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COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS
FIRST SESSION

HEARING HELD
JANUARY 10, 2007

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COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
Washington, DC, Wednesday, January 10, 2007.

The committee met, pursuant to call, at 2:12 p.m., in room 2118, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Ike Skelton (chairman of the committee) presiding.

The CHAIRMAN. First let me call the organizational meeting of the House Armed Services Committee to order, and I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Chairman, during World War II, an 11-year-old boy in Lexington, Missouri was playing with his buddies on the north side of Franklin Avenue and they heard an Army transport airplane pulling an Army glider. And he then heard that the Army Air Corps base—or Army Air Corps had a base near Sedalia, now known as Whiteman Air Force base, where these planes are located, and those same Army gliders were the ones who carried American soldiers who landed at Normandy on D Day, June 6, 1944.

That young boy was Ike Skelton, and that was when Ike Skelton first got an interest in military history and in the military. And he was the same Ike Skelton who met then-judge—county court Judge Harry S. Truman from nearby Jackson County—met him at a program then that was held by the National Old Trails Association, and then got to know him as a young Lafayette County prosecuting attorney. And Ike Skelton—his dad served in fact on the Battleship Missouri during World War II. And this gentleman, this kid from Missouri later—and we all know, we are all familiar with Ike's history—then ran for a local office and ultimately ran for the United States Congress and got a position on this wonderful committee, and now is going to be the chair of this committee.

And, Ike, let me tell you, as the outgoing chair and a guy who is reluctant to give up the gavel but must do it, you have got in this wonderful committee, I think, the greatest mix of Democrats and Republicans in this House, and a committee that is strongly bipartisan. And what we can pledge to you is, we are going to stand on principle, but we are also going to stand with you and with the Democratic Members of this committee on the common ground that is represented by the interests of the men and women who wear the uniform of the United States.

Having said that, you know, a lot of this business is personal, and I can remember our great lifetime friend, the late Bob Stump who left the committee here, and his last appearance before us, he looked over casually at both you and me, I think as we were hanging his picture, and in a typical Stumpian fashion, I think his re-

sponse after we had given him 30 minutes of accolades was about one sentence. But he looked at us and he said, if either one of you guys becomes Chairman it would be just fine with me.

He got his wish. We were both Chairmen. And I have got to tell you, Ike, that I know with your wonderful family—and I met and know well your three sons and knew Susie well and got the pleasure of announcing at least the birth of one of your grandsons, Harry—that you are a guy who has a heart for this committee, you are a guy who has got a heart for the men and women who wear the uniform of the United States. You have a deep interest in history, and that interest has been manifested many times in our history—in our past hearings, when you would reach back into the past for a situation that occurred, military situation or political situation that occurred in times past that was very very close to what we were doing in the present, and that gave a lot of value added to our being able to solve the problems and the challenges that we have got today.

So we are in the midst of several shooting wars right now, and what we do on this committee very much effects the safety and security not only of the millions of Americans here at home but also those great warfighters who are deployed around the world and principally in those two theaters, in Iraq and in Afghanistan. We have got a lot of work to do, and I look forward to working with you, my friend, and I have got to tell you that it is with a lot of pleasure, because of our personal friendship, that I hand you this much-handled gavel that I have already given to you in several ceremonies; but I quickly retrieve it so I can give it to you again, so you can gavel us to order as the Chairman of the Armed Services Committee. And it is nicely encased, and on the case it says, "Chairman Ike Skelton, 110th Congress."

So, ladies and gentlemen, I present to you the Chairman of the Armed Services Committee of the United States House of Representatives, 110th Congress.

The CHAIRMAN. There was a radio program when I was growing up entitled "Can You Top This?" Chairman Duncan Hunter, there is no way to top this. Thank you so much for your very kind words. Most of all, thank you for your friendship, not just now but through the years. I appreciate you.

Mr. HUNTER. Absolutely.

The CHAIRMAN. I would like to say a couple words about Chairman Duncan Hunter, if I may. I was Personnel Subcommittee chair. I really thought I was pretty good at the job, you know, and carrying on. All of a sudden there was an election, and I was no longer Chairman of the Personnel Subcommittee. So I know exactly how you must feel. The best you can say is, doggone it, or something like that.

And here we are, but we are all Members of this fantastic committee, and I appreciate your kind words, your professional courtesy, the help that you have given us in the transition. It could not have been better. After all, it is for our friends in uniform. Duncan Hunter is a great advocate for our young people, for what is right for our country, for the people in San Francisco.

Mr. HUNTER. San Diego.

The CHAIRMAN. What did I say?

Mr. HUNTER. San Francisco.

The CHAIRMAN. That is what I said, San Diego. All right.

Mr. HUNTER. And San Francisco.

The CHAIRMAN. You are not recognized anymore.

A devoted husband to his lovely wife Lynn, two sons Duncan and Sam, and I might say Duncan served our country well in a Marine uniform, and I appreciate the work that you have done and look forward to working with you. I think we ought to show our appreciation to you for your work, for your friendship, your dedication to our country, Duncan. Let's give him a hand.

Let me now welcome all my colleagues to this organizational meeting of the Armed Services Committee. We have 15 new Members joining us and 4 returning Members. And in a few moments, Duncan and I will welcome each one and mention a bit about you. I want to say, I continue to be impressed with the talent that we have serving on this committee. It is truly bipartisan and we do our very, very best to work hard in an intelligent and dedicated way, to be responsible for our national security. And I know that we will continue that tradition.

I remember quite well how hard I worked to get on the Armed Services Committee, which was not my first, but it was toward the end of my second term in Congress. And I might say to those of you on the front row, on the second row, I have been there. I hope you all don't mind my taking just a few minutes.

Mr. HUNTER. I think it is just fine.

The CHAIRMAN. I was asked by the Army to offer a noncontroversial amendment in markup from the front row for a $3 million Army museum here in Washington. Sure, no problem at all. During markup, I offered my amendment. The entire front row, Democrats and Republicans, were reeling about what a terrible idea this was and shouldn't even have been offered, and they went on and on. I don't think there was anyone up here that didn't say something unkind about my amendment. And when we voted, this noncontroversial amendment got three votes. I am going to be a lot nicer to those in the front row than they were to me because of those memories. So my job is to lead and to ensure you that you are able to use your judgment, your knowledge, and the past in this 110th Congress.

In the fall, there was a great deal of interest in what it would mean to me to be Chairman, and I said at that time that the business of our committee would be oversight oversight, and oversight, and I firmly believe that we can do that and do a good job. There is a plaque that states from Article I, section 8 of the Constitution that Congress shall have the power to raise and support armies, to provide and maintain a Navy, to make rules for the government, and regulation of the land and naval forces, and that is what we do. We are not the Commander in Chief, but it is to supply those forces, and we consider oversight to be a good part of it.

Shortly we will consider our oversight plan which we do every two years. My priorities in this Congress will be the war in Iraq, the war in Afghanistan, the war on terrorism, the health of our force, prevention of nuclear proliferation, and, not to say the least, the future of our military. There is no doubt that the war in Iraq will occupy much of our time. We look closely at the President's

plan, its implications for the future of our forces, and I believe that focusing on these priorities will allow us to put together a strong national defense authorization bill, hopefully this spring, and then it will of course be in conference with the Senate. I also think that we will be able to provide the oversight that the Nation demands of us.

