

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

113TH CONGRESS

OVERSIGHT PLAN

This oversight plan is filed pursuant to clause 2(d) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives that requires that, not later than February 15 of the first session of a Congress, each standing committee of the House shall adopt its oversight plan for that Congress.

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OVERSIGHT PLAN FOR THE 113TH CONGRESS

INTRODUCTION

The oversight responsibilities of the Committee on Armed Services are conducted throughout the calendar year. They are instrumental in the committee's consideration of the annual defense authorization bill, which covers the breadth of the operations of the Department of Defense as well as the national security functions of the Department of Energy and other related areas. The annual national defense budget involves millions of military and civilian personnel, thousands of facilities, and hundreds of agencies, departments, and commands located throughout the world. The wars in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, as well as contingency operations related to the global war on terrorism, will continue to expand the range of topics requiring committee oversight including strategic, operational, and budgetary issues of great scope and complexity.

The committee has jurisdiction over laws, programs, and agencies under permanent authority in numerous titles of the United States Code, including titles 10 (Armed Forces), 32 (National Guard), 37 (Pay and Allowances of the Uniformed Services), 41 (Public Contracts), 42 (Atomic Energy), 46 (Shipping), and 50 (War and National Defense).

The jurisdiction of the committee, pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives is as follows:

1. Ammunition depots; forts; arsenals; Army, Navy, and Air Force reservations and establishments.
2. Common defense generally.
3. Conservation, development, and use of naval petroleum and oil shale reserves.
4. The Department of Defense generally, including the Departments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force generally.
5. Interoceanic canals generally, including measures relating to the maintenance, operation, and administration of interoceanic canals.
6. Merchant Marine Academy, and State Merchant Marine Academies.
7. Military applications of nuclear energy.
8. Tactical intelligence and intelligence related activities of the Department of Defense.
9. National security aspects of merchant marine, including financial assistance for the construction and operation of vessels, the maintenance of the U.S. shipbuilding and ship repair industrial base, cabotage, cargo preference, and merchant marine officers and seamen as these matters relate to national security.
10. Pay, promotion, retirement, and other benefits and privileges of members of the armed services.
11. Scientific research and development in support of the armed services.
12. Selective service.
13. Size and composition of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force.

14. Soldiers' and sailors' homes.
15. Strategic and critical materials necessary for the common defense.
16. Cemeteries administered by the Department of Defense.

In addition to its legislative jurisdiction and general oversight function, the committee has special oversight functions with respect to international arms control and disarmament and the education of military dependents in schools pursuant to clause 3(b) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

OVERSIGHT AGENDA

The committee will continue its oversight and assessment of threats to U.S. national security as it considers the fiscal year 2014 and fiscal year 2015 defense budget requests. This effort will involve appropriate oversight hearings with the Secretary of Defense; the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; the individual service secretaries and chiefs of staff; combatant commanders; other officials of the Department of Defense and the military departments; officials from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, Central Intelligence Agency, and other defense-related intelligence agencies; and the Secretary of Energy, the Under Secretary for Nuclear Security, and other officials of the Department of Energy. In addition, the committee will invite the views and perspectives of outside experts in academia, industry, associations and advocacy organizations, and those in private life with expertise on these matters. Finally, the committee will continue its aggressive outreach program to seek the views and perspectives of service members and their families to include Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve members across the United States and at deployed locations overseas.

The committee carries out its oversight of the Department of Defense and its subordinate departments and agencies as well as portions of the Department of Energy through activities involving the full committee and its standing subcommittees. Each subcommittee conducts oversight of the programs within its jurisdiction as specified in the committee's rules, with the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations pursuing coordinated and constructive oversight that will identify best practices, areas of potential savings, as well as those areas in need of correction and reform within the Department of Defense.

The oversight agenda below, unless otherwise noted, is designed to support the consideration by the committee and, ultimately, the House of Representatives of the annual defense authorization bill, as well as the committee's broader oversight responsibilities. The issues identified are expected to be ongoing areas of oversight activity throughout the 113th Congress. In addition, the committee will continue to pay particular attention to the mandates placed on executive departments and agencies by the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (Public Law 103-62). The committee will examine closely the progress of the Department of Defense, the military departments, and the Department of Energy in implementing Public Law 103-62 to include the use of performance-based budgeting techniques and five-year strategic planning documents, for programs within its jurisdiction. In this

context, pursuant to clause 2(d)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the committee will continue to emphasize the examination of relevant rules, regulations, statutes, and court decisions affecting the Department of Defense and the Department of Energy for their effects on efficiency and good management practices.

Given the unique nature of national security issues and related oversight of the Armed Forces, the committee believes that a qualifier is once again necessary with regard to the ability to plan comprehensively and predict all oversight activities. Much of the committee's most demanding oversight will be, by definition, event-driven and not subject to prior planning. Such events significantly complicate the ability to prescribe with great accuracy or specificity the committee's entire oversight agenda. For instance, the oversight of defense activities by the committee has historically involved in-depth assessments of military operations and other major events that are generally difficult to predict in advance, such as of the war in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and responses to catastrophic events. In the 112th Congress, a significant portion of the committee's oversight agenda was dedicated to assessing the effects of defense sequestration, as a result of the Budget Control Act of 2011, which could not have been foreseen at the time the oversight plan for the 112th Congress was adopted. These reviews can dominate committee and staff resources, sometimes at the expense of other planned activities. The committee fully expects that this type of event-driven oversight will continue to be required.

The committee has a long tradition of translating oversight activities into prescriptive legislative action as reflected in past comprehensive efforts such as: providing for concurrent receipt of retirement and disability benefits for veterans with qualifying combat-related disabilities; the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-433); the Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act of 1991 (Public Law 101-510); the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-355); the establishment of the National Nuclear Security Administration and related reform of the management of the national security programs of the Department of Energy; the Military Commissions Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-366); the Wounded Warrior Assistance Act of 2007 included in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181); the Weapon System Acquisition Reform Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-23); the Implementing Management for Performance and Related Reforms to Obtain Value in Every Acquisition Act of 2010 (IMPROVE Acquisition Act of 2010), as included in the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (Public Law 111-383); the Small Business Innovative Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Reauthorization Act of 2011, as included in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012; and the application of additional sanctions against the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as included in both the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 and the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013. The committee will continue to oversee these and other prior legislative provisions in the 113th

Congress. In general, the committee will continue to maintain a strong linkage between formal oversight efforts and legislative initiatives.

As previously noted, the committee has dedicated significant oversight to the examination of the implications of the Budget Control Act of 2011 for national defense. The committee will continue to oversee the Department of Defense's implementation of these budget cuts to ensure the military is responsibly applying cuts and continuing to invest in high priority national security requirements. Likewise, the committee will assess the effects of declining defense resources on the health of the force and risk associated with executing the national military strategy. H.R. 8, the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012, delayed the implementation of sequestration by two months, changing the effective date to March 1, 2013. The committee agrees with the statement of the acting Director of the Office of Management and Budget who testified before the committee in 2012 that, "Sequestration, by design, is bad policy..." The committee continues to oppose the sequester of national defense funding, but will conduct additional oversight in the 113th Congress to ensure the effects on the military and the defense industrial base are known, that appropriate planning is occurring to ensure the negative effects of sequestration are not exacerbated, and should sequestration go into effect, that the damage to U.S. national security is mitigated to the greatest extent possible.

In addition to the above, the following specific areas and subjects are identified for special attention during the 113th Congress.

POLICY ISSUES

National Defense Strategy, National Military Strategy, and Related Defense Policy Issues

The committee is committed to ensuring that the U.S. military is properly postured to meet the complex security demands of the 21st century. This will involve closely reviewing how the Department of Defense postures itself to meet the demands of the war in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the renewed focus on the Asia-Pacific, and dispersed special operations in support of the global war on terrorism, while also ensuring that the Department invests in modernization and remains capable of addressing new conventional and unconventional challenges. Therefore, the committee will provide oversight to ensure that all Department activities, capabilities and functions, including doctrine, organization, training, education, exercises, materiel, leadership, personnel, facilities, and planning, appropriately reflect the necessity to meet the full range of security requirements.

Furthermore, when considering the overall posture of the Department, the committee will consider the recommendations delineated in the forthcoming 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) and the associated National Defense Panel. In addition, the committee will consider these findings and recommendations in the context of the new defense strategic guidance that was released in January, 2012, and the findings of prior QDRs and independent panels.

