



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

PRESS RELEASE

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OPENING STATEMENT OF JIM SAXTON

*Terrorism, Unconventional Threats & Capabilities Subcommittee Hearing on Improving the
Capability of the Department of Defense to Combat Weapons of Mass Destruction*

Washington, D.C. – Today, the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities meets in open session to receive testimony on the implications of the 2006 Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR), with respect to the role of the Department of Defense in combating weapons of mass destruction. Additionally, the subcommittee will explore how the recommendations from the QDR support the recently released National Military Strategy to Combat Weapons of Mass Destruction and the 2002 National Strategy to Combat Weapons of Mass Destruction. Today's hearing provides an opportunity for the members of the subcommittee to assess the Administration's plans and priorities for combating WMD, and how the Department of Defense fits into the larger government-wide effort.

Our witnesses are expected to expand upon the QDR decisions regarding combating WMD. These decisions include:

- The designation of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency as the primary Combat Support Agency for U.S. Strategic Command.
- The expansion of the Army's 20th Support Command capabilities to enable it to serve as a Joint Task Force capable of rapid deployment to command and control WMD elimination and site exploitation missions by 2007.
- The expansion of the number of U.S. forces with advanced technical render-safe skills and an improvement in their speed of response.
- The improvement and expansion of U.S. forces' capabilities to locate, track and tag shipments of WMD, missiles and related materials, including the transportation means used to move such items.

- The reallocation of funding within the Chemical Biological Defense Program to invest more than \$1.5 billion over the next five years to develop broad-spectrum medical countermeasures against advanced bio-terror threats.

The subcommittee's goal is to understand more fully how the QDR decisions will be implemented. We look forward to hearing about successes to date and the challenges that remain. In addition, the subcommittee seeks to understand how the QDR decisions support the National Military Strategy to Combat WMD, which was also released in February, 2006. The National Military Strategy provides the guidance for executing the U.S. military WMD-related nonproliferation, counterproliferation, and consequence-management missions. The strategy assigns roles and responsibilities for the military in carrying out its combating WMD strategy. In particular, the strategy identifies the Commander, United States Strategic Command as the lead combatant commander for integrating and synchronizing DOD efforts in combating WMD. The subcommittee hopes to understand how the USSTRATCOM Commander plans to operationalize the National Military Strategy, particularly with the support of DTRA. For example, what exactly is meant by integrating and synchronizing and how will DTRA enable this mission?

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