At this time let me introduce the large and pressing new team that we have. The first member is Brad Ellsworth. Would you raise your hand, Brad, wherever you are? There you are. From the Eighth District of Indiana, Brad's district is home to Crane Naval Surface Weapons Center and several other smaller but very important installations. Brad formerly served as the sheriff of Vanderburgh County. Did I pronounce that correctly, sir?

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Vanderburgh.

The CHAIRMAN. Vanderburgh?

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Vanderburgh.

The CHAIRMAN. Vanderburgh. Do we call you Mr. Sheriff? By the way, we have two sheriffs in this body. Solomon Ortiz is a sheriff as well.

Mr. ORTIZ. But this is the real sheriff.

The CHAIRMAN. Right across the Missouri River over in Kansas, the Fourth District of Kansas, we have Nancy Boyda. Nancy's district is home to Fort Leavenworth, Forbes Field, Fort Riley, Kansas, which of course is the home of the Big Red One Infantry Division.

We have Patrick Murphy of the Eighth District of Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania, all right. Patrick is a former Iraq veteran, former West Point professor, former military prosecutor. His service now is twofold as he continues in the Army Reserve while joining us here on our committee. Thank you, Patrick.

From the Fourth District of Georgia, Hank Johnson. Prior to his congressional service, Hank was a DeKalb County commissioner. Did I pronounce it correctly, DeKalb?

Mr. JOHNSON. DeKalb.

The CHAIRMAN. Say it again.

Mr. JOHNSON. DeKalb.

The CHAIRMAN. DeKalb. I have got it. All right. Practiced law as a criminal defense attorney and sat as a judge. And welcome, Hank, to our committee.

Carol Shea-Porter, sitting next to him, comes from the First District of New Hampshire, Pease Air National Guard Base; additionally, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. While not in the First District, it employs many of her constituents. We appreciate Carol, during her years of service both as a military spouse, and as a teacher to our committee.

From the Second District of Connecticut we have Joe Courtney. Joe represents New London Naval Submarine Base. He has a career in public service at the State level. We are excited to have him bring his expertise to our committee. Joe.

David Loebsack. Did I get it right?

Mr. LOEBSACK. Loebsack.

The CHAIRMAN. Loebsack. Thank you. Joins us from the Second District of Iowa. Back in Missouri we call it Iowa, but same place. David holds a Ph.D. and has spent his years as a professor of polit-

ical science at Cornell. We welcome David and we are certain his academic outlook will be very valuable to our committee.

From the 20th District of New York, Kirsten Gillibrand. Did I get it right? Kirsten is a lawyer, with a history of service in both public and private arenas. We are delighted of course, Kirsten, to have you join us.

I would also like to introduce Joe Sestak of the Seventh District of Pennsylvania. We have a cheering section right here.

Mr. BRADY. I have company now.

The CHAIRMAN. You have company. Bob Brady has been very lonesome for quite a long time.

Joe retired from the Navy after 31 years of service after having the reached the grade of Vice Admiral. We thank him for his great military service and we look forward to his congressional contributions. Where are you, Joe? All right. Thank you.

Gaby Giffords. I think it is Gabrielle, am I correct, Giffords, representing the Eighth District of Arizona which of course includes Fort Huachucha, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, and prior to Congress, Gabrielle served in the Arizona State legislature.

Also introduce Katherine Castor from the Eleventh District of Florida. Eleventh District is the home of MacDill Air Force base which includes both CENTCOM, SIRCOM, and the Sixth Air Mobility Wing. Kathy—I think we call you Kathy, is that correct—formerly sat on the Hillsborough County Commission. We are very, very fortunate to have such talented folks with us.

Would the gentleman from California make remarks regarding returning Members?

Mr. HUNTER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have three returning Members, Members who are returning to their roots on the Armed Services Committee. And I find it interesting that when they heard that you were going to be Chairman instead of me, they all put in to return to the committee.

But our first returning member is Tom Cole, serving his third term, representing the Fourth District of Oklahoma. Tom's district includes Fort Sill, home of the Army's Artillery Center and School as well as Tinker Air Base and Offutt Air Force Base.

Our second returning member, also serving his third term, is Rob Bishop of Utah's First District, and his district includes Hill Air Force Base, Tooele Army Depot, and Dugway Proving Ground.

And, finally, please welcome Dr. Phil Gingrey back to the committee. He is from the 11th District of Georgia. He is also serving his third term, and Phil is a physician whose district includes Dobbins Air Reserve Base.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Ranking Member.

Mr. HUNTER. Oh, wait.

The CHAIRMAN. Buddy from California.

Mr. HUNTER. We have one other gentleman who is returning from California, too. Also interestingly coming back after he found out that I would no longer be Chairman, my great seatmate in California, Buck McKeon, who represents the northern area of Los Angeles County, and is basically a great friend of all of the military reservations and bases in the State of California and my compadre.

The CHAIRMAN. I join you in welcoming the returning and the new Members to our committee. Let us old-timers all give them a welcome hand.

On the business, we have some items we need to take up. The Members should have before them a copy of Committee Resolution No. 1 concerning the committee rules for the 110th Congress.

The rules package was coordinated with Mr. Hunter and subsequently provided to all Members' offices this past Monday.

[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 110th Congress, which are stated in the copy before each Member.

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

110TH 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) 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, acquisition and industrial base policy, technology transfer and export controls, joint interoperability, the Cooperative Threat Reduction program, Department of Energy nonproliferation programs, and detainee affairs and policy. 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 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.

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 and oversight; homeland defense and consequence management programs within the committee's jurisdiction; and related intelligence support.

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

Subcommittee on Seapower and Expeditionary Forces: Navy and Marine Corps 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 rule X, clauses 5, 6, and 9 of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

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.

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 those present and voting.

(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.

RULE 7. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF HEARINGS AND MEETINGS

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) 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) 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 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 and mark-ups 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. Any requests to correct any errors, other than those in transcription, or disputed errors 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 mark-up 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. 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 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.

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. There is a slightly corrected version in front of you also, in red, that you will find. There are additions and subtractions noted in red, previous changes from the previous 109th rules.

The only difference in what you received and what you have in front of you now is technical and conforming changes in the name of one of the subcommittees, the Subcommittee on Military Personnel, which is now correctly named in the document. There has been no change in the subcommittee's jurisdictions or responsibility.

At this time is there any discussion on the rules before you?

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Chairman, we have taken a look at it, and I know Mr. Kline has some discussion that he would like to make, but from our perspective, this thing, the package that you have looks good.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you so much. Is there amendment?

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Chairman? Mr. Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Kline, wherever he is. Oh, excuse me. I will go to Mrs. Drake first. Pardon me.

Mrs. DRAKE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIRMAN. Does everyone have a copy of the amendment, please? Would you please explain your amendment?

[The following information was submitted for the record.]

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE RULES OFFERED BY MRS. DRAKE OF VIRGINIA

Paragraph (b) (1) of Rule 12 is amended by striking 'with the concurrence of the full Committee Chairman' and inserting 'with the concurrence of the full Committee Chairman and after consultation with the Ranking Member'.

Mrs. DRAKE. Thank you Mr. Chairman. This is an amendment to rule 12, paragraph (b), section 1. And what the intent of the amendment is, is that prior to issuing a subpoena and before it is brought to the committee for a vote, that there simply be a consultation with a Ranking Member.