Through its constitutional responsibility arising from article I, section 8, to raise and support armies and to provide and maintain a Navy, the committee has a responsibility to ensure that the military can meet its future missions, as well as today's operational requirements. The committee's examination of strategic risk, in simple terms, will look to ensure that these joint forces retain the ability, regardless of present operational pressures and budgetary constraints, to deter any potential foe, respond to any contingency that threatens U.S. interests, and defeat any adversary who might threaten America's interests, in the worst case. In this regard, the committee will closely examine the Department of Defense's range of assumptions about future threats made in strategy documents to assess the adequacy of forces, the resources available, and the likely level of strategic risk. The committee will continue to monitor strategic risk and take action to mitigate it when necessary.

The War in Afghanistan

The war in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has evolved since the nascent stages of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2001, and it continues to embody vital U.S. national interests — to include ensuring that Afghanistan is not a sanctuary for terrorist groups or a launching pad for terrorist attacks against the United States and its allies.

The surge in U.S. military troops and resources has improved security in Afghanistan; yet, these security gains are fragile and reversible. Given the recovery of approximately 33,000 U.S. surge forces in September 2012, coupled with the continuing transition of lead responsibility to Afghan security forces, the next two years will be critical to ensuring U.S. security for years to come. U.S. forces in Afghanistan must continue to receive the resources necessary to conduct the missions that will be set forth by President Obama in 2013. Consequently, the committee will continue to conduct robust oversight activities during the 113th Congress on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's International Security Assistance Force (NATO-ISAF) and Operation Enduring Freedom missions, more broadly. In addition, the committee will maintain a focus on the decisions and activities that will shape the operational environment in 2014 and the military presence beyond December 31, 2014.

The committee will continue to examine the progress made in the execution of NATO-ISAF's counterinsurgency strategy and the security transition in Afghanistan. The committee will track the performance metrics for measuring operational and strategic success and will provide focused oversight on the mission set established by the President as well as the associated force levels authorized by the President. The safety and security of U.S. and allied forces will remain paramount in the committee's oversight approach — as discussed in greater detail below.

The committee also will continue to monitor efforts to deny sanctuary in the border area between Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan as well as

provide oversight on other critical efforts in Afghanistan such as the continued development and sustainment of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) as they assume full responsibility for security. The committee also will continue oversight of reconstruction activities to ensure that appropriate accountability measures are taken.

Finally, the committee will monitor and conduct oversight of the redeployment equipment and handover of facilities that will occur throughout 2013, 2014, and beyond — including the redeployment of the equipment, rolling stock, and other combat vehicles out of Afghanistan.

Force Protection

The committee will continue to emphasize force protection as a high priority issue for special oversight — with a particular focus on areas having a direct impact on the safety of military personnel engaged in operations in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The committee will seek to expedite the promulgation of policies and the fielding of technology and equipment that prevents and/or reduces combat casualties.

In Afghanistan, as well as other overseas contingency operations, focus areas will continue to include but are not limited to: the policies for management and acquisition of counter improvised explosive device (CIED) equipment throughout the force to include attacking the network, defeating the device, and training the force; persistent surveillance, particularly prevention of IED emplacement; actionable tactical intelligence processing, exploitation, and dissemination capabilities in support of ground operations; capabilities to counter indirect fire; adequate, effective, and properly resourced quantities of body and vehicle armor to include survivability improvements to the combat and tactical vehicle fleets; and improving current biometric systems.

Finally, the committee will continue to provide robust oversight and monitoring of the "insider attacks" perpetrated by Afghan security forces and private security contractors against U.S. and coalition personnel in Afghanistan. The committee will focus its oversight on the full range of the actions that the Department took before, during, and after an "insider attack." Moreover, the committee will provide oversight on the steps the Department is taking to continue to understand, and gain precise clarity into, the motive of the attacks; the tactics, techniques, and procedures leveraged by the attacker; the strategic effects of the attacks to the mission in Afghanistan; and the procedures being taken to mitigate for and prevent, to the maximum extent possible, future "insider attacks." Lastly, the committee will pay close attention to the certification requirements for the Afghan Public Protection Force (APPF) set forth in the Afghan Security Forces Fund authority in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2013 in order to ensure that APPF personnel conducting static force protection for U.S. military personnel on bases in Afghanistan meet key professional and

recruiting standards, such that potential "insider attacks" perpetrated by the APPF are sufficiently mitigated.

Global War on Terrorism

Since the 9/11 attacks, the United States has dealt Al Qaeda repeated and significant blows during the Global War on Terrorism. Despite many notable successes, Al Qaeda remains potent in Afghanistan and Pakistan and the organization's affiliates have expanded in countries like Somalia, Yemen, and Mali. The committee will continue to conduct extensive oversight, often in classified form, over terrorism issues, with particular attention given to special operations capabilities, the changing nature of Al Qaeda's organization and operations, and efforts to build partner nation counterterrorism capability. As the U.S. strengthens and builds partnership capacity with key allies around the globe, the committee will remain focused on the Department of Defense's efforts in aggressively fighting the Global War on Terror and countering radicalism in places of concern such as the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Yemen, and the Horn of Africa. Ensuring security and stability in volatile regions that cannot adequately govern themselves or secure their own territory will remain a top priority for the committee.

The Greater Middle East

The greater Middle East remains an area of particular focus for the committee in the 113th Congress. This geographic area includes countries in which the United States has invested significant military resources. Moreover, some countries in the greater Middle East embody historic significance for global jihad and continue to serve as operational platforms for global jihadist groups such as Al Qaeda and its affiliated and associated groups. As a result, the committee will continue to apply its resources towards oversight and evaluation of U.S. defense policies, readiness, and military programs in this part of the globe.

Islamic Republic of Pakistan

The committee will continue its oversight of the broad range of security issues involving the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and will carefully review the use of Coalition Support Funds (CSF), which are provided to reimburse Pakistan for its support to U.S. military operations and security assistance. Also, the committee will monitor any transfers of funds into, or out of, the Pakistan Counterinsurgency Fund (PCF). The committee will monitor the security and stability of Pakistan, including the security of Pakistan's nuclear weapons; Pakistan's on-going and future nuclear weapon projects; and its partnerships and operational capacity to combat key terrorist groups such as Al Qaeda, the Taliban, the Haqqani Network, and other terrorist organizations. Moreover, the committee will evaluate the terrorist activity emanating from the border area between Pakistan and

Afghanistan and will provide oversight of the Department of Defense's efforts to combat that threat.

Republic of Iraq

The committee will conduct oversight of the Office of Security Cooperation in Iraq (OSC-I). The committee will monitor and evaluate the execution of the authority to train Iraqi security forces in an institutional, non-operational environment.

The security situation in Iraq is part of a complex and evolving political landscape in the region. The committee will monitor political developments in Iraq to gauge the state of the security situation, including the increasingly transnational capacity of Al Qaeda in Iraq, and to understand the nature of the partnership with the Government of Iraq and the state of security in the region.

The committee also will focus attention on Foreign Military Sales (FMS) — as the FMS system remains an important effort to further strengthen and sustain the security forces in Iraq. While primary oversight jurisdiction lies with the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Foreign Military Sales are complementary to the training provided by U.S. military trainers in Iraq under the OSC-I authority.

Islamic Republic of Iran

The committee will continue to monitor and provide inquiry into the development of nuclear weapons, and/or nuclear weapon capability, by the Government of Iran. During the 113th Congress, the committee will strive to gain both a greater conceptual clarity as well as a more detailed understanding of the threat posed by a nuclear, or nuclear-capable, Iran and the potential effects for the United States, its interests, and its allies in the region through public hearings, Department briefings, reports (such as the Iran Military Power Report), and oversight trips to the region.

The committee will continue to monitor the sanctions already in place, as well as the sanctions established in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013. Additionally, the committee will conduct oversight of the full range of potential military activities, repositioning of military assets, and operations to counter threats posed by Iran.

Finally, the committee will continue to monitor the strategic orientation, operational capacity, and goals of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC). Furthermore, the committee also will focus its attention towards the Iranian Quds Force, a special mission wing of the IRGC. In particular, the committee will work to understand the activities of the Quds Force as well as their actions and activities in post-strike scenarios on Iran's nuclear sites.

Syrian Arab Republic

The committee will continue its inquiry into the evolving security and humanitarian situation inside Syria, as well as effects on its neighbors, including Turkey, Iran, Jordan, Iraq, and Lebanon. Additionally, the committee will monitor the diplomatic negotiations with President Assad, as well as the support of the Russian Federation to the Syrian regime. Furthermore, the committee will continue to focus on the influx of the jihadists in Syria, including the capacity and relative strength of the terrorist group, Jabhat al-Nusra, and the interplay of the jihadists within the Sunni population and the opposition groups, more broadly. Finally, the committee will continually examine the security of the chemical and biological stockpiles and associated weapon delivery mechanisms, and it will monitor the deployment and repositioning of military personnel and resources to the region to address this issue set.

