and recommendations of a subcommittee may not be considered by the Committee until after the intervention of three calendar days from the time the report is

approved by the subcommittee and available to the members of the Committee, except that this rule may be waived by a majority vote of a quorum of the Committee.

(e) The Chairman, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, shall establish criteria for recommending legislation and other matters to be considered by the House of Representatives, pursuant to clause 1 of rule XV of the Rules of the House of Representatives. Such criteria shall not conflict with the Rules of the House of Representatives and other applicable rules.

RULE 7. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF HEARINGS

Pursuant to clause 2(g)(3) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Chairman of the Committee, or of any subcommittee, panel, or task force, shall make public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of any hearing before that body at least one week before the commencement of the hearing. However, if the Chairman of the Committee, or of any subcommittee, panel, or task force, with the concurrence of the respective Ranking Minority Member, determines that there is good cause to begin the hearing sooner, or if the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force so determines by majority vote, a quorum being present for the transaction of business, such chairman shall make the announcement at the earliest possible date. Any announcement made under this rule shall be promptly published in the Daily Digest, promptly entered into the committee scheduling service of the House Information Resources, and promptly posted to the internet web page maintained by the Committee.

RULE 8. BROADCASTING OF COMMITTEE HEARINGS AND MEETINGS

Clause 4 of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives shall apply to the Committee.

RULE 9. MEETINGS AND HEARINGS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

(a) Each hearing and meeting for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, conducted by the Committee, or any subcommittee, panel, or task force, to the extent that the respective body is authorized to conduct markups, shall be open to the public except when the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force in open session and with a majority being present, determines by record vote that all or part of the remainder of that hearing or meeting on that day shall be in executive session because disclosure of testimony, evidence, or other matters to be considered would endanger the national security, would compromise sensitive law enforcement information, or would violate any law or rule of the House of Representatives. Notwithstanding the requirements of the preceding sentence, a majority of those present, there being in attendance no fewer than two members of the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force may vote to close a hearing or meeting for the sole purpose of discussing whether testimony or evidence to be received would endanger the national security, would compromise sensitive law enforcement information, or would violate any law or rule of the House of Representatives. If the decision is to proceed in executive session, the vote

must be by record vote and in open session, a majority of the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force being present.

(b) Whenever it is asserted by a member of the Committee or subcommittee that the evidence or testimony at a hearing may tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person, or it is asserted by a witness that the evidence or testimony that the witness would give at a hearing may tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate the witness, notwithstanding the requirements of (a) and the provisions of clause 2(g)(2) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, such evidence or testimony shall be presented in executive session, if by a majority vote of those present, there being in attendance no fewer than two members of the Committee or subcommittee, the Committee or subcommittee determines that such evidence may tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person. A majority of those present, there being in attendance no fewer than two members of the Committee or subcommittee may also vote to close the hearing or meeting for the sole purpose of discussing whether evidence or testimony to be received would tend to defame, degrade or incriminate any person. The Committee or subcommittee shall proceed to receive such testimony in open session only if the Committee or subcommittee, a majority being present, determines that such evidence or testimony will not tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person.

(c) Notwithstanding the foregoing, and with the approval of the Chairman, each member of the Committee may designate by letter to the Chairman, only one member of that member's personal staff, which may include fellows, with Top Secret security clearance to attend hearings of the Committee, or that member's subcommittee(s), panel(s), or task force(s) (excluding briefings or meetings held under the provisions of committee rule 9(a)), which have been closed under the provisions of rule 9(a) above for national security purposes for the taking of testimony. The attendance of such a staff member or fellow at such hearings is subject to the approval of the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force as dictated by national security requirements at that time. The attainment of any required security clearances is the responsibility of individual members of the Committee.

(d) Pursuant to clause 2(g)(2) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, no Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner may be excluded from nonparticipatory attendance at any hearing of the Committee or a subcommittee, unless the House of Representatives shall by majority vote authorize the Committee or subcommittee, for purposes of a particular series of hearings on a particular article of legislation or on a particular subject of investigation, to close its hearings to Members, Delegates, and the Resident Commissioner by the same procedures designated in this rule for closing hearings to the public.

(e) The Committee or the subcommittee may vote, by the same procedure, to meet in executive session for up to five additional consecutive days of hearings.

RULE 10. QUORUM

(a) For purposes of taking testimony and receiving evidence, two members shall constitute a quorum.

(b) One-third of the members of the Committee or subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for taking any action, with the following exceptions, in which case a majority of the Committee or subcommittee shall constitute a quorum:

(1) Reporting a measure or recommendation;

(2) Closing Committee or subcommittee meetings and hearings to the public;

(3) Authorizing the issuance of subpoenas;

(4) Authorizing the use of executive session material; and

(5) Voting to proceed in open session after voting to close to discuss whether evidence or testimony to be received would tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person.

(c) No measure or recommendation shall be reported to the House of Representatives unless a majority of the Committee is actually present.

RULE 11. THE FIVE-MINUTE RULE

(a) Subject to rule 15, the time any one member may address the Committee or subcommittee on any measure or matter under consideration shall not exceed five minutes and then only when the member has been recognized by the Chairman or subcommittee chairman, as appropriate, except that this time limit may be exceeded by unanimous consent. Any member, upon request, shall be recognized for not more than five minutes to address the Committee or subcommittee on behalf of an amendment which the member has offered to any pending bill or resolution. The five-minute limitation shall not apply to the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee or subcommittee.

(b)(1) Members who are present at a hearing of the Committee or subcommittee when a hearing is originally convened shall be recognized by the Chairman or subcommittee chairman, as appropriate, in order of seniority. Those members arriving subsequently shall be recognized in order of their arrival. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member will take precedence upon their arrival. In recognizing members to question witnesses in this fashion, the Chairman shall take into consideration the ratio of the Majority to Minority members present and shall establish the order of recognition for questioning in such a manner as not to disadvantage the members of either party.

(2) Pursuant to rule 4 and subject to rule 15, a member of the Committee who is not a member of a subcommittee may be recognized by a subcommittee chairman in

order of their arrival and after all present subcommittee members have been recognized.

(3) The Chairman of the Committee or a subcommittee, with the concurrence of the respective Ranking Minority Member, may depart with the regular order for questioning which is specified in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this rule provided that such a decision is announced prior to the hearing or prior to the opening statements of the witnesses and that any such departure applies equally to the Majority and the Minority.

(c) No person other than a Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner of Congress and committee staff may be seated in or behind the dais area during Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force hearings and meetings.

RULE 12. POWER TO SIT AND ACT; SUBPOENA POWER

(a) For the purpose of carrying out any of its functions and duties under rules X and XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee and any subcommittee is authorized (subject to subparagraph (b)(1) of this paragraph):

(1) to sit and act at such times and places within the United States, whether the House is in session, has recessed, or has adjourned, and to hold hearings, and

(2) to require by subpoena, or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memorandums, papers and documents, including, but not limited to, those in electronic form, as it considers necessary.

(b)(1) A subpoena may be authorized and issued by the Committee, or any subcommittee with the concurrence of the full Committee Chairman and after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee, under subparagraph (a)(2) in the conduct of any investigation, or series of investigations or activities, only when authorized by a majority of the members voting, a majority of the Committee or subcommittee being present. Authorized subpoenas shall be signed only by the Chairman, or by any member designated by the Committee.

(2) Pursuant to clause 2(m) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, compliance with any subpoena issued by the Committee or any subcommittee under subparagraph (a)(2) may be enforced only as authorized or directed by the House of Representatives.

RULE 13. WITNESS STATEMENTS

(a) Any prepared statement to be presented by a witness to the Committee or a subcommittee shall be submitted to the Committee or subcommittee at least 48 hours in advance of presentation and shall be distributed to all members of the Committee or

subcommittee as soon as practicable but not less than 24 hours in advance of presentation. A copy of any such prepared statement shall also be submitted to the Committee in electronic form. If a prepared statement contains national security information bearing a classification of Secret or higher, the statement shall be made available in the Committee rooms to all members of the Committee or subcommittee as soon as practicable but not less than 24 hours in advance of presentation; however, no such statement shall be removed from the Committee offices. The requirement of this rule may be waived by a majority vote of the Committee or subcommittee, a quorum being present. In cases where a witness does not submit a statement by the time required under this rule, the Chairman of the Committee or subcommittee, as appropriate, with the concurrence of the respective Ranking Minority Member, may elect to exclude the witness from the hearing.

(b) The Committee and each subcommittee shall require each witness who is to appear before it to file with the Committee in advance of his or her appearance a written statement of the proposed testimony and to limit the oral presentation at such appearance to a brief summary of the submitted written statement.

RULE 14. ADMINISTERING OATHS TO WITNESSES

(a) The Chairman, or any member designated by the Chairman, may administer oaths to any witness.

(b) Witnesses, when sworn, shall subscribe to the following oath:

> "Do you solemnly swear (or affirm) that the testimony you will give before this Committee (or subcommittee) in the matters now under consideration will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?"

RULE 15. QUESTIONING OF WITNESSES

(a) When a witness is before the Committee or a subcommittee, members of the Committee or subcommittee may put questions to the witness only when recognized by the Chairman or subcommittee chairman, as appropriate, for that purpose according to rule 11 of the Committee.

(b) Members of the Committee or subcommittee who so desire shall have not more than five minutes to question each witness or panel of witnesses, the responses of the witness or witnesses being included in the five-minute period, until such time as each member has had an opportunity to question each witness or panel of witnesses. Thereafter, additional rounds for questioning witnesses by members are within the discretion of the Chairman or subcommittee chairman, as appropriate.

(c) Questions put to witnesses before the Committee or subcommittee shall be pertinent to the measure or matter that may be before the Committee or subcommittee for consideration.

RULE 16. PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE HEARINGS AND MARKUPS

The transcripts of those hearings conducted by the Committee, subcommittee, or panel will be published officially in verbatim form, with the material requested for the record inserted at that place requested, or at the end of the record, as appropriate. The transcripts of markups conducted by the Committee or any subcommittee may be published officially in verbatim form. Any requests to correct any errors, other than those in transcription, will be appended to the record, and the appropriate place where the change is requested will be footnoted. Any transcript published under this rule shall include the results of record votes conducted in the session covered by the transcript and shall also include materials that have been submitted for the record and are covered under rule 19. The handling and safekeeping of these materials shall fully satisfy the requirements of rule 20. No transcript of an executive session conducted under rule 9 shall be published under this rule.

RULE 17. VOTING AND ROLLCALLS

(a) Voting on a measure or matter may be by record vote, division vote, voice vote, or unanimous consent.

(b) A record vote shall be ordered upon the request of one-fifth of those members present.

(c) No vote by any member of the Committee or a subcommittee with respect to any measure or matter shall be cast by proxy.

(d) In the event of a vote or votes, when a member is in attendance at any other committee, subcommittee, or conference committee meeting during that time, the necessary absence of that member shall be so noted in the record vote record, upon timely notification to the Chairman by that member.

(e) The Chairman of the Committee or a subcommittee, as appropriate, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member or the most senior Minority member who is present at the time, may elect to postpone requested record votes until such time or point at a markup as is mutually decided. When proceedings resume on a postponed question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, the underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

RULE 18. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) If, at the time of approval of any measure or matter by the Committee, any member of the Committee gives timely notice of intention to file supplemental, Minority, additional

or dissenting views, that member shall be entitled to not less than two calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays except when the House is in session on such days) in which to file such views, in writing and signed by that member, with the Staff Director of the Committee, or the Staff Director's designee. All such views so filed by one or more members of the Committee shall be included within, and shall be a part of, the report filed by the Committee with respect to that measure or matter.

(b) With respect to each record vote on a motion to report any measure or matter, and on any amendment offered to the measure or matter, the total number of votes cast for and against, the names of those voting for and against, and a brief description of the question, shall be included in the Committee report on the measure or matter.

RULE 19. PUBLIC INSPECTION OF COMMITTEE ROLLCALLS

The result of each record vote in any meeting of the Committee shall be made available by the Committee for inspection by the public at reasonable times in the offices of the Committee. Information so available for public inspection shall include a description of the amendment, motion, order, or other proposition and the name of each member voting for and each member voting against such amendment, motion, order, or proposition and the names of those members present but not voting.

RULE 20. PROTECTION OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND OTHER INFORMATION

(a) Except as provided in clause 2(g) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, all national security information bearing a classification of Secret or higher which has been received by the Committee or a subcommittee shall be deemed to have been received in executive session and shall be given appropriate safekeeping.

(b) The Chairman of the Committee shall, with the approval of a majority of the Committee, establish such procedures as in his judgment may be necessary to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of any national security information that is received which is classified as Secret or higher. Such procedures shall, however, ensure access to this information by any member of the Committee or any other Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner of the House of Representatives, staff of the Committee, or staff designated under rule 9(c) who have the appropriate security clearances and the need to know, who has requested the opportunity to review such material.

(c) The Chairman of the Committee shall, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, establish such procedures as in his judgment may be necessary to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of any proprietary information that is received by the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force. Such procedures shall be consistent with the Rules of the House of Representatives and applicable law.

RULE 21. COMMITTEE STAFFING

The staffing of the Committee, the standing subcommittees, and any panel or task force designated by the Chairman or chairmen of the subcommittees shall be subject to the Rules of the House of Representatives.

RULE 22. COMMITTEE RECORDS

The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available for public use in accordance with rule VII of the Rules of the House of Representatives. The Chairman shall notify the Ranking Minority Member of any decision, pursuant to clause 3(b)(3) or clause 4(b) of rule VII, to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the Committee for a determination on the written request of any member of the Committee.

RULE 23. HEARING PROCEDURES

Clause 2(k) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives shall apply to the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN. At this time I ask our Staff Director, Erin Conaton, to summarize in 25 words or less the key differences between the Rules of the last Congress and those set before you in Resolution No. 1.

Ms. CONATON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be very brief. And if people have questions, we can certainly entertain these from the witness table.

As the Chairman indicated, the changes from the 110th Congress Rules are very minimal. They are done in order to conform the Committee Rules either with longtime committee practice or with the Rules of the House. There are a couple of small changes to the jurisdictions listed in rule 4, basically to acknowledge the fact that the full committee for some time now has been working on security assistance in the form of authorities like 1206, 1207, things you have come to know over time. So we have explicitly put that in the Rules. Also, interagency reform, to the extent that it relates to the Department of Defense's role in that interagency reform. We have also acknowledged explicitly that the Readiness Subcommittee has been working on energy policy issues, particularly in the last Congress and going forward in the 111th.

In terms of conforming the Committee Rules to our actual practice, the Rules reflect an ability for members who do not serve on a particular subcommittee to attend a subcommittee meeting and to ask questions, not to vote on markups, but to take part in hearings, which we have done for some time. It also allows the Chairman, with the Ranking Member, to recommend guidelines for how suspension bills are reported for consideration on the House floor. It also conforms our Rules with House Rules that says that the Chairman or a majority of the committee members can convene a committee meeting to consider a measure. The previous committee rule permitted the Chairman or a majority of members present and voting. It is a small change just to conform with House Rules.

