



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

PRESS RELEASE

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STATEMENT OF JIM SAXTON

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

Washington, D.C. – Mr. Chairman and fellow members of the committee, the Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee held six hearings just this year and traveled extensively to prepare the subcommittee's mark that is now before you. Our distinguished ranking member, Marty Meehan, and all members of the subcommittee worked in a bipartisan way to craft this mark.

My frequent travels to the combat zones and other places have persuaded me that the subcommittee has contributed directly to the war effort. In fact, I was in Iraq just 10 days ago and observed two force protection initiatives sponsored by the subcommittee deployed and protecting the troops. While gratifying to see our work in action, we all know that more must be done.

One of the constant themes I've heard this year is that interagency coordination needs work, and we've taken measures here to begin to improve that process for both domestic emergencies and combating terrorism overseas.

What else is in this package? Some common threads are apparent:

- As noted, we have begun to explore ways to improve the interagency coordination process, and included several items to improve the capabilities of the Special Operations Command.
- We included two legislative measures to improve Pentagon processes. One would provide for more effective test and evaluation procedures, bringing them into synch with the rapid acquisition authorities which have already been provided to DOD, and the other would speed the development of information technology systems, putting a five year limit on the development of new business systems.
- We continue our successful initiative of last year to develop novel chemical and biological countermeasures, and have supported programs for the equally important medical research and development.

- We continue our scrutiny of the Department's information technology programs, though not as severely as in past years. In fact, our recommended reductions are barely one percent of the requested \$31 billion IT budget request.

As I've said, this mark addresses many concerns, but we have much, much more to do. I thank all the members for their help in creating this legislation.

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