

# **PRESS RELEASE**

## **House Armed Services Committee Bob Stump, Chairman**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN STUMP FOLLOWING HASC HEARING ON VIEQUES TRAINING FACILITY**

“After hearing the testimony of the Department of Defense witnesses today, I remain convinced that the decision to abandon the Vieques training facility is the wrong one.

“First and foremost, it is now clear to me that the upcoming referendum on continued U.S. military use of the Vieques training facility must be cancelled. National security policy should not be determined by local referendum.

“Further, today’s testimony did nothing to convince me that the Navy will be able to find a suitable alternative to Vieques before its proposed departure date of May 2003. Leaving Vieques before finding such an alternative would be a serious mistake that would damage U.S. military readiness and increase the risk to American sailors and Marines.”

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