It also explicitly acknowledges that Mr. Skelton and Mr. McHugh, as Chairman and Ranking Member, will hold ex officio status on all subcommittees of the committee, and allows the Chairman, in consultation with Mr. McHugh, to lay out guidelines for proprietary information that may come into the committee's possession.

Other than small technical changes, those are the main items in the Committee Rules. I don't know if I got under 25 words, but I tried.

The CHAIRMAN. You are close.

Any discussion?

Any amendments?

If there are no amendments, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina, Mr. Spratt, for the purpose of offering a motion regarding Resolution No. 1.

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Chairman, I move to adopt Committee Resolution No. 1 concerning the Committee Rules for the 111th Congress.

The CHAIRMAN. The question occurs on the motion of the gentleman from South Carolina, Mr. Spratt. So many as in favor, say aye.

Opposed, no.

The ayes have it. Committee Resolution No. 1 is agreed to, and, without objection, a motion to reconsider is laid upon the table.

Of course, without objection, committee staff is authorized to make technical and conforming changes to reflect the actions of this committee.

The next order of business, adoption of the committee's oversight plan. House Rules require all House committees to adopt an oversight plan no later than February 15. Members have before them a copy of the proposed oversight plan for the 111th Congress. As was the case with the Rules package, the oversight plan was provided to all members on the 12th of January. It includes the broad range of issues that the committee will be considering, and has been developed in consultation with our anticipated subcommittee chairs, as well as coordinated with Mr. McHugh and his staff.

[The following information was submitted for the record.]

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION NO. 2

Resolved, That the Committee on Armed Services, U.S. House of Representatives, adopt the committee oversight plan for the 111th Congress, a copy of which is before each Member.

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

111th Congress

Oversight Plan

This oversight plan is filed pursuant to clause 2(d) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives that requires that, not later than February 15 of the first session of a Congress, each standing committee of the House shall adopt its oversight plan for that Congress.

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INTRODUCTION

The oversight responsibilities of the Committee on Armed Services are conducted throughout the calendar year. They are instrumental in the committee's consideration of the annual defense authorization bill, which covers the breadth of the operations of the Department of Defense (DOD) as well as the national security functions of the Department of Energy and other related areas. The annual national defense budget involves millions of military and civilian personnel, thousands of facilities, and hundreds of agencies, departments, and commands located throughout the world. The DOD involvement in two large ongoing contingency operations will continue to expand the range of topics requiring committee oversight including strategic, operational, and budgetary issues of great scope and complexity.

The committee has jurisdiction over laws, programs, and agencies under permanent authority in numerous titles of the United States Code, including titles 10 (Armed Forces), 32 (National Guard), 37 (Pay and Allowances of the Uniformed Services), 42 (Atomic Energy), 46 (Shipping), and 50 (War and National Defense).

The jurisdiction of the committee, pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives is as follows:

1. Ammunition depots; forts; arsenals; Army, Navy, and Air Force reservations and establishments.
2. Common defense generally.
3. Conservation, development, and use of naval petroleum and oil shale reserves.
4. The Department of Defense generally, including the Departments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force generally.
5. Interoceanic canals generally, including measures relating to the maintenance, operation, and administration of interoceanic canals.
6. Merchant Marine Academy, and State Merchant Marine Academies.
7. Military applications of nuclear energy.
8. Tactical intelligence and intelligence related activities of the Department of Defense.
9. National security aspects of merchant marine, including financial assistance for the construction and operation of vessels, the maintenance of the U.S. shipbuilding and ship repair industrial base, cabotage, cargo preference, and merchant marine officers and seamen as these matters relate to national security.
10. Pay, promotion, retirement, and other benefits and privileges of members of the armed services.
11. Scientific research and development in support of the armed services.
12. Selective service.
13. Size and composition of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force.
14. Soldiers' and sailors' homes.

15. Strategic and critical materials necessary for the common defense.

In addition to its legislative jurisdiction and general oversight function, the committee has special oversight functions with respect to international arms control and disarmament and the education of military dependents in schools pursuant to clause 3(g) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

OVERSIGHT AGENDA

The committee will continue its oversight and assessment of threats to U.S. national security as it considers the fiscal year 2010 and fiscal year 2011 defense budget requests. This effort will involve appropriate oversight hearings with the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the individual service secretaries and chiefs of staff, combatant commanders, other officials of the Department of Defense and the military departments, officials from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, Central Intelligence Agency and other defense-related intelligence agencies, and the Secretary of Energy, the Under Secretary for Nuclear Security and other officials of the Department of Energy. In addition, the committee will invite the views and perspectives of outside experts in academia, industry, associations and advocacy organizations, and those in private life on these matters. Finally, the committee will continue its aggressive outreach program to seek the views and perspectives of service members and their families to include active duty, National Guard, and reserve members across the United States and at deployed locations overseas.

The committee carries out its oversight of the Department of Defense and its subordinate departments and agencies as well as portions of the Department of Energy through activities involving the full committee and its standing subcommittees. Each subcommittee conducts oversight of the programs within its jurisdiction as specified in the committee's rules.

During the 110th Congress, the committee reestablished the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. Pursuant to Committee Rule 4, as in the 110th Congress, the subcommittee will conduct oversight and investigations regarding any matter within the jurisdiction of the committee, subject to the concurrence of the Chairman of the committee and, as appropriate, the Chairman or Chairmen of the subcommittee or subcommittees with legislative jurisdiction over the matter, and with consultation of the appropriate Ranking Minority Member or Members. The subcommittee's work will include not only its own separate subcommittee hearings and reports, but also will support the hearings and oversight responsibilities of the other subcommittees and the full committee in their authorization and legislative responsibilities.

The oversight agenda below, unless otherwise noted, is designed to support the consideration by the committee and, ultimately, the House of Representatives of the annual defense authorization bill as well as the committee's broader oversight responsibilities. The issues identified are expected to be ongoing areas of oversight activity throughout the 111th Congress. In addition, the committee will continue to pay particular attention to the mandates placed on executive departments and agencies by the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (Public Law 103-62). The committee will examine closely the progress of the Department of Defense, the military departments, and the Department of Energy in

implementing Public Law 103-62 to include the use of performance-based budgeting techniques and five-year strategic planning documents, for programs within its jurisdiction. In this context, pursuant to clause 2(d)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the committee will also examine relevant rules, regulations, statutes, and court decisions affecting the Department of Defense and the Department of Energy for their effects on efficiency and good management practices.

Given the unique nature of national security issues and related oversight of the armed forces, the committee reiterates that the oversight agenda is subject to the emergence of unforeseen events that may displace previously planned activities. Such events significantly complicate the ability to prescribe with great accuracy or specificity the entire oversight agenda of the committee. For instance, the oversight of defense activities by the committee has historically involved in-depth assessments of military operations and other major events that are generally difficult to predict in advance, such as emerging operational issues in the Republic of Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and responses to catastrophic events. These reviews can dominate committee and staff resources, sometimes at the expense of other planned activities. The committee fully expects that this type of event-driven oversight will continue to be required.

The Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations' agenda, even more than that of the full committee, will be difficult to predict over the coming two-year time period. As appropriate, the subcommittee will continue its oversight in areas it addressed in the 110th Congress. The subcommittee also will respond to concerns brought by all members of the committee, by other Members of Congress, and by other parties, within and outside the government. The subcommittee will pursue coordinated and constructive oversight that will identify best practices and model organizations as well as those areas in need of correction and reform within the Department of Defense and the other related areas within the committee's jurisdiction.

The committee has a long tradition of translating oversight activities into prescriptive legislative action as reflected in past comprehensive efforts such as: providing for concurrent receipt of retirement and disability benefits for veterans with qualifying combat-related disabilities; reforming the military retirement system; the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-433); the Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act of 1991 (Public Law 101-510); the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-355); the Federal Acquisition Reform Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-106); the establishment of the National Nuclear Security Administration and related reform of the management of the national security programs of the Department of Energy; reform of the military health care system; and the Military Commissions Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-366). Additionally, in the 110th Congress, the committee played a lead role in the passage of the Wounded Warrior Assistance Act of 2007 and the Acquisition Improvement and Accountability Act of 2007 as included in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181), the Reconstruction and Stabilization Civilian Management Act of 2008 and the Clean Contracting Act of 2008 as included in the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417) and will continue to oversee these legislative provisions in the 111th Congress. In general, the committee will continue to maintain a strong linkage between formal oversight efforts and legislative initiatives.

In addition to the above, the following specific areas and subjects are identified for special attention during the 111th Congress.

POLICY ISSUES

National Defense Strategy, National Military Strategy, and Related Defense Policy Issues

The committee is committed to ensuring that the U.S. military is properly postured to meet the complex security demands of the 21st century. This will involve closely reviewing how the National Defense Strategy and the National Military Strategy articulate those demands and thoroughly evaluating how the Department of Defense (DOD) postures itself to meet those demands. The committee will pay particular attention to how the Department continues to adapt to evolving irregular warfare and stability operations-related security challenges while also ensuring that the Department remains capable of executing its traditional missions. Therefore, the committee will provide oversight to ensure that all DOD activities, capabilities and functions, including doctrine, organization, training, education, exercises, materiel, leadership, personnel, facilities, and planning appropriately reflect the necessity to meet the full range of security requirements.

Furthermore, when considering the overall posture of the Department, the committee will continue to monitor the implementation of the recommendations delineated in the 2006 Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) and engage the Department as it embarks upon the next QDR, the report of which is due in 2010. This will include: the adequacy of active and Reserve Component force structure, and especially the continuing evolution of the National Guard into a modern, operation-oriented reserve force with an enhanced role in homeland defense; an examination of the technological, doctrinal, and other factors affecting the long-term transformation of the conduct of military operations; a review of the roles and responsibilities of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and of the combatant commands, including the newly created U.S. Africa Command; the evolving mission of other recently established or modified commands; an examination of the roles and missions of the armed services and their implications for modernization requirements and the development of major weapons systems; the emergence of modern piracy as a security challenge that threatens global commerce; the impact of climate change; and other relevant areas.

Most critically, the committee will conduct all the activities mentioned above within the context of a comprehensive approach to understanding the strategic risk facing the United States. In so doing, the committee will seek to determine what level of strategic risk is acceptable, what factors increase that risk, and what factors reduce it.

Through its constitutional responsibility arising from article I, section eight, to raise and support armies and to provide and maintain a Navy, the committee has a responsibility to ensure that the military can meet its future missions, as well as today's operational requirements. The committee's examination of strategic risk, in simple terms, will look to ensure that these joint forces retain the ability, regardless of present operational pressures, to deter any potential foe, respond to any contingency that threatens U.S. interests, and defeat any adversary who might

threaten America's interests, in the worst case. In this regard, the committee will closely examine the Department of Defense's range of assumptions about future threats made in strategy documents to assess the adequacy of forces, the resources available, and the likely level of strategic risk. By the same token, the committee will also look at current operational demands and whether those demands—through readiness and force strains or through other impacts such as on potential coalition partners—increase our strategic risk for meeting future challenges. The committee will continue to monitor strategic risk and take action to mitigate it when necessary.

The War in Afghanistan

The war in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has evolved since 2001 and generated increased focus from the committee in the last two years due to the strategic importance of the region and the deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan. The committee will commensurately extend its related oversight activities in the 111th Congress on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization International Security Assistance Force (NATO-ISAF) and Operation Enduring Freedom missions, especially given likely increases in U.S. military presence, diplomatic efforts, and economic development assistance. While there has been progress in some areas, the security situation in Afghanistan is increasingly challenging, and the resources allocated to conducting the counterinsurgency campaign, building Afghan security forces, and increasing Afghan civilian capacity have proven inadequate. Most critically, the border area between Afghanistan and Pakistan remains a major front for combating al Qa'ida, the Taliban, and other terrorist organizations that threaten the U.S. homeland, the stability of the Government of Afghanistan, our allies, and strategic partners in the region. The committee will closely assess potential increases in U.S. force levels and combat enablers, such as intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance platforms. The committee will also monitor efforts to deny sanctuary in the border area between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The committee will examine the progress made in developing and articulating a clear, comprehensive strategy for accomplishing U.S. objectives in Afghanistan and the identification and tracking of performance metrics for measuring progress. The committee will continue its oversight efforts to ensure unity of effort among military and civilian organizations in Afghanistan. It will provide oversight of efforts to reduce civilian casualties in Afghanistan and to improve strategic communications. It will continue to examine the command and control relationships for U.S. forces in Afghanistan and related issues with ISAF, especially the national caveats of some allies that limit operational effectiveness. It will continue to pursue improvements in interagency cooperation that are particularly relevant to the war in Afghanistan.

The committee will also provide oversight to other critical efforts in Afghanistan such as the development and sustainment of effective Afghan National Security Forces, and the safety and security of U.S. and allied forces. The committee will also continue efforts to see that as increasing resources are devoted to Afghanistan, especially for reconstruction activities, appropriate accountability measures are taken.

With regard to the Department's counter-drug activities in Afghanistan, the committee will continue to monitor closely: the role that the production and trafficking of opium and other illicit narcotics is playing in supporting insurgents and terrorists; the type, scope and level of

indirect participation by United States Forces-Afghanistan (USFOR-A) in support of counter-drug efforts by other military forces and law enforcement agencies; the nascent expansion of direct participation by USFOR-A and other NATO-ISAF forces in the eradication and interdiction of narcotics trafficking; and the efforts to train and equip Afghan National Security Forces and border police to support eradication, interdiction, and other counter-drug tactics of the Afghan national and provincial governments; and the Department's coordination with other U.S. departments and agencies which work on counter-drug planning and operations in Afghanistan.

The War in Iraq

The committee will continue its strong record of oversight of the war in the Republic of Iraq. While violence has decreased in Iraq over the past two years, the United States currently maintains approximately 140,000 troops in Iraq. The Bush Administration signed a Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) in November 2008 to provide a legal basis for ongoing operations and the redeployment of U.S. forces from Iraq. The committee will continue to monitor any ongoing military activities in Iraq, seek to determine if progress made in Iraq is sustainable, and oversee the transition of responsibilities in Iraq from U.S. authorities to the Government of Iraq.

The security situation in Iraq remains inextricably linked to a complex and evolving political situation in that country. The committee will monitor political developments in Iraq, such as the forthcoming elections, in order to gauge their effect on the security situation and both the requirements for U.S. forces and how they are employed.

The SOFA may fundamentally change how U.S. forces operate in Iraq. The agreement states that operations in Iraq may only be conducted with the agreement of representatives of the Government of Iraq, mandates that U.S. combat forces be withdrawn from urban areas in Iraq by the end of June 2009, and states that all U.S. forces should be out of Iraq by the end of 2011. In addition, the agreement exposes U.S. contractors to prosecution in Iraqi courts. Furthermore, pursuant to future negotiations, the agreement potentially exposes any U.S. citizen, including members of the armed forces and Department of Defense civilians to prosecution for certain heinous crimes in Iraqi courts. The committee will closely monitor the implementation of this agreement, and its impact on U.S. forces in Iraq, particularly as planning progresses for the redeployment of U.S. forces from Iraq.

