

**OVERSIGHT PLAN**  
**Committee on Oversight and Government Reform**  
**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**110<sup>th</sup> Congress**  
**Honorable Henry A. Waxman**  
**Chairman**

Rule X, Clause 2(d) of the Rules of the House requires each committee of the House to adopt and submit a two-year oversight plan to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on House Administration by February 15 of the first session of Congress.

The following is the oversight plan for the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform for the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress. This plan consists of topics designated for investigation, evaluation, and review by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. The topics were selected by Chairman Henry A. Waxman, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, Rep. Tom Davis, other members of this Committee, and other Committees. In developing this oversight plan, the Committee reviewed oversight proposals by various entities, both inside and outside government.

On January 9, 2007, the Government Accountability Office submitted to the Committee 36 suggested areas for oversight for the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress.<sup>1</sup> GAO also issued its biannual “High Risk” report, which identifies government programs that are particularly vulnerable to waste, fraud, or abuse.<sup>2</sup> In addition, the Inspectors General from various agencies have submitted their audit plans to the Committee.<sup>3</sup> The Committee will review these plans and investigate areas of concern as appropriate.

The Committee also received proposals from groups outside government. The Project on Government Oversight, for example, submitted 12 suggested congressional oversight priorities.<sup>4</sup> Other groups have also submitted proposals.

The Committee has received, and will continue to receive, information from whistleblowers regarding waste, fraud, and abuse in government programs.

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Government Accountability Office, *Suggested Areas for Oversight for the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress* (GAO-07-235R) (Nov. 17, 2006), sent by David Walker, Comptroller General of the United States, to Rep. Henry A. Waxman, Chairman, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (Jan. 9, 2007).

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Government Accountability Office, *High Risk Series: An Update* (GAO-07-310) (Jan. 31, 2007).

<sup>3</sup> See, e.g., Office of the Deputy Inspector General for Auditing, U.S. Department of Defense, *FY 2007 Audit Plan* (Sept. 29, 2006)

<sup>4</sup> Project on Government Oversight, *POGO’s “Baker’s Dozen” of Suggested Congressional Oversight Priorities* (Jan. 3, 2007).

Whistleblowers perform an essential service to the Committee, flagging critical issues that otherwise might go unnoticed and unaddressed.

Below are descriptions of some of the issues the Committee intends to investigate during the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress. The list is not exhaustive, but highlights significant areas for Committee oversight. The Committee will retain the flexibility to investigate emerging abuses and other issues as appropriate.

### **Agriculture**

The Committee will review the agricultural component of energy policy, specifically ethanol production; and threats and risks to our food supply.

### **Election System Integrity**

The Committee will review issues relating to the integrity of our election system, including issues relating to the procurement, deployment, and operation of electronic voting systems in jurisdictions across the country, barriers to voting, and accurate recording of the vote. The Subcommittee on Domestic Policy and the Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census, and National Archives will examine aspects of this issue that fall under their respective jurisdictions.

### **Energy and the Environment**

The Committee intends to conduct oversight of numerous and varied energy and environment-related issues. Global warming issues will be a key area of interest. Due to the topic's magnitude and complexity, this investigation will entail numerous inquiries into governmental and nongovernmental activities and policies.

The Committee will also examine governmental and private sector policies and actions that may impact the nation's ability to develop and maintain a sustainable energy sector. Additionally, the Committee will examine the extent to which government agencies and departments responsible for environmental and public health protection are fulfilling their missions.

The Committee will inquire into potential opportunities for the government and private sector to enhance environmental and public health protections.

In addition, the Committee will examine lessening the nation's reliance on oil through approaches such as development of alternatives, increasing efficiency, exploring new sources, and expanding current sources of domestic energy production; the power/electricity outlook for Summer 2007 – expected shortfalls and blackouts; implementation of the Energy Policy Act; global climate change and implementation of the Clean Air Act.

### **Government Contracting**

In recent years, the “shadow government” of private companies working under federal contract has exploded in size. Between 2000 and 2005, procurement spending increased by over \$175 billion dollars, making federal contracts the fastest growing component of federal discretionary spending.

This growth in federal procurement has sometimes come at a steep cost for federal taxpayers. The Committee will examine the causes and effects of the increase in procurement, the importance of safeguards like competition from the procurement process, and shortfalls in the acquisition workforce.