The CHAIRMAN. I think that is an excellent amendment. We should have caught that prior to your having to offer it, and I think it is acceptable.

Mrs. DRAKE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Any discussion on that amendment? If not, it will be approved as read.

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. McHugh has a comment or question.

Mr. MCHUGH. Probably both. It is my understanding, Mr. Chairman, that an earlier version of the new rules had apparently inadvertently stricken the word "Military" from Military Personnel Subcommittee. I thought I was led to believe there was an understanding to reinsert the word "Military."

I would just note, and perhaps unless there is some other intention here, it could just be cleaned up on a technical amendment at some point. But on the version we are about to adopt, the word "Military" is still stricken.

The CHAIRMAN. It is in the version I have in front of me.

Mr. MCHUGH. Oh, okay. That is part of being the minority, huh? You get the old copies. All right. I am learning, Mr. Chairman. I thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. With that we will call Mr. Kline. I believe he had a—

Mr. KLINE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIRMAN. Would they pass the amendment out, please?

[The following information was submitted for the record.]

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE RULES OFFERED BY MR. KLINE OF MINNESOTA

At the end of paragraph (c) of Rule 9, add the following sentence:

Due to the committee's jurisdiction and nature of information required for oversight, the designated staffer from the member's personal staff may be granted a Sensitive Compartmented Information (SCI) clearance.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Kline.

Mr. KLINE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as per our earlier discussion, Mr. Chairman, I do intend to withdraw this amendment after we have had an opportunity to discuss it for just a minute. I do that not because I think that it is not important to have this amendment, but because the futility of trying to move it forward up the chain has been explained to me. But I think that is something that we should talk about. Everybody that has ever submitted amendments to this committee on the floor explains that it is a simple amendment. I think you would agree that this one is in fact pretty simple. At least it is very short.

An issue comes to who is allowed to have special compartmented information clearances. All of us on this committee—at least I think all of us—have an MLA, a Military Legislative Assistant, most of them have had military service, many of them have had clearances in the past, including SCI clearances. And in order for us to perform our duties, our constitutional duties, which you, Mr. Chairman, pointed out, we need staff support. And while I recognize the tremendously effective and competent and capable staff of the committee, there simply aren't enough of them. It seems to me that we as elected Members of Congress and Members of this committee ought to have the ability to have our MLA be granted a clearance so that we can have someone on our staff with whom we can have discussions, albeit in a Secret Compartmentalized Information Facility (SCIF), of course, and the fact—apparently the fact is that the director of the CIA is determining who we in the legislative branch can designate as persons to have clearance. I think it is something that ought to be reviewed.

I would welcome your discussion on the matter. As I said, following that discussion, I do intend to withdraw the amendment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much. I will assure the gentleman that we will do our very best to see that Members and their staffs have access to as much information as we possibly can. We do know the problems that you did point out and we are going to do our best to ensure the briefings are conducted at such levels where staff members can attend.

Are there any other amendments to the rules? If not, I will recognize the gentleman from South Carolina for the purpose of offering a motion regarding Committee Resolution No. 1.

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Chairman, I move the adoption of Committee Resolution No. 1 concerning the committee rules for the 110th Congress, as amended.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

So many as in favor of the motion say aye.

Opposed?

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

The committee staff of course is authorized to make technical and conforming changes if necessary.

The next order of business is adoption of the committee's oversight plan, which is done every two years. The House rules require that all House committees adopt oversight plans no later than February 15. Members should have before them a copy of the proposed

oversight plan, and, as was the case with the rules package, the oversight plan was provided to all Members' offices this Monday. The oversight plan included a broad range of issues that the committee will be considering during this Congress that have been developed in consultation with our anticipated subcommittee chairs as well as with Ranking Member Hunter.

And Members should also have before them a sheet of technical and conforming changes to the oversight plan.

[The following information was submitted for the record.]

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

110th 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.

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), 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 2008 and fiscal year 2009 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 initiate an aggressive new 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.

Until the 104th Congress, the committee maintained an Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee as allowed by House Rules (Rule X, clauses 2 and 5). That subcommittee enjoyed specific areas of legislative jurisdiction and "investigative authority in relation to the committee's general oversight responsibilities."

For the 110th Congress, the committee reestablishes the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations but without legislative jurisdiction. Pursuant to new Committee Rule 4, the subcommittee shall 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 Ranking Minority Members. The subcommittee's work will not only include separate hearings and potentially separate reports, but will also 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 on-going areas of oversight activity throughout the 110th 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 Iraq and responses to catastrophic events, such as the military support provided after Hurricane Katrina. 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 two-year time period. The subcommittee will respond to concerns brought by all members of the committee, by other Members of Congress, and by other parties both within and outside the government. The subcommittee will pursue coordinated and constructive oversight that will likely

identify best practices and model organizations in addition to identifying those areas in need of correction and reform.

The committee has a long tradition of translating oversight activities into prescriptive legislative action as reflected in past comprehensive efforts to provide for concurrent receipt of retirement and disability benefits for veterans with qualifying combat related disabilities, to reform 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, and reform of the military health care system. Additionally, the committee played a lead role in passage of the Military Commissions Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-366) in the 109th Congress and will continue to oversee this Act and carefully review its provisions in the 110th 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 110th Congress.

POLICY ISSUES

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

The committee is committed to ensuring that American 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. In 2006, the Department recognized the changing security environment by explicitly stating that stability operations, defined as "military and civilian activities conducted across the spectrum from peace to conflict to establish or maintain order in States and regions," are a core U.S. military mission. In so doing, those operations have been elevated to co-equal status with the combat operations for which the Department has traditionally prepared. While also ensuring the Department remains capable of executing its traditional missions, 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 this major shift, and that DOD efforts are integrated into a comprehensive national approach to stability operations.

Furthermore, when considering the overall posture of the Department, the committee will monitor the implementation of the recommendations delineated in the 2006 Quadrennial Defense Review, including the still-outstanding "roadmaps;" the

adequacy of active and reserve component force structure and end strength; an examination of initiatives to enhance guard and reserve forces; the so-called "train and equip" authorities required to provide logistics support, supplies, and services to foreign military forces participating in operations with U.S. armed forces; 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 military requirements including: the proposed creation of an "Africa Command;" the evolving mission of other recently established or recently 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; 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 One, 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 in the worst case defeat any adversary who might threaten America's interests. In this regard, the committee will examine seriously DOD'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 take seriously its obligation to monitor strategic risk and take action to mitigate it when necessary.

The War in Iraq

The committee will devote a significant amount of its oversight resources to the ongoing war in Iraq. Operations in Iraq are an enormous undertaking, consuming vast amounts of resources, including a significant human toll, and have reached a pivotal moment. At the time of the writing of this oversight plan, President George W. Bush is preparing to present a revised strategy for Iraq. In the near term, the committee will consider carefully any change in the mission and required force strength in Iraq and the potential implications of this proposed strategy—for the overall security and political situation in Iraq; for the size and duration of future rotations of American combat units; and for the American military's readiness to take on future missions wherever they might arise. On an ongoing basis, the committee will place a great priority on oversight of any continuing military activities in Iraq, on determining the progress made in achieving the

goals of the President's new strategy, and on encouraging the swift and effective turn-over of security responsibilities to Iraqi Security Forces.