With an Iraqi mandated deadline to withdraw U.S. forces from Iraqi cities by June 30, 2009, and from the country by January 1, 2012, the committee will pursue vigorous oversight of planning and execution of the drawdown of U.S. forces and their redeployment to either home stations or other operational theaters. The committee anticipates many dynamic factors will affect this redeployment due to the sheer size of the deployed force of military and civilian personnel and equipment and their wide dispersal across more than 150 operating bases in the Republic of Iraq. The committee will address such issues as: redeployment timelines within the scope of the mandate; equipment disposition and reset including prepositioned stocks; security of personnel and equipment; port and transportation staging and capacity; continued logistical support for military and civilian personnel remaining in theater; infrastructure requirements for

restationing of troops in home stations or abroad; medical coverage including mental health care; movement of refugees; and redeployment of contractors and contractor-owned equipment.

The committee will continue to examine those factors critical to successfully transitioning security responsibilities to the Government of Iraq. Most important of these is the ongoing development of the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF). The committee will monitor how embedded U.S. training teams are used, the equipment that is provided to the ISF, and the development of institutions that support these forces. In addition, the committee will monitor how other irregular security forces, such as the "Sons of Iraq," are demobilized or integrated into the ISF.

The committee will continue to monitor reconstruction funding. The laws governing the uses of, or approvals for, some types of funds have recently been amended. The committee will examine how these amendments are implemented to ensure that funds are used properly in the reconstruction of Iraq.

Finally, the committee will continue to examine the costs of the war in Iraq, particularly as an essential element in forecasting short- and long-term funding requirements for the Department of Defense.

Global Counter-Terrorism Activities

The Department of Defense (DOD) continues to conduct military operations against terrorist groups in a number of countries around the world. These efforts have also forced the Department to consider and implement new doctrines, organizations, and capabilities in an effort to take on a mission that has historically been a non-traditional one for many DOD components. The nature of the terrorist threat has implications for the National Military Strategy and generates an increased requirement for the Department, along with other federal agencies, to work cooperatively with the security forces of other nations. The committee will focus attention on how the Department addresses the threat of terrorism in its strategic planning processes and the efficacies of authorities for counter-terrorism-focused programs. The committee will also focus attention on how the Department and the military services are prioritizing these efforts and if they are devoting the appropriate resources to match the requirement. In addition, the committee recognizes that global counter-terror efforts will be a long-term campaign. The committee will, therefore, examine the implications of the nature of this effort on the capabilities of the Department as well as the ability of the Department to contribute to the success of government-wide efforts to prevail against terrorist networks.

The full committee, and especially the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities, will continue their oversight of the full range of unconventional threats to national security and U.S. military forces and the capabilities needed to respond. Particular attention will be given to, but not limited to: the role and involvement of U.S. Special Operations Command, especially recruiting and retention programs within the special operations community to determine challenges that confront field commanders; irregular warfare initiatives; progress in establishing a national collaborative environment for intelligence information; the conduct of information operations, including strategic communications; counter-radicalization and

countering extremist ideology; terrorism-related organizational matters; modernization requirements and processes; and unique force protection challenges, including the design of installations and facilities to address threats posed by terrorism utilizing either conventional weapons or weapons of mass destruction.

Pakistan

Security and stability in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan are vital to U.S. interests and will be a central issue for the committee in the 111th Congress. Pakistan is a nuclear-armed state with a significant role in regional security and is a critical focus for combating al Qa'ida, the Taliban, and other terrorist organizations. In particular, the Pakistan-Afghanistan border region has been identified as a base for terrorists and their supporters, who are operating in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and pose a threat to U.S. and other ISAF forces. Compounding this problem, Pakistan faces significant challenges regarding its internal political and economic stability and has been ravaged by terrorist attacks. Pakistan's volatile relationship with India, particularly over Kashmir, also remains an area of significant concern. The committee will continue its oversight of the broad range of security issues involving Pakistan, and in particular, will carefully review the use of Coalition Support Funds provided to reimburse Pakistan for its support to U.S. military operations. The committee will also focus on Department of Defense assistance provided to train and equip the Pakistan Frontier Corps to combat terrorism in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas and assistance provided to train and equip the Pakistan Army.

Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Threat Reduction

The committee will continue its oversight of the nonproliferation and threat-reduction programs within its jurisdiction, including the Department of Defense's (DOD) Cooperative Threat Reduction Program and the Department of Energy's (DOE) defense nonproliferation programs. The committee will assess the threat posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the effectiveness of existing programs to respond to this threat, and areas where programs can be expanded and improved. In particular, the committee will carefully review progress achieved as a result of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-53) to ensure that nonproliferation and threat-reduction programs are strengthened to respond to the 9/11 Commission's recommendations regarding the prevention of weapons-of-mass-destruction proliferation and terrorism. The committee will also carefully review programs in light of the recommendations of the Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism. The committee will look at the Department of Energy's Global Threat Reduction Initiative, the Department of Defense's Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, the Proliferation Security Initiative, and other nonproliferation and threat-reduction efforts.

The committee will closely assess interagency coordination and the timely and effective use of funds for nonproliferation and threat-reduction programs, given past obstacles in these areas that have created unobligated balances. Additionally, the committee will examine how DOD and DOE programs could be strengthened to respond to emerging threats from weapons of mass destruction throughout the world, including threats from the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as well as better controlling critical technologies and physically securing dangerous materials in the Russian Federation and other countries. The

committee will pay close attention to new areas across the globe where nonproliferation efforts may advance U.S. security interests and examine how existing authorities that allow the use of threat-reduction-program funding in areas beyond the former Soviet Union can be helpful. The committee will review efforts to identify and establish new nonproliferation programs as past programs approach completion. The committee will also consider the impact and effectiveness of international regimes, cooperative arrangements, and national policies in addressing the threat posed by weapons of mass destruction.

Counter-Proliferation Efforts

The committee will review the Department of Defense's (DOD) initiatives for countering any proliferation of weapons of mass destruction at the strategic, organizational, and programmatic levels and across the spectrum of threats, including chemical, biological, nuclear, and radiological. Particular focus will be given to the roles of the numerous DOD offices responsible for supporting this mission, including the Defense Threat Reduction Agency and combatant commands, and to coordination with interagency partners. The committee will also continue to review closely the Chemical and Biological Defense Program.

Organization and Management of the Department of Defense

The committee will review the organization and management of the Department of Defense to ensure that it is properly postured to meet the complex and evolving security threats of the 21st century. The committee anticipates that the organization of the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the military departments will be modified, perhaps substantially so, as a new Administration assumes management of the Department. The committee also notes that the Quadrennial Roles and Missions Review may result in significant realignment of missions within the Department. The committee will carefully review any proposed organizational changes and work to ensure that the missions of the Department are appropriately aligned with organizations that have the core competency to perform them. The committee will also carefully review the Department's implementation of legislation included in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181) assigning the duties of Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense to the Deputy Secretary and creating a Deputy Chief Management Officer. Additionally, the committee will monitor and assess the reform of joint officer management under the authorities granted by the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109-364).

Intelligence

The committee will continue to coordinate with the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence on tactical intelligence matters and intelligence-related activities of the Department of Defense, and intelligence and counterintelligence activities of the Department of Energy in the course of its annual oversight of the intelligence community and the authorization of appropriations for intelligence activities shared by the two committees. In addition, the committee will monitor the reorganization of the Intelligence Community, through implementation of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-458) and the creation of the Under Secretary for Intelligence position within the Department

of Defense which was authorized by the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107-314). The committee will also evaluate intelligence-related acquisition programs both for effectiveness and affordability. All of the committee's efforts will be focused on ensuring the highest possible quality of intelligence support to the warfighter.

Detainee Policy, Military Commissions, and Related Matters

As of the start of the 111th Congress, the Department of Defense is expected to be the custodian of thousands of detainees who are being held in the Republic of Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The overwhelming majority of these detainees are being held in Iraq, with much fewer in the latter two locations. In Iraq, the Department's detainee operations will be largely governed by article 22 of the recently approved Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA). Many details of implementation, however, are not defined in the SOFA. The committee will closely monitor how the Department, in collaboration with other departments and agencies, resolves these outstanding questions, including: identifying Iraqi legal authority to detain individuals in Iraq for the purpose of maintaining security rather than as part of investigating and prosecuting crimes; determining which persons within the Iraqi government have the authority to request the release of particular individuals from U.S. military detention; and developing options for the medium- to long-term future of a limited number of detainees who pose the highest national security threats to Iraq or the United States.

With regard to detainee operations in Afghanistan, the committee primarily will focus on: the future of preventive detention for security purposes in the country; the consequences, if any, of the NATO-ISAF Commander assuming command of all United States Forces-Afghanistan on the processing of detainees captured in Afghanistan; and the construction of the new detention facility in Bagram, which is due to be completed in 2009, and the transfer of detainees into this new facility.

The committee will: work closely with the Department of Defense regarding the future of detention operations at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (GTMO) in expectation of new policies concerning GTMO announced by the incoming Administration; establish goals for the future of GTMO and accomplish them; consider possible changes to the Military Commission Act (Public Law 109-366) that established the current legal framework governing the operation of military tribunals to try detainees for war crimes and codified some of the procedural rights of GTMO detainees; and take other necessary actions and conduct related oversight.

Building Partnership Capacity and Other Foreign Assistance-Like Authorities

"Building Partnership Capacity" (BPC) is the phrase used to describe authorities designed to strengthen the security forces of nations critical to the national security of the United States. They reflect a general assumption that current authorities and processes governing foreign military assistance, specifically the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), and to a somewhat lesser extent, the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (FAA), are too inflexible to meet current security requirements or that the national security-related capabilities of civilian agencies, most notably the State Department, must be strengthened.

While there are roughly a dozen authorities that fall into the BPC category, the ones the committee considers most significant include "train and equip ("1206")," "stability and security assistance ("1207")," and special operations-specific "1208" authorities. Since 2006, the committee has been increasingly active in this area, and the last several national defense authorization acts have reflected what Congress considered to be the appropriate balance of providing sufficient authority for the most pressing needs of the Department of Defense while encouraging a more integrated interagency approach to building partnership capacity. During the 111th Congress, the committee will continue to examine the relationship between BPC authorities and the AECA and FAA to ensure that these authorities supplement and complement, rather than replace, Department of State programs. Furthermore, the committee will continue to closely monitor and assess the execution of these BPC authorities, both during the initial congressional notification process and those programs in progress. This will include on-site visits, as appropriate.

The committee will also focus attention on Foreign Military Sales (FMS), as the FMS system has become increasingly important in efforts to build security forces in the Republic of Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. While primary oversight jurisdiction lies with the Committee on Foreign Affairs, foreign military sales are an increasing component of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The committee will continue to monitor whether the Department's FMS process is appropriately tailored to enable the security assistance programs demanded by current and likely future operations.

Nuclear Surety

The committee intends to monitor carefully implementation of the Department of Defense's plans to improve the management and security of U.S. nuclear weapons. On August 30, 2007, the Air Force performed an unauthorized transfer of nuclear weapons from Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota to Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana. This extremely troubling incident began a series of oversight activities focused on understanding and correcting the erosion of nuclear competence within the Air Force. On August 1, 2006, Defense Distribution Depot Hill, Utah, initiated a shipment to the Republic of China (Taiwan) of what was believed to have been four helicopter batteries in order to fill a foreign military sales order. The items shipped had been misidentified, however, and were actually four classified MK-12 Forward Section Reentry Vehicle Assemblies, which are used on the Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missile. Various investigations into the facts and circumstances surrounding these incidents have pointed to the need for fundamental changes in Air Force stewardship of nuclear weapons. During the 111th Congress, the committee will closely watch as the Air Force and the Department of Defense implement plans to reinvigorate the Air Force nuclear enterprise and improve nuclear stewardship generally.

Department of Defense's Counter-Narcotics Activities

The committee will continue to monitor Department of Defense (DOD) activities which are related to the interdiction of illicit narcotics, particularly in and from major drug-producing and drug-transit countries. In fiscal year 2009, the Department received over $1.0 billion in

counter-drug funding. This funding reflects the Department's role as the lead federal agency in the detection and monitoring of the aerial and maritime transit of illegal narcotics into the United States. In addition to contributing to curtailing narcotics trafficking into our country and our allies, DOD counter-narcotics efforts complement the Department's counter-terrorism campaign. A number of Foreign Terrorist Organizations, such as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, rely on the financial and materiel networks of narcotics traffickers to amplify their capacities.

Specifically, the committee's oversight will include: a review of tactical intelligence gathering and its use for counter-drug purposes; an assessment of the Department's plans to participate indirectly in Plan Merida; a review of DOD counter-drug efforts in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (see section entitled "The War in Afghanistan" for greater detail); a review of the Department's capabilities to gather intelligence on the trafficking of illicit narcotics, including cocaine, methamphetamine, and opium, transiting through Mexico, Central America, the Andean region, the Caribbean Basin, and the Pacific Ocean into the United States; a review of DOD counter-narcotics funding used for developing partner nations narco-terrorism capabilities, to include a comparison to the allocation of 1206 train and equip funds; and a review of the DOD training of foreign law enforcement and other security forces for the purpose of combating the trafficking of illicit narcotics and terrorism. The committee will also carefully review the Department's comprehensive counter-drug strategies for South and Central Asia and West Africa, which are required by the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417) and due in 2009.

The Interagency Process and Reform

National security issues continue to increase in complexity and increasingly are transnational in character. The United States must use all means of national power to address national security concerns. The Department is an active participant in the interagency process, and there is a growing recognition of the extent to which military problems, especially those involving homeland defense, stabilization and reconstruction activities, intelligence, and counter-insurgency operations call upon the resources and expertise of multiple federal departments and agencies, state and local governments, and international partners. The committee will work to identify ways in which the Department can be better postured to plan for, ask for, and receive necessary support from other agencies, and how the Department can be better postured to support other agencies in helping to achieve those agencies missions to ensure all departments and agencies are effectively coordinated towards achieving national objectives.

The Combatant Commands, particularly U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) and U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM), have been at the forefront of reorganizing to integrate interagency partners better and address country-confined and transnational threats from a whole-of-government perspective. The committee will continue to monitor these reorganization efforts, including reviewing the Department's report on SOUTHCOM's development assistance activities as required by the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417) and due in 2009.