### **Healthcare**

The Committee will investigate alleged waste, fraud, and abuse that undermine government and government-funded health programs, with special attention to alleged abusive pricing and marketing tactics. As a primary protector of the public’s health, the Food and Drug Administration will remain a major subject of oversight, including in such key areas as food and drug safety and the regulation of dietary supplements and medical devices.

The Committee also will focus on the urgent need for comprehensive tobacco control policy and the Administration’s steps to address the domestic and global threat of the tobacco epidemic. The Committee will continue to review federal policies and programs that aim to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS, as well as those related to reproductive health. In recognition of the importance of scientific integrity, the Committee will examine government health programs to ensure that health policy is driven by sound scientific evidence rather than political considerations.

The Committee will also look at affordable health care and insurance for all Americans; agency efforts for increasing education and awareness about cancer, specifically gynecologic cancers; and access to the cervical cancer vaccine.

Finally, the Committee will continue its oversight of Administration efforts to improve health preparedness for terrorist attacks and naturally occurring disease outbreaks, such as pandemic influenza.

### **Homeland Security Oversight**

Procurement spending at the Department of Homeland Security has surged by 189% since the creation of the new Department, rising from \$3.5 billion in 2003 to \$10 billion in 2005. Audit reports indicate that the Department sometimes fails to engage in responsible contract planning, including the determination of government needs and program requirements.

The Committee will investigate the Department’s major acquisition programs, as well as its plans to oversee these projects. The Committee will also investigate the extent

to which the Department relies on private contractors throughout its various agencies, offices, and bureaus.

**Management of the Department of Homeland Security.** The Department of Homeland Security continues to struggle to bring together the multiple agencies under its control. We will continue to examine the efforts to combine personnel, procurement, and missions to attain the efficiencies that the combination was intended to produce.

**The role of state and federal integration for homeland defense and military assistance, and the expanding role of the National Guard.** We will continue our work on examining post 9/11 integration of state and federal response to disasters in the United States, focusing on the dual role of the National Guard. Examining the role of state and federal integration for homeland defense and military assistance is needed as questions have been raised about how effectively DoD, DHS, and state governors work together in this area.

**Border Security.** The technology used by the Office of Border Patrol (OBP) includes cameras and sensors to detect and identify illegal border intrusions. OBP manages remote surveillance technology under the auspices of the Integrated Surveillance Intelligence System (ISIS) program and the America's Shield Initiative (ASI). Substantial technological problems have thwarted these programs. In November 2005, Secretary Chertoff announced the next generation of border enforcement technology, Secure Border Initiative (SBI). SBI is a comprehensive, multi-year, multi-billion dollar program composed of a mix of personnel, infrastructure, and technology to gain operational control of the Nation's borders. The technology component, referred to as SBInet, is designed to supplement and replace the existing surveillance capabilities by integrating multiple state-of-the-art systems and traditional security infrastructure into a single comprehensive border security program. Continued oversight of these high-technology issues remain an important component of the immigration and border debate.

### **Hurricane Katrina**

In 2005, Hurricane Katrina exposed incompetent leadership and a failure of our government to plan for massive disasters. It demonstrated that the nation is unprepared to handle either a natural disaster of this magnitude or a terrorist attack, despite the expenditure of billions of dollars in homeland security funding since the tragic events of September 11, 2001. The Committee will work with other congressional committees to ensure that unanswered questions about the government's response are addressed, and will also focus on how to improve the daily lives of Gulf Coast residents.

The National Disaster Medical Response System (NDMS) supplies and organizes teams of medical personnel in each state who stand ready to deploy at any moment. NDMS, previously housed in FEMA, now resides within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Hurricane Katrina highlighted command structure confusion and general coordination problems within NDMS. The Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act required the transfer of NDMS from the Department of Homeland

Security to HHS in January 2007. As an essential component of the nation's emergency preparedness, continued oversight of this program is warranted to ensure the recently transferred NDMS functions effectively and efficiently.