Republic of Yemen

The security situation in Yemen also will continue to be a significant focus for the committee. The committee will maintain its oversight on the U.S. military support and counterterrorism activities in Yemen. The committee will examine the strategic orientation of Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and Ansar al-Sharia. Additionally, AQAP's capacity for transnational terrorism will be a critical focus. Finally, the committee will monitor any activities of the Government of Iran in Yemen and whether those activities undermine U.S. activities in Yemen.

The Continent of Africa

The committee will maintain its oversight focus on defense issues and Department of Defense activities in the Continent of Africa. Additionally, the committee remains interested in the Department's coordination within the interagency to address the range of activities that are occurring in Africa and to prevent terrorist activity emanating from the continent.

North Africa

The committee will continue to provide focused inquiry into the attack that occurred on September 11, 2012, in Benghazi, Libya. The committee will focus on the Department's continuing institutional response to the attack, as well as the implementation of the lessons learned from the attack; including, but limited to, interagency coordination, positioning of military assets, threat perception, threat analysis, intelligence cycle, intelligence sharing, operational coordination, and crisis response. Additionally, the committee will further its inquiry into Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), including the evolving nature of the group and its foothold in countries such as Algeria, Mauritania, and Mali. Also, the committee will provide inquiry into the steps the Department is taking to gather intelligence

on this group and prevent this group from launching transnational terrorist attacks on the United States, its allies, or its interests.

East Africa

The committee will continue to provide robust oversight of the Department's efforts to counter the terrorist threats that are continuing to manifest in East Africa. In particular, the committee will remain focused on the evolution of Al Shabaab and its affiliated entities in Somalia, and the Horn of Africa (HOA) more broadly, as well as the steps that the Department is taking to counter this group and prevent it from launching transnational terrorist attacks on the United States, its allies, or its interests.

Moreover, the committee will continue to monitor the overlapping ideological, strategic, and operational coordination between HOA terrorist groups, such as Al Shabaab, and terrorist groups on the Arabian Peninsula such as Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).

West Africa

The committee will continue its oversight of the Department's analysis of the terrorist group Boko Haram (BH), located primarily in the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The committee will pay particular attention to the continuing ideological, strategic, and operational evolution of BH. The committee also will concentrate its attention on the geographic overlap and operational coordination with other terrorist groups on the Continent of Africa, such as AQIM and Al Shabaab.

Central Africa

Finally, the committee will provide oversight of the Department's activities to support the Uganda Peoples' Defense Force (UPDF) and other national militaries with approximately 100 special operation forces to counter the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and apprehend or remove Joseph Kony, which has been occurring for over one year. In addition, the committee will continue its inquiry into the evolving security situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the instability and humanitarian issues that are manifesting due to the activities of various rebel and anti-government militias, including the March 23rd (M23) rebel group.

Asia

The new defense strategic guidance, released in January 2012, stated that the United States military would rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region in recognition of the economic and security interests of the United States that are tied to the region. The region is home to more than fifty percent of the world's population; three thousand different languages; several of the world's largest militaries; five

countries allied with the United States through mutual defense treaties (the Commonwealth of Australia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of the Philippines, and the Kingdom of Thailand); 2 of the world's 4 largest economies (Japan and the People's Republic of China); and 10 of its 14 smallest economies. Given the size and importance of the region, the committee will monitor the Department of Defense's strategy, force posture, and readiness, to ensure that U.S. forces are properly resourced and postured to protect U.S. national security interests.

Efforts by China to expand regional influence may offer challenges. International tensions in the South China and East China Seas could affect regional and global stability. China's military modernization efforts have focused on investments to enable China to conduct a wide range of missions, including deterring, delaying, and denying international access within the Asia-Pacific region. These possibilities remain concerning to regional allies and partners.

The committee will continue to oversee international efforts to contain the North Korean threat to regional stability. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea tested missile launch capabilities twice in 2012 in defiance of applicable United Nations resolutions. Despite chronic economic shortages leaving the civilian population malnourished, North Korea continues to devote limited resources to maintaining the world's fourth largest armed force with 1.2 million active-duty personnel, 5 million to 7 million reserves, 1,700 aircraft, 800 naval vessels and more than 13,000 artillery systems. More than 70% of North Korea's ground forces remain stationed within 90 kilometers of the Demilitarized Zone, within striking distance of the greater Seoul metropolitan area and U.S. forces stationed in the Republic of Korea.

The region's evolving security environment requires increased engagement with allies and partners. The committee will monitor key operational control transition initiatives between U.S. Forces Korea and the Republic of Korea, as well as the Yongsan Relocation Plan and the Land Partnership Plan. With respect to Japan, the committee will focus on the continued realignment of U.S. forces that are based in Japan. The committee will also evaluate U.S. military engagement with other regional allies and partners, including the Republic of India, Australia, the Philippines, and several other countries.

Central and South America

The committee will examine the issues affecting the United States military in Central and South America, as many nations in this region increasingly face the dangers of illicit trafficking, political turmoil, and instability that pose a potential threat to the homeland. The committee will oversee the execution of the military's security assistance programs in the Republic of Colombia, as this country continues to improve its national security and peace talks with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. The committee remains concerned about the political situation in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the instability it brings to the region.

The committee continues to monitor potential threats from global terrorist organizations such as Al Qaeda, Hezbollah, and the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps, who have increasing influence in the region. Additionally, the committee will focus on the growing economies in the region such as the Federative Republic of Brazil, the region's largest and fastest-growing economy, and its influence both in the Western Hemisphere and globally.

The committee recognizes the importance of the United States' relationship with its Central and South American neighbors and the ability as a hemisphere to bring safety and security to the region.

Europe

While the stability and security of Europe remain core U.S. national interests, the U.S. military force presence maintained in Europe has declined dramatically since the end of the cold war. The planned withdrawal of two of four Army Brigade Combat Teams will further reduce U.S. military presence. Nevertheless, there are significant advantages that come from European-based U.S. troops, including the opportunity to train regularly with ally and partner forces at U.S. training centers in Europe and the ability to plan and launch operations elsewhere in the region, as was demonstrated recently by Operation Odyssey Dawn and Operation Unified Protector in Libya and the U.S. military response to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2012 in Benghazi. The committee will examine all overseas basing, including that in Europe, to determine what is the most effective overseas force posture for our national security at the lowest possible cost.

European allies are strong partners with the U.S. military, contributing to a range of regional and global missions, including approximately 50% of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) training teams in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. However, the continuing constrained fiscal environment has created pressures on the region's militaries, their defense budgets, and investments in future capabilities. To deal with the financial impact on the region's militaries, the members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) agreed to a "Smart Defense" initiative, a series of projects designed to pool and share resources in order to better set priorities and encourage members to specialize. The May 2012 NATO Chicago Summit focused on other issues affecting the future of the alliance, including missile defense and nuclear deterrence, development in the Middle East, and the transition of NATO forces in Afghanistan. The committee will focus on the U.S. military's engagement in NATO's activities.

While the Cold War has been over for more than 20 years, the U.S. military's relationship with the Russian Federation is focused on building and maintaining cooperative military-to-military relations while also reassuring U.S. allies wary of Russia's intentions. Russia remains focused on reforming and modernizing their forces, with specific emphasis on improving the recruitment, training and retention of its troops. However, since December 2007, Russia has ceased implementing its obligations to the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE)

treaty, which included annual notification and data of military forces and basing. The committee will examine U.S. military's engagement with the Russian military. In 2012, Russia announced it wanted changes to the umbrella agreement with the United States. Set to expire in June 2013, the agreement helped the U.S. Government secure and dismantle Soviet-era nuclear weapons and contained key liabilities for U.S. personnel. The committee will continue to monitor Department of Defense and National Nuclear Security Administration efforts to secure Russian nuclear materials.

Addressing Emerging Threats

Terrorism, insurgency, and weapons of mass destruction proliferation are some of the emerging threats that challenge global peace and stability. These threats directly impact the National Military Strategy and require the Department of Defense to work effectively and efficiently with other Federal agencies and the security forces of other nations. The committee will conduct oversight of numerous cross-cutting Department activities central to addressing these emerging and unforeseen threats, including counterinsurgency, counterterrorism, security force assistance, and building partnership capacity (BPC), all of which received renewed emphasis in the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review.