National Guard and Reserves

The extended commitment of the National Guard and Reserve Components to meet wartime requirements of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom has highlighted longstanding pre-September 11, 2001 wartime-related equipping, manning, resourcing, and policy issues. The Commission on National Guard and Reserves (CNGR), established by Congress, completed its review of these components and has presented 95 recommendations that sought to: improve the operation of the Reserve Components; enhance the Department of Defense's role in homeland security; create a continuum of service; develop a ready and capable operational reserve force; support reserve members, families, and employers; and reform organizations and institutions to enhance the roles and missions of the Reserve Components. During the 110th Congress, the committee implemented a number of recommendations put forth by the commission, as well as other initiatives designed to enhance and improve the National Guard and Reserves. In the 111th Congress, the committee will continue its review of the CGNR recommendations that are being further evaluated by the Department of Defense for implementation. In addition, the committee will continue its oversight responsibilities to ensure that the Reserve Components have the programs and policies that are necessary to support their recruitment, retention, and transition back to their civilian communities, including implementation of the Beyond Yellow Ribbon program which was authorized by Congress. In addition, the committee will continue to consider National Guard and Reserve Component equipment readiness as an urgent and top priority. The committee will monitor and evaluate the obligation of funds provided for additional equipment for the National Guard and Reserve Components as part of a separate procurement account entitled the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account (NGREA).

Homeland Defense

The committee will continue to focus on intra- and inter-Departmental efforts involving federal support to domestic civil authorities. In the aftermath of the September 11th attacks, the military returned to an area of competency that had not received much attention in the last century, homeland defense. The creation of U.S. Northern Command in 2002, as well as the establishment of an Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense (ASD-HD) to oversee Department of Defense activities related to homeland defense placed renewed emphasis on domestic response versus expeditionary capabilities. The committee will continue to focus on the evolving missions and capabilities of these organizations, as well as their coordination with and integration into the response planning and exercises of the Department of Homeland Security. The August 2008 Defense Science Board report on "Defense Imperatives for the New Administration" makes a number of recommendations related to defending the homeland and providing support to domestic authorities that the committee will explore in greater detail, along with continued consideration of the recommendations of the Commission on the National Guard and Reserves (2008).

Acquisition Issues

The Acquisition System and Acquisition Policy

The committee will continue to provide oversight of the defense acquisition system and address growing concerns about cost growth in major defense acquisition programs and the responsiveness of the system to compelling military needs. In recent years, the committee has been especially active in the area of acquisition reform including: reforming the process for reviewing and certifying major defense acquisition programs; reforming contingency contracting; improving the acquisition workforce; protecting strategic materials; and enacting the Acquisition Improvement and Accountability Act of 2007 as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public law 110-181) and the Clean Contracting Act of 2008 as part of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417).

Nevertheless, the committee is still aware of and concerned about significant shortcomings in the acquisition system. The committee will carefully review the recent revision to Department of Defense Instruction 5000.02, "Operation of the Defense Acquisition System." In particular, the committee will focus on the use of configuration steering boards to control growth in requirements and costs on major weapons systems, the effects of revising the milestone process for major defense acquisition programs, and the requirement for peer review of major solicitations and requests for proposals. The committee will seek to ensure that members of the acquisition community have the tools and authorities necessary to limit requirements creep and to terminate or restructure under-performing programs.

As part of its oversight, the committee will continue to examine in depth the military requirements process that is the foundation of the acquisition system. Weapons system programs begin with the validation of a military requirement. The process by which this occurs, while lengthy and filled with multi-service consultation, continues to produce outcomes which do not reflect the jointness that the military has achieved at the operating level. The committee will also continue to review the fulfillment of urgent warfighter requirements submitted by units engaged in ongoing operations to ensure that the Department's rapid acquisition processes are responsive and their legal authorities are adequate (discussed in more detail in the section entitled "Rapid Acquisition Authority).

The committee will continue to push for accountability and integrity in contracting by closely monitoring the efforts of the Department of Defense and the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics to implement recently enacted acquisition reforms. The committee will continue to work with the Department's Panel on Contracting Integrity to eliminate contracting vulnerabilities. The committee will continue to monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the Commission on Army Acquisition and Program Management in Expeditionary Operations and will carefully review the findings of the Commission on Wartime Contracting when they are delivered to Congress. The committee will review the progress of the Department of Defense, the Department of State, and the United States Agency for International Development in implementing the memorandum of understanding between those agencies on oversight of contracting in the Republic of Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The committee will also review the application of regulatory frameworks, such as the cost accounting standards, to contracts entered into and performed overseas.

Service contracting represents an increasingly large proportion of the acquisition expenditures of the Department. The committee will continue to work to reform appropriately the acquisition process to reflect this reality by: reviewing the management structure for these contracts; increasing the visibility and transparency of these contracts by reviewing service contract inventories; and monitoring efforts to prevent personal and organizational conflicts of interest. The committee will also monitor the Department's phase out of the use of contractors to perform inherently governmental functions such as serving as the lead system integrator on major defense acquisition programs.

The committee recognizes that a fundamental component in addressing most of the problems in the acquisition process is improving the composition and quality of the acquisition workforce. The committee will provide oversight to efforts to enhance career paths for military personnel working in acquisition, to the recently created Department of Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Fund, and to other efforts by the Department to expand and improve the acquisition workforce. In addition, the committee will continue to ensure the protection of the government's interest in technical data.

Defense Industrial Base and Technology Transfers

The committee will give close examination to the health of the defense industrial base. The industrial base for complex major weapons systems has shrunk dramatically in the last decade, limiting the ability of the Department to control costs and encourage innovation through the use of competition. Industry has also struggled in many cases to make the long-term investments that are vital to the health of the defense industrial base, notably so in the shipbuilding industry. The committee will examine the policies and funding tools available to the Department to ensure the health of the defense industrial base.

The committee will continue to examine the U.S. export control regime and its effectiveness in preventing the transfer of sensitive military-related technologies to potential adversaries. The consolidation of the defense industry and its increasingly global nature will increasingly challenge the capabilities of current systems for industrial security. The committee will continue to monitor the Department's plans and statutory authorities for industrial security to ensure their adequacy.

Financial Management

The Inspector General of the Department of Defense (DOD) stated in the Department of Defense Agency Financial Report 2007 that the Department's financial management problems are the single largest and most challenging impediment to the ability of the federal government to obtain a clean audit opinion on its consolidated financial statements. The Comptroller General of the United States has also consistently identified the Department's financial management as a high risk area since 1995. The Department's inability to track and account for billions of dollars in funding and tangible assets continues to undermine its financial management systems. It also creates a lack of transparency that significantly limits congressional oversight. The committee will continue to review the Department's efforts to correct the weaknesses in its financial statements and monitor closely the hundreds of millions of dollars being spent on business

systems modernization programs that the Department has proposed to address its financial management problems.

The committee will also continue to ensure that programs to modernize the business systems of the Department are coordinated across all of the military services and defense agencies, and overseen by the Department's newly created Chief Management Officer, in accordance with a sound strategic plan, and that the Department observes strict compliance with all laws relating to the use and purpose of appropriated funds.

Rapid Acquisition Authority and Joint Urgent Operational Needs Process

The conflicts in the Republic of Iraq and Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and particularly the evolution of the improvised explosive device (IED) as a highly effective weapon of strategic influence, have illustrated the ability of an adaptive enemy to work to advantage inside a normal defense acquisition cycle. The committee will continue its oversight of the joint urgent operational needs (JUONS) process and continue to urge the Secretary of Defense to leverage previous efforts of the committee to take advantage of the rapid acquisition authority provided to the Department of Defense as part of section 811 of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (Public Law 108–375), wherever necessary, in order to guarantee that military personnel receive required equipment in a timely manner.

The Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417) required the Secretary of Defense to commission an independent study and report on the effectiveness of the processes used by the Department of Defense to identify, prioritize, and meet urgent operational needs. In addition to the process involved for JUONS and immediate warfighter needs, the study will review certain alleged failures by the Department of Defense to rapidly respond to, validate, and execute on JUONS, and will also review concerns regarding the possible misuse of the JUONS process for non-urgent requirements. The committee will review and analyze the findings and recommendations from this commission.

READINESS

Ground Force Readiness

Readiness problems appear to be most severe in the ground forces, particularly the Army. The committee will continue rigorous oversight of readiness focusing on Army and Marine Corps reset and training efforts. Department of Defense readiness reports indicate that every non-deployed Army and Army National Guard combat brigade would face significant challenges completing their assigned full-spectrum combat missions if they were called upon to fight. These shortfalls are due to the challenges of increased operational tempo which have reduced equipment and personnel availability and the reduction in training opportunities. Added to this is the fact that the Marine Corps and the Army are focusing heavily on counter-insurgency operations in their training, resulting in an overall reduction of full mission capability. Restoration of this lost capability must be a focus for the Army and Marines to ensure that the ground forces are ready for any emergent contingency. The committee intends to follow closely

the Department of Defense's and services' efforts to remedy these shortfalls and restore full spectrum combat capability.

Naval Readiness

The committee will engage in rigorous oversight of measures taken by the Department of the Navy to ensure its ships, sailors, Marines, and naval aviators are fully and properly trained and equipped to support sustained combat operations. The committee is concerned that the material readiness of U.S. Navy surface combatants is suffering from the high operational tempo created by current operations. Ships in the past year failed inspection and survey because of poor material condition, and two first-line surface combatants were declared unfit for sustained combat operations. Additionally, failures in the training process were cited in official Navy reports as contributing factors to major maintenance and emergency incidents during the past year, including an extensive fire aboard a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier. The committee will examine the Navy's training programs, with specific emphasis on training for surface combatant crews and an assessment of the efficacy of heavy reliance on computer based training as a cost-savings measure.

The committee also will examine ship repair concepts, such as the use of multi-ship, multi-option contracts and their impact on surface combatant availability. In addition, the committee will continue to examine the role of the Navy in augmenting contingency forces in the Republic of Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, where Navy participation increased by almost eight-fold in a three-year time span. The committee is concerned that the use of these naval forces outside their core Navy mission has resulted in declining readiness of critically skilled Navy personnel, particularly, civil engineer, intelligence, master at arms, medical, and information technician.

Air Force Readiness

The committee intends to increase oversight of the Air Force's air assets. Operational tempo for the Air Force has remained high since the first Gulf War, placing continued strain on the Air Force's aging aircraft fleet. Maintenance challenges have reduced overall mission capability rates below levels seen in prior years and are particularly troubling given that procurement programs for new aircraft will not fill capability gaps until the years beyond the current Future Years Defense Plan. The Air Force continues to struggle with maintaining the full mission capability of its aircraft and as a result, maintenance man hours required per flight hour continue to increase. This increase in required operational-level maintenance, compounded with personnel reductions made in previous years, drives maintenance and support personnel to work schedules that are likely unsustainable over time and increases overall risk. The Air Force's continuing support of individual augmentee and in-lieu-of force requirements further taxes units and stretches many personnel resources to near limits. The committee will continue to monitor the significant readiness challenges facing the Air Force.

Prepositioned Stocks

The committee will continue to oversee the Department's use and restoration of prepositioned combat equipment stocks. The nature of current combat operations has forced the

Army and Marine Corps to draw from overseas prepositioned and afloat equipment stocks to meet operational needs. The lack of this equipment reduces the Department's ability and flexibility to respond to emergent contingencies. Both the Army and Marine Corps have provided plans for the restoration of this forward-deployed equipment and the committee will closely follow their progress. The committee will also examine the Department of Defense's plans for the future use of these stocks and their integration in operations plans.

Equipment Reset

The committee will continue its oversight of the services' reset strategies to repair, recapitalize, and replace equipment used in ongoing operations. The committee will examine the services' strategy for performing equipment reset and the costs associated with these equipment reset programs, including visibility of funding obligation, potential impediments to execution, and the overall progress made toward resetting the force. The committee also will continue monitoring progress toward complete reconstitution of prepositioned stocks. Additionally, the committee will examine whether the services' reset strategies and resource allocation are properly focused on sustaining equipment availability for ongoing operational requirements or geared toward long-term modernization goals.

Depot and Arsenal Capability

A critical piece of equipment sustainment is the capability provided by the nation's organic arsenals and depots, including air logistics centers and shipyards. The committee is concerned that the Department of Defense continues to lack a comprehensive strategy to ensure U.S. military depots and arsenals are viably positioned and have the workforce, equipment, and facilities for efficient operations to meet the nation's current requirements, as well as those in the future. Recognizing that the workload, and associated funding, for the organic industrial base will likely decline as operations in the Republic of Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan draw down, the Joint Explanatory Statement (Committee Print 10) accompanying the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 required the Department of Defense to contract for an independent, 22-month assessment of post-reset capability required to provide life-cycle sustainment of military systems and equipment.

Parallel to the study effort, the committee will continue oversight of depot and arsenal operations and management, focusing on capital investment in facilities and equipment, the implementation methodology and use of sustainment concepts such as performance-based logistics, the role of public-private partnerships, the use of working capital funds for timely product improvement, and the services' logistics enterprise resource planning systems. Additionally, the committee will examine the statutory framework that underpins depot and arsenal capability including those programs and initiatives designed to assure availability of critical organic manufacturing capabilities.

Life-Cycle Sustainment

The committee will examine how effectively the Department of Defense is developing and procuring weapons systems and equipment with consideration of life-cycle support and sustainment requirements and cost. In its oversight of the Department's life-cycle sustainment

efforts, the committee will examine the extent to which the acquisition community and the logistics community collaborate during system design and development. Materiel choices made during this critical phase that do not take into consideration future depot-level maintenance requirements can unnecessarily create sustainment problems that drive millions of dollars in depot-level maintenance once the system is fielded. Additionally, failure to apply proper consideration of the capabilities of the depots or shipyards where the systems will be supported may drive costly reconfiguration of depot-level facilities to adapt to support requirements. In this vein, the committee will continue its oversight of the Department of Defense Office of Corrosion Policy and Oversight and designation of corrosion executives for each of the services.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Energy Security and National Security Implications of Climate Change

An effective energy strategy for the Department of Defense will increase the operational effectiveness of the military and will enhance our national and energy security. Therefore, the committee will review the energy strategies promulgated by the Department of Defense and will monitor trends in the Department's energy use on military installations and for military operations. The committee will continue its efforts to assess the Department's resourcing, management, oversight structure, and methodology for monitoring and reducing energy consumption. The committee also will monitor the implementation of significant legislation pertaining to energy security passed during the 110th Congress, including the establishment of a new position for the Director of Operational Energy Plans and Programs and the requirement for consideration of the fully burdened cost of fuel in systems acquisition.

The committee will also examine the growing body of information regarding the national security implications of climate change. The committee will review the Department's compliance with legislation passed during the 110th Congress requiring that certain strategic planning documents consider the impact of climate change on the Department's facilities, capabilities, and missions.