### **Iraq Reconstruction and Troop Support**

On January 10, 2007, President Bush gave an address to the nation, stating: "It is clear that we need to change our strategy in Iraq." This President's new strategy involves sending an additional 21,000 troops into Iraq this year. The President also requested that Congress appropriate \$1.2 billion for economic assistance to Iraq. This funding request comes on top of approximately \$50 billion spent to date on Iraqi reconstruction, including about \$30 billion in U.S. taxpayer funds and another \$20 billion in Iraqi funds under U.S. control.

The Committee will investigate what the United States and the Iraqi people have gotten for this investment. Reports indicate that oil production remains below pre-war levels, electricity has not met projected goals, and capital construction projects have been ill-supervised and poorly constructed. The Committee will also investigate allegations of waste, fraud, and abuse in the use of private contractors conducting reconstruction and troop support activities.

### **Open Government**

The Committee will investigate allegations that the federal government may be inappropriately or unduly restricting access to information by Congress and the public. The Committee will examine public access to information through the Freedom of Information Act, as well as the proliferation of pseudo-classification designations such as "sensitive but unclassified." These often vague and undefined markings can be used to prevent or delay public release of government information. The Committee will also examine the implementation of other open government laws, such as the Presidential Records Act and the Federal Advisory Committees Act, to ensure that they are being implemented to ensure public access to information.

The Committee will examine issues related to national security classification. These include concerns about the rapid growth in classified information, the process for declassifying information that no longer needs to be kept secret, and instances in which information may have been classified or declassified for political purposes rather than in the interests of national security. Finally, the Committee will examine cases in which the executive branch has or is continuing to deny Congress access to information.

### **White House**

House Rule X 3(i) directs the Committee to "review and study on a continuous basis the operations of Government activities at all levels with a view to determining their economy and efficiency." Pursuant to this requirement, the Committee will conduct

oversight of all federal entities, including the White House, the Executive Office of the President, and the Office of the Vice President.

### **SUBCOMMITTEE ON DOMESTIC POLICY**

The Subcommittee on Domestic Policy is new to the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress. With its broad jurisdiction, the Subcommittee will be able and intends to conduct oversight in many long neglected areas of domestic policy.

The success or failure of domestic policy is reflected in the state of working America. Unfortunately, by many measures, the state of working America is bad and getting worse. Real family income has failed to keep up with productivity, and wealth disparities have grown dramatically. Average Americans find their quality of living imperiled, and the American Dream a fantasy. Meanwhile, great wealth is being concentrated in the hands of ever fewer corporations and households. Political influence and power to determine the laws by which our society is governed are also increasingly concentrated.

What is the role of government in the development of these trends? What part has deregulation and privatization played in the creation of these trends? How prevalent are and what are the costs of resulting waste, fraud and abuse? What role should government have in ameliorating these conditions?

The Subcommittee intends to undertake studies, carry out investigations, issue reports and conduct oversight hearings to find answers to those and other questions. Our oversight plan includes but will not be limited to the following areas:

- Consumer protection – Waste, fraud, and abuse in corporate billing practices; enforcement of anti-trust laws by relevant agencies; certain cases of product safety enforcement;
- Workplace rights – Enforcement of the National Labor Relations Act and related laws and regulations; enforcement of the Occupational Health and Safety Act and related laws and regulations; and enforcement of the federal minimum wage, overtime rules, and related laws and regulations;
- Retirement security – Waste, fraud and abuse in employee pension programs, and enforcement and adequacy of pertinent laws and regulations;
- Civil rights – Integrity of federal enforcement of and advocacy for civil rights statutes;
- Federal management of publicly owned assets – Enforcement of Telecommunications Act and regulations, with respect to concentration of media ownership, promotion of minority ownership, and the preservation of local

broadcasting; examination of the goals of the Fairness Doctrine; and oversight of the Interior Department Minerals Management Service;

- Energy – Waste, fraud, and abuse in the energy industry and government regulation thereof; the safety record of the nuclear energy industry; adequacy of long term storage plans; enforcement of public health and safety laws; and utility rates, ratemaking, and deregulation;
- Native American affairs – effectiveness and integrity of federal initiatives, programs and administration;
- Insurance – Waste, fraud and abuse in the health insurance industry; and
- Drug Policy – Effectiveness, cost-efficiency, and socio-economic consequences of current anti-drug policies, priorities, programs, and resources throughout the government, with particular attention to the coordination, direction, and management (where applicable) of such policies, priorities, programs, and resources by the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL WORKFORCE, POSTAL SERVICE, AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

The Subcommittee has jurisdiction over federal employee issues, the postal service, and the municipal affairs of the District of Columbia. The Subcommittee's oversight plan includes areas in which the Subcommittee expects to conduct oversight during the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, but does not preclude oversight or investigation of additional matters as the need arises.