To date, the pace of change in this conflict has consistently exceeded the ability of senior leaders to predict its future course. Important questions about the conflict remain without conclusive answers. In order to keep abreast of this complex and constantly changing environment, the committee will hold regular hearings on Iraq throughout the 110th Congress, beginning with a comprehensive set of hearings early in the First session.

The committee recognizes that the issues in play in Iraq are extremely complex, and that the military situation in Iraq must be understood as part of a larger picture along with complex political, social, and economic challenges. Since these challenges relate and contribute to the military problems in Iraq, they must be addressed in the committee's oversight plans to the extent that they are directly relevant to the Department. As a result, committee oversight hearings will seek to cover a broad array of topics including understanding the insurgency and the sectarian schisms in Iraqi society that threaten the unity government, lessons learned in reconstruction activities, and efforts at institution building for application both in the current conflict and in future stabilization and reconstruction efforts.

The committee will focus on topics considered critical to success, including a close examination of the requirements for standing up robust, capable, and independent Iraqi Security Forces, which can take control from U.S. forces in many areas. The committee will examine the initial and ongoing training of these forces including the use of embedded training teams consisting of US military personnel, efforts to measure the readiness and effectiveness of these forces, the equipping of these forces, and the development of Iraqi institutions that support these forces.

The committee will also examine what the specific lessons learned in the war in Iraq reveal for the broader examination of potential changes in the shape and size of the force, including changes in doctrine and technology required. The committee will also continue to focus closely on force protection in Iraq.

Finally, the committee will examine the costs of the war in Iraq both as a necessary and appropriate oversight activity, but also as an essential element in forecasting the immediate, short term, and long term funding requirements for the Department.

Afghanistan

The war in Afghanistan is a central component in the war on terror, and due in large part to its unique significance, will be a major area of focus for oversight. The security situation in Afghanistan remains extremely challenging more than five years after the initiation of the conflict. Most critically, the border area between Afghanistan and Pakistan remains a major front for combating al Qaeda. The war in Afghanistan constantly vies with the war in Iraq for attention and resources, not least in terms of the

oversight capabilities of the committee, and should receive the attention and priority it deserves. The committee will provide increased attention to the war in Afghanistan, and will ensure that the appropriate level of DOD management attention and resources are also provided. The committee will focus on topics including: the status of the NATO led International Security Assistance Force and of US forces; the status of efforts to find and fight terrorists on the Afghanistan/Pakistan border; the role that drug production is playing in fueling the opposition and efforts to eradicate it; and the status of efforts to stand up, train and equip a viable Afghan National Army able to provide for the security of the Afghan people.

War on Terrorism

Since September 11, 2001, the Department has conducted military operations in a number of countries around the world against those who threaten the security of the United States or its friends and allies. The war on terrorism has also forced the Department to consider and implement new doctrines, organizations, and capabilities in an effort to take on a mission that is historically a non-traditional one for many of DOD components. The committee will 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 the war on terrorism will be a long-term campaign, and will examine the implications of the nature of this "Long War" 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 in the war on terrorism.

The committee, and especially the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities, will continue its 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; implementation of the DOD 2006 Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) objective of strengthening interagency operations; progress in establishing a national collaborative environment for intelligence information; the conduct of information operations; terrorism related organizational matters, modernization requirements, 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.

Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Threat Reduction

The committee will continue its oversight of the nation's nonproliferation programs carried out by the Departments of Energy and Defense. The committee will assess the threat posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the effectiveness of existing programs, and areas where they can be expanded and improved. In particular the committee will examine how these programs need to be strengthened to respond to the 9-11 Commission's recommendations and to prevent weapons of mass

destruction proliferation and terrorism. The committee will look carefully at the Department of Energy's Global Threat Reduction Initiative, the Proliferation Security Initiative and Cooperative Threat Reduction Program. The committee will also closely assess inter-agency coordination and the timely and effective use of funds, given past obstacles that have created unobligated balances. Additionally, the committee will examine how programs could be strengthened to respond to emerging threats from weapons of mass destruction throughout the world, including Iran and North Korea, and to increase cooperation with Russia and other countries on activities to prevent weapons of mass destruction proliferation and terrorism. The committee will pay close attention to new areas across the globe where nonproliferation efforts may advance U.S. security interests and how existing authorities allowing the use of threat reduction program funding in areas beyond the former Soviet Union can be helpful. The committee will also consider the impact and effectiveness of international regimes, cooperative arrangements, and national policies on addressing the threat posed by weapons of mass destruction. The committee will continue to assess appropriate means of ensuring accountability in these programs, particularly those in the States of the former Soviet Union.

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 continue to monitor and assess the effects of the new Under Secretary for Intelligence position within the Department of Defense, as authorized by the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107-314). Moreover, 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). 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.

Military Commissions and Detainees

Enacted in October 2006, the Military Commissions Act (MCA) (Public Law 109-366), establishes the legal framework governing the operation of military tribunals and codifying some of the procedural rights of detainees. The committee will closely monitor the implementation of the MCA, including the finalization of the rules of procedure for the tribunals, the conduct of the trials under the MCA, and the functioning of appellate review by the newly established Court of Military Commission Review and eventually the Supreme Court. The Committee will also monitor how certain evidence is presented with particular attention paid to how classified information is used during these MCA-authorized adjudications.

The military tribunals and the detainees at Guantanamo Bay and elsewhere raise a number of critical issues that fall within the jurisdiction of the committee. The Committee will conduct thorough oversight of, among other things, the possible implication of members of the armed services in alleged incidents of detainee abuse, plans of the Department to construct facilities for the military commissions at Guantanamo Bay, and the possible implications of the MCA on the protections that are afforded to U.S. military personnel by the Geneva Conventions.

Space Policy and Programs

In 2006, a new National Space Policy was released, which will shape the future of defense space programs for years to come. And as has been the case for several years, space programs continue to include some of the highest risk modernization activities of the Department. The committee will continue to provide rigorous oversight to 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; development of a professional space cadre; examination of the policy and programs regarding protection of national security space assets; maximization of space-based effects in military operations; program management; space acquisitions and prioritization of space programs; and the adequacy of and need for a separate space acquisition policy. Particular attention will be given to the technical readiness of various space systems currently in development. The committee will assess DOD efforts to leverage industry and academia for the purposes of increasing the quality of space-qualified personnel involved in space programs. 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.

Organization and Management of the Department of Defense

The committee will review DOD infrastructure and organization to insure that it is properly postured to meet the complex security threats of the 21st century. Part of this will include monitoring the ongoing efforts of "transformation" within the Department as outlined in the 2006 QDR, among other defense reform proposals recommended by the administration or implemented in light of lessons learned from past efforts at defense transformation and ongoing operations. Of particular interest to the committee are the QDR's still-outstanding "roadmaps," including: department institutional reform and governance, irregular warfare, building partnership capacity, strategic communication, and intelligence. The committee will also examine how the Department is posturing itself to meet those requirements that have arisen from the publication of DOD Directive 3000.05, "Military Support for Stability, Security, Transition, and Reconstruction Operations." Furthermore, the committee will closely monitor the reorganization of the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy) and any proposed changes to the combatant command structure, including the potential formation of an Africa Command, and changes to the unified command plan. Additionally, the committee will monitor and assess the DOD reformation of joint officer management under the authorities granted by

the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109-364).