Environment

The committee will continue its oversight of the Department of Defense and military services' environmental restoration program. The committee will monitor Department of Defense funding and adherence to federal, state, and local requirements for cleanup, compliance, and pollution prevention. The committee will examine Department of Defense efforts to remediate existing contamination on federal lands with particular attention paid to Formerly Used Defense Sites and Base Closure and Realignment locations where the Department has determined contamination is a high-risk that may be affecting local populations. Additionally, the committee intends to closely monitor the activities of the Department to ensure that military training is in full compliance with applicable federal state and local environmental laws.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Basing

The Department of Defense is undergoing a significant change in force structure both in the United States and overseas. These changes are being implemented to enhance operational efficiencies and ensure access to future contingency operations. These force structure changes are being performed by two infrastructure programs including the 2005 Base Closure and Realignment decisions and the Global Defense Posture Review. These rebasing movements affect not only U.S. global posture but also have significant repercussions on readiness, surge capability, military construction, and quality of life for military members and their families. The committee will closely monitor the conduct of the Department as it implements the 2005 Base Closure and Realignment decisions. The committee will ensure that the Department adheres to regulations and statutes governing base reuse, property disposal, and community adjustment assistance. The committee will also closely review the proposed Army force structure in Europe and in Korea, the realignments proposed by the Government of Japan including the realignment of Marine Corps forces to Guam, and the balance of the force structure modifications.

Military Construction Programming

There is increasing evidence that sufficient infrastructure in the United States may not be available to support a rapid reduction in overseas forces and concurrently sustain the Army and Marine Corps' Grow-the-Force initiatives. In the past, the Department has relied on relocatable, temporary structures to support force structure movements, but the current inventory has exceeded its lifecycle and additional temporary structures will exacerbate an unacceptable situation. The Department has also incorrectly priced military construction projects and has caused significant scope and cost reductions in budget execution. The Department recently projected that military construction projects have been reduced by 14 percent in fiscal year 2007. The Department has also endorsed modified construction techniques for the Army to reduce initial construction costs, which may actually increase overall life cycle costs of facilities. The committee will review the Department's military construction program to manage the overall capacity of the Department's infrastructure and ensure prudent long-term military construction investments are provided.

Real Property Acquisition, Maintenance, and Disposal

The real property management process requires extensive oversight to maintain more than $650.0 billion in infrastructure at an annual cost of $56.5 billion, or nearly 11 percent of the Department of Defense's budget. The committee is concerned that infrastructure inefficiencies result in duplicative operations and uncoordinated investment decisions. The committee has also received increasing evidence that the Department of Defense has elected to generally reduce levels of facilities maintenance and service across the Department rather than specific reductions of excess infrastructure. This type of infrastructure management results in decreased capabilities and serves to defer critical infrastructure investment. The committee is also concerned about the land acquisition requirements associated with Army and Marine Corps force structure and doctrinal growth that require an additional 5,000,000 acres to support current training requirements. The committee will review the maintenance and support infrastructure investments that represent over half of the real property management budget. The committee will also focus on the strategies to acquire land and the use of eminent domain to support valid

Defense requirements. The committee will continue to closely monitor Department of Defense decisions to enter into leasehold interests and ensure outleases conform to statutory guidance. The committee will also review the real property accounts to ensure prudent investments are maintained and encourage the Department of Defense to complete closure and transfer of 117,000 acres from prior rounds of Base Closure and Realignment.

Military Infrastructure Privatization

The Department of Defense has made extensive use of privatization of military assets including family housing, bachelor quarters, and utility-related infrastructure. The Department has leveraged available capital in Defense infrastructure and entered into long-term contracts with private property managers. The committee will review these long-term mechanisms and ensure prudent investment decisions are implemented that provide the best capabilities to the Department.

TOTAL FORCE, PERSONNEL, AND HEALTH CARE ISSUES

Future End Strength

The current operational deployment schedule has placed tremendous pressure on active duty troops. The committee is concerned that if the current deployment pace continues, it will have a long-term adverse impact on our forces, particularly the ground component. The committee will continue its effort to assess the level of active and reserve end strength needed to meet current and future operational requirements. Utilization of the Reserve Components and deployment standards will also be reviewed given the shift of the Reserve Components from a strategic reserve force to an operational reserve force. End strength increases authorized during the 110th Congress will be examined to determine whether end strength levels, including those of the Reserve Components, are sufficient for the global challenges facing our nation in the future, and whether that growth can be achieved and maintained given fiscal, recruiting, and retention considerations. In addition, previous and ongoing efforts to reduce the force structure of the Air Force and Navy must be reviewed to determine if they should be continued, stabilized, or reversed given the increased operational requirements facing the nation and the fiscal constraints that the Department may face in the near future.

Force Morale and Family Welfare

As the stress on military forces and their families continues to grow fueled by multiple deployments, minimal dwell time between deployments, and increased operations tempo at home station, the committee will focus on reaching out to service members and families to better understand the challenges they confront in their daily lives and to identify the programs and policies that can be developed or modified to improve the morale of the force and safeguard the welfare of families. Programs and policies such as force utilization, health care, dependent education, compensation, leave, family support, and childcare will be explored for opportunities to expand capabilities and make improvements.

Appropriated Funding for Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) and Military Resale Programs

Reduced funding for installation operations and generally tight budgets among the armed services has resulted in increased evidence that funding for MWR and military resale programs is being reduced and withheld. Reduced funding for these programs has direct implications for service member and family morale and quality of life. The committee will focus on appropriated funding to support MWR programs, commissaries, and exchanges to include comparison of historic and current funding patterns, trends in the availability and quality of MWR program services, and the fiscal solvency and quality of military commissaries and exchanges.

Funding for Nonappropriated Fund Construction Programs

The response to a committee directed report concerning the adequacy of funding for the Department of Defense nonappropriated fund construction program has confirmed that the majority of nonappropriated fund and military resale activities do not consider their recapitalization programs to adequately reflect a level of investment that is consistent with the high standards deserved by the military community. The committee will pursue a better understanding of the standards that are needed for these facilities, the resources required to maintain those standards, and any shortfall in the resources available. The committee will also explore options to find new funding and change policies and programs to ensure that future funding for nonappropriated construction is adequate.

Recruiting

Although the downturn in the national economy and a reduction in the level of violence associated with the war in the Republic of Iraq may cause the recruiting environment to become more favorable for the services, there is little reason to believe that recruiting will become measurably easier given continued societal pressure to attend college, a youth population that has been found to be increasingly unqualified for military service, and a defense budget that will be highly stressed to be able to meet requirements. The committee will closely monitor the Army and Marine Corps recruiting programs as they continue to increase their end strengths. The committee is also concerned about the preparedness of the Air Force and Navy to transition from relatively low recruiting objectives during several years of force reduction to the larger objectives that will be required when the services return to force sustainment recruiting levels. The committee will focus on how the budget process may affect the adequacy of funding levels to maintain effective recruiting programs and encourage the services to maintain robust recruiting incentive and advertising programs. The committee expects to examine all aspects of recruit quality to include age, education level, test scores, and the number of waivers to recruit standards relating to conduct and medical requirements. The committee will also investigate trends in recruiter improprieties to verify that recruiters who commit crimes or are guilty of unethical conduct are held accountable.

Retention

The cumulative effect of the multiple tours associated with current high operations tempo will increase the pressure on retention programs throughout the military. Although service retention programs have been successful up to this point, costs have increased significantly and the services must manage retention closely and increase resources to meet new challenges as they occur. The committee will closely monitor retention trends to identify emerging problems quickly and ensure that the services are responding with the resources necessary to be successful. The committee will review the special pays and bonuses currently authorized to ensure that recent enhancements are performing as expected and requirements for new authorities are identified quickly. The committee will also seek the views of current service members to ensure that the appropriate remedies are implemented by the services. Finally, the committee will closely monitor the budget process to ensure that the services are maintaining robust programs and are not assuming unreasonable risk in retention programs.

Compensation

Congress has authorized enhanced pay raises that exceed the by-law pay raise levels for 10 consecutive years in an effort to close the pay gap with private sector pay raise levels as measured by the employment cost index. The committee intends to closely review military compensation programs to ensure that service members and families receive compensation that provides a quality of life level that continues to support recruiting and retention objectives. Additionally, the committee remains concerned about the accuracy and efficiency of military pay systems that have caused military members and families so much hardship, particularly for those members of the Reserve Components who are mobilized to serve on active duty. Accordingly, the committee will continue to examine military pay systems to ensure that progress is realized.

Military Health Care System

During the 111th Congress, the committee will continue to be faced with military health care challenges similar to those in the civilian sector including significant cost growth. The committee is well aware of the potential adverse impact of uncontrolled cost growth within the military health care system on the Department of Defense. The committee will continue its efforts to improve the health status of beneficiaries and control cost growth within the military health care system by improving access to quality health care for service members, retirees, and their families and elevating the role of preventive care. The committee will also examine alternatives to the current system of providing Reserve Component medical and dental readiness and continue to assess, improve, and expand programs for mental health and traumatic brain injuries. Additionally, the committee remains committed to a robust medical research and development program focused on military heath issues, such as blast injury mitigation and treatment, combat trauma care, military infectious diseases, and medical biological/chemical defense.

To ensure that all of this is done as efficiently and effectively as possible, the committee will conduct oversight activities on how the military health system should be organized, programmed, and resourced.

Wounded Warrior Care

The committee will continue its efforts to ensure that wounded and disabled service members and their families are afforded the support they need. Significant improvements to the programs and policies that support wounded and disabled service members have been made over the past several years. The committee will continue to ensure that these programs and policies evolve to address issues that are raised by service members and their families, and that the circumstances that led to the scandal at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center are not allowed to happen again. The committee will continue to focus its attention on improvements to the disability evaluation system with a view to authorizing revisions to improve the fairness, effectiveness, and efficiency of the program and simplify the process for service members.

Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault

Previous congresses made significant changes in law and policy with respect to sexual harassment within the services. The committee will continue to ensure that changes to policies and programs are implemented and assessed for their effectiveness in reducing sexual harassment and assault within the Department of Defense. The committee will continue its oversight activities to include a review of victim support and advocacy, prevention, and prosecution. The committee remains strongly committed to ensuring that service members who are victims of sexual harassment and sexual assault are provided the support and care that is needed and to encourage an atmosphere within the armed services that prevents such activities from occurring.

Education Benefits

The committee will continue to ensure fairness and equity in educational benefits provided to members of the active and Reserve Components, particularly those who have been deployed. Educational benefits provided to active duty service members have helped in their transition to civilian lives and the committee will continue its efforts to ensure that all service members are afforded the opportunities to leave service with the necessary support for a smooth transition. The committee will pay particular attention to the implementation of sweeping improvements that were passed in the 110th Congress for post 9/11 GI benefits and giving oversight to the operation of reserve GI Bill programs.

Uniform Code of Military Justice and Investigations

The committee will continue its oversight of the Military Justice System to ensure that its processes are transparent and just. The committee will focus on incidents of sexual assault and on investigations into misconduct in the Republic of Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan which may indicate other problems related to recruit screening, training deficiencies, or command responsibility.

Decorations and Awards

The committee will continue to monitor the awards and decorations process to ensure that it is consistent and that service members are publicly recognized for their heroism with the

appropriate award. The processes the services use to recognize the action of their personnel needs to ensure that it is fair and equitable to all who serve this nation in uniform.

Prisoner of War and Missing in Action (POW/MIA)

Over the past several years, the committee has maintained an active oversight of the Department of Defense's POW/MIA activities, as the committee of jurisdiction. From increasing funding for the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command and Defense Prisoner of War Missing Personnel Office to expressing the sense of Congress that "United States should pursue every lead and otherwise maintain a relentless and thorough quest to completely account for the fates of those members of the armed forces who are missing or otherwise unaccounted for" and that the Secretary of Defense should use his authority to offer monetary rewards to those "who provide information leading to the conclusive resolution of the status of any missing member of the Armed Forces." The committee will remain committed to diligent oversight and investigation into the challenges facing the Department, particularly with respect to the recovery, identification, and return of remains that have been found.

Professional Military Education

Professional military education is the backbone in the development of the nation's armed forces and the quality of that military education distinguishes U.S. forces around the world. The committee remains committed to ensuring that the quality and availability of professional military education programs remain a priority for the services and the Department, even during times of high-operational tempo, when the Department may be tempted to shortchange educational opportunities to provide manpower in the short term. As part of its oversight responsibilities, the committee will actively engage in monitoring the rigor and relevance of the curricula being offered at all levels, including those provided to meet joint professional military educational requirements. Additionally, an important part of this program includes opportunities for service members to attend advanced civil schooling in a wide variety of disciplines, including the liberal arts, and the committee will explore innovative approaches to providing such opportunities to the widest group of service members possible.

Joint General and Flag Officer Distribution

The 110th Congress authorized special general and flag officer authority that would appreciably change the management and distribution of general and flag officers on active duty, particularly for those serving in joint duty assignments. However, many questions remained unanswered with regard to how the Department will establish and manage this program and its impact on the armed services and the Reserve Components in managing their general and flag officer development and growth. The committee remains concerned that the extent of the implications of these anticipated changes are unclear and will undertake an effort during the 111th Congress to explore these issues in further detail.

Civilian Personnel

The federal civilian workforce of the Department of Defense plays a critical role in the readiness of our military forces. Recognizing this, the committee enacted several legislative initiatives in the 110th Congress to address the challenges confronting the workforce. Through its oversight activities in the 111th Congress, the committee will review implementation of these provisions to monitor compliance with congressional intent and determine whether additional legislation is necessary.

Providing the Department with the proper tools to invest in its workforce and ensuring that the Department has the people with the right skills to contribute effectively to the success of the Department's mission will remain a focus of the committee. This will include oversight of the various tools provided to the Department to hire, retain, and train a qualified civilian workforce, such as the acquisition workforce fund (created by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181)). The committee also will continue its oversight of the Department's implementation and management of the National Security Personnel System (NSPS), with specific focus on the reforms enacted in the last two years, along with consideration of the future direction of NSPS.

The Department has long relied on the federal civilian workforce to support its mission around the world, often requiring civilians to serve in active combat zones. Therefore, the committee will continue to monitor pay and incentives for the civilian workforce serving in such positions.

An effective and efficient process for administering security clearances is critical to military readiness, and both the Executive Branch and Congress have recently focused attention on improving the security clearance process. The committee will continue to monitor progress toward developing a revamped security clearance system.

During the 110th Congress, the committee enacted several initiatives to address a range of issues involving the proper role of contractors supporting the mission of the Department of Defense, including the extent to which contractors may be performing inherently governmental functions. The committee will review implementation of these initiatives, including the establishment of a service contracting inventory and the development of a policy to convert, where appropriate, work currently being performed by contractors to performance by civilian employees. In addition, the committee will continue its examination of the increasing reliance by the Department on private sector contractors accompanying the armed forces in both combat and contingency operations. No formal planning has been undertaken to determine the level of contractor support necessary to support such operations nor are contractor employees included in any readiness assessment reports. This hinders Congress and the Department in understanding the true readiness of all forces available. The committee's oversight will assess the need for a formal requirements process for contract support, as well as efforts to better understand the effects contractors have on overall unit and force readiness.

