



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

PRESS RELEASE

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**Joint Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities
Subcommittee and Readiness Subcommittee Hearing Focuses on
Energy Efficiency and Alternative Energy Programs Throughout
Department of Defense**

Washington, D.C. – Recognizing that the Department of Defense (DOD) has a significant demand for energy, the House Armed Services Subcommittees on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities and Readiness met to assess the DOD’s efforts at reducing energy consumption, increasing energy efficiency, and developing alternate fuel sources.

Chairing the hearing, Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee Chairman Jim Saxton (R-NJ) remarked that energy security is “a key component to national security.”

“As the single largest consumer of petroleum fuels in the United States, the military has an opportunity to serve as an early adopter of alternative fuel sources and to offer a certain level of market assurance to alternative fuel suppliers,” said Saxton.

While noting that DOD alone cannot drive market forces, nor should it be responsible for formulating and implementing a national strategy, Rep. Saxton suggested that “it is appropriate for the Department of Defense to exercise a leadership role in this area and likewise, for this Committee to exercise appropriate oversight of those efforts.”

Readiness Subcommittee Chairman Joel Hefley (R-CO) also stressed the importance of holding the hearing today and its implications for national security. “As we all know, DOD is the largest single consumer of fuel in the United States and while it's not a very glamorous subject, energy is critical to success on the battlefield. Fuel and fuel logistics are an enormous part of the Department's operations and maintenance budget as the military consumes over 350,000 barrels of petroleum-based fuels per day,” said Hefley.

“The Air Force alone sees a \$600 million increase in the annual cost of doing business for every \$10 increase in the price of a barrel of oil. Although the majority of energy consumption in the Department of Defense is for transportation, installation energy requirements must also be considered as we work to maintain and modernize our military facilities,” said Rep. Hefley.

The Honorable John Young, Jr., Director, Defense Research and Engineering and Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations and Environment, Philip Grone, highlighted recent efforts by DOD to develop an comprehensive strategy to reduce DOD's fossil fuel requirements and identify alternative sources of energy, by discussing the preliminary findings of the DOD Energy Security Task Force, established by the Secretary of Defense in April, 2006.

According to the preliminary findings, the Task Force found that "the Military Services have already made significant advances in energy efficiency" and have reduced energy consumption over the past few decades. For example, as Grone stated, as of 2005, "the Department has reduced facilities energy use by 28.3 percent from the 1985 baseline." While the Department currently relies on renewable sources for nine percent of its electricity, its stated goal is to have 25 percent of its electricity fueled by renewable sources by 2025.

Mr. Young also identified a number of related research and engineering efforts to improve the energy efficiency of tactical vehicles and weapons platforms. Energy for mobility, to power aircraft, ships, and vehicles – accounts for 74 percent of the Department's total energy usage.

However, despite noteworthy progress, Young and Grone observed that current energy usage levels remain substantial. "In fiscal year 2005, the Department spent \$10.0 billion on energy," and the Department uses, "slightly more than 0.3 million barrels per day."

Mr. Michael Aimone, Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, Logistics, Installations and Mission Support, United State Air Force, highlighted the strategies that the Air Force has implemented to develop future fuel sources for assured mobility and to promote strong conservation initiatives.

According to Aimone, the stated goal of the Air Force is to have at least 50 percent of aviation fuel derived from domestic supplies by 2016. To that end, he cited the recent successful test of a B-52 Stratofortress bomber using synthetic fuel.

"The test was conducted using a 50/50 blend of crude oil refined jet fuel and synthetically manufactured product....To date, the aircraft has flown over six hours, and combined with over 50 hours of engine tests on the ground, we have not seen any deleterious effects on the engine, fuel system, or in the ground support equipment," said Aimone.

The Air Force has also requested the assistance of the Defense Energy Support Center (DESC), a Defense Logistics Agency field activity, in surveying industry to identify the market conditions necessary to produce 100 million gallons of synthetic jet fuel beginning in 2009. Mr. Richard Connelly, Director of DESC, testified about the, "significant interest with 28 firms responding."

Witnesses also discussed the use of alternative fuel sources as having a direct impact on battlefield operations. For example, Mr. Scott Sklar, President of the Stella Group, demonstrated to members a solar panel blanket that can power field phones.

According to Sklar, "We have ten thousand solar blankets for powering field phones...so you can keep the field phones running on sunlight during the day and run them using their batteries in the nighttime. They're out in the military and on the battlefield today."

Later, Mr. Sklar suggested to the Committee members that his message would be "to push that the advanced technologies...are utilized cost-effectively in real terms, and that the military is using them all."

He opined that as the cost of the advanced technologies are decreased, "we will have a more resilient, a more agile military force and a great defense that will have a lesser chance of having fuel disrupted."

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