### **Federal Workforce**

#### *Oversight of New Personnel Management Systems*

The Subcommittee will monitor and determine the impact of new personnel management systems being implemented at the Departments of Homeland Security and Defense and the Government Accountability Office (GAO). Employees and employee organizations have challenged the rules and procedures developed by management as being beyond the scope of statutory authority. Particular attention will be paid to the implementation of collective bargaining, pay for performance, and employee appeal rights at these agencies.

#### *Senior Executive Service*

The Senior Executive Service (SES) was created in 1979 to provide a governmentwide, systematic program for the recruitment, retention, development, and

management of senior executives in the federal government. This cadre of nearly 7,000 top-level executives is noted for its policymaking and leadership responsibilities.

A new pay system for the SES was established in 2004. Key features of the new pay system include the elimination of locality pay and annual pay adjustments; replacement of six pay rates with one broad pay range; an increase in the cap on base pay; and the addition of a second, higher cap for SES appraisal systems that have been certified by Office of Personnel Management (OPM).

Some have expressed concern about the new system being equitable, transparent, and free from political influence. Several members of the Senior Executive Association have suggested that the new pay system has led to the politicization of the SES. Furthermore, under the Bush Administration the number of political appointees in government has increased, including political SESers who determine the pay of career SESers. The Subcommittee will examine SES's new pay system and whether or not the SES is being politicized.

#### *Diversity in the Senior Executive Service*

The Subcommittee will encourage greater diversity within the Senior Executive Service. A 2003 GAO report on SES diversity noted that the federal government faces large losses in the SES through retirement and normal attrition. However, it is not clear that this turnover will result in greater racial diversity in the SES. GAO's findings, and Subcommittee hearings held by the Federal Workforce and Agency Organization Subcommittee during the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, documented the lack of diversity in the SES. As a result, the Office of Personnel Management created the SES Candidate Development Program (CDP). However, the first graduating class of the SES CDP was not significantly diverse racially.

The Subcommittee will also look at SES diversity at the Postal Service. Through a series of hearings, federal agencies, and the Postal Service will be called to testify about programs and policies they have implemented to improve diversity in the SES.

#### *Merit Systems Protection Board*

Established by the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 (CSRA) as a successor agency to the U.S. Civil Service Commission, the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) is an independent, quasi-judicial agency. The majority of the cases brought to the MSPB are appeals of agency adverse actions, which are removals, suspensions of more than 14 days, reductions in grade or pay, and furloughs of 30 days or less.

MSPB's authorization expires at the end of fiscal year 2007. The Subcommittee will hold a hearing to consider legislation to reauthorize MSPB for five years.



### *Office of Special Counsel*

The Office of Special Counsel (OSC) is an independent federal agency with four statutory responsibilities. The first is to investigate and prosecute employee allegations of prohibited personnel practices at federal agencies, including retaliation for whistleblowing. In cases where an OSC investigation reveals reasonable grounds to believe a prohibited personnel practice has been committed, and an agency declines to voluntarily provide relief to a complainant, OSC will prosecute a petition for corrective action before the Merit Systems Protection Board.

OSC's current authorization expires at the end of fiscal year 2007. The Subcommittee will hold a hearing to consider legislation that would reauthorize OSC for fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

### *The Contract Workforce*

The Bush Administration has dramatically increased the use of public-private competitions. During his 2000, presidential campaign, then Governor George Bush vowed to review for privatization at least 425,000 jobs by the end of 2004. After his election, officials with the Office of Management and Budget imposed numerical privatization quotas, requiring agencies to review 5% of their commercial inventories (federal employees who performed work which could be contracted out) in FY 2002 and another 10% in FY 2003. Congress prohibited the use of such quotas unless they were based on sound research and analysis and were consistent with agencies' missions. Nevertheless, there continue to be documented instances of agencies being pressured to achieve numerical privatization targets.

