

STATEMENT OF RICHARD B. MYERS
BEFORE THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
GENERAL, USAF, RETIRED
15TH CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

Thank you Mr. Chairman and committee members for the opportunity to appear before you today. First, I would like to thank you for your unwavering support of our service men and women as they dedicate their lives to our freedom.

This country has been at war for the last ten years. The burden of our conflicts and engagement around the world has fallen predominately upon the shoulders of our U. S. Military and their families. The resilience of our active duty and reserve troops has been remarkable; however, as our efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan wind down and it presents the opportunity for fewer people forward deployed, now is not the time to lessen the support for our fighting force. The best thing we can do for our men and women in uniform as they strive to protect us is to provide them with good leadership, robust training, and world class equipment. For the last ten years we've done this. Given our fiscal concerns the question is, "what support is America willing to provide going forward?"

Even though our forward deployed troops are predicted to be fewer in number in the near future, the threats to our security are still very great. Let me mention just three of these concerns. I believe that violent extremism continues to represent the biggest threat to our way of life. While al Qaida is badly wounded, they and their ilk are not finished in their quest for a different world—a world dominated by their extreme brand of Islam and little tolerance. Living as we do in a free society, we will always be at risk to those who wish us ill, who are willing to die for their cause, and who consider innocent men, women and children legitimate targets in their fight. The actions of the last ten years have made us safer than we were on 9/11, but we are not free from this scourge. It will take many years, a comprehensive multinational strategy, and the focus of all instruments of national power (including our military) to make this world safe from this threat.

The nexus between violent extremism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is another concern for our security. There is no question that if terrorists could obtain WMD, they would use them to maximum

advantage for their cause. In this regard, Iran is particularly troubling. Iran's quest for nuclear weapon capability is disturbing for several reasons. Chief among those is the proliferation threat from Iran's newly acquired nuclear capability. If fissile material or a nuclear weapon were to fall into the hands of a terrorist group the impact could be much greater than the tragedy of 9/11. The fact that we have little apparent leverage over Iran's actions makes this threat all the more concerning. And if Iran does develop a nuclear weapons capability, that would dramatically increase the potential for the development of nuclear weapons in the region. Obviously this would be destabilizing. Regardless of the solution to the Iranian problem, a strong military will be necessary for any successful outcome.

Finally, the Asia-Pacific region has experienced unprecedented economic prosperity over the last several decades. As a Pacific nation, we must realize and remind ourselves that the prosperity of the Asia-Pacific nations contributes significantly to our prosperity. The U. S. military has played an important role in helping ensure the security and stability of this area. The forward stationing of our land, sea, and air forces has served us well, but our influence in the region is now being challenged by China. We will need highly capable sea, land, air, and space forces to deal with China's anti-access and area denial efforts in this region that's so vital to our security and economic well being.

In addition to these and many other security concerns, we must realize the impact that reductions in defense spending will have on our force structure. History tells us that during reductions in defense spending, despite our best intentions, the procurement and research and development accounts take a disproportional share of the cuts. This leaves our services without the modern equipment they need to replace old, outdated, and worn out equipment. As a nation we've always taken great pride in the fact that our military is the best equipped in the world. Deep budget cuts to defense would bring that fact into question.

And finally, we must be able to provide world class care to those who have been wounded in our current conflicts. As you know well, some of these wounds are visible and some can't be seen. Nevertheless, our obligation is to provide the best health care we can to those who have put their lives on the line for us. Health care is not cheap, but any reduction in health care resources would be breaking faith with those who willingly go in harm's way.

In my view, the world is a more dangerous and uncertain place today than it has been for decades. The three security concerns issues I've outlined above are all different in nature. However, they all will require a strong military to deal with them. Our historic lack of ability to predict where and when the next big threat to our security is coming from is well known, but we can be certain that a security surprise is in our future. What stands between these threats and our freedom is the U. S. military.

Our fiscal difficulties are serious indeed. So are the potential security challenges facing us. We don't need to be the world's policeman, but we do need to provide leadership in this uncertain world. Our military must remain strong with the best leadership, superior training, and the best equipment. In doing so our men and women in uniform will help keep us free and provide the stability that ensures our prosperity.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to the committee's questions.

DISCLOSURE FORM FOR WITNESSES

CONCERNING FEDERAL CONTRACT AND GRANT INFORMATION

INSTRUCTION TO WITNESSES: Rule 11, clause 2(g)(4), of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives for the 112th Congress requires nongovernmental witnesses appearing before House committees to include in their written statements a curriculum vitae and a disclosure of the amount and source of any federal contracts or grants (including subcontracts and subgrants) received during the current and two previous fiscal years either by the witness or by an entity represented by the witness. This form is intended to assist witnesses appearing before the House Armed Services Committee in complying with the House rule.

Witness name: RICHARD B. MYERS
GENERAL, USAF, Ret

Capacity in which appearing: (check one)

Individual

Representative

If appearing in a representative capacity, name of the company, association or other entity being represented: N/A

FISCAL YEAR 2011

federal grant(s)/ contracts	federal agency	dollar value	subject(s) of contract or grant

FISCAL YEAR 2010

federal grant(s)/ contracts	federal agency	dollar value	subject(s) of contract or grant

FISCAL YEAR 2009

Federal grant(s) / contracts	federal agency	dollar value	subject(s) of contract or grant

Federal Contract Information: If you or the entity you represent before the Committee on Armed Services has contracts (including subcontracts) with the federal government, please provide the following information: *N/A*

Number of contracts (including subcontracts) with the federal government:

Current fiscal year (2011): _____;
 Fiscal year 2010: _____;
 Fiscal year 2009: _____.

Federal agencies with which federal contracts are held:

Current fiscal year (2011): _____;
 Fiscal year 2010: _____;
 Fiscal year 2009: _____.

List of subjects of federal contract(s) (for example, ship construction, aircraft parts manufacturing, software design, force structure consultant, architecture & engineering services, etc.):

Current fiscal year (2011): _____;
 Fiscal year 2010: _____;
 Fiscal year 2009: _____.

Aggregate dollar value of federal contracts held:

Current fiscal year (2011): _____;
 Fiscal year 2010: _____;
 Fiscal year 2009: _____.