Department of Defense's Counter-Narcotics Activities

The committee will continue to monitor 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 2007, the Department received over $1.0 billion in counter-drug funding. This funding reflects DOD's role as the leading 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, the DOD counternarcotics efforts impact its ability to combat terrorism, since a number of Foreign Terrorist Organizations, such as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia and al Qaeda, rely on the financial and materiel networks of narcotics traffickers.

Specifically, the committee's oversight will include an assessment of the DOD plans to reorganize its counternarcotics activities under a new Assistant Secretary for Global Security Affairs and the impact of this reorganization on the Central Transfer Account; a review of tactical intelligence gathering and use for counter-drug purposes; an assessment of the efficacy of Plan Colombia and the Andean Counter-drug Initiative as implemented by the Department and proposals to consolidate these programs; a review of DOD efforts to curb poppy cultivation and opium production and trafficking in Afghanistan; a review of DOD interdiction of illicit narcotics, including cocaine, methamphetamine, and opium, transiting from Mexico, Central America, the Andean region, and the Caribbean Basin into the United States; 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.

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 almost every situation that arises. 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.

HEALTH OF THE FORCE

Readiness of Military Forces

The committee will increase its oversight of the services' readiness programs to ensure that military units possess the required resources and training to complete their assigned full-spectrum combat mission. Continuous combat operations have placed significant stress on ground and air equipment stocks. Shortages have resulted and are manifest in declining readiness rates for units not currently assigned to the combat theater. Declining readiness has reduced the training readiness of military units and created increased strategic risk to the nation. The committee intends to conduct vigorous oversight of all of the Department of Defense's (DOD) readiness plans and programs to ensure military units are fully trained and equipped for combat.

Resetting the Force

The operations in Iraq and Afghanistan have placed significant surge requirements on the depots and the industrial base for resetting ground forces' equipment. Combat operations are consuming equipment at a greatly accelerated rate, which has reduced overall readiness across the military services. The repair, recapitalization, and replacement of equipment are very significant challenges facing the Department. This challenge has not been fully met by the Department and additional effort must be focused on supplying military units with the equipment they need to train, deploy and fight. The committee will continue to conduct oversight of reset as requirements continue to grow and strict oversight is required to ensure that our forces are ready for combat and that money is not wasted. Reset costs totaled over $20.0 billion in fiscal year 2006 alone, and this enormous expenditure places additional importance on increased oversight by the committee.

TOTAL FORCE, PERSONNEL, AND HEALTH 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 109th Congress will need to be examined to determine whether end strength levels are sufficient for the global challenges facing our nation in the future. In addition, force structure requirements will be reviewed to determine whether additional increases are necessary and whether changes to the active and reserve component force structure mix being undertaken by the services are enhancing the armed forces ability to meet mission requirements.

Specifically, the committee will closely scrutinize any plans proposed by the President to increase the end strengths of the Army and the Marine Corps to ensure that the desired increases meet mission needs, are achievable, will enhance combat capability, and meet the long term requirement to balance end strength requirements and cost. The committee will also review the proposed force structure reductions proposed for the Navy and Air Force to ensure that vital combat capability is not being forfeited. The committee will continue to closely monitor the Department of Defense's (DOD) increasing use of Navy and Air Force personnel to meet forward deployed mission requirements in lieu of Army and Marine Corps personnel.

Recruiting

Because of increasing college attendance rates, a strong job market, and the difficulty of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the recruiting environment for the services is expected to continue to be highly challenging. The committee will be closely monitoring 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 difficult recruiting environment has affected recruitment of qualified individuals; particularly those with specific skills and training that are required by the services, such as linguists and specialty medical providers. The committee expects to also examine the quality of recruits and the implications associated with such recruitment challenges. 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 explore options to improve recruit quality to prevent the negative consequences for good order and discipline and mission accomplishment associated with reductions in quality. The committee will also investigate trends in recruiter improprieties to verify that recruiters who commit crimes or are guilty of unethical conduct receive appropriate punishment. The committee will also pursue improvements to the recruiting environment that will preempt the need for recruiters to push procedural boundries and allow early identification of misconduct.

Retention

The increasing stress of current high operations tempo and competition from a strong private-sector job market 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 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

retention of service members serving in shortage skills to ensure that the services possess the legislated tools necessary to protect these critical skills.

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.

Joint Professional Military Education

Professional military education is the backbone in the development of our nation's armed forces, and the quality of that military education distinguishes American forces around the world. It begins from the time a member enters the military and continues through their entire career. Therefore, 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, and is considered career enhancing, even during times of high-operational tempo, when the Department may be tempted to shortchange educational opportunities for service members to provide manpower in the short term. As part of its oversight responsibilities of this important issue, the committee expects that it 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.

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 pursue a better understanding of the implications for service members and their families and the potential remedies that will make a difference in their lives. 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, 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 their quality of life. The committee will focus on appropriated funding to support MWR programs, commissaries, and exchanges to include historic and current funding patterns, trends in the availability of MWR program services, and the fiscal solvency of military commissaries and exchanges. The committee will also explore options for improving funding for MWR and military resale programs and setting a funding course that ensures future stability of the programs.

Funding for Nonappropriated Fund Construction Programs

The committee is concerned that the DOD nonappropriated fund construction program is not adequate to maintain and replace Morale, Welfare, and Recreation facilities, commissary stores, and exchange stores at a level of frequency and 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.

Military Health Care System

Similar to the civilian sector, the cost of care within the military health system continues to grow. The committee is well aware of the potential adverse impact of uncontrolled cost growth within the military health care system on the Department. The committee will continue its efforts to contain cost growth within the military health care system, while improving access to quality health care for service members, retirees, and their families. The committee will also oversee recent enhancements to the health care program to provide TRICARE Standard Coverage to reserve component members and their families, as well as assess efforts to improve and enhance mental health programs and policies, including those addressing traumatic brain injuries, post-traumatic stress disorder, and severe depression, for service members. 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.

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 Iraq and Afghanistan that may indicate other problems related to recruit screening, training deficiencies, or command responsibility. It is also important that the Military Justice System protect the individual rights of service members. In that regard, the committee will specifically review the practice of "titling" which is the decision to place the name of a service member in the "subject" block of a criminal report of investigation (ROI) when credible information exists which would cause a reasonable person to suspect that a person committed a criminal offense. The committee will ensure that the "titling" process is not only fair towards military personnel, but also contributes to good order and discipline.

Civilian Personnel

The committee will significantly increase oversight of civilian personnel pay and policies. The Department has begun implementing the National Security Personnel System (NSPS) giving rise to problems that the Committee must examine closely. The committee intends to pay close attention to implementation of the pay for performance system, and developments with the DOD attempt to modify the collective bargaining and employee appeal rights portions of NSPS. In addition to NSPS, the committee will also increase its oversight of the Department's use of authorities such as A-76 to contract out DOD activities. The committee is concerned about the increased use of these authorities and will closely examine the cost-benefit analyses of the existing and future contracting out of functions done by DOD employees or military members.

Military Personnel System Reform

Many public and private sector agencies have studied the current military personnel system and concluded that the U.S. military would benefit from a more flexible personnel system that provides for disparate career lengths, compensation, and retirement benefits based on the unique manpower needs of specific occupational specialties. The committee will examine the ongoing efforts to establish a more flexible system and consider any additional revisions of the system that can be approached in an incremental manner. The committee will also study the potential to adopt more sweeping changes and determine the positive and negative implications of such changes.