Ongoing Reviews of Personnel Issues

The committee will also actively monitor the status of minority members in the military services with a view to ensuring fair and equitable treatment and opportunities in a harassment-

free environment. Similarly, the committee will continue to monitor the treatment of gay men, lesbians, and bisexuals in the military to ensure a harassment-free environment. In addition, the committee will assess perspectives of service members and their leaders concerning the implications of changes to law and policy dealing with the military service by openly gay personnel.

MODERNIZATION AND INVESTMENT ISSUES

Army and Marine Corps Armored Vehicle Modernization

The committee will focus on oversight of the Army and Marine Corps' ambitious and evolving plans to recapitalize their entire fleets of heavy and medium-weight armored vehicles over the next two decades, including the M1 Abrams tank, M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicles, Stryker Vehicles, the Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle, the Marine Personnel Carrier program, upgrades for Light Armored Vehicles, upgrades to Paladin artillery systems, and replacement of Army M113 series vehicles. In particular, the committee will focus on ensuring that the existing fleet of armored vehicles is properly upgraded and reset after very heavy use in the Republic of Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and that the Army continues to field vehicles that stay ahead of the evolving anti-vehicle threat posed by improvised explosive devices and advances in anti-tank guided missiles.

Future Combat Systems

Based on long-standing committee concerns about the Future Combat Systems (FCS) program's cost increases, schedule delays, and diminishing combat capability, the committee will continue aggressive efforts to oversee and shape the FCS program. For the 111th Congress, these oversight efforts will focus on containing program costs, ensuring thorough testing of FCS program elements, and encouraging the Army to restructure the program in a way that preserves as much of the research and development done to date while also rationalizing the FCS program with the Army's overall modernization plans. Finally, the committee will continue to work closely with the Government Accountability Office and the Congressional Budget Office to conduct continuous oversight and evaluation of the FCS program.

Army Aviation Programs

While major reductions may occur in force levels will be able to be made in forces in the Republic of Iraq over the period of the 111th Congress, it is anticipated that Army air operations in Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan will continue to require large numbers of legacy rotorcraft deployed to those theaters. Those aircraft, including the CH-47, UH-60, AH-64, and OH-58, will likely continue to be operated at high operational tempos, in very challenging environments. These high operational tempos will require continued upgrade and reset efforts.

In addition to its oversight of aviation requirements for, and performance in, combat operations, the committee will closely monitor the Army's future force program for aviation. In particular, the committee will focus on the Army's restructured acquisition plan resulting from the cancellation of the Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter (ARH), the start up of the Joint Future

Theater Lift (JFTL) program, and the need for aircraft survivability equipment upgrades to provide warning and protection against evolving surface-to-air missile threats. Also, as part of its oversight efforts, the committee requested the Government Accountability Office to do a major review of Army aviation programs to support subcommittee hearings and general oversight of the ARH-replacement program and JFTL in the 111th Congress.

With regard to the JFTL program, while the committee has supported research efforts to develop next-generation rotorcraft capabilities, it is concerned that the Department of Defense has funded, primarily through reprogrammings, the beginnings of what could be a $50.0-$75.0 billion aircraft program. The committee is especially concerned that the senior leadership of the services and the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) have yet to establish a set of validated, reconciled, tested, and achievable technology requirements for the JFTL program.

Army Communications Programs

Given the growing importance of battlefield communications networks in global combat operations, the committee will continue to pressure the Army to clarify its plans for its future battlefield network and the supporting research programs now in place. In particular, the committee will focus oversight efforts on the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical (WIN-T), the Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS), other Army tactical radio programs, and the Force XXI Battle Command Brigade and Below (FBCB2) "Blue Force Tracker" system. The committee will work with the Army to ensure that the future battlefield capabilities it creates results in a network-enabled, rather than a network-dependent, Army. The committee aims to empower soldiers to accomplish their missions, rather than create an Army that is dependent on its communications network, so much so that it is not able to function without it. Finally, the committee will work to ensure that the Army's plans create conditions for real competition and efficiency in the domestic military communications industrial base.

Tactical Aircraft Force Structure

The committee will continue to focus on tactical aircraft force structure. Recent testimony before Congress by both Navy and Air Force officials indicated that both of the services are projecting future tactical aircraft force structure shortfalls.

With an operational requirement of 1,056 strike fighters, the Department of the Navy projects a strike fighter shortfall of 60-125 aircraft between the years 2016 and 2022, with a most optimistic shortfall peak projected to be 125 in 2017. The committee will focus on inventory objectives of F/A-18E/F and EA-18G procurement, the effect of delays in the procurement of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, F/A-18 A through D service life limits, and mission capability of the AV-8B aircraft.

The Air Force has stated a strike fighter operational requirement of 2,250 aircraft, and, under current procurement and retirement plans, the Air Force projects strike fighter shortfalls beginning in 2017 and rising to an inventory gap of 800 aircraft by 2024. For the 111th Congress, the committee will continue its oversight of: aircraft retirement plans; the F-22 and F-35 programs; and life extension and modernization programs for the F-15, F-16, and A-10.

F-35/Joint Strike Fighter

During the 111th Congress, the committee will continue oversight of the F-35/Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Program, particularly the competitive propulsion system aspect of the program. The committee will also continue to exercise oversight of program cost, schedule, and performance.

The JSF competitive propulsion system program, within the JSF program, is developing the F136 engine, which is intended to provide JSF users a competitive choice between the existing F135 engine and the F136 engine. Congress has supported this initiative since 1995, but the Department of Defense has not included funding for the competitive propulsion system program in its budget requests since 2006. Since then, Congress has provided annual increases to the budget request to continue this program. Over the long-term, the committee expects that engine competition will not only reduce engine procurement costs, but will also provide better engine performance, improved contractor responsiveness, a more robust industrial base, increased engine reliability, and improved operational readiness.

With the JSF about two thirds through a 12-year development process, the committee believes that there is still risk in completing JSF development within currently projected cost, schedule, and performance parameters. In the 111th Congress, the committee will continue to receive JSF annual reports and hearing testimony and briefings from both the Department of Defense and the Government Accountability Office.

Air Force Combat Search and Rescue Aircraft Recapitalization

During the 111th Congress, the committee expects that the Air Force will restart efforts to develop and procure the Combat Search and Rescue-X (CSAR-X) helicopter. The CSAR-X program office is leading the development of the next-generation personnel recovery helicopter intended to replace the current HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter, and provide increased capabilities of speed, range survivability, cabin size, and high-altitude hover operations. The Department of the Air Force anticipated beginning CSAR-X integration and demonstration activities early in fiscal year 2007, but these activities have been delayed by two bid protests, which were subsequently sustained, and have required the Department of the Air Force to re-solicit bids for the CSAR-X program. As a result of this re-solicitation, the committee expects that contract award will not occur until late in the third quarter of fiscal year 2009. In the 111th Congress, the committee will oversee the CSAR-X helicopter selection process, particularly with respect to a fair and open competition. When the source selection has been completed, the committee will oversee program cost, schedule, and performance.

Bomber Force Structure

The committee understands that the Air Force plans to invest significant fiscal resources to develop, prototype and field a next generation bomber platform in the 2018 timeframe and also has plans to modernize and upgrade the B-52, B-2, and B-1 bomber aircraft platforms. The

committee will continue to maintain oversight of current bomber force modernization plans and the future bomber development activities of the Air Force.

Aerial Refueling Aircraft

The committee will continue to maintain active oversight of tanker modernization and recapitalization programs of the Air Force. The ability for aerial refueling during military operations is a critical capability in meeting National Military Strategy objectives. Currently, the KC-135 and KC-10 are the primary providers of U.S. air-refueling capability. Recapitalization of the KC-135 fleet of 415 aircraft, currently delayed seven years because of failures internal to the Pentagon's acquisition system, will take over 30 years based on current fiscal resource constraints and other Department of Defense priorities that require significant funding. This will result in having to maintain and operate KC-135 aircraft that will be in the fleet for over 70 years. Therefore, timely recapitalization of the Air Force's KC-135 tanker fleet is critical. Additionally, the Air Force plans to perform an avionics modernization program on the KC-10 fleet of tankers.

Inter/Intra-Theater Airlift Programs

The committee plans to evaluate the two studies due to Congress in 2009, mandated by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181). One study requires the Secretary of Defense to perform inter/intra-theater airlift capabilities and requirements. The second study requires the Secretary of Defense and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to conduct a quadrennial roles and missions review of the armed forces. Based on the studies' conclusions and recommendations, the committee will continue to maintain oversight of the Department's inter/intra-theater airlift acquisition and modernization programs to ensure that the appropriate mix of airlift aircraft is adequate and balanced to meet National Military Strategy objectives.

Department of the Navy Aviation and Weapons Programs

In addition to Navy tactical aircraft force structure noted above, the Navy is faced with a number of challenges in major aviation acquisition and life extension programs. These include, but are not limited to: the P-8 Multi-Mission Aircraft (MMA); the VH 71 Presidential Helicopter Replacement; and medium and heavy lift helicopter replacement. The committee plans to devote a significant amount of effort in oversight for Navy and Marine Corps aviation acquisition programs in an attempt to forestall any degradation to the striking power of afloat carrier battle groups or the logistics ability afforded by medium and heavy lift helicopters.

The committee will continue close oversight of the Department of the Navy weapons procurement programs. In particular, the committee will evaluate the ability of the supplier base to furnish the Department with adequate numbers of weapons in an affordable manner, particularly the Tomahawk Land Attack Missile (TLAM) Block IV. The committee will conduct hearings and briefings on this and other weapons programs to ensure that the operating forces are supplied with the best weapons and weapons systems available at a fiscally responsible investment.

Shipbuilding Programs

The committee will continue close oversight of the Department of the Navy shipbuilding programs. In particular, the committee will conduct hearings, briefings and on-site inspection to assess the requirements for the size and composition of the nation's battle force fleet. The committee will continue to evaluate the projected investment required to maintain maritime dominance and deter peer or near-peer maritime aggression. As part of such an evaluation, the committee will continue to place a significant emphasis on improving affordability in shipbuilding programs through: the requirements process; the use of acquisition best practices; stability within the overall program; increased reliance on common systems; and process and facility improvements at construction yards. The committee will conduct hearings and briefings to assess the need for legislative action to recapitalize infrastructure of public and private shipyards constructing or maintaining Navy vessels and vessels of the National Defense Sealift Force.

Military Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Programs

Intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) programs constitute an approximate annual Department of Defense expenditure of $50.0 billion. In the 111th Congress, the committee will continue to provide close oversight over a myriad of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) programs included throughout the Department of Defense. Close scrutiny of Office of the Secretary of Defense ISR policy formulation and oversight have been and will continue to be of interest to the committee. Also, long-standing concerns of the committee remain: lack of an adequate long-term ISR architecture and acquisition strategy; lack of supporting analysis for programmatic decisions; failure to balance collection programs data output with adequate resources to process, exploit, and disseminate data and analysis; and unnecessary proliferation of unmanned and manned vehicles, sensors, and ground stations.

The committee will continue to focus on the major themes of ISR oversight. The committee will also focus on the budgets, cost, schedule, and performance outcomes of major unmanned aerial systems (UAS) programs and examine the ISR enterprise for balance in collection and analysis capabilities.

Directed Energy Programs

Each of the military services and the Office of the Secretary of Defense within the Department of Defense have continued to fund numerous directed energy acquisition efforts for at least the last two decades. Promised capabilities have in all cases failed to be realized. The committee has continued to support these efforts, but in the 111th Congress, the committee will more closely examine organizing concepts and the respective service acquisition plans in support of fielding directed energy capabilities.

Space Policy and Programs

As has been the case for several years, space programs include some of the highest-risk modernization activities of the Department of Defense (DOD). The committee will continue to provide rigorous oversight of space programs. Particular attention will be given to, but not be limited to, the following: improvement of space situational awareness; national space policy and doctrinal statements on space; examination of the strategy and programs for protection of national security space assets; maximization of space-based effects in military operations; program management; space acquisitions and prioritization of space programs; development of a professional space cadre; and the adequacy of space acquisition policy.

Particular attention will be given to the technical readiness of various space systems currently in development, with the objective of decreasing technical risk in acquisition programs. The committee will closely monitor and encourage the development of small-satellite and responsive launch technology with the objective of full demonstration and eventual operational deployment. The committee will also assess DOD efforts to leverage industry and academia for the purposes of increasing the quality of space-qualified personnel involved in space programs and improving the health of the space industrial base. Further, the committee will engage the space community to examine the space policy as well as explore opportunities to further integrate space assets with the nation's warfighting capability.

Missile Defense Programs

The committee will continue to monitor the Department of Defense's efforts to deploy missile defenses designed to protect the United States, its deployed forces, and its friends and allies against the full range of ballistic missile threats. The committee will focus on several key areas including: the future roles, missions, and responsibilities of the Missile Defense Agency; the suitability and effectiveness of missile defense testing programs; the viability of the boost phase missile defense concept, and specific boost phase systems such as the Airborne Laser and Kinetic Energy Interceptor programs; and continued oversight of missile defense policy, programs, and operations.

The committee will also continue to track cooperative missile defense activities with allies such as Japan, the State of Israel, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization member states, especially the proposed deployment of a long-range missile defense system in the Republic of Poland and the Czech Republic. Finally, the committee will monitor Department of Defense plans to fully implement the recommendations of the Joint Capabilities Mix Study II, which recommended doubling the number of Standard Missile-3 and Terminal High Altitude Area Defense interceptors in order to meet the minimum war fighting requirements of the regional combatant commanders.

Military Applications of Nuclear Energy

The committee will continue to oversee the Atomic Energy Defense Activities carried out by the Department of Energy, including but not limited to the following: modernization and maintenance of U.S. defense nuclear force structure in support of military and national security requirements, including the plan for transformation of the nuclear weapons complex as required by the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109-

364) and subsequent National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) executive actions; requirements for stockpile modernization and stewardship activities required by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181) and related NNSA actions; and the status of the Department of Energy's science-based stockpile stewardship program to assure the safety, reliability, and performance of the stockpile in the absence of testing.

The committee will also continue to oversee: implementation of options for consolidation and disposition of weapons-grade plutonium and highly enriched uranium; Department of Energy compliance with evolving Design Basis Threat requirements; and management of defense nuclear waste. Additionally, the committee will: monitor ongoing assessments of security standards and practices at all National Nuclear Security Administration sites, with a specific focus on the quality of federal oversight of laboratory management and operating contractor security practices; evaluate National Nuclear Security Administration performance of its roles and missions under title 32 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 (Public Law 106-65); and evaluate U.S. nuclear weapons posture and doctrine.

In addition, the committee will provide oversight to the Department of the Navy's Nuclear Propulsion Program and focus on the potential for the expansion of nuclear propulsion systems for the Navy's future fleet.