The committee will focus attention on how the Department addresses these broad threats in its strategic planning processes, how resources are arrayed to meet these threats, and how existing authorities are consistent with operational requirements. While there are roughly a dozen authorities that fall into the BPC category, the ones the committee considers most significant include train and equip "1206" and the new Global Security Contingency Fund. Since 2006, the committee has been increasingly active in this area, and the last several National Defense Authorization Acts have reflected what Congress considered to be the appropriate balance of providing sufficient authority for the most pressing needs of the Department of Defense while encouraging a more integrated interagency approach to building partnership capacity. Furthermore, the committee will continue to closely monitor and assess the execution of these BPC authorities, both during the initial congressional notification process and those programs in progress.

The full committee, as well as the Subcommittee on Intelligence, Emerging Threats and Capabilities (given the key role Special Operations Forces play in this area), will continue their oversight of the full range of emerging threats to national security and U.S. military forces, and the capabilities needed to respond.

Detainee Policy, Military Commissions, and Related Matters

The Department of Defense continues to be the custodian of detainees who are being held in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and United States Naval Station (GTMO), Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

With regard to detainee operations in Afghanistan, the committee will primarily focus on: the transfer and release of detainees held in the Bagram

detention facility; cases of recidivism; and the continued transition of detainees into Afghan custody. The committee will specifically focus on the disposition of detainees who pose a continuing national security threat to the United States.

With respect to detention operations at United States Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the committee will continue to monitor transfer and release policies and practices, as well as the use of the Military Commissions Act (Public Law 109-366; Public Law 111-84) that established the current legal framework governing the operation of military tribunals to try detainees for war crimes and codified some of the procedural rights of GTMO detainees.

The committee will also focus on issues relating to detention policy for future captures, detainee interrogations, prioritization of intelligence collection, procedures for detainee reviews, conditions of confinement, and the Department's role in the High Value Interrogation Group. The committee will also take other necessary actions and conduct related oversight.

Intelligence

In the 113th Congress, the committee will continue to monitor the reorganization of the intelligence community through implementation of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-458) and the creation of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence position as authorized by the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107-314). The committee will also place particular attention on: resource allocation for intelligence-related programs both for effectiveness and affordability; defense intelligence strategies and policies in consideration of current and anticipated future threats; organization and management of the elements of the Department of Defense that are part of the intelligence community; and the consideration and prioritization of defense intelligence requirements across the intelligence community. Additionally, the committee will monitor the Department's security practices, audit capabilities, and information-sharing policies following recent extensive unauthorized disclosures of classified information. All of the committee's efforts will be focused on ensuring the highest possible quality of intelligence support to the warfighter. Finally, the committee will continue to coordinate with the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence on intelligence and counterintelligence matters of the Department of Defense, and intelligence and counterintelligence activities of the Department of Energy in the course of its annual oversight of the intelligence community and the authorization of appropriations for intelligence activities shared by the two committees.

National Guard and Reserves

The debate that began during the 112th Congress about the most appropriate force structure mix of active and reserve components, about the proper roles and missions of the reserve components -- be they an operational or strategic reserve -- and about the affordability of the required force to meet national security

requirements will intensify in the 113th Congress. Competition among the active and reserve components for diminishing resources will serve as a catalyst for that debate. As evidenced by the debate about the Air Force's active and reserve component force structure recommendations submitted with the Fiscal Year 2013 President's budget and subsequent Congressional action, reaching a consensus will be most challenging.

During the 112th Congress, the National Defense Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239) included provisions (title III, subtitle G) establishing a National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force to undertake a comprehensive study of the structure of the Air Force to determine whether, and how, the structure should be modified to best fulfill current and anticipated mission requirements for the Air Force in a manner consistent with available resources. The Commission will evaluate a structure that: meets current and anticipated requirements of the combatant commands; achieves an appropriate balance between the Regular and Reserve Components of the Air Force, taking advantage of the unique strengths and capabilities of each; ensures that the Regular and Reserve Components of the Air Force have the capacity needed to support current and anticipated homeland defense and disaster assistance missions in the United States; provides for sufficient numbers of regular members of the Air Force to provide a base of trained personnel from which the personnel of the Reserve Components of the Air Force could be recruited; maintains a peacetime rotation force to support operational tempo goals of 1:2 for regular members of the Air Forces and 1:5 for members of the Reserve Components of the Air Force; and, maximizes and appropriately balances affordability, efficiency, effectiveness, capability, and readiness. The Commission will submit a report to the congressional defense committees not later than February 1, 2014, at which time the committee will evaluate any legislative or administrative recommendations made by the Commission as a result of the study.

In the 113th Congress, the committee, building on the outcomes of the Commission report, will continue its review of the various recommendations and proposals and monitor proposed changes to ensure the recommendations will meet the National Military Strategy requirements, as well as homeland security and disaster requirements. Furthermore, the committee will continue to monitor and evaluate the obligation and execution rates of funds provided as part of a separate procurement account, entitled the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account (NGREA) that would be used to address equipment shortfalls for the National Guard and Reserve Components. The committee will also focus oversight efforts on current equipment investment strategies for the National Guard and Reserve Components with particular emphasis on affordability and modernization of critical dual-use equipment platforms that are essential to the National Guard's Title 32 mission, defense support to civil authorities.

Overview

The committee is responsible not only for ensuring that the United States military has the capabilities required to preserve our national security, but also to ensure that the Department of Defense is operated efficiently and with fiscal discipline in order to maximize the return on the taxpayers' investments. To that end, the committee will conduct oversight of the organization and management of the Department of Defense, its business operations, and the means by which the Department acquires goods and services. Acquisition programs that no longer represent the best value for the taxpayer, due to a changing security environment, mismanagement, or the time required to deliver a useful capability to the warfighter, will be re-evaluated by the committee as part of the annual defense authorization process.

Moreover, the committee will continue to examine the application of \$451 billion in cuts to the Fiscal Year 2012 Future Years Defense Plan over 10 years, as a result of the Budget Control Act of 2011 and H.R. 8, the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012. These cuts will reduce military end strength, force structure, and significantly alter planned procurements. Pursuant to clause 2(d)(1)(F) rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, as the committee examines the impact of these funding reductions, the committee will cut or eliminate programs, including mandatory spending programs, that are deemed inefficient, duplicative, outdated, or more appropriately administered by State or local governments.

Additional plans for oversight in this area during the 113th Congress follow below.

Organization and Management of the Department of Defense

The committee will review the organization and management of the Department of Defense to ensure that it is properly postured to meet the complex and evolving security threats of the 21st century. The committee anticipates that the organization of the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the military departments will be modified, perhaps substantially so, as the Administration implements funding cuts imposed by the Budget Control Act of 2011 and the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-240). The committee will carefully review any proposed organizational changes and work to ensure that the missions of the Department are appropriately aligned with organizations that have the core competency to perform them, as well as ensure that Department's enterprise, including the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Staff, the military departments, the combatant commands, and the defense agencies operate efficiently, cutting out organizational waste and redundancy. To that end, the committee will seek to ensure that any reductions in personnel are made in a balanced manner that considers total workforce management. Pursuant to clause (2)(p) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the committee will also carefully review issues raised by the Comptroller General of the United States

indicating that programs or operations that the committee may authorize are at high risk for waste, fraud, and mismanagement, known as the "high-risk list" or the "high-risk series".

Financial Management

The committee will continue to oversee military effectiveness in this era of declining budgets. The Department of Defense has already identified a decrease of \$487.0 billion over a 10 year period based on fiscal constraints. Additional reductions to defense resources, to include mechanisms such as sequestration, could affect the quality of our military force as the Department looks to successfully perform its role in the National Security Strategy.

The Comptroller General of the United States has consistently identified the Department of Defense's financial management as a high-risk area since 1995. The Department's inability to track and account for billions of dollars in funding and tangible assets continues to undermine its financial management systems. It also creates a lack of transparency that significantly limits congressional oversight.

Measures to reform defense acquisition or to find efficiencies within the Department are undermined by the Department's inability to produce auditable financial statements. Without these objective tools, neither the Department nor Congress can fully verify that greater value is being created.

The committee will continue to review the Department's efforts to implement the Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness (FIAR) plan and to monitor closely the interdependencies between FIAR and the hundreds of millions of dollars per year being spent on business systems modernization programs that the Department has proposed to address its financial management problems.

The committee looks forward to receiving notification that the Statement of Budgetary Resources will be audit ready during the 113th Congress, as the current projected date for that certification is September 30, 2014.

Acquisition Issues

The Acquisition System and Acquisition Policy

The committee will continue to provide oversight of the defense acquisition system and address continuing concerns about cost growth in major defense acquisition programs and the responsiveness of the system to compelling military needs. In recent years, the committee has been especially active in the area of acquisition reform including: reforming the process for reviewing and certifying requirements for major defense acquisition programs; reforming contingency contracting; improving the acquisition workforce; protecting strategic materials; and establishing greater standards and transparency for services contracting.

