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Shuster Statement on Armed Services Committee Review of President's Fiscal Year 2009 Defense Budget



Congressman Shuster asks Joint Chiefs Chairman Admiral Mullen about Special Forces funding in the FY09 Defense Budget

Washington, D.C. – Today, **Congressman Bill Shuster** joined his colleagues on the House Armed Services Committee to begin the process of reviewing the President's proposed FY2009 defense budget.

During today's hearing, the committee heard testimony from Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Admiral Michael Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Congressman Shuster released the following statement on today's hearing:

"Today, the Armed Services Committee began its annual review of the President's budget request for our military. The Defense budget is of the highest priority for the United States Congress. In a time of war our responsibility is even greater and as a member of the Armed Services Committee I take that responsibility very seriously.

I have concerns that the President's budget does not cover the full cost of the war in Iraq and Afghanistan for FY2009. I am also concerned that the President's proposal does not properly increase funding to modernize and strengthen our military, especially our Special Operations forces that continue to play a crucial role in the War on Terror.

These are important issues that must be looked at carefully through the budget process. We have the best trained and best equipped troops in the world and I intend to keep it that way."

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