The Subcommittee will hold hearings to determine: what, if any, savings can be attributed to contracting out; the impact of contracting out on women, minorities, and veterans, among others; and whether work that is inherently governmental is being contracted out.

### *Federal Employees Benefit Programs*

The Subcommittee will hold a series of oversight hearings on the benefit programs that are available to federal employees.

The *Federal Employees Health Benefits* (FEHBP) Program became effective in 1960. It is the largest employer-sponsored group health insurance program in the world, covering over 9 million federal employees, retirees, former employees, family members, and former spouses. Over 350 health plans are offered under the FEHBP Program. Each health plan carrier under the program charges a different premium. The government pays up to 75% of the costs of the enrollees' health benefits coverage and the enrollee pays the rest. The Subcommittee will examine how premium rates are set and cost of prescription drugs for enrollees.

The *Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance* (FEGLI) Plan was established in 1954. It is the largest group life insurance program in the world, covering over 4 million federal employees and retirees, as well as many of their family members. The Subcommittee will hold a general oversight hearing on FEGLI. Such a hearing has not been held since 1999.

The *Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program* (FLTCIP) was created by Congress in 2000 when it passed the Long Term Care Security Act (Act). The Act required the federal government to offer group long-term care insurance to federal and postal employees and annuitants, members and retired members of the uniformed services, and other qualified relatives. In 2001, OPM entered into a seven-year contract with Long Term Care Partners LLC -- a joint venture formed by John Hancock Life Insurance Company and Metropolitan Life Insurance Company -- that allows eligible individuals to apply for long-term care insurance.

GAO's March 31, 2006, report, "Long-Term Care Insurance: Federal Program Compared Favorably with Other Products, and Analysis of Claims Trend Could Inform Future Decisions," found that the federal program's benefits and premiums compared favorably with other plans, but enrollment and claims experience were lower than expected. The Subcommittee will hold the first congressional oversight hearing on FLTCIP.

The *Thrift Savings Plan* (TSP) is a 401(k) style retirement savings plan for federal government employees and members of the uniformed services. The Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board (Board) administers the TSP. In 2005, the Board introduced "Lifecycle Funds" into the TSP and in 2006 the Board, along with an independent contractor, surveyed TSP participants to study their needs, attitudes, understanding, and satisfaction with the TSP. The Subcommittee will examine the introduction of the L Fund into the TSP, the survey results, and the Board's consideration of additional funds for the TSP.

The *Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program* (FEDVIP) held its first open season November through December 2006. FEDVIP allows dental and vision insurance to be purchased on a group basis by federal and Postal employees, retirees, and their eligible family members on an employee-pay-all basis. Premiums for enrolled federal and Postal employees are withheld from their salary on a pre-tax basis. An oversight hearing will be held on how FEDVIP is being implemented, and enrollment rates.

*Flexible Spending Accounts* (FSAs) and *High Deductible Health Plans/Health Savings Accounts* (HDHP/HSAs) have been introduced to the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) over the last few years. HDHPs are health plans that typically involve lower premiums because the enrollee bears a greater share of the initial costs of care. FSAs are employer-established arrangements that reimburse employees for medical and dental expenses not covered by insurance. FSAs are funded by salary reduction agreements under which employees receive less pay in exchange for equivalent

contributions to their accounts. Employees choose how much to put into accounts, which can vary from year to year; however, they must forfeit unused balances at the end of the year. HSAs are savings accounts for the purpose of health care spending that receive tax advantages.

FEHBP offers a type of “consumer-directed health plan” (CDHP) that combines a HDHP with a tax-advantaged HSA that enrollees use to pay for a portion of their health expenses. Proponents believe that HDHPs coupled with HSAs can help restrain health care spending because enrollees have an incentive to seek lower-cost health care services, and only to obtain care when necessary because account funds can accrue from year to year. Employee groups believe that these plans attract not only wealthier enrollees who use the HSA as a tax-advantaged savings vehicle but that premiums for traditional plans could rise due to a disproportionate share of older and less healthy enrollees with higher care expenses remaining in the traditional plans.

In January 2006, GAO released a report on FEHBP’s first-year experience with HDHPs and HSAs. It found that FEHBP HDHP enrollees were younger and earned higher federal salaries than other FEHBP enrollees. These differences were largely due to a smaller share of retirees enrolling in the HDHPs. The Subcommittee will evaluate the impact of FSAs and HSAs on the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program.