Decorations

During the 109th Congress, the Subcommittee on Military Personnel held a hearing to examine the criteria and process used by the military services and the Department in determining valor awards and decorations. The committee will continue to monitor the awards and decorations process to ensure that it is consistent and service members are publicly recognized for their heroism with the appropriate award.

Compensation Systems and Debt Collection

Congress adopted a series of measures in the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109-364) to protect the fiscal

interests and welfare of service members and their families by providing guidelines to ensure responsible collection of debts to the government and expanding the government's authority to forgive debt when it is incurred through no fault of the member. The committee will be reviewing the implementation of these initiatives to ensure the programs reflect the increased sensitivity to the welfare of service members that was intended. 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.

Grade Structure Increases Related to Transformation and Joint Operations

The committee has received increasing evidence that the ongoing transformation of the military and increased frequency of joint military operations has increased the officer billet requirements in terms of both numbers and grades. Due to the grade table limitations included in the Defense Officer Personnel Management Act (DOPMA) (Public Law 97-22), the services claim they are no longer able to meet the grade requirements necessary to ensure successful combat capability. The committee will study these requirements carefully to determine if the ongoing changes to military operations and force structure also require the revision of the DOPMA grade tables.

Ongoing Reviews of Personnel Issues

The 109th Congress 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. The committee will also continue its efforts to ensure that wounded and disabled service members and their families are afforded the support that they need. Significant changes to improve the programs and policies that support wounded and disabled service members have been made and the committee will continue to ensure that these programs and policies evolve to address issues that are raised by service members and their families. The committee will also actively monitor the progress by the military services in providing quality casualty assistance programs to support family members of those killed and wounded while serving on active duty.

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 2005, three major studies examining the defense acquisition system were released including the Defense Acquisition Performance Assessment, the Defense Science Board Acquisition

Study, and the Beyond Goldwater Nichols Report. Each of these studies found substantial problems in the current acquisition system and recommended several significant changes. The committee will monitor the efforts of the Department of Defense (DOD) and the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics to implement the recommendations of these reports.

As part of its oversight, the committee will 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 cross service consultation, continues to produce outcomes which do not reflect the jointness that the military has achieved at the operating level.

The committee has adopted numerous revisions to existing acquisition statutes in recent years including revisions to the Nunn-McCurdy Amendment (10 U.S.C. 2433) requiring the reporting of cost growth in weapons system, revisions to laws controlling the government's interest in technical data rights, and revisions to laws governing the management structure for contracting for services. The committee will monitor the implementation of these and other statutes and continue to recommend revisions where necessary.

The committee will also continue to push for accountability and integrity in contracting. In 2006, the committee authorized the Department to establish a Panel on Contracting Integrity. This panel is charged with finding vulnerabilities within the processes and policies of the acquisition system that allow or encourage fraud, waste, and abuse. The committee will work with the Panel on Contracting Integrity, working in part through the reconstituted Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, to identify and eliminate as many contracting vulnerabilities as possible.

Defense Industrial Base and Technology Transfers

The committee will give close examination to the health of the defense industrial base. In a number of sectors, the industrial base for complex major weapons systems has shrunk to as few as two companies. Even with this consolidation, some of these suppliers appear to be struggling to generate profit margins large enough to justify long-term investments in infrastructure and technology. These long-term investments are vital to the health of the defense industrial base.

The Department has struggled to maintain a viable shipbuilding industrial base in the face of declining naval ship orders and foreign competition for commercial vessels. The committee will attempt to understand what policies are necessary to provide incentives to the remaining shipbuilders for infrastructure improvements which could lead to improved efficiencies and ultimately lower cost for naval vessels and a fair competitive base to compete for commercial work.

The committee will also examine the structure of the defense industrial base. The last decade has witnessed a number of mergers and acquisitions in the defense industry that has resulted in creating a handful of large defense companies operating largely as system integrators. In addition, there has been substantial consolidation among second- and third-tier suppliers. The committee will examine the effects of this consolidation on competition and the extent to which contractors may be taking on management roles previously performed by the government. And the committee will continue to review issues surrounding contractors on the battlefield and the outsourcing of inherently governmental operational functions.

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 the current system. In this area, the committee will continue to coordinate with the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Financial Management

The Department continues to receive a grade of unsatisfactory, the lowest rating, from the Office of Management and Budget for its financial performance. The DOD's inability to track and account for billions of dollars in funding and millions of dollars of assets continues to undermine its financial management systems. It also creates a lack of transparency that significantly limits congressional oversight. The committee will examine the causes of the DOD's inability to consolidate its financial information, 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 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.

MODERNIZATION AND INVESTMENT ISSUES

Cost Growth in Weapons Systems

Major air, land, space, maritime, and information technology acquisition programs continue to experience cost growth, schedule delays, and/or performance degradation from envisioned capabilities. The committee will conduct hearings and briefings, and assess the need for legislative action by examining the causes of these problems including too many programs competing for too few resources; requirements determination, definition, and growth; failures of cost estimation; unrealistic program schedules related to immature technology and insufficient funding; instability in funding profiles; labor and material cost increases; and management shortfalls.

Military Modernization

Aging equipment, high operational tempo, and the broad spectrum of military capabilities required to meet the diverse current and projected threats to national security, pose a potentially overwhelming fiscal challenge. The committee will seek to ensure that that the highest priority requirements of the nation's active, guard and reserve land, sea, and air forces are properly resourced. The committee will first emphasize force protection and the maintenance of current capabilities through the timely repair and upgrade of equipment – "resetting" – being used in Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. Further, the committee will support, to the extent fiscal resources will permit, the development and fielding of capabilities such as Army modernization; shipbuilding; anti-submarine and mine warfare; expeditionary forces; tactical aviation; strategic nuclear forces; space; intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance; special operations; air and sea lift; ammunition and munitions; and the military industrial base. Finally, the committee will seek to ensure that the services develop and field systems that will provide the maximum commonality and interoperability among the military services, as well as, when possible, our allies and friends.

Force Protection

The committee will continue to place emphasis on supporting capabilities that protect personnel and equipment against both symmetrical and asymmetrical threats from an offensive as well as defensive perspective. The committee will pursue a holistic approach to force protection with an examination of military force posture and forward presence, tactics, techniques and procedures, and overall technological capability. In Iraq and Afghanistan, significant attention will continue to be given to personnel body armor, tactical wheeled vehicle armor protection and countermeasures to improvised explosive devices (IED). Additional priority will also be given to ensuring that resources and the commitment to "attacking the network" of those endangering our forces is appropriately placed, including the support of persistent surveillance directly commanded and controlled by tactical ground forces and solutions to counter the growing sniper threat. Globally, the committee will continue to review the relative vulnerability of U.S. forces in transit or positioned in fixed locations. Overall, the committee will explore innovative acquisition policies and procedures in an effort to provide sufficient flexibility in support of requirement identification, research and development, immediate procurement, and rapid operational testing and fielding of additional capabilities. 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.

Missile Defense Programs

The committee will continue to monitor the Department of Defense's (DOD) efforts to field an initial capability for national missile defense as well as other systems that can or do protect our deployed service members and allies. The committee will

focus on three areas: tracking of key milestones for the development and testing of missile defense elements and the effect on future program viability; tracking the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (Public Law 108-375) requirement for establishing system baselines and operational test and evaluation criteria; and transitioning of missile defense elements to individual services. The committee will be particularly interested in the Department's efforts to implement section 223 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109-364), which established the U.S. policy that the Department accord a priority within the missile defense program to the development, testing, fielding, and improvement of effective near-term missile defense capabilities.