Nevertheless, the committee is still aware of and concerned about significant shortcomings in the acquisition system. The committee will continue to monitor the implementation of recently enacted acquisition reforms, to include

implementation of legislation based on the findings and recommendations of the Commission on Wartime Contracting. The committee will also review the application of regulatory frameworks, such as cost accounting standards, to contracts entered into and performed overseas. As part of its oversight, the committee will continue to examine in-depth the military requirements process that is the foundation of the acquisition system. Weapon system programs begin with the validation of a military requirement. The process by which this occurs, while lengthy and filled with multi-service consultation, continues to produce outcomes which do not reflect the jointness that the military has achieved at the operating level. The committee will also continue to examine the process for developing the cost estimates for weapon systems. Unrealistic cost estimates are a significant cause of cost growth in DOD acquisitions. The absence of more realistic cost estimates makes it difficult to develop a well-conceived acquisition plan that weighs competing strategic and budget priorities.

Service contracting represents an increasingly important and large proportion of the acquisition expenditures of the Department of Defense. The committee will continue to work to reform appropriately the acquisition process to reflect this reality by: reviewing the management structure for these contracts; increasing the visibility and transparency of these contracts by reviewing service contract inventories; and monitoring efforts to prevent personal and organizational conflicts of interest. The committee will also monitor the Department's phasing out of the use of contractors to perform inherently governmental functions, such as serving as the lead system integrator on major defense acquisition programs.

The committee has done a significant amount of work to improve the ability to contract in a contingency environment. The committee will seek to ensure that requirements development and planning for operational contract support is sufficient to enable rapid deployment and sustained response when and where it is needed. Over the past several years, the committee has maintained active oversight on the Department's urgent operational needs and rapid acquisition processes, most recently, in section 902 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239), that required the Secretary of Defense to designate a senior official to be the focal point within the Department to lead all efforts related to urgent operational needs and rapid acquisition. In addition to monitoring this effort, the committee will remain committed to diligent oversight and investigation into the many challenges facing the Department in the consolidation and management of the organizations involved in rapid acquisition and urgent operational needs and will continue to ensure the Department maintains and uses all necessary authorities to rapidly meet urgent warfighter requirements.

The committee recognizes that a fundamental component in addressing most of the problems in the acquisition process is improving the composition and quality of the acquisition workforce. The committee will provide oversight to efforts to enhance career paths for military personnel working in acquisition, to the Department of Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Fund, and to other efforts by the Department to expand and improve the acquisition workforce. In

addition, the committee will continue to ensure the protection of the Government's interest in technical data.

Defense Industrial Base and Technology Transfers

The committee will continue to closely examine the health, security and innovative capacity of the defense industrial base, especially in light of changes to the defense strategy, the needs for recapitalization and modernization after 10 years of war, and looming budget pressures. The industrial base for complex major weapons systems has shrunk dramatically in the last decade, limiting the ability of the Department of Defense to control costs and encourage innovation through the use of competition. Industry has also struggled in many cases to make the long-term investments that are vital to the health of the defense industrial base, notably so in the shipbuilding industry. The committee will examine the policies and funding tools available to the Department to ensure the health of the defense industrial base.

The committee will also monitor implementation of recent changes to the U.S. export control regime in order to determine its effectiveness in preventing the transfer of sensitive military-related technologies to potential adversaries. The consolidation of the defense industry and its increasingly global nature will increasingly challenge the capabilities of current systems for industrial security. The committee will monitor the Department's plans and statutory authorities for industrial security to ensure their adequacy. In addition to overseeing the effectiveness of the Defense Security Service to carry out this mission, the committee will review traditional mechanisms for industrial security, such as the security clearance process and the National Industrial Security Program, as well other areas where adversaries could exploit vulnerabilities or loop holes in the acquisition process to undermine the U.S. defense industrial base.

Information Technology and Business Systems

Information technology (IT) systems are critical enablers for the Department of Defense. As the IT budget represents nearly \$33 billion of the Department of Defense's total budget, it also represents a major investment area requiring the same rigorous planning and oversight as any other complex major weapon system. The Department recognized this area as a source of greater efficiencies and has managed to reduce spending in IT by several billion dollars across the Future Years Defense Program. The committee will continue to review the Department's IT investment planning and acquisitions to reduce unwarranted duplication and eliminate programs of little value to the warfighter. The committee will pay particular attention to the various IT business systems of the Department where egregious programmatic failures such as the Air Force's Expeditionary Combat Support System have occurred, but which are also critical components in the Department's strategy to achieve auditability.

READINESS

Reset

The committee will continue to monitor the services' reset strategies to repair, recapitalize, and replace equipment used in ongoing operations and will also closely monitor progress toward complete reconstitution of prepositioned stocks. The committee believes that full reset remains at risk in a constrained budget environment. Subsequently, the committee will provide rigorous oversight of ongoing property accountability and retrograde efforts aimed at returning equipment with remaining military value to home station. Further, the committee will continue to monitor the disposition of non-standard equipment returning from the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to ensure that important items are incorporated into units' tables of equipment, are budgeted for and sustained properly, and that items no longer of military utility are disposed of in the most cost-effective manner possible.

Force Readiness

The committee will hold force readiness as one of its highest priorities and will continue rigorous oversight in this area, focusing not only on the readiness of deployed personnel supporting ongoing operations in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, but on the ability of the services to conduct full-spectrum combat missions should the need arise. Shortfalls in full-spectrum readiness have improved as operational tempo has slowed with the end of combat operations in the Republic of Iraq, equipment and personnel shortfalls have been addressed, and dwell time has increased, allowing for a return to full-spectrum training. However, challenges in key areas still exist, and the committee will be closely monitoring how planned end strength reductions acutely impact these areas. Further, the committee will continue its oversight of the Department of Defense's efforts to prepare for a wider range of possible contingencies and its efforts to restore readiness in key support areas such as logistics, prepositioned stocks, and contracted service support.

Life-Cycle Sustainment

Without appropriate and timely input from the logistics community, decisions made during system design can create unnecessary sustainment problems that drive millions of dollars in depot-level maintenance once the system is fielded. The committee will focus on reducing the total-ownership costs of weapons systems and equipment by ensuring the Department of Defense is developing, procuring and modernizing weapons systems and equipment with consideration of life-cycle support and sustainment requirements and cost. In its oversight of the Department's life-cycle sustainment efforts, the committee will monitor the implementation of section 2337 of title 10, United States Code, which requires that

each major weapons system be supported by a product support manager and section 832 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112-81) which requires additional visibility of the operation and support of major weapon systems. Furthermore, the committee will continue its oversight of the Department's corrosion control efforts and will monitor resourcing of corrosion prediction and prevention efforts with a focus on increasing the service life of weapons systems while reducing long-term sustainment costs.

Depot and Arsenal Capability

A critical piece of equipment sustainment is the capability provided by the nation's organic arsenals and depots, including air logistics centers and shipyards. The committee is concerned about the health of the organic industrial base in a declining workload environment with the end of combat operations in the Republic of Iraq and as combat operations continue to decrease in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. While the committee notes that some military departments have completed an organic industrial base sustainment plan, it is concerned that the Department of Defense continues to lack a comprehensive strategy to ensure U.S. military depots and arsenals are viably positioned and have the workforce, equipment, and facilities for efficient operations to meet the nation's current requirements, as well as those in the future. The committee will continue oversight of depot and arsenal operations and management, focusing on capital investment in facilities and equipment, the implementation methodology and use of sustainment concepts such as performance-based logistics, the role of public-private partnerships, the use of working capital funds for timely product improvement, and the services' logistics enterprise resource planning systems. Furthermore, the committee will examine how recent efficiency initiatives and workforce reductions impact depot and arsenal capability as well as programs and initiatives designed to assure availability of critical organic manufacturing capabilities.

Civilian Personnel

The Department of Defense has long relied on the Federal civilian workforce to support its missions around the world, often requiring civilians to serve in active combat zones. It is clear that the Department's civilian workforce plays a critical role in the readiness of United States military forces. In its oversight of the 113th Congress, the committee will assess continuing efforts to transition from the National Security Personnel System (NSPS) and ensure that the Department implements a fair and transparent performance management system. The committee will also continue to closely monitor the implementation of each military department's efficiencies initiatives and related impacts on the civilian workforce, including the ability of the Department to carry out its mission, particularly in light of pending personnel cuts and budget reductions.

Energy and Environment

An effective energy strategy for the Department of Defense will increase the operational effectiveness of the military and will enhance our national and energy security. Therefore, the committee will review the energy strategies promulgated by the Department of Defense and will monitor trends in the Department's energy use on military installations and for military operations.

