

**Statement of the Honorable Wilson Livingood  
Sergeant at Arms, U.S. House of Representatives  
Before  
The Committee on House Administration**

**Wednesday, April 28, 2010**

Good morning Mr. Chairman, Mr. Lungren, and members of this committee. It is an honor to speak to you this morning. Before I begin, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to each member of this Committee for their support for this office. You enable us to provide a safer and more secure environment for Members, their staff, visiting diplomats and world leaders, and the many 1000s of visitors who come here each year.

As an overview, the Sergeant at Arms office consists of the following divisions: Administration/Immediate Office, Police Services and Special Events, Chamber Security, Information Services, House Garages and Parking Security, the House Security Office, and the newly created Office of Emergency Management.

Through each of these divisions, I am able to administer the distribution of Member pins, Member Congressional plates, and staff identification badges. I oversee security on the House Floor and Galleries and administer all ticketed events taking place in the House Chamber.

Additionally, I oversee security in the House Garages and administer the distribution of parking permits at the beginning of each new Congress.

Working in conjunction with the United States Capitol Police, my office coordinates logistics for all major events involving Members of Congress. As the chief law enforcement officer of the House of Representatives, I am tasked to review and implement all issues relating to the safety and security of Members of Congress and the Capitol complex. Many of our efforts are focused in this direction.

This morning, I would like to provide you a summary of some of the efforts that the Office of the Sergeant at Arms is currently working on.

- **Administration/Immediate Office** – Staff in the Immediate Office have been working on preparations for the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress to include designing and procuring the Member and Spouse Identification Pin for distribution in January 2011. In addition, we are developing a more robust outreach program for gathering Member Emergency Contact information. We collect this vital information at the beginning of each new Congress and deeply appreciate each Member's timely response to our request.
- **Appointments Desk** – In coordination with the Senate Appointments Desk and the United States Capitol Police, we have implemented new official business visitor badges. Standardization of these badges with the Senate enhances the United States Capitol Police's ability to verify and enforce our official business visitor policies and

procedures.

- **Chamber Security** – Chamber Security staff are currently preparing for the upcoming Joint Meeting with the President of Mexico on May 20<sup>th</sup>. In addition, we continue to review emergency evacuation plans and procedures for the House floor and galleries.

Since the opening of the Capitol Visitors Center (CVC) we have been able to accommodate an increasing number of visitors going to the House Gallery. The CVC has accommodated over 3 million visitors since it's opening in December of 2008. In that span of time we have accommodated nearly 500,000 visitors into the House Gallery. The opening of the CVC has given our Gallery visitors the ability to be staged in a comfortable, climate controlled, and secure environment. The process of staging the House Gallery Line in the CVC, has allowed us to maintain a higher level of security in and around the House Chamber.

- **House Garages and Parking Security** –The Office of House Garages and Parking Security is currently coordinating with the Architect of the Capitol in their upcoming renovation of the East underground garage. Additionally, we are in the process of reviewing and evaluating the design of the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress parking permit. As always, we look to enhance the security features of these decals and will work closely with the Committee in the upcoming months.
- **House Security Office** – The Office of House Security is currently implementing a classified document management system to securely

manage, track, and store all classified materials maintained by this office. Additionally, we have developed an introductory Operational Security (OPSEC) briefing for all House staff which is designed to educate staff on protecting sensitive information. This introductory briefing is our initial approach to bolster OPSEC awareness throughout the House of Representatives.

- **Office of Information Services** – The Division of Information Technology is continuing with the installation and configuration of the new ID badge production system. This new system will provide ID Services with a more secure system, and will enable ID Services staff to more efficiently process and issue identification badges to House staff and contractors.

Information Technology has also begun the initial work on a complete redesign of the Sergeant at Arms website. Changes will include incorporating a content management system to better manage the data on the site, integrating the former “OEPPO” website into the Sergeant at Arms website, and providing additional online forms for common requests made by House staff for SAA services.

- **Police Services / Special Events**
  - **Threat Analysis** – Over the past several months, the number of reported threats against Members of Congress has increased. I continue to monitor this on a daily basis, and consult and coordinate with the U.S. Capitol Police on all of these issues to ensure the safety and security of all Members.

- Preparations are being made for the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual National Peace Officers Memorial Service to be held on the West Front of the Capitol at Noon on May 15. This solemn service honors the 116 law enforcement professionals who died in the line of duty in 2009.
- We are preparing to receive His Excellency Felipe Calderon, the President of Mexico, in a Joint Meeting of Congress on May 20, 2010 at 1100 AM.
- Initial meetings have been held for the annual Memorial Day and July 4<sup>th</sup> Concerts which are held on the West Front of the U.S. Capitol. Both of these events are large-scale and well-attended. We will be slightly modifying security arrangements for each event this year to enhance the safety of all who attend.
- **Office of Emergency Management** – On February 1, 2010, at the direction of this Committee, the former Office of Emergency Planning, Preparedness, and Operations (OEPPO) was reorganized within the Sergeant at Arms as the Office of Emergency Management. This transition is expected to clarify roles and responsibilities for emergency management. Specifically this transition clarified the Sergeant at Arms responsibilities regarding coordination of life safety and continuity of government programs within the House of Representatives.

I have been charged to make sure that procedures are in place and personnel are trained for emergencies that may require Members,

staff, and visitors to evacuate, shelter, relocate, or take other protective actions based on scenarios ranging from accidents to natural disasters to malevolent events. I have assigned OEM the duty to ensure that effective plans are in place, coordinated, and appropriate information is provided to Members, staff, and visitors.

Similarly, I have been charged to ensure that the House is prepared to continue essential governmental functions given any contingency. In addition to duties to ensure the continuation of Sergeant at Arms functions during an emergency, I have directed OEM to actively implement strategies to coordinate the House continuity program including the effective integration of Leadership, Committee, Member, House Officer, and all other House offices continuity planning and preparedness efforts. I have also directed OEM to ensure the House program is coordinated with the rest of the Legislative Branch and Executive Branch continuity community.

OEM has been fully engaged in implementing the HSAA's continuity program responsibilities; is beginning to re-implement a comprehensive, coordinated House continuity program; and is engaged with the Senate and other Legislative Branch agencies, Executive and Judicial Branch elements, House organizations, and even local jurisdictional authorities through a variety of life safety and continuity planning processes.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Lungren and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to appear before the Committee. Let me

assure you of my longstanding commitment to provide the highest quality support services for the House of Representatives in the safest and most secure environment possible. It has always been my goal – and that of the Office of the Sergeant at Arms – to remain vigilant and security-conscious at all times. I will continue to keep the Committee informed of my activities.

I will be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.