



**HOUSE ARMED SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS
JOEL HEFLEY, COLORADO – CHAIRMAN**

PRESS RELEASE

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Chairman Hefley Opening Statement

Markup up H.R. 5122, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007

Washington, DC --- Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This past year the Readiness subcommittee held public hearings and closed briefings on a wide-range of topics related to the budget request for the Operation & Maintenance and Military Construction accounts.

Through these efforts, the subcommittee came to the troubling consensus that the Department of Defense has apparently prioritized transformation efforts ahead of the services' current readiness needs.

This belief was confirmed during our review of O&M budgets, where we found that numerous operations, maintenance and training accounts lacked sufficient funds to support even basic peacetime requirements.

In response, the subcommittee has recommended increasing critical readiness budgets by \$856 million for accounts that support ship operations, depot maintenance, flying hours, prepositioned stocks and other training requirements. Furthermore, the subcommittee has worked to ensure that the services' efforts to transform themselves into an effective future force do not come at the expense of today's force.

I think all members of the Readiness subcommittee can be confident that important readiness programs and priority unfunded requirements have been addressed.

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