



HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE DUNCAN HUNTER – CHAIRMAN

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Josh Holly (202) 225-2539

CHAIRMAN HUNTER OPENING STATEMENT

*Hearing on the Department of Defense's Global Defense Posture Strategy including
Beddown, Support, and other Requirements*

Washington, D.C. – Today the committee meets to receive an update on the Department of Defense's efforts to realign its forces around the world. Over the past few years, the committee has conducted several hearings and received additional briefings on three of the most significant components of the Department's force realignment efforts – the global defense posture review, base realignment and closure, and the Army's transformation into a modular force.

Considering that each component of this realignment would be a significant effort in its own right, the Department of Defense has a daunting task ahead in attempting to implement all three parts over the same short period of time. Today's hearing is an opportunity for the committee to review the Department's force realignment plans and to assess whether it is prepared to address the many resulting requirements of those plans.

Some such requirements are obvious – for instance, will bases and local communities need new schools, medical care, family housing, or military construction to support an influx of personnel resulting from force realignments? What are the federal and state government roles in providing for these needs?

Some requirements are less obvious – for instance, will the effect of having fewer personnel based in forward locations result in new mobility requirements for air- and sea-lift, or perhaps additional needs for pre-positioned equipment?

It goes without saying that the requirements flowing from the Department's force realignments will likely have substantial costs. Have such costs been fully thought through? It is clear that the issues before the committee and the panel today are both significant and complex, so I look forward to hearing from our panel.

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