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REYES STATEMENT ON ALLEGATIONS OF NSA DOMESTIC SPYING

Washington, DC - *House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Chairman, Silvestre Reyes (D-TX), today released the following statement after a staff-level briefing by the National Security Agency (NSA) and the Department of the Army regarding the troubling new allegations of eavesdropping on American personnel overseas.*

These allegations are serious, and they implicate the constitutional rights of American citizens, including the brave women and men who are serving our country in war zones.

The Inspector General of the NSA assured us that he is conducting a comprehensive investigation into the claims, particularly those regarding the improper collection and dissemination of personal conversations between U.S. service members and their families.

In addition, the Commanding General of the Army's Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM), has ordered a high-priority investigation to be led by INSCOM's Inspector General into the allegations, particularly those regarding the improper surveillance of U.S. personnel and others in war theaters. The investigative team will be on the ground at the Georgia military facility beginning early next week.

At this stage, we do not yet have the facts. Once we have the facts, I will insist that the appropriate agencies take proper corrective action, including disciplinary measures of personnel, if warranted.

The House Intelligence Committee will continue to review these allegations. Vigilant oversight of the Intelligence Community is the Committee's highest priority. America's most precious commodity is the freedom we enjoy. It is our job in Congress to ensure that those freedoms are preserved and defended at all times.