

House Armed Services Committee

Ike Skelton, Chairman

<http://armedservices.house.gov>

For Immediate Release: June 27, 2007 Contact: Loren Dealy or Josh Holly

(HASC) 202-225-2539

Jesse Klempner (Meehan) 202-225-3411

Steve Taylor (Akin) 314-590-0029

Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Releases First Report

Washington D.C.—Today the House Armed Services Committee Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations released its report regarding the training and use of the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF). The subcommittee's report can be found online at <http://www.house.gov/hasc>.

Subcommittee Chairman Martin Meehan (D-MA):

“This bipartisan report shows clearly that the President’s plan to stand down our troops as the Iraqis stand up has been a failure to this point. While the Department frequently claims to have trained and equipped hundreds of thousands of Iraqis, our report shows that they can’t even tell us where many of those trainees, or the weapons we have given them, are today.

“The Department of Defense has not been up front with us about how far the Iraqi Security Forces are from being able to bring security to their country. This lack of transparency has concealed the true state of the ISF.”

Subcommittee Ranking Member Todd Akin (R-MO):

“The Iraqi Security Forces are the linchpin of American success in Iraq, and our efforts are an attempt to add a congressional voice to the process. Our efforts to standup the ISF have produced mixed results thus far. Above all, we must do a better job of measuring the operational effectiveness of the Iraqi forces.

“Even though our report offers constructive criticism of the development of the ISF, the hurdles facing their forces should not take away from the outstanding work and effort of our men and woman in uniform working to build Iraq’s police and armed forces. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee and the father of a son who has served in Iraq, I know that we have the most professional and competent military in the world.”

Chairman Ike Skelton (D-MO):

“When the House Armed Services Committee reestablished the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee at the start of the 110th Congress, our goal was to undertake in-depth examinations of critical issues that deserve attention beyond the regular hearing process. Under the leadership of Chairman Meehan and Ranking Member Akin, this

subcommittee has produced a report that will help the Congress, the Administration, and the public gain a thorough understanding of the challenges before us as we work to stand up the Iraqi Security Forces.

“I want to thank Chairman Meehan, Ranking Member Akin, and the Members and staff of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee for their outstanding work, which will guide our committee’s ongoing oversight of U.S. involvement in Iraq.”

Ranking Member Duncan Hunter (R-CA):

“I know the Members and staff of this committee and its subcommittees take their responsibilities to our warfighters very seriously, and this report is clear evidence of that commitment.

“I’d like to thank Ranking Member Todd Akin and Chairman Marty Meehan for their efforts in producing this informative report, which highlights the importance of getting the Iraqi Security Forces some real combat experience in difficult areas like Baghdad and al-Anbar Province. As I’ve said before, we’re still in stage two of the three-step process that we have used multiple times to stand up free governments.”

The subcommittee has been focused on this work for many months, holding hearings and briefings with officials from the Defense Department, as well as other departments and agencies, service members, outside experts and private companies. The report addresses major findings in the areas of strategy and plans, cost and value, capability, critical enablers and the advisory mission.

###