



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Opening Statement of Chairman Roscoe Bartlett *Hearing on DD(X) Next-Generation, Multi-Mission Surface Combatant Ship***

Washington, D.C. – Today, the Projection Forces Subcommittee meets to receive testimony on the Navy's DD(X) Next-Generation, Multi-Mission Surface Combatant Ship. This will be the first of two hearings, designed to permit members to gain an in-depth understanding of the requirement, program and plans for development and construction of the ship.

Today's hearing will include two panels. The first panel consists of witnesses from the Department of the Navy and the Office of the Secretary of Defense. The second panel consists of analysts who have monitored the program for several years. In tomorrow's hearing at 2:00 pm in Room 2212, we will hear from members of the DD(X) industry team.

The DD(X) destroyer and CG(X) cruiser programs were announced by the Navy in November 2001 as part of a proposed new family of surface combatants that is also to include the smaller Littoral Combat Ship (LCS). The DD(X) destroyer, like the previously planned DD-21, is to be a multi-mission destroyer with an emphasis on the land-attack mission. In addition to its capabilities for multi-mission support of littoral operations and precision and volume fires, DD(X) will also develop and prove out a number of advanced technology capabilities for potential application in other surface warships.

The fiscal years 2006 through 2011 Future Years Defense Plan reduces planned DD(X) destroyer procurement to one per year in FY2007 through FY2011 and accelerates procurement of the first CG(X) cruiser to FY2011. The Navy estimates that the first and second DD(X)s would cost more than \$3 billion each to procure and that subsequent DD(X)s would cost \$2.2 billion to \$2.6 billion each to procure. These estimates are substantially higher than last year's estimates.

The DD(X) program is approaching two key decision points. One is a Major Defense Acquisition Program Milestone B review in which the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (USD(AT&L)) will decide whether to authorize the award of a detail design and construction contract for production of the lead ship(s). The program is also scheduled to complete a critical design review by August 2005 that is intended to demonstrate the design maturity of the ship and its readiness to proceed to the next phase of the program.

Coincident with this milestone decision, issues have been raised about significant growth in the cost of the DD(X) and whether or not the DD(X) is both cost-effective and affordable in the context of the Navy's operational requirements and overall ship procurement program. Implications to the Navy's shipbuilding industrial base of proposed changes in the DD(X) acquisition strategy and reduced procurement rate are also of concern.

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