



**HOUSE ARMED SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM AND  
UNCONVENTIONAL THREATS  
JIM SAXTON, NEW JERSEY  
CHAIRMAN**

**PRESS RELEASE**

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Contact: Josh Holly (HASC), 202-225-2539 or  
Greg Keeley (SAXTON), 202-225-4765

**OPENING STATEMENT OF JIM SAXTON**

***Hearing on Overcoming Interagency Problems in Implementing  
the Global War on Terrorism Strategy***

**Washington, D.C.** – The Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities meets this afternoon to assess whether we are overcoming interagency problems as we implement the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) strategy.

This hearing is part of a series of hearings and briefings in which this subcommittee is looking into all aspects of our strategy to combat terrorism. The stakes of this war against the al Qaeda network is too high to leave any aspect of our nation's security to chance. In carrying out its oversight responsibilities, the Congress, and this subcommittee in particular, is obligated to ensure that our government is doing everything in its power to prevent another terrorist attack on the homeland.

It is my belief that the President has shown exceptional leadership in the war on terror, and as a result of his resolve the United States has avoided or otherwise thwarted attacks on the homeland since September 11<sup>th</sup>.

But more can always be done.

Despite our successes in Iraq and Afghanistan the enemy we face has evolved, and it remains agile and adaptive. We know that it seeks to exploit and attack any vulnerability to our national security.

As our witnesses will explain today, coordination between agencies is vital to our nation's success in the war on terror. Destroying the al Qaeda terrorist network requires that all elements of national power contribute their expertise and capabilities to this fight. No one agency can fight this war alone.

The challenge that remains is not whether we need all elements of national power for this fight, but how to coordinate and manage all elements of national power.

Time and time again people – be it administration officials, military leaders or outside experts – have come before this subcommittee and identified interagency coordination as a problem holding back progress in the war on terror. Most recently, our nation's highest ranking military officer, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Peter Pace chose to call attention to this issue during his testimony on the FY 2007 National Defense Authorization budget request. Clearly this is a problem that demands the Congress' attention.

The purpose of this hearing is to get to the bottom of this issue, and to establish what kind of reform is needed. I am anxious to hear from our witnesses on any solutions they may have to solve this problem.

It should not take a crisis or an attack to create the political will to reform how our government operates. It is the Congress that should be at the helm of identifying problems within our government and it is the Congress' responsibility to solve those problems. Particularly in the war on terror, with the grave threat posed by al Qaeda and its affiliates, the Congress must stay ahead of the curve.

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