



PRESS RELEASE

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## Statement by Chairman Hunter

This joint issue forum is an opportunity for members of both the House Armed Services Committee and the Helsinki Commission to better understand the Department of Defense efforts to carry out U.S. policies against trafficking in persons.

This joint session grew out of a discussion that Rep. Chris Smith and I had earlier this year in which we agreed that there was a need to have the Department of Defense explain how it was going to carry out its anti-trafficking policy. Broad guidance for implementation of that policy was issued in January 2004 by Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz.

We also agreed that we should pay particular attention to U.S. Forces, Korea, since so much public attention had been focused on trafficking issues there.

Therefore, today, we are going to hear briefings from two panels that will provide a range of Department of Defense, Department of State and non-governmental perspectives.

Before I introduce our first panel, let me recognize Rep. Chris Smith, co-chair of the Helsinki Commission, for any opening remarks he wants to make.

**[Then recognize Rep. Jim Cooper, who will make opening remarks on behalf of Rep Ike Skelton); and Rep. Ben Cardin (MD), ranking Democrat on the Commission]**

### Introduce Panel 1: DOD and State Department Perspectives

Let me say to our briefers today on both panels that there will be a record created of this forum so, without objection, your written statements will be included in that record. I would also ask that in your opening statements today you summarize your written submission so that we can move to Member questions.

I want to welcome our first panel and introduce them in the order of their presentations:

**Charles S. Abell**, Principal Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness

**General Leon J. LaPorte**, Commander, United States Forces Korea

**Joseph E. Schmitz**, Inspector General, Department of Defense

**Ambassador John R. Miller**, Director, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, Department of State

### Introduce Panel 2: Non-DOD Perspectives

Let me welcome our next panel and introduce them in the order of their presentation:

**Dr. Sarah Mendelson**, Senior Fellow, Center for Strategic and International Studies

**Martina E. Vandenberg**, Attorney, Jenner and Block

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