

Congressman W. Todd Akin
Chairman, Seapower & Projection Forces Subcommittee
October 13, 2011
Air Force Tanker Hearing Opening Remarks

This afternoon the subcommittee meets to receive testimony from Department of Defense acquisition officials regarding the Air Force's new tanker program, the KC-46, and to receive an update on current tanker aircraft, the KC-135 and the KC-10.

We intend to provide sufficient, but not overly burdensome, oversight of this program and hope that this will go into the record books as an acquisition model of success.

Today we have with us:

- **Mr. Shay Assad**, director of Defense Acquisition Policy and Strategic Sourcing;
- **Mr. Dave Van Buren**, the Air Force's Service Acquisition Executive;
- **Major General Bruce Litchfield**, special assistant to the commander of Air Force Materiel Command; and,
- **Major General (select), Chris Bogdan**, Program Executive Officer for the KC-46 program.

During this hearing, we hope to gain a better understanding of the KC-46 program and the program risks that have been identified, and the oversight mechanisms in place to keep the program on track. And, we will all appreciate the need for this new tanker as we hear testimony regarding our aging, but still capable, fleet of legacy tankers and the dedicated airmen that keep them flying. Finally, we'd like to gain an understanding on KC-46 program impacts as budget deliberations for the future continue to take center stage and remain uncertain.

With that, I turn to the ranking member of the subcommittee, Mr. McIntyre for any comments he'd like to make.