The committee will also continue its oversight of the Department of Defense and military services' environmental restoration program and will monitor Department of Defense funding and adherence to federal, state, and local requirements for cleanup, compliance, and pollution prevention.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Basing

The Department of Defense is undergoing a significant change in force structure both in the United States and overseas. These changes are being implemented to enhance operational efficiencies and ensure access to future contingency operations. The committee will continue to review all significant domestic and overseas basing proposals to ensure that these proposals rigidly adhere to existing statutory limitations.

Military Construction Programming

The committee will review the Department's military construction program to manage the overall capacity of the Department's infrastructure and to ensure prudent long-term military construction investments are provided.

Real Property Acquisition, Maintenance, and Disposal

The real property management process requires extensive oversight to maintain almost \$850.0 billion in infrastructure at an annual cost of nearly \$45.0 billion. The committee is concerned that infrastructure inefficiencies result in duplicative operations and uncoordinated investment decisions, and will seek to apply best practices across the Department in order to efficiently maintain the services' taxpayer funded infrastructure.

TOTAL FORCE, PERSONNEL, AND HEALTH CARE ISSUES

Manpower Sufficient in Quantity and Quality to Meet Global Commitments

Some argue that military personnel have become or are becoming too expensive. The committee rejects that assertion because such a budget-oriented focus misses the fundamental questions that the committee will assess: What does the Nation need in terms of the quantity of manpower and the quality of that manpower to meet its current and future global military commitments, without

undue risk to the Nation? In this context, the Fiscal Year 2013 President's budget request proposed to reduce the end strengths of the Army and Marine Corps by 100,000 over a five-year period, bringing both services down to approximately pre-9/11 levels. The committee remains concerned with such reductions while those services are still engaged in major combat operations in Afghanistan and smaller engagements throughout the world. Reflecting that concern, Congress, in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239) limited the personnel reductions the Army and Marine Corps could execute each year between Fiscal years 2014 and 2017, thereby seeking to prevent a hollowing of the force. The committee will continue to provide aggressive oversight of military manpower levels and force structure to ensure they meet the National Military Strategy. This oversight will seek to provide Active, Guard and Reserve forces that have manpower levels sufficient to sustain varying degrees of conflict, while maintaining deployment ratios at or above Department of Defense objectives. Within this focus, the committee will examine closely trends in force structure requirements, end strength, recruiting, retention and compensation.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation Programs and Military Resale Programs

Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) and military resale programs (commissary and exchange stores) have been criticized as being unnecessary and wasteful and targeted for reductions in appropriated funding. The committee rejects such assertions and believes cost efficient sustainment of MWR and military resale programs (commissaries and exchanges) is required to protect quality of life in military communities and maintain the combat readiness of the force. The committee will provide oversight efforts directed toward that end.

Additionally, the committee believes that MWR and military resale programs must remain competitive with private sector entities to ensure that service members and their families benefit fully from these programs. The committee must monitor current practices and policies to ensure that MWR and military resale programs are employing the full range of strategies available to private sector competitors to inform authorized patrons about the benefits associated with these programs and attract them to participate. This is especially true for commissaries that are restricted from using pricing, product, and advertising strategies that are common in the private sector because of legislative and policy barriers.

Military Benefits

During the 113th Congress the Department of Defense budget will remain under considerable stress and military benefits will be targeted for reductions. The committee must remain vigilant and give close scrutiny to proposals from the Department of Defense and other organizations, both governmental and private sector, calling for funding reductions to military compensation and other benefit programs. For example, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year

2013 authorized a Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission to review the full range of compensation and benefit programs that could be applied to service members, families, retirees, and survivors, to include programs managed by the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Education. The Commission's deliberations must be closely monitored and its recommendations carefully scrutinized by the committee.

Mental Health Services for Members of the Armed Forces

A continued principal focus of the committee during the 113th Congress will be to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of mental health services provided to members of the Armed Forces and their families. Particular attention will be given, but not limited to, the suicide prevention efforts undertaken by each military service and the development of the comprehensive Department of Defense policy on prevention of suicide among members of the Armed Forces required by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013, including mental health resources for members of the Reserve Components and implementation of a suicide prevention and resilience program specifically for the Reserves and National Guard.

Sexual Assault in the Military

The committee will continue to hold the Department of Defense and the military services accountable to address sexual assaults in the military and ensure victims are provided the appropriate care and support. In that regard, the committee will continue rigorous oversight in this area, focusing not only on sexual assault prevention and response, but on the capability of the military justice system and the Uniform Code of Military Justice to prosecute and bring offenders to justice. In that regard, the committee looks forward to receiving the recommendations of the independent reviews and assessments of Uniform Code of Military Justice and judicial proceedings of sexual assault cases that were mandated in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239). That act also requires the Department of Defense to make significant improvements to their programs and policies to prevent and address sexual assaults involving members of the Armed Forces. Implementation of these program and policy improvements will require close oversight by the committee.

Military Health Care System

The committee is committed to a robust military health system which provides quality health care for service members, retirees, and their families. The cost of providing health care to military beneficiaries will remain a particular focus for the committee during the 113th Congress. The committee will continue to explore innovative strategies to improve the health status of beneficiaries and control cost growth within the military health care system with particular emphasis on the role of preventive care. Additionally, to ensure that the military health system

is efficient and effective, the committee will conduct oversight activities on the reforms to the military health system described in the memorandum of the Deputy Secretary of Defense dated March 2012. Particular attention will be focused on health information technology systems and the acquisition process for military health related procurement. Finally, the committee remains committed to a robust medical research and development program focused on military health issues, such as blast injury mitigation and treatment, combat trauma care, military infectious diseases, and medical biological/chemical defense.

Wounded Warrior Care

The committee will continue its efforts to assess the adequacy of the Department of Defense policies and programs for wounded and disabled service members and their families. In this regard, the committee will continue to evaluate the Department of Defense's ability to integrate and coordinate the multitude of services and resources available to assist the wounded and disabled, not only from other federal agencies, but also from the private sector. In addition, the committee will monitor the Department's progress toward establishing uniform performance outcome measurements for use by each military service in the Warrior in Transition programs. The congressionally mandated Department of Defense centers of excellence will be reviewed for opportunities to expand capabilities and make improvements. The committee will continue to closely monitor translational research and treatment advances in traumatic brain injury. Particular attention will be focused on the Integrated Disability Evaluation System with a view to ensuring the fairness, effectiveness, timeliness, and efficiency of the program and to simplify the process for service members.

Military Family Readiness

We remain a Nation at war. Consequently the families of the members of the Armed Forces continue to experience the strains associated with repeated deployments. In this regard, the committee will continue to focus on the needs of military families and to identify the programs and policies that can be developed or modified to improve their lives. As end strengths of the Armed Forces are reduced and resources shrink, the committee will closely examine the Department of Defense and military service family support programs to ensure the continued viability of these programs to address the needs of military families. In addition, the committee will focus on the outcomes of the Department of Defense wide review of hiring practices at child development centers.

Prisoner of War and Missing in Action

Over the past several years, the committee has maintained active oversight of the Department of Defense's POW/MIA activities, as the committee of jurisdiction. That oversight led to the requirement that the Department of Defense

reform the POW-MIA accounting effort and achieve significantly higher levels of identification by 2015. The committee will remain committed to diligent oversight and investigation into the challenges facing the Department in reaching the new accounting objectives, particularly with respect to the recovery, identification, and return of remains that have been found.

MODERNIZATION AND INVESTMENT ISSUES

Overview

The committee will conduct oversight of the full range of modernization and investment issues facing the Department of Defense. In particular, the committee will seek to ensure the military services have the appropriate authorities, capabilities, and force structure to defend against any potential challenges posed by the advanced anti-access capabilities of countries, such as China and Iran, consistent with the report of the 2010 Department of Defense Quadrennial Defense Review which found that, “Anti-access strategies seek to deny outside countries the ability to project power into a region, thereby allowing aggression or other destabilizing actions to be conducted by the anti-access power. Without dominant capabilities to project power, the integrity of U.S. alliances and security partnerships could be called into question, reducing U.S. security and influence and increasing the possibility of conflict.”

Army and Marine Corps Armored Vehicle Modernization

The committee will focus on oversight of the Army and Marine Corps’ ambitious and evolving plans to recapitalize their entire fleets of heavy and medium-weight armored vehicles over the next two decades, including the M1 Abrams tank, M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicles, Stryker Vehicles, the Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle, the Marine Personnel Carrier program, upgrades for Light Armored Vehicles, upgrades to Paladin artillery systems, and replacement of Army M113 series vehicles. In particular, the committee will focus on ensuring that the existing fleet of armored vehicles is properly upgraded and reset after very heavy use in the Republic of Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and that the Army continues to field vehicles that stay ahead of the evolving anti-vehicle threat posed by improvised explosive devices and advances in anti-tank guided missiles.

