



## HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE DUNCAN HUNTER – CHAIRMAN

### ***PRESS RELEASE***

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## **READINESS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HEFLEY OPENING STATEMENT**

### ***Full Committee Hearing on Acquisition Reform: Bringing Change to the Process***

**Washington, D.C.** – Today the committee meets to continue its oversight of the defense acquisition system. Over the past several years, this committee has made major strides in the area of acquisition reform. Some of our most recent initiatives include rapid acquisition authority to field goods and services needed to prevent combat fatalities; a statutory requirement for the Department of Defense to comply with its own policies, regulations and directives; and the revision of the “Nunn-McCurdy” amendment, one of the most powerful tools in the oversight arsenal. These reforms, however, aren’t enough. Year after year, we face the same problems. Rampant cost growth, an unconstrained requirements process which delays fielding of new systems, and assurances from the Department of Defense that these problems will be corrected.

To the credit of the department, they’ve commissioned numerous studies to identify the most pressing issues and to identify areas requiring reform. Today, our witnesses will review the results of these studies and share their findings with us. Next Wednesday, the committee will reconvene with senior leaders from the department’s acquisition, requirements and financial management communities, to discuss their plans for implementation of the numerous reform recommendations.

But first, we have a unique opportunity to hear from the leading experts in the field of acquisition reform. Their perspectives on these ongoing challenges will be invaluable to the committee as we continue our efforts to overcome these acquisition challenges.

Our first three witnesses served as key members of major acquisition reform studies and will provide a brief synopsis of their findings.

First, we’ll hear from Lieutenant General Ronald T. Kadish, United States Air Force (retired), for an overview of the recently completed Defense Acquisition Performance Assessment Panel, commissioned in June 2005 by Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England.

General Kadish will be followed by former Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, Dr. Robert Hermann, who recently served as Task Force Co-Chair for a Defense Science Board Summer Study on Transformation.

Our third witness, Pierre Chao, recently served as a principal author of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, “Beyond Goldwater-Nichols” report and is Senior Fellow and Director of Defense Industrial Initiatives, International Security Program.

Finally, we are fortunate to have a representative of the “current” acquisition system, and one of the most experienced program managers in the entire Department of Defense. Terry Little, currently Acquisition Advisor to the Missile Defense Agency, offers a unique perspective as the “voice” of the current defense acquisition system. I should note that Mr. Little is here today, not to discuss his current position, but rather to speak about some of his previous successes in the acquisition system as program manager of the Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) and Small-Diameter Bomb (SDB). His testimony will offer a perspective as to how aggressive program management, testing, and risk-control, are able to keep a program on cost and on schedule, all within the current acquisition system.

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