



# PRESS RELEASE

**House National Security Committee  
Floyd D. Spence, Chairman**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **SPENCE: CLINTON'S DEFENSE BUDGET "A TIGHTROPE WITHOUT A SAFETY NET"**

*Based on initial indications of the President's FY 1998 defense budget request, Chairman of the House National Security Floyd Spence (R-SC) had the following comments:*

"The President's fiscal year 1998 defense budget request represents the 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of real spending decline and reflects the lowest percentage of the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) that any Administration has committed to defense since before World War II. As opposed to 'building a bridge to the 21st century' for our military forces, this budget request looks more like a tightrope without a safety net.

"The Administration's promises of more savings and higher spending to address identified shortfalls remains out in the future while, in the short-term, the decline continues and brings with it the prospect of deepening readiness, quality of life and modernization problems. This defense budget is not commensurate with either our nation's expansive global interests or our status as the world's sole remaining superpower."

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