



**HOUSE ARMED SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM, UNCONVENTIONAL
THREATS AND CAPABILITIES
JIM SAXTON, NEW JERSEY
CHAIRMAN**

PRESS RELEASE

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**Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee
Hearing Focuses on Irregular Warfare Roadmap**

Washington, D.C. --- Defense Department witnesses testifying today gave Members of the House Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee an overview of the Department's Irregular Warfare Roadmap, addressing Members' ongoing concerns about whether America's military forces are developing the right capabilities to meet the unique demands of the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT).

In his opening statement, Subcommittee Chairman Jim Saxton (R-NJ) said, "The Global War on Terrorism is defined by its long-term and irregular nature, and it requires an approach that does not solely focus on conventional capabilities or direct action missions to kill or capture terrorists and their supporters."

Witness statements largely agreed that an important aspect of waging irregular war involves rebalancing today's force, equipping general purpose forces to better wage irregular war and increasing capability and capacity of Special Operations Forces (SOF).

Mario Mancuso, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Combating Terrorism, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict (SOLIC), referred in his comments to the Department of Defense's (DoD) 2005 Quadrennial Defense Review, saying that, according to the document, "success in irregular warfare (IW) often requires an indirect approach—building capacity with others while seeking to defeat adversaries physically and psychologically."

He said that the Irregular Warfare Roadmap is providing senior leaders with a mechanism to advance high priority issues for decision through the FY2008-2013 defense program. As part of the Irregular Warfare Roadmap, DoD, he added, has established an aggressive timeline to implement some 30 tasks over the next year to improve the ability to conduct IW.

Specifically, according to Mancuso, "We must improve the capability of our General Purpose Forces to conduct counterinsurgency operations and to partner with and train foreign forces to defeat insurgencies and terrorist organization on a global scale and for an indefinite period. Our Special Operations Forces must also rebalance to devote a greater degree of effort to counter terrorism

operations, defeating terrorist networks, and combating the threat of WMD proliferation.”

In his prepared statement, Navy Vice Admiral Eric Olson, Deputy Commander for the U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM), echoed the importance of rebalancing the force, saying that “USSOCOM and the Services are improving their postures to both conduct and combat Irregular Warfare.” He added that “increasing the IW capabilities of the general purpose forces will serve to increase the availability of SOF to perform activities for which they are specially trained and equipped.”

In his testimony, Air Force Brigadier General O.G. Mannon, Deputy Director of the Joint Staff for Special Operations, outlined tasks in “five broad subject areas or Lines of Operations. The areas include: Transforming the way DoD manages people; rebalancing General Purpose Forces; increasing Special Operations Forces capability and capacity; increasing DoD’s capability and capacity to conduct counter-network operations; and redesigning Joint and Service education and training.”

Mannon’s written testimony went on to explain that IW specialists can only come to be “if the Military Services change the way they identify, access, educate, train, develop, utilize, and retain Irregular Warfare specialists.” He noted further that “until recently, DoD educational and training institutions have not placed a priority on the importance of preparing DoD personnel to operate, thrive and succeed in Irregular Warfare environments.”

When asked in questioning to provide some measure of progress in Iraq, Mancuso replied, “We are well on the way to breaking up the local threat, emulsifying it, if you will, and then focusing in on our partners and allies, and equipping them to defeat the local threat, to keep it contained. That is the strategic end state. Are we there yet? No, we are not. But we are making progress as we are engaged throughout the entire Global War on Terror.”

About progress on the war front, Olson added, “We are aware, by removal either by death or capture, of several of the leaders of al Qaeda in Iraq. We are aware that their infrastructure has been disrupted to the point that it is less effective over time.”

Mancuso added, “In terms of an irregular warfare paradigm, what’s most important is not what the Iraqis think of us, it’s what they think of their own government, a sovereign government of Iraq that is in the process of standing up, that has stood up and is in the process of maturing, versus those who would destroy that government. And I think in that complex battle, it is clear that the Iraqi people have a greater faith in their government.”

Saxton told both witnesses and Members, “As a committee, we must remain focused on the strategic objectives in this war, and Irregular Warfare will prove to be a deciding factor in the GWOT.” He concluded the hearing praising the significant progress that Special Operations Forces have made to date.

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