



**CONGRESSMAN CURT WELDON**

*7th District Pennsylvania*



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
June 11, 1998

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**STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE CURT WELDON,  
CHAIRMAN, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE AT THE  
JOINT MILITARY PROCUREMENT AND RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT  
SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON  
CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION — INFORMATION ASSURANCE**

Today, the subcommittees on Military Procurement and Research and Development meet jointly to receive testimony on the Clinton Administration's Critical Infrastructure Protection Program (Presidential Decision Directive 63) that was announced by the President on May 22, 1998. We just completed a classified briefing by Dr. John Hamre, the Deputy Secretary of Defense, on the measures being taken by the Department of Defense to protect the defense information infrastructure.

If there is no objection, I would move to include an unclassified version of Dr. Hamre's briefing in the record of this hearing. Members of the Defense Staff will be available in this hearing to address questions regarding the DOD's activities in the critical infrastructure protection program that may arise during the course of the hearing.

I would also like to include in the record a letter from the General Accounting Office which addresses the emerging results of their review of the DOD's efforts to protect and defend its information and information systems. This review is being conducted at the request of the Research and Development Subcommittee. A copy of the letter has been provided to each member.

In March 1997, the subcommittees met jointly to review the DOD's policy and programs for establishing and maintaining information superiority by our armed forces on the 21<sup>st</sup> Century battlefield. We found that information superiority and information technology are key enablers for joint military operations and that our armed forces and the defense and commercial infrastructure that supports them have become increasingly dependent upon the application of information technology and the supporting information infrastructure. We also heard that information infrastructures are vulnerable to attack and have become increasingly so. The spread of information technology and the linkage between information systems and traditional critical infrastructures, such as communications and transportation, have increased the scope and potential of the information warfare threat.

These findings were mirrored in last year's Quadrennial Defense Review which also identified the growing potential for attack on our critical information infrastructure through computer-based information networks and cited the need to protect these systems from interference or exploitation by an adversary. The review also indicated that defense against hostile information operations will require unprecedented cooperation between the Department of Defense, other federal agencies, the commercial sector, our allies, and the public.

On May 22, the President announced the establishment of a new program for strengthening the nation's defenses against unconventional threats, including assaults on our critical infrastructures and the computer networks that are an integral part of them. The Critical Infrastructure Protection Program, which is the subject of Presidential Decision Directive 63, is the focus of today's hearing.

With us today is Dr. Jeffrey Hunker, Director of the Critical Infrastructure Assurance Office, which will serve as the national planning office for the program and will support the National Coordinator for Security, Infrastructure Protection and Counter-terrorism.

Present also from the classified briefing by the Department of Defense to answer questions regarding the DOD's role in the Critical Infrastructure Protection Program are Mr. Linton Wells, II, Principal Deputy, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence, and Brigadier General John H. Campbell, United States Air Force, the Deputy Director for Information Operations on the Joint Staff.

Gentlemen, welcome to all of you. Dr. Hunker, we look forward to your testimony today and to the question and answer period which will follow.