

# Representative DUNCAN HUNTER

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MEMBER, NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY PROCUREMENT



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## STATEMENT OF HONORABLE DUNCAN HUNTER CHAIRMAN, PROCUREMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

### DoD ACQUISITION WORKFORCE HEARING

*April 8, 1997*

The topic before us today is the Department of Defense acquisition workforce. The full Committee has held several hearings on how to reform the Department's acquisition process and whether reform initiatives are working. These have been important hearings, and I believe we are making progress in getting the Department to utilize commercial off the shelf technologies and reduce military specifications.

However, one area that I do not believe we are making similar progress in is the downsizing of the acquisition workforce. The 1995 DOD Commission on roles and Missions (CORM) pointed out that from FY88 to FY94 there was a 55 percent drop in procurement budget authority which resulted in considerable reorganization within the private sector. The CORM noted, however, that "the Military Departments continue to maintain redundant staffs and facilities for many types of common acquisition support activities." A 1996 Defense Science Board Summer Study concluded in its acquisition management section that, "It is now time to move to reduce infrastructure... People reductions must be made."

We were able to significantly downsize our military forces -- we went from 18 active Army divisions to 10 divisions; 24 active Air Force fighter wings to 13 fighter wings, and; 546 Navy ships to approximately 346. But just mention a possible reduction in the number of "shoppers" or reorganization of the acquisition structure and we have a threat to our national security. Two years ago the Committee included a small reduction in the acquisition workforce and it was a provision that the Department opposed very strenuously. It is difficult for me to understand that we need only 174,000 Marines to defend our country, yet we need 300,000 acquisition workers.

I believe the challenge before us is to maximize and prioritize scarce DOD resources. Rather than continue with further downsizing of our active military, we must now look to reducing the size of the acquisition bureaucracy. There are significant savings that can result from a leaner, meaner acquisition workforce and these

are savings that can go towards buying more bullets, better equipment and additional training time for our military men and women. I am disappointed that OSD and the Military Departments have not looked more carefully at their acquisition workforce and come forward with bold changes in the way they manage this workforce.

Our hearing today will focus on the size and composition of the acquisition workforce and how the workforce is structured. There are over 20 acquisition organizations in the Department and various definitions of what constitutes this workforce. We need to reach a common understanding on all these matters.

We have with us this morning a panel of witnesses the Pentagon and the General Accounting Office:

Mr. Louis Rodrigues  
Director  
Defense Acquisition Issues  
U.S. General Accounting Office

Honorable Noel Longuemare  
Deputy Undersecretary of Defense  
for Acquisition & Technology

Honorable John W. Douglass  
Assistant Secretary of the Navy  
Research, Development & Acquisition

Mrs. Darleen Druyun  
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force  
for Acquisition & Management

Dr. Keith Charles  
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army  
for Plans, Programs, & Policy