Chemical Demilitarization Program

April 29, 2007, marked the 10th anniversary of the United States' entry into the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). The CWC is an international treaty which prohibits the development, production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons. Under this treaty, the United States is required to complete the destruction of its stockpile of lethal chemical warfare agents and munitions by September, 2012. Through the chemical demilitarization (Chem Demil) program, established by the Department of Defense Authorization Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-145), the United States had already begun to eliminate its chemical warfare material and former production facilities.

The Army-managed Chem Demil program consists of two components: the Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) and the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA). The CMA has overall responsibility for safely storing and destroying the nation's chemical weapons while the ACWA seeks to identify and develop novel methods for destruction.

Since the inception of the Chem Demil program, more than 50 percent of the CWC-declared U.S. chemical weapons stockpile has been destroyed, notwithstanding the long-term technical, legal, political, and environmental controversies which have resulted in significant program delays and cost growth. During the 111th Congress, the committee will continue to address the state of the Chem Demil program and measures that might be taken to reduce program costs and accelerate the destruction of the stockpile. Additionally, the committee will provide oversight and, if necessary, issue public laws to guide the CMA in safely and securely storing and disposing of the chemical agent stockpile while protecting workers, the public, and the environment.

FORCE PROTECTION

The committee will continue to emphasize force protection as a high priority issue for special oversight, focusing on areas having direct impact on the safety of military personnel engaged in operations in the Republic of Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The objective of committee activity will be to expedite the promulgation of policies and the fielding of technology and equipment to prevent and/or reduce combat casualties. The committee will continue to emphasize and support capabilities that protect personnel and equipment against both symmetrical and asymmetrical threats from an offensive as well as defensive perspective.

In Iraq and Afghanistan, focus areas will include but are not limited to: effective requirements generation and test and evaluation procedures; mine resistant ambush protected (MRAP) vehicle production and fielding; adequate, effective, and properly resourced quantities of body and vehicle armor; effective counter improvised explosive device (IED) equipment throughout the force; persistent surveillance in support of ground operations, particularly prevention of IED emplacement; capabilities to counter indirect fires; and personal equipment that mitigates traumatic brain injury. The committee will also continue to analyze claims with respect to the capabilities of certain products, some of those claims being targeted at the families of military personnel serving overseas. Finally, the committee will maintain close oversight of the Joint IED Defeat Organization and its task forces to ensure appropriate intra-departmental coordination for fielding effective and affordable force protection measures.

Consistent with the oversight activities on the MRAP vehicle program by the committee in the 110th Congress, the committee will continue to actively monitor, review, and provide oversight over all aspects of the MRAP vehicle program to include the new MRAP All Terrain Vehicle (M-ATV) program. Specifically the committee will monitor and strongly encourage the timely fielding of vehicles for home station training for next-to-deploy units; monitor the acquisition and resourcing strategies for addressing sustainment requirements, and the adequacy of the industrial base to address a possible surge in vehicle requirements for operations in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

The committee will continue its intensive oversight of individual body armor programs throughout the 111th Congress through hearings and other activities. The committee will continue to maintain strong interest in: significant ergonomic and ballistic improvements in body armor; advances in light-weight solutions; and improvements in non-ballistic and blunt-impact protection against traumatic brain injury. The committee will also strongly encourage fidelity and transparency in body armor test and evaluation procedures and monitor performance specification requirements as well as threat assessments.

During the 110th Congress a new threat emerged in the Republic of Iraq, the explosively formed penetrator (EFP), requiring the development and production of new add-on armor kits that protect against the EFP threat. The committee will continue to monitor the development, production, and fielding of EFP add-on armor kits to military personnel operating in Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and continue to encourage the development of lighter-weight solutions.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

At the time of the 9/11 attacks, the Department of Defense (DOD) was embarking on transformation of major defense capabilities such as missile defense, space assets, precision weaponry, and information technology. With the emergence of nontraditional adversaries pursuing "complex irregular warfare," the Department of Defense recognized that true transformation required investment in additional capability areas. U.S. forces today assume a much more expeditionary character to successfully deter extremists. Over the long-term, the military's ability to win both conventional, major-combat operations and irregular warfare depends on its ability to provide warfighting options through a stable, healthy, and balanced science and technology (S&T) program.

The committee will continue to encourage the Department to plan for and execute a balanced S&T program that addresses near-, mid-, and long-term needs. According to the Department, the short-term S&T program should emphasize support to the combatant commander through rapid prototyping, demonstrations, and fielding. The mid-term program should show increased emphasis on the needs of tomorrow's forces and broad-based support of the planned DOD acquisition programs. And finally, the long-term S&T program should deliver both technology and intellectual talent that ensures the U.S. military can retain superiority for future generations.

The committee will also continue to generate legislative solutions designed to encourage transition, prototyping, demonstrations, and other rapid technology fielding initiatives.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The information technology (IT) revolution has fueled the U.S. military's superiority since the end of the Cold War. The military's expanding reliance on information technology is predicated on sufficient capabilities to provide systems engineering for software intensive programs. Due to the growing complexity of software and integration challenges of linking disparate systems, the committee will focus particularly on the management and acquisition of the Department of Defense information technology programs. During the 111th Congress, the committee will examine ways to improve the acquisition of IT systems to leverage a development cycle that is significantly shorter than the acquisition cycle for other weapons systems.

IT as an enabler of military operations calls for increased emphasis on the security and integrity of the data, applications, and networks. The committee will continue to scrutinize military cybersecurity efforts, including the Comprehensive National Cybersecurity Initiative. The committee is particularly interested in examining the effects of globalization on the assured integrity of microelectronics and software. The committee will also focus on the offensive cyber capabilities and how they are integrated into traditional kinetic operations.

Committee oversight will also focus on gaining a better understanding of mission-specific information technology systems, such as: medical, personnel, business, and logistics

systems; as well as tactical warfighting systems involved with communications, command and control, and operations and intelligence. The committee will closely examine the Department of Defense's business systems enterprise architecture to ensure that cost and deployment schedules are being met for these and other systems.

NATIONAL SECURITY ASPECTS OF THE MERCHANT MARINE

The committee will continue with oversight of programs and institutions managed by the Maritime Administration of the Department of Transportation. Specifically, the committee will continue to monitor: the effectiveness of the Maritime Security Fleet (46 USC 531); the Maritime Guaranteed Loan Program (46 USC 537); the condition of the National Defense Reserve Fleet and methods to dispose of those vessels in an environmentally sound manner; and the U.S Merchant Marine and State Maritime Academies. Additionally, the committee will maintain close oversight of activities at the United States Merchant Marine Academy as it establishes new procedures and instructions for improved fiscal responsibility.

The CHAIRMAN. Any discussion thereon?

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Chairman.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very briefly, and it is in my formal statement, so it will be entered into the record, I want to say, to begin stating the obvious, we have a constitutional duty to carefully scrutinize the Department of Defense, the armed services, in all areas that are relevant to their operations. I think this oversight plan does it.

To those who may not have bothered to, or have had the opportunity to look at the oversight plan before, there are some areas in the oversight plan that may cause some concern; things about "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," and the piracy threat, *et cetera, et cetera.* It is our absolute responsibility to look at these areas, and I trust you will agree with me, Mr. Chairman, that the oversight plan has no presuppositions as to outcomes, as to final determinations.

I just want to put that on the record for those who suggest that by merely looking at controversial issues, we are adopting controversial issues. We are not. It is this committee's responsibility to look at all issues, controversial and otherwise.

I commend, as you did, Mr. Chairman, I would be remiss if I didn't add my words of absolute admiration to this staff, this fine conglomeration of professional individuals who come to work each day and try to do the best they can, and the best they can do is absolutely amazing, on behalf of this committee but, more importantly, the men and women in uniform of the United States military.

With that, I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. Excellent. Thank you so much.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes, Mr. Abercrombie.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Chairman, just a comment on the question here about—not a question rather, but especially because we have so many new members, I think it is important in an atmosphere in which the fundamental requirement and obligation of Members of Congress, particularly when it comes to providing for the military, seems to be at question with regard to what is commonly known as earmarks. If you read carefully through the oversight plan here, I think you will see that this committee has a special responsibility to translate or transpose its oversight obligations into making specific recommendations, hopefully in concert with the Appropriations Committee, to make certain that we don't leave the defense of this country exclusively to political appointees of an executive, regardless of party.

I think, Mr. Chairman, that it needs to be said with some emphasis that the defense of this country, particularly when it comes to readiness issues, as manifest in base construction, technology, *et cetera,* acquisition systems, defense systems and platforms of all kinds, the defense of this Nation originates with this committee. The membership here, I think, should not be intimidated in the least by those who purport to speak on behalf of the Nation's interests by trying to minimize not only the input, but the sovereignty of this committee with respect to making those recommendations to the Congress as a whole and to the Nation.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much for your comments, Mr. Abercrombie.

Any further discussion on the oversight plan?

Any amendments to the oversight plan?

If not, the gentleman from South Carolina is recognized for the purpose of offering a motion.

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Chairman, I move to adopt Committee Resolution No. 2 concerning the committee's oversight plan for the 111th Congress.

The CHAIRMAN. The question now occurs on the motion of the gentleman from South Carolina, Mr. Spratt. So many as in favor, say aye.

Opposed, no.

The ayes have it, and Committee Resolution No. 2 is agreed to. Without objection, a motion to reconsider is laid upon the table. Of course, without objection, the committee staff is authorized to make technical and conforming changes.

The next order of business is the adoption of the committee's security procedures. Members should have before them a copy of the proposed security procedures. A copy was delivered to them on Monday, January 12th.

[The following information was submitted for the record.]

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION NO. 3

Resolved, That the Committee on Armed Services, U.S. House of Representatives, adopt the committee security procedures for the 111th Congress, a copy of which is before each Member.

SECURITY PROCEDURES
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
111th Congress
(Effective January 14, 2009)

In accordance with committee and House rules, the following procedures are established by the Committee on Armed Services to ensure protection of classified and other sensitive national security information in the possession of the committee.

The following committee and House rules apply to classified information:

COMMITTEE RULE 9(C)

"...with the approval of the Chairman, each member of the Committee may designate by letter to the Chairman, only one member of that member's personal staff, which may include fellows, with Top Secret security clearance to attend hearings of the Committee, or that member's subcommittee(s), panel(s), or task force(s) (excluding briefings or meetings held under the provisions of committee rule 9(a)), which have been closed under the provisions of rule 9(a) above for national security purposes for the taking of testimony. The attendance of such a staff member or fellow at such hearings is subject to the approval of the Committee, subcommittee, panel, or task force as dictated by national security requirements at that time. The attainment of any required security clearances is the responsibility of individual members of the Committee."

COMMITTEE RULE 20: PROTECTION OF NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

"(a) Except as provided in clause 2(g) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, all national security information bearing a classification of secret or higher which has been received by the Committee or a subcommittee shall be deemed to have been received in executive session and shall be given appropriate safekeeping."

"(b) The Chairman of the Committee shall, with the approval of a majority of the Committee, establish such procedures as in his judgment may be necessary to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of any national security information received classified as secret or higher. Such procedures shall, however, ensure access to this information by any member of the Committee or any other Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner of the House of Representatives, staff of the Committee, or staff designated under Rule 9(c) who have the appropriate security clearances and the need to know, who has requested the opportunity to review such material."

HOUSE RULE XXIII: CODE OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT

"Before a Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, officer, or employee of the House may have access to classified information, the following oath (or affirmation) shall be executed:

> 'I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will not disclose any classified information received in the course of my service with the House of Representatives, except as authorized by the House of Representatives or in accordance with its Rules.'"

PROCEDURES FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND STAFF ASSOCIATED WITH THE COMMITTEE WHO WISH TO READ CLASSIFIED INFORMATION IN THE POSSESSION OF THE COMMITTEE

In addition to House rules, law and regulation, the following procedures shall govern the handling, management and control of classified information by committee staff. These procedures apply to documents, material, and information provided to the committee by congressional or executive branch entities that bear a classification of confidential, secret, or top secret, including all codeword and special access classified information.

Members and staff of the Committee on Armed Services and 9(c) staff of Members of the Committee on Armed Services:

1. Members of Congress, who are Members of the committee and have signed the *Oath for Access to Classified Information*, shall have access to all classified papers and other materials received by the committee from any source.

2. Armed Services Committee staff members and appropriately cleared personal office staff who are designated under committee rule 9(c), who have signed the *Oath for Access to Classified Information* and have a need to know, may also have access to classified information that is in the possession of the committee and that corresponds with their respective clearance levels.

Members who are NOT Members of the Committee:

Members of Congress, who are not Members of the committee, may be granted access to classified materials which are in the possession of the committee in the following manner:

1. Written Notification Required — Members who desire to examine classified materials in the possession of the committee must notify the Chairman of the committee in writing.

2. Committee Consideration — The Chairman, in consultation with the Ranking Member, shall consider each such request by non-committee Members at the earliest practicable opportunity. The Chairman shall determine what action he deems appropriate in light of all of the circumstances of each request. In his determination, the Chairman shall consider:
    - the sensitivity to the national defense or the confidential conduct of the foreign relations of the United States of the information sought;
    - the jurisdictional interest of the Member making the request; and

- such other concerns, constitutional or otherwise, as may affect the public interest of the United States.

3. Chairman Action — After consideration of the Member's request, the Chairman may take any action that he may deem appropriate under the circumstances, including but not limited to:
    - approving the request, in whole or part;
    - denying the request; or
    - providing the requested information or material in a different form than that sought by the Member.

4. Requirements for Access by Non-Committee Members — Prior to a non-committee Member being given access to classified information, the requesting Member shall:
    - affirm in writing that a copy of the oath executed by such Member pursuant to House Rule XXIII, clause 13, is on file with the clerk of the House of Representatives;
    - agree in writing not to divulge any classified information provided to the Member pursuant to these committee procedures to any person not authorized by House rules, law or regulation; and
    - agree not to divulge such classified information in a non-secure environment.

5. Consultation Authorized — When considering a Member's request, the Chairman may consult the Secretary of Defense and such other officials as he considers to be necessary.

6. Finality of Committee Decisions —
    - Should the Member making such a request disagree with the Chairman's determination with respect to that request, or any part thereof, the Member may request full committee consideration of his/her request by notifying the Chairman in writing of his disagreement with the decision and the Member's request for the committee's consideration and a vote on the request.
    - The committee shall subsequently consider the matter and decide, by record vote, what further action or recommendation, if any, the committee will take.

7. Notice to Originating Agency — In the event that the chairman or committee authorizes the disclosure of classified information, which is provided to the committee by an agency of the executive branch, to a Member who is not a Member of the committee, the Chairman may notify the providing agency of the committee's action prior to the transmission of such classified information.

ALL Members and 9(c) Staff Requesting Access to Classified Information:

1. All classified information will be kept in secure safes in the committee offices. Members seeking to review classified information should contact the Staff Director or Deputy Staff Director of the Armed Services Committee and identify the specific classified materials which are requested for review.

2. Following consultation with the Staff Director or Deputy Staff Director, access to the classified information will be coordinated with the committee's Classified Materials Control Officer. Classified documents will be made available for review during regular committee business hours (8:30AM- 6:00PM, Monday through Friday).