In addition to ensuring modernization of existing armored vehicles, the committee will also continue aggressive efforts to oversee and shape the evolving Ground Combat Vehicle (GCV) program and the follow-on effort to the Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle (EFV). In the 113th Congress, these oversight efforts will focus on understanding the basis of these requirements as they pertain to the Analysis of Alternatives, containing program costs, and ensuring appropriate and thorough testing. The committee will also continue to work closely with the Government Accountability Office and the Congressional Budget Office to conduct continuous oversight and evaluation of major development programs as necessary.

Army and Marine Corps Tactical Wheeled Vehicles

The committee will focus oversight efforts on the Army and Marine Corps' tactical wheeled vehicle (TWV) modernization strategies for their families of light, medium, and heavy TWVs, the family of mine resistant ambush protected (MRAP) vehicles, line haul tractor trailers, and construction equipment. In particular, the committee will focus on ensuring that the existing fleet of TWVs and MRAPs are properly modernized and reset after very heavy operational use in the Republic of Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The committee will closely monitor TWV fleet size and composition and focus on ways to adequately sustain the TWV industrial base given significant decreases in overall requirements and the current fiscal environment. Of particular interest to the committee will be the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV) program. The committee will closely monitor the JLTV budget, cost, schedule, and performance outcomes that result from the revised JLTV acquisition strategy. The committee will continue to coordinate with the Government Accountability Office (GAO) regarding the Department's efforts in the long-term management and sustainment of the TWV fleet and its associated industrial base.

Army Aviation Programs

Legacy rotorcraft platforms, including the CH-47, UH-60, AH-64, and OH-58, will likely continue to be operated at high operational tempos, in very challenging environments. These high operational tempos will require continued upgrade and reset efforts.

In addition to its oversight of aviation requirements for, and performance in, combat operations, the committee will closely monitor the Army's future force program for aviation. In particular, the committee will focus on the Army's restructured acquisition plan resulting from the cancellation of the Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter, the initiation of modernization programs such as the Joint Future Theater Lift (JFTL) program, and the need for aircraft survivability equipment upgrades to provide warning and protection against evolving surface-to-air missile threats.

With regard to the JFTL program, while the committee has supported research efforts to develop next-generation rotorcraft capabilities, it is concerned that senior leadership of the services and the Office of the Secretary of Defense have yet to establish a set of validated, reconciled, tested, and achievable technology requirements for the JFTL program.

Army Communications Programs

Given the growing importance of battlefield communications networks in global combat operations, the committee will continue to aggressively monitor the Army's plans for its future battlefield network and the supporting research programs now in place. In particular, the committee will focus oversight efforts on

the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical (WIN-T) and the follow-on efforts resulting from the restructured Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS) programs. The committee will work with the Army to ensure that the future battlefield capabilities it creates results in a network-enabled, rather than a network-dependent, Army. The committee aims to empower soldiers to accomplish their missions, rather than create an Army that is dependent on its communications network, so much so that it is not able to function without it.

Organizational Clothing and Individual Equipment

The committee will continue to devote substantial attention to the oversight of the research, development, and procurement of organizational clothing and individual equipment and other complementary personnel protection programs. Focus areas will continue to include but are not limited to: advances in weight reduction (“lightening the load”) clothing and equipment; development of specific body armor systems for military servicewomen; small arms and small caliber ammunition modernization with particular emphasis on the Army’s individual carbine program and handgun program; improved combat helmets; improved uniforms; and management of these associated niche industrial bases. The committee expects the Joint Staff and the military services to coordinate requirements for these individual equipment programs and will encourage joint programs wherever possible.

Tactical Aircraft Force Structure

The committee will continue to focus on the size and composition of the tactical aircraft force structure. Continued delays in the initial operational capability of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter aircraft have the potential to result in future tactical aircraft force structure shortfalls if service life extensions for legacy aircraft cannot be accomplished.

With an operational requirement of 1,056 strike fighters, the Department of the Navy projects it can manage a strike fighter shortfall of 65 aircraft in the 2020s. The committee will focus on inventory objectives of F/A-18E/F and EA-18G procurement, the effect of delays in the procurement of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, F/A-18 A through D service life limits, and mission capability of the AV-8B aircraft.

The Air Force has stated a strike fighter operational requirement of 1,900 aircraft, and, under current procurement and retirement plans, the Air Force does not project a strike fighter shortfall through 2030. However, delays in deliveries of the F-35A aircraft and in achieving its initial operational capability will affect the Air Force fighter aircraft inventory. In the 113th Congress, the committee will continue its oversight of: aircraft retirement plans; the F-22 and F-35 aircraft programs; and life extension and modernization programs for the F-15, F-16, and A-10 aircraft.

F-35/Joint Strike Fighter

During the 113th Congress, the committee will continue oversight of the F-35/Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Program, particularly issues related to program cost, schedule, and performance.

With the JSF approximately two-thirds of the way through a 14-year development process, the committee believes that there is still risk in completing JSF development within currently projected cost, schedule, and performance parameters. The committee's primary concerns include software development, helmet-mounted sight development, and resolution of issues related to the F-35C's arresting hook system. In the 113th Congress, the committee will continue to receive JSF annual reports and receive testimony and briefings from both the Department of Defense and an independent review from the Government Accountability Office.

Bomber Force Structure

The committee understands that the Air Force will continue investments of significant fiscal resources for technology development and engineering, manufacturing and design of a next-generation, long-range strike bomber aircraft during the next few years. While many details regarding the specific requirements and capabilities of the new bomber remain highly classified, the committee will maintain aggressive oversight of the new bomber acquisition strategy to ensure that the Air Force develops an affordable aircraft to timely meet future requirements and recapitalization of the current fleet of B-52, B-1 and B-2 long-range strike bomber aircraft.

During the many years of development, manufacturing and eventual fielding of the new bomber aircraft, it will be imperative that the Air Force continues to maintain, modernize and upgrade the existing fleet of bomber aircraft in order to preserve effective capabilities needed to meet current and future threat target sets. The committee will continue to maintain oversight of current bomber aircraft inventory requirements and modernization plans to ensure that the Air Force maintains a sufficient, credible and lethal fixed-wing aircraft conventional and strategic weapons delivery capability to support all aspects of the National Military Strategy.

Aerial Refueling Aircraft

The committee will continue to maintain active oversight of aerial refueling aircraft modernization and recapitalization programs of the Air Force. Currently, the KC-135 and KC-10 are the primary providers of U.S. air-refueling critical capabilities in executing operations in support of the National Military Strategy. Given the limited fiscal resources available to the Air Force for recapitalization of the KC-135 fleet of 395 aircraft, this will result in having to maintain and operate KC-135 aircraft that will be in the fleet for over 70 years. Therefore, timely and

efficient recapitalization of the Air Force's KC-135 tanker fleet with new KC-46 aerial refueling aircraft is critical. Additionally, the Air Force plans to perform an avionics modernization program on the KC-10 fleet of tankers to maintain relevant and effective aerial refueling capabilities until a successor program to the KC-46 aircraft is begun to replace the KC-10 aircraft.

The committee understands and is pleased that the KC-46 program is currently meeting cost, schedule, and execution goals and the committee will maintain sufficient oversight of the KC-46 program as it progresses towards meeting its projected initial operating capability date during calendar year 2018.

Intertheater and Intratheater Airlift

Regarding intertheater airlift aircraft capabilities, the committee continues to remain skeptical of Air Force plans to reduce the intertheater airlift aircraft inventory below 301 total aircraft in support of the defense strategic guidance issued in January 2012. The committee notes that the Air Force made a recommendation in the fiscal year 2013 budget request to reduce the intertheater airlift inventory to 275 aircraft total, despite not having performed sufficient and rigorous analysis to underpin that recommendation. In Section 141 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013, the conferees included a provision that would prevent reducing the inventory of intertheater airlift aircraft below 301 until the Department of Defense conducts, and submits to the congressional defense committees, a comprehensive mobility capabilities and requirements study that assesses the end-to-end, full spectrum mobility requirements for all aspects of the National Military Strategy derived from the National Defense Strategy.