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 implementation of the Reliable Replacement Warhead program in accordance the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Public Law 109-163); impact of a nuclear test ban on the safety and reliability of the U.S. nuclear deterrent and U.S. national security; the adequacy of the Department of Energy's science-based stockpile stewardship program to guarantee the safety, reliability and performance of the stockpile in the absence of testing with an emphasis on assessing the adequacy of the quantification of margins and uncertainty methodology including findings of the National Academy of Science study directed by the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109-364); the Department's plan for transformation of the nuclear weapons complex required by the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109-364); implementation of options for consolidation and disposition of weapons-grade plutonium and highly enriched uranium; Department of Energy compliance with Design Basis Threat requirements; management of defense nuclear waste including implementation of Waste Incidental to Reprocessing changes. Additionally, the committee will pursue an assessment 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; an evaluation of 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 evaluation of the current 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.

Space Technology

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. Additionally, the committee will continue to monitor general space technology developments and technology maturation to decrease technical risk in acquisition programs.

Accelerated Fielding of Advanced Technologies

The pace at which new technology moves from the laboratory to a fielded system has been an area of continuing concern to the Department and to the committee. There are a number of initiatives underway in the Department to address this problem including, but not limited to: the Advanced and Joint Concept Technology Demonstration programs; the services' rapid fielding initiatives; the congressionally sponsored Technology Transition Initiative and the Defense Challenge Program; the expansion of the role of small business in the development and transition of technology through the Small Business Innovative Research program; the implementation of congressional direction to the Secretary of Defense to prescribe rapid acquisition and deployment procedures and of the use of special emergency procurement authority for use in support of contingency operations or in response to a nuclear, biological, chemical, or radiological attack; and the establishment of the quick reaction special projects program. The committee will review the effectiveness of these programs and assess additional measures recommended by the Department to accelerate the transition and fielding of advanced technologies to meet emerging critical needs, and ensure the DOD test and evaluation procedures reflect an appropriate balance between rapid fielding and a thorough understanding of the operational sustainability of fielded systems.

Chemical Demilitarization Program

Under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, otherwise know as the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) the United States is required to complete the destruction of its stockpile of lethal chemical warfare agents and munitions by September, 2012. Although nearly 40 percent of the CWC-declared U.S. chemical weapons stockpile has been destroyed and good progress is being made in bringing on line the last of the Army's baseline incineration plants, long-term technical issues and political and environmental controversies have resulted in significant program delays and cost growth in the Army-managed program and in the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternative program managed by the Office of the Secretary of Defense. The committee will address the current state of the program and measures that might be taken to reduce program costs and accelerate the destruction of the stockpile during hearings on the fiscal year 2008 and 2009 budget requests.

Chemical Biological Defense Program

In the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2002 (Public Law 107-107), Congress directed the Secretary of Defense to accelerate DOD efforts to develop medical countermeasures against biological warfare agents and for the Institute of Medicine and the National Research Council to identify new approaches to accelerate the process for review and approval of such countermeasures. In the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (Public Law 108-136), Congress also provided the authority for the Secretary to establish an enhanced biomedical countermeasures program to protect members of the armed forces from attack with chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear agents. During consideration of the fiscal year 2005 budget request, the committee directed the Secretary to provide the Department's strategic plan implementing these authorities. The committee expects to address the effectiveness of the plan during oversight hearings on the chemical-biological defense program."

In addition, the committee will provide continued oversight of the Transformational Medical Technology Initiative to ensure the Department effectively implements the 2006 QDR recommendation to develop broad-spectrum medical counter-measures against advanced bio-terror threats; the committee will review the DOD modernization plan for legacy nuclear, biological, and chemical contamination avoidance, defense, protection and decontamination systems; the committee will review the effectiveness of the Joint Program Executive Office in addressing National Guard and Reserve chemical-biological defense requirements; and the committee will review how the Department will achieve the nuclear, chemical, and biological defense training objective addressed in the 2006 QDR.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

The committee will significantly increase its oversight of the Department and military services' environmental management. The committee believes more attention is required to monitor DOD funding and adherence to federal, state, and local requirements for cleanup, compliance, and pollution prevention. The committee will examine the DOD efforts to remediate existing contamination on federal lands with particular attention paid to Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) installations locations where contamination 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.

HOMELAND DEFENSE

In October 2002, the Department issued the Unified Command Plan 2002 that established a new combatant command, U.S. Northern Command, to provide unity of command for the land, sea and air defense of the United States. The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (P.L. 107-107) created an Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense (ASD-HD) to oversee DOD activities related to homeland security. Further, the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (P.L. 108-375) created new authority for the use of the National

Guard under title 32, United States Code, in support of homeland defense activities. Measures have been established to coordinate DOD homeland defense and counter-terrorism functions with those of other departments, as well as the National Guard and individual states. The coordination between U.S. Northern Command, ASD-HD, the National Guard and the States will continue to be a focus of committee oversight activities.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The committee will continue to focus on the management and acquisition of the DOD information technology programs. Particular attention will be given, but not limited to the following: implementation by the Department of the information security reforms authorized by the E-Government Act of 2002, the Clinger-Cohen Act of 1996 a section of the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act, 1997 (Public Law 104-208), as well as numerous provisions in various National Defense Authorization Acts; assessment of the measures being taken by the Department to reduce the number of legacy systems and to improve the security of information technology networks; establishment and implementation of a standard architecture for all information technology applications; and reduction of the vulnerability of information technology systems to unauthorized access and use, the theft of information, and new forms of information warfare and terrorism. Strict scrutiny will be given to the DOD's enterprise-wide business systems relative to cost and deployment schedules for these and other business systems. Committee oversight will also focus on gaining a better understanding of the architecture for tactical information technology systems and how the personnel, intelligence, operations, logistics, communications, and others tactical information technology systems fit together under an enterprise architecture that ensures cost savings and minimizes redundant capabilities to the operators. As appropriate, the committee will continue to coordinate with the Committee on Government Reform in these areas. Additionally, the committee will review the management of radio frequency spectrum to ensure that national security requirements are adequately addressed. In that review, the committee will continue to coordinate with the Committee on Energy and Commerce in this matter of shared jurisdiction and interest.

BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE

The committee will closely monitor the conduct of the Department as it implements the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 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 monitor DOD efforts to complete closure and transfer from prior rounds of BRAC will examine the costs and savings associated with BRAC actions taken in 1988, 1991, 1993, 1995 and 2005. Additionally, the committee will examine the DOD re-stationing of units from overseas. These rebasing movements not only affect the U.S. strategic posture but they also have significant repercussions on readiness, surge capability, military construction and quality of life for military members and their families. The committee also recognizes that as a result of base realignments and closures there may be an influx in the

number of dependent children attending local off base schools. As a result, the committee will closely monitor the Impact Aid Program which distributes money to local educational agencies that are financially burdened by federal activities and which provides technical assistance and support services to staff and other interested parties.

NATIONAL SECURITY ASPECTS OF THE MERCHANT MARINE

The committee will continue its oversight of the implementation of Chapter 531, Maritime Security Fleet, of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (Public Law 108-136). In addition, the committee will continue to monitor the administration's national security tanker program, the Title XI loan guarantee program of the Merchant Marine Act of 1936, and assess the condition of the National Defense Reserve Fleet and the administration's efforts at disposing of the vessels using domestic sources in an environmentally sound manner.