3. Review of classified materials must occur within committee office spaces. The classified materials may not be removed from these spaces. An appropriately cleared committee staff member will be present while classified information is being reviewed.

4. No notes, reproduction or recordings may be made of any portion of the classified information reviewed by Members of Congress or 9(c) staff.

5. In accordance with the applicable laws and regulations, classified information may only be disclosed by Members of Congress to individuals with the appropriate level of security clearance, an established need-to-know, and in a secure location.

6. Members will be asked to sign the *Access Information Sheet,* a copy of which is attached to this document, if they or their 9(c) staff gain access to classified information.

   After securing the signature of their respective Member, 9(c) staff will also sign their form before the 9(c) staff will be given access to classified information.

   The committee's Classified Material Control Officer will maintain the *Access Information Sheet* identifying the material, the staff assigned, and the time of arrival and departure of Members of Congress or their 9(c) staff who were given access to classified information at the request of their respective Member.

7. The committee's Classified Material Control Officer will ensure that the classified information reviewed by the Member of Congress or their 9(c) staff is returned to the proper custodian and/or secured appropriately.

PROCEDURES FOR CLASSIFIED HEARINGS AND BRIEFINGS OF THE COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEES

1. In accordance with the applicable laws and regulations, classified information may only be disclosed to Members of Congress, committee staff, or 9(c) staff with the appropriate level of security clearance and an established need-to-know.

2. No classified material provided at a hearing, briefing or meeting may be removed from the secure meeting room.

3. Any notes made by a Member or 9(c) staff during a classified hearing or briefing must be provided to Armed Services Committee staff at the conclusion of the classified hearing or briefing for proper storage or destruction.

4. No electronic communication devices, including blackberries, cellular phones, and pagers (including 1-way pagers), may be taken into a classified hearing or briefing. Committee staff will make arrangements for the proper safekeeping of such electronic equipment outside the meeting room.

CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS ACCESS INFORMATION SHEET FOR MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
111th CONGRESS

Description of Material:

Classification:

Member's Name:

HASC Staff Member Assigned:

Date:

Time In:

Time Out:

I agree not to divulge any classified information provided to me pursuant to the committee's procedures to any person not authorized by House rules, law or regulation. I also agree not to divulge such classified information in a non-secure environment.

_____

Signature, Member of Congress

CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS ACCESS INFORMATION SHEET FOR MEMBERS NOT ON THE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
111th CONGRESS

Description of Material:

Classification:

Member's Name:

Date:

Time In:

Time Out:

I affirm that I have duly executed the oath pursuant to House Rule XXIII, clause 13, and that the oath is on file with the clerk of the House of Representatives. I agree not to divulge any classified information provided to me pursuant to the committee's procedures to any person not authorized by House rules, law or regulation. I also agree not to divulge such classified information in a non-secure environment.

_____

Signature, Member of Congress

CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS ACCESS INFORMATION SHEET FOR 9(c) STAFF OF THE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
111th CONGRESS

Description of Material:

Classification:

Member's Name:

HASC Staff Member Assigned:

Date:

Time In:

Time Out:

I request that my 9(c) staff, _____, be granted access to the material described.

_____
Signature, Member of Congress

I, _____, agree not to divulge any classified information provided to me pursuant to the committee's procedures to any person not authorized by House rules, law or regulation. I also agree not to divulge such classified information in a non-secure environment.

_____
Signature, 9(c) staff

The CHAIRMAN. At this time is there any discussion on the security procedures?

Any amendments to the security procedure proposal?

If not, I recognize Mr. Spratt from South Carolina.

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Chairman, I move to adopt the Committee Resolution No. 3 concerning the committee's security plans for the 111th Congress.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

The question now occurs on the motion of the gentleman from South Carolina, Mr. Spratt. Those in favor, say aye.

Opposed, no.

The ayes have it. Committee Resolution No. 3 is agreed to. Without objection, a motion to reconsider is laid upon the table. Of course, without objection, committee staff is authorized to make technical and conforming changes.

The final item of business for today is the committee's staffing resolution. Members should have before them Resolution No. 4, which is a resolution appointing the committee staff for this Congress, as well as a copy of the list of committee staff. Note that the list of committee staff before you differs slightly from the list distributed Monday. We corrected an administrative error which omitted one staffer.

[The following information was submitted for the record.]

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION NO. 4

Resolved, That the persons listed on the sheet before the Members, and such other personnel as may be required by the committee within the limits and terms authorized under the Rules of the House of Representatives, are hereby appointed to the staff of the Committee on Armed Services, U.S. House of Representatives, for the 111th Congress, it being understood that according to the provisions of law, the Chairman will fix the basic salary per annum.

STAFF - HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

Erin C. Conaton, Staff Director
Bob DeGrasse, Deputy Staff Director
Paul Oostburg Sanz, General Counsel
Betty B. Gray, Executive Assistant
Michael R. Higgins, Professional Staff Member
John D. Chapla, Professional Staff Member
John F. Sullivan, Professional Staff Member
Nancy M. Warner, Professional Staff Member
Thomas E. Hawley, Professional Staff Member
William H. Natter, Professional Staff Member
Jesse D. Tolleson, Jr., Professional Staff Member
Debra S. Wada, Professional Staff Member
Douglas C. Roach, Professional Staff Member
Linda Burnette, Printing Clerk
Robert L. Simmons, Professional Staff Member
Mark R. Lewis, Professional Staff Member and Senior Policy Advisor to the Chairman
Loren Dealy, Press Secretary
Paul Arcangeli, Professional Staff Member
Jeanette S. James, Professional Staff Member
Rebecca A. Ross, Professional Staff Member
Andrew Hunter, Professional Staff Member
Heath R. Bope, Professional Staff Member
Lynn M. Williams, Professional Staff Member
Joshua C. Holly, Professional Staff Member
John Wason, Professional Staff Member
Jenness Simler, Professional Staff Member
Julie Unmacht, Counsel
Lorry M. Fenner, Professional Staff Member
Derek Scott, Staff Assistant
Eryn Robinson, Professional Staff Member
Alex Kugajevsky, Professional Staff Member
Kari Bingen, Professional Staff Member
John Kruse, Professional Staff Member
Andrew Tabler, Staff Assistant
Aileen K. Alexander, Professional Staff Member
Cyndi Howard, Staff Assistant
Douglas Bush, Professional Staff Member
Rudy Barnes, Professional Staff Member
Lara Battles, Press Secretary
William Ebbs, Professional Staff Member
Frank Rose, Professional Staff Member
Christine Lamb, Staff Assistant
Cathy Garman, Professional Staff Member
Vickie Plunkett, Professional Staff Member
Roy Phillips, Professional Staff Member
Suzanne McKenna, Counsel
Sasha Rogers, Research Assistant
Timothy McClees, Professional Staff Member
Joe Hicken, Director, Legislative Operations
Kevin Gates, Professional Staff Member
Dave Kildee, Professional Staff Member
Michael Casey, Professional Staff Member
Alicia Haley, Staff Assistant
Ben Glerum, Staff Assistant
David Sienicki, Professional Staff Member
Caterina Dutto, Staff Assistant
Kathleen Kelly, Executive Assistant
Kyle Wilkens, Special Assistant to the Chairman
Michael McErlean, Professional Staff Member
Trey Howard, Staff Assistant
Rosellen Kim, Staff Assistant
Megan Putnam, Staff Assistant
Zach Steacy, Staff Assistant
Liz Drummond, Staff Assistant
Everett Coleman, Professional Staff Member
Mary Kate Cunningham, Intern
Craig Greene, Professional Staff Member

The CHAIRMAN. As many of you know, our committee is unique in that its staff is integrated without distinction between Majority and Minority staffs. They are here to provide advice and counsel to each one of us, Democrats, Republicans. Feel free to avail yourself of their services. They are an absolutely talented group of folks. They are all professionals. We hope you use them to their fullest.

At this time is there any discussion of the resolution regarding the staff members?

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Chairman, I move to adopt Committee Resolution No. 4 concerning committee staffing for the 111th Congress.

The CHAIRMAN. The question now occurs on the motion of the gentleman from South Carolina, Mr. Spratt. So many as in favor, say aye.

Opposed, no.

The ayes have it. The Committee Resolution No. 4 is agreed to. Without objection, a motion to reconsider is laid upon the table. Without objection, committee staff is authorized to make technical and conforming changes.

Let me raise a few administrative matters very quickly. As returning members—and I mentioned this earlier—as returning members know, we have a five-minute rule. That doesn't mean 5 minutes and 30 seconds, it means 5 minutes. I remember very well when I came and I was sitting on the front row, we had a member on the top row that would ask a question; one time I counted 22 questions that he asked in his 5 minutes. Of course, the witnesses went on and on and on. That is not a good idea.

One or two well-thought-out questions will usually get the job done. We will have second rounds. But we want to do our best so that the very last person sitting on the front row will have the opportunity to ask questions. So we need everyone's cooperation to do that.

The Majority members will meet today in 2212 at 2:00 p.m. to select subcommittee assignments. Be there. If you really, really can't be there, send a letter with a staffer. But I strongly suggest you be there if at all possible.

Minority members will hold subcommittee selections tomorrow, as I understand it, John, at 11:00 a.m. Let me say the same to my Minority friends. Be there. You hate to be left somewhere out in the cold and your only excuse is, "I just didn't make it to the meeting."

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Chairman, if I may? We also have a dry run-through tonight at 5:00 p.m. We Republicans need to do things a couple of times.

[Laughter.]

The CHAIRMAN. We are going to get it right the first time.

[Laughter.]

Thank you, John.

Let me recognize Mr. McHugh for any closing comments you might have.

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Chairman, I don't have any prepared remarks, but let me just, with my Irish optimism, say I hope our future meetings are as accommodating as this meeting has been. This is my 17th year on this committee, and the only reason I raise that

is I truly recall from the first moment when I was way down there, as you recall you were, Mr. Chairman, this has been an amazing opportunity and an amazing responsibility.

I pledge to you, on behalf of all of our members, we will do everything we can to continue the tradition of this great committee, and that is working to provide to those brave men and women in uniform who go out every day to defend our freedom and freedom across the planet, everything they need. And you are a leader in that effort, Mr. Chairman, and I am honored and looking forward to the opportunity to working with you.

The CHAIRMAN. John, thank you very much. We certainly look forward to working with you and all members of this committee. This is a great committee, and we have great challenges ahead of us.

Let me close, if I may. We are getting ready for an inauguration, and I remember so well, my father in January 1949 brought me to Washington, D.C., I was a senior in high school, to witness the inauguration of his friend from Independence, just 30 miles up the road from my home of Lexington, a fellow by the name of Truman. Of course, there are a lot of Truman quotes that have been passed down through the years, but I remember one very well that he liked to tell about the grave marker at Tombstone, Arizona, that says, "Here lies Jack Williams. He done his damnedest." I hope at the end of this year and the end of next year they can say that about our committee, that we have done our damnedest.

So thanks so much. God bless. The committee is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 10:44 a.m., the committee was adjourned.]

A P P E N D I X

JANUARY 14, 2009

OPENING REMARKS
RANKING MEMBER JOHN MCHUGH

Full Committee Organization – 111th Congress

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Thank you to my good friend Ike Skelton, the distinguished Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. As my first order of business as the committee's Ranking Member, let me once again recognize and thank Ike Skelton, a true patriot, for his bipartisan friendship and support during my entire tenure on the committee. It's a tremendous honor and responsibility to serve on this committee, especially in my new role, and I look forward to working with you and all of the members of the committee.

Even though he is not in attendance, I would be remiss if I did not also recognize my good friend, Duncan Hunter—the former Chairman and Ranking Member of this committee. He never wavered from his singular guiding principle during his twenty-eight years of service to this committee: to do everything in his power to ensure that every member of the United States Military—and their families on the homefront—had the support and resources necessary to carry out their missions. I applaud my good friend and wish him well.

With that, I would like to welcome all members of the committee, both new and returning, to the best and most rewarding committee in Congress. Please allow me to recognize and say a few words about each of our five new members.

Rep. Mary Fallin was elected in 2006 to represent the 5th District of Oklahoma. Prior to being elected to Congress, Mary held numerous elected offices in Oklahoma, including two terms as a State Representative. She was elected as the first woman and first Republican Lt. Governor for Oklahoma in 1995. Her position on the committee will allow her to work with Rep. Boren to represent the significant military interests in Oklahoma, including Ft. Sill, Vance Air Force Base, and Tinker Air Force Base.

Rep. Duncan D. Hunter doesn't need much of an introduction. He was elected to California's 52nd Congressional District last November. Following 9/11, Duncan volunteered to join the U.S. Marine Corps and has since served three combat tours—two in Iraq with the 1st Marine Division and one in Afghanistan.

Rep. Mike Coffman was elected in 2008 to represent the fine people of Colorado's 6th Congressional District. As a former soldier and Marine, Mike served in the Gulf War as an infantry officer and in

Operation Iraqi Freedom, where he worked with the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraqi (IECI) on two national elections among other duties. It's worth noting that Mike took a leave of absence from elected positions in Colorado when he twice volunteered to serve his country in combat.

Rep. John Fleming was elected in November to represent Louisiana's 4th Congressional District, the home of Ft. Polk and Barksdale Air Force Base. John is a family physician and served as a Medical Officer in the United States Navy. We look forward to his contributions to the committee, especially as we grapple with the increasing costs of providing our military men and women—and their families—with world class healthcare.

Rep. Tom Rooney represents Florida's 16th Congressional District. Tom served in the United States Army JAG Corps, including a stint as the Special Assistant U.S. Attorney on Ft. Hood, and taught Constitutional and Criminal Law at the United States Military Academy. I would be remiss if I did not congratulate Tom (master's degree) for the University of Florida's second national football championship in three years.

As the chairman said, members of this committee will be asked today to approve three committee documents that we routinely consider at the start of each Congress: the committee rules, the committee oversight plan, and our procedures for handling classified material. I have reviewed these documents and have no objections to them.

While these documents were distributed to members and staff earlier this week, I feel obliged to make sure members are aware of certain matters contemplated in the oversight plan.

We have a constitutional duty to provide careful scrutiny of the Department of Defense and the Armed Services, and the proposed oversight plan, like previous oversight plans approved by this committee, lays out a comprehensive agenda. Again, like our previous oversight plans, this document proposes, as it should, that the committee examine the most difficult issues confronting our military. I must emphasize that the oversight plan does not presuppose any particular outcome on these or any issue, for that matter. It merely commits the committee to examine the topics in some manner.

Among the many issues contemplated by the plan are detainee policy; the national security implications of climate change; continuing to gather leader and junior servicemember perspectives on implications

of any change to "don't ask, don't tell;" and finally, the growing international piracy threat. I agree that all of these subjects deserve our careful attention.

I look forward to working with the Chairman and all the members on these and other issues in the 111th Congress.

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