Regarding intratheater airlift aircraft capabilities, the committee believes that a minimum Air Force intratheater airlift inventory of 318 general support and 40 direct support aircraft contained in Section 1059 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 should be sufficient to meet both Air Force and Army operational requirements in support of combatant commander operational plans being developed to execute the defense strategic guidance issued in January 2012. The committee, however, remains skeptical that the Air Force has yet to fully embrace and institutionalize effective concepts of operations in support of Army direct support airlift requirements and will maintain close oversight of Air Force implementation of the January 27, 2012, memorandum of understanding agreed upon by the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and by the Chiefs of Staff of the Air Force and the Army.

The committee will continue to maintain close oversight and scrutiny of Air Force intertheater and intratheater airlift aircraft inventories and capabilities during the 113th session to ensure that a robust and effective fleet of airlift aircraft is maintained in the Air Force inventory to meet all mobility airlift requirements of the Department of Defense.

Shipbuilding Programs

The committee will continue close oversight of the Department of the Navy shipbuilding programs. In particular, the committee will conduct hearings, briefings and on-site inspection to assess the requirements for the size and composition of the nation's battle force fleet. With the announcement of a "pivot" to place more emphasis on the Pacific theater of operations, the committee is concerned that instead of a requirement for a larger fleet than the 313 ship target, the target has decreased to approximately 300 ships. The committee will continue to evaluate the projected investment required to maintain maritime dominance and deter peer or near-peer maritime aggression. As part of such an evaluation, the committee will continue to place a significant emphasis on improving affordability in shipbuilding programs through: the requirements process; the use of acquisition best practices; stability within the overall program; increased reliance on common systems; and process and facility improvements at construction yards. The committee will conduct hearings and briefings to assess the need for legislative action to recapitalize infrastructure of public and private shipyards constructing or maintaining Navy vessels and vessels of the National Defense Sealift Force.

Military Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Programs

Manned and unmanned intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) system programs have come to constitute a significant component of the overall Department of Defense force structure. The capability provided by these assets is critical to sustaining deterrence and warfighting capability of U.S. forces. The committee will focus on the budget, cost, schedule, and performance outcomes of major manned and unmanned aerial systems programs and examine the ISR enterprise for balance in collection and analysis capabilities. Also, close scrutiny of Office of the Secretary of Defense ISR policy formulation and oversight have been and will continue to be of interest to the committee. Long-standing concerns of the committee remain: lack of an adequate long-term ISR architecture and acquisition strategy; lack of supporting analysis for programmatic decisions; failure to balance collection programs data output with adequate resources to process, exploit, and disseminate data and analysis; and unnecessary proliferation of manned and unmanned vehicles and sensors. The committee will expect the Joint Staff and Joint Requirements Oversight Council to take a more active role in coordinating ISR system acquisition and coordinating employment with the combatant commanders.

Directed Energy Programs

Each of the military services and the Office of the Secretary of Defense within the Department of Defense have continued to fund numerous directed energy research and development efforts for the last three decades. While some limited capabilities have been successfully demonstrated, in most cases the results achieved have not lived up to expectations. The committee has continued to support these efforts, especially as they support missile defense and other emerging concepts for

countering anti-access and area denial threats. In the 113th Congress, the committee will more closely examine organizing concepts provided by the military services and the Office of Secretary of Defense as demonstration projects become viable programs and the respective services develop acquisition plans in support of fielding directed energy capabilities.

Nuclear Deterrence

The committee oversees the atomic energy defense activities of the Department of Energy (DOE) and nuclear policies and programs of the Department of Defense (DOD) to ensure the safety, security, reliability, and credibility of the U.S. nuclear deterrent. Particular emphasis will be placed on oversight of DOE and the DOD nuclear modernization plans, including but not limited to infrastructure investments, warhead life extension programs, stockpile stewardship and management plans, delivery system modernization, nuclear command and control, and security. The committee will closely watch the Administration's funding of the nuclear enterprise to ensure sufficient resources are provided and allocated effectively across DOE and DOD requirements.

The committee will also provide oversight of the Administration's nuclear policy and posture, extended deterrence policy, arms control activities, nuclear nonproliferation activities, and force structure requirements. Particular emphasis will be placed on oversight of the Administration's nuclear weapons policies, including changes to nuclear weapon employment policies and efforts to reduce U.S. nuclear forces. The committee will also review the effectiveness of DOE and DOD organization and management of the nuclear enterprise, including coordination of plans and policies via the joint Nuclear Weapons Council, the performance and efficiency of the National Nuclear Security Administration, laboratory and production site management and operations, workforce sustainment, and management of defense nuclear waste.

Missile Defense

The committee oversees the Department of Defense's efforts to develop, test, and field layered missile defense capabilities to protect the United States, its deployed forces, and its friends and allies against the full range of ballistic missile threats. Particular emphasis will be placed on U.S. homeland missile defense capabilities, European Phased Adaptive Approach implementation and ensuring an adequate hedging strategy for the protection of the U.S. homeland, developmental and operational testing, force structure and inventory requirements, sensor-to-shooter integration, and science and technology investments in areas such as directed energy. The committee will be closely watching the Administration's funding of the missile defense program, seeking the cost-effective application of resources, and looking for opportunities to bring greater stability to the industrial base.

The committee will continue to monitor foreign ballistic missile threats and identify opportunities to strengthen international missile defense cooperation with allies and partners such as the State of Israel, Japan, and North Atlantic Treaty Organization member states. Department of Defense oversight and management of missile defense activities, including the roles, responsibilities, and acquisition policies and procedures of the Missile Defense Agency and military services will also be reviewed. The committee will also provide oversight of the Administration's missile defense policy and posture, including close examination of any Administration efforts that may limit missile defenses as part of a treaty or agreement, and implications for United States, regional, and global security.

National Security Space

The committee oversees the national security space programs of the Department of Defense, including combat support agencies and elements of the Department of Defense that are part of the Intelligence Community. Particular attention will be placed on space acquisition strategies that reduce technical risk and promote greater stability and predictability in the industrial base to maintain or advance capabilities while reducing cost; mitigating risks that could create gaps in space capabilities; affordability and increasing government buying power; science and technology investments and improving the transition of technologies to baseline programs; assured access to space, including opportunities for competition while maintaining mission assurance through our national security space launch programs; exploitation of space sensor data to maximize effectiveness and efficiency; and improving the synchronization between satellite and terminal acquisition programs.

The committee will continue to monitor foreign space threats and assess the Department's space situational awareness, space protection, space control, and operationally responsive space activities. The committee will also provide oversight of the Administration's space policy and posture, review efforts to improve governance and management across the national security space enterprise, and promote efforts that sustain the technical workforce.

EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

Investment in Future Capabilities Science and Technology

The Department of Defense faces difficult choices as it balances the competing needs of capabilities for current operations and those projected for future conflicts. In order to address the latter, investments must be made in the Department's Science and Technology (S&T) programs, and aligned appropriately with continued development and procurement programs to position the Department to meet those future challenges. Preparing for the challenges of the future, the Department must create a portfolio of technological options that can address the perceived threats identified in the defense planning process, as well as the

emergence of unanticipated events or strategic competitors. Overcoming the bureaucratic inertia of existing acquisition roadmaps should be more properly balanced with capabilities to institutionalize adaptability. With the emergence of nontraditional adversaries pursuing “complex irregular warfare,” the Department of Defense recognized that true transformation required investment in additional capability areas. The committee will continue to encourage the Department to plan and execute a balanced S&T program that ensures the U.S. military can retain superiority for future generations.

Cyber Operations Capabilities

Cyber operations have taken on an increasingly important role in military operations as well as national security more broadly. Accordingly, the committee will continue to closely scrutinize the Department’s cyber operations, organization, manning and funding to ensure the military has the freedom of maneuver to conduct the range of missions in the nation’s defense, and when called upon, to support other interagency and international partners. An important oversight role for Congress regarding the conduct of defensive and offensive cyber operations will be to ensure proper legal and policy frameworks are in place and are followed. The committee will also continue to scrutinize military cyber operations to ensure they are properly integrated into combatant commander's operational plans, and to ensure that adequate capabilities exist or are in development to employ these cyberspace operational tools with rigor and discretion to support a full range of options for national decision makers. In the course of monitoring the cybersecurity posture of the military, the committee will also continue to examine the effects of globalization on the assured integrity of microelectronics and software.

Information Operations

Engagement with foreign audiences and nuanced understanding of the information environment is pivotal in countering violent extremists, interrupting the radicalization process, and identifying and countering efforts at deception and misinformation. As such, strategic engagement is a key element to success on the battlefield and an important tool to prevent or deter conflict before escalation. The committee will pay particular attention to the Department of Defense’s information operations strategy and how these tools will be further developed and adapted to support warfighter needs in a changing security environment. These activities enable military operations and military support to diplomacy, and the committee will continue to conduct oversight of these critical capabilities as they transition from a wartime to a peacetime security posture.