Technical Corrections to the HASC Oversight Plan
(Changes are to Chairman's Draft dated January 8, 2007)

Since transmitting the Chairman's Draft of the Committee's Oversight Plan for the 110th Congress, two technical errors have been identified. Each will be corrected in the published document.

First, a redundant reference to the "United States Code" will be deleted from the last line of the third paragraph on page 1.

Second, on page 21, in the last line of the paragraph on the Chemical Demilitarization Program, the reference to oversight of the "fiscal year 2007 budget request" will be changed to "fiscal year 2008 and 2009 budget requests."

The CHAIRMAN. Is there any discussion of the committee's oversight plan? Mr. Hunter.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Chairman, we have worked with you to put this plan together. We have scrutinized it, and I think we have done a good job on it. I think it is a good plan.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much. There appears to be no amendments thereto. If there are none, I will recognize the gentleman from South Carolina, Mr. Spratt, for the purpose of offering Committee Resolution No. 2.

[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 110th Congress, a copy of which is before each Member.

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Chairman, I move the adoption of Committee Resolution No. 2 concerning the committee's organizational and oversight plan for the 110th Congress.

The CHAIRMAN. Those in favor, say aye.

Opposed, no.

The ayes have it. The Committee's oversight plan is now agreed to. Without objection, the motion to reconsider is laid upon the table. And of course, the committee staff is authorized to make technical and conforming changes.

The last item of business for us today is this staffing resolution. The Members should all have before them Committee Resolution No. 3. Which is a resolution appointing the committee staff for the 110th Congress as well as a copy, of course, of the list of committee staff.

[The following information was submitted for the record.]

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION NO. 3

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 110th Congress, it being understood that according to the provisions of law, the Chairman will fix the basic salary per annum.

STAFF FOR THE 110TH CONGRESS- HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
January 10, 2007

Erin C. Conaton, Staff Director
Bob DeGrasse, Deputy Staff Director
Paul Oostburg Sanz, General Counsel
Brenda J. Wright, Professional Staff Member
Betty B. Gray, Staff 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
W. Holly Graning, Director, Legislative Operations
Mark R. Lewis, Professional Staff Member and Senior Policy Advisor to the Chairman
Loren Dealy, Press Secretary
Heather Messera, Staff Assistant
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
Stephanie Sanok, Professional Staff Member
Joshua C. Holly, Professional Staff Member
John Wason, Professional Staff Member
Regina Burgess, Research Assistant
Ben Kohr, Staff Assistant
Catherine K. Steadman, Staff Assistant
Roger Zakheim, Counsel
Kristine Ellison, Staff Assistant
Jenness Simler, Professional Staff Member
Julie Unmacht, Counsel
Kevin P. Coughlin, Counsel
Lorry M. Fenner, Professional Staff Member
Christine Roushdy, Staff Assistant
Derek Scott, Staff Assistant
Eryn Robinson, Professional Staff Member
Alex Kugajevsky, Professional Staff Member
Kari Bingen, Professional Staff Member
Margee Meckstroth, Staff Assistant
John Kruse, Professional Staff Member
Andrew Tabler, Staff Assistant
Aileen K. Alexander, Professional Staff Member
Jason Hagadorn, Staff Assistant
Cyndi Howard, Staff Assistant
Douglas Bush, Professional Staff Member
Rudy Barnes, Professional Staff Member
Lara Battles, Press Secretary
William Ebbs, Professional Staff Member

The CHAIRMAN. Now, as most of you know, our committee is very unique in that ours is an integrated staff without distinction between the majority and minority. They are all here to provide advice and counsel to each of us, Democrats and Republicans alike. So feel free to avail yourself of their services. You will find some real professionals in their ranks. They are very talented and we are very, very blessed to have the staff that we have. Is is there any discussion of the staffing?

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Chairman? Mr. Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN. Wait. I am looking in the wrong direction.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Taylor and I would like to know if we can have a separate vote on Mr. Natter. Apparently there are others who want to join in on that request, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. He was just accepted by acclamation. You weren't here there when that happened. Mr. Natter has only been with us some 16 years. He is still in the novice stage.

No further discussion, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina regarding Resolution No. 3.

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Chairman, I move the adoption of Committee Resolution No. 3 concerning committee staffing for the 110th Congress.

The CHAIRMAN. Those in favor say aye.

Opposed, no.

The ayes have it. Committee Resolution No. 3 is agreed to, without objection, and motion to reconsider is on the table. And, of course, staff is authorized to make technical and conforming changes.

Let me, if I may, raise a few legislative and administrative matters. Let me touch briefly on the hearing schedule. We are planning a very aggressive hearing schedule starting tomorrow with Secretary of Defense Gates. He will have accompanying him General Peter Pace to testify at 1 tomorrow afternoon, including the President's proposed troop increase in Iraq. Starting with tomorrow's hearing, a plan to strictly—please hear me on this—strictly enforce the 5-minute rule for questioning witnesses. And once your time is up—and I will call the time and in the future, we may even have a ship's bell to indicate to Members when their time is up.

I would like to also remind the majority Members that we will meet tomorrow at 9:30 in the morning to select most subcommittee assignments. And I am told, Mr. Hunter, that you will have the minority Members hold your subcommittee selections Thursday, tomorrow, January 11 at 5 in Rayburn 2212, am I correct? So please be advised.

I have also given some thought—and my friend from Hawaii, Mr. Abercrombie, brought it to my attention that sometimes some of the witnesses will filibuster, and in their opening statements in particular, with the exception of Secretary-level or people of such importance, we will limit their opening statements to 4 minutes and subject them to questions all the way around and enforcing the 5-minute rule and I really mean it. There was a gentleman, back when I was down on the front row, that during his 5 minutes would ask 22 questions. I remember. I saw it. And then, of course, the witnesses, plural, had to answer all of his questions, which took forever.

Well, I would strongly suggest, do your homework, read the witness statements over, and come up with your one or two questions that you need to be answered. And by the time we reach the freshmen Members, we will—and those down in the front row, your question has probably been asked, so have some backup questions ready. I think it is important that we see that the people in the very front row have the opportunity to participate very much as we do up here. I thank you for this honor. I look forward to it. We are going to be the workingest committee in the House of Representatives.

And, again, let me thank my friend from California, Duncan Hunter, for making this transition with me and for his past work. I recognize the gentleman from California.

Mr. HUNTER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, you have had your first meeting of the committee. Looks to me like it has gone pretty well, and I want to congratulate you again. But I want to just also mention that we have got a—we do have a wonderful professional staff and you mentioned that, and the transition of in this Congress has been throughout—throughout the House—if you listen to the stories from our our colleagues in other committees, pretty tough in difficult transition.

Your leadership and our people working together I think have done it in a very professional way and a way that is really a true benefit to all of our great people working on the staff. So I thank you for that. I think that has been a real—a real illustration of the great bipartisanship of this fine committee.

So, thanks. Thanks for everything you have done there, and we wish you well, and wish, obviously, the committee well which has to turn these very, very important challenges over the next couple of months. So let's work together and we will get it done. And once again, congratulations, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Hunter, Chairman Hunter, friend, Duncan, thank you so much.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 2:48 p.m., the committee was adjourned.]

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