#### *Continuity of Operations Planning*

The Congress has held many oversight hearings to examine the barriers to telecommuting and the development and promotion of telework by federal agencies. The primary benefits to telecommuting were once thought to be reduction in traffic congestion and pollution, improvements in recruiting and retaining employees, reduction in the need for office space, increased worker productivity, and improvements to the quality-of-life and morale of federal employees.

As discussed at a Government Reform Committee hearing in the wake of 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina, telecommuting also could serve as an important component of emergency preparedness. Developing the infrastructure and work processes necessary to support telecommuting could help ensure continuity of government operations in a time of pandemic, natural disaster, or other emergency.

The Subcommittee will hold a hearing to determine to what extent federal agencies have prepared essential and non-essential personnel to, continue operations by working from alternate work locations, including from home, in the event of an emergency.

#### *Law Enforcement Officers*

Federal civilian employees are covered by either the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) or the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). Employees hired before January 1, 1984, are covered by CSRS, unless they elected to switch to FERS.

Employees initially hired in 1984 or later are covered by FERS. Both CSRS and FERS allow regular federal employees to retire at age 55 after completing 30 years of service, at age 60 with 20 years of service, or at age 62 with 5 years of service.

Congress has provided special retirement rules and benefits for federal employees who are classified as law enforcement officers (LEOs). Under both FERS and CSRS, LEOs can retire at age 50 with 20 years of service. They are required to retire at age 57, or after age 57 if the completion of 20 years of service occurs after age 57. Under FERS, a LEO also can retire at any age after completing 25 years of service but in any case must retire at 57.

To compensate LEOs for being required to retire earlier than other federal employees, LEOs accrue retirement benefits at a faster rate than other federal employees. For each year of federal service, LEOs earn 1.7% of the average of their 3 highest years of pay; non-LEO federal employees earn 1.0%. Furthermore, once retired, LEOs receive annual cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) regardless of age. Federal civilian employees do not receive COLAs under FERS until age 62.

For the purposes of retirement benefits under CSRS and FERS, title 5 of the U.S. Code defines a law enforcement officer as “an employee, the duties of whose position are primarily the investigation, apprehension, or detention of individuals suspected or convicted of offenses against the criminal laws of the United States.” Federal employees with the power to arrest, the authority to carry firearms, and the duty to enforce laws but whose primary duties do not include the investigation, apprehension, or detention of individuals are not classified as LEOs for the purposes of retirement benefits.

Over the years, numerous legislative proposals have been introduced relating who should be classified as LEOs and receive LEO pay and benefits. The Subcommittee will examine how law enforcement officer is defined and who should and should not be classified as a LEO.

## **Postal Service**

### *General Oversight of the United States Postal Service*

Congress has not held oversight hearings on the U.S. Postal Service (the “Service”) since the late 1990s. In 2001, GAO designated the Service’s transformation efforts and long-term outlook as “high risk” because the Service’s financial outlook had deteriorated significantly. GAO’s 2007 high-risk update determined that the Service had made sufficient progress to warrant removing them from the high-risk list. However, GAO noted that the Service still faced challenges in strategic human capital management and managing federal real property. The Subcommittee will hold an oversight hearing to determine what the Service is doing well and where it needs improvement. Future hearings will be based on what is learned from this hearing.

### *Mail Delivery*

The Subcommittee will hold a hearing to determine the adequacy of the Service's systems for measuring the performance of mail delivery. Inferior address lists, mailpiece design inadequacies, printing and logistical problems, and budget constraints will be examined.

### *Whistleblower Protections*

The Service is not, by law, subject to the Whistleblower Protection Act (WPA). The Employee and Labor Relations Manual (ELM) contains provisions adopted by the Service that replicate the more significant protections found in the WPA for victims of unlawful reprisal. These protections are termed "corrective actions," which involve remedies for the victims of unlawful reprisal. The term does not include disciplinary actions that may be issued to managers or supervisors. As the ELM provisions concern only "corrective actions," they do not mandate discipline for managers who retaliate against whistleblowers.

Ensuring employees whistleblower protections contributes to uncovering waste, fraud, and abuse. The Subcommittee will hold a hearing to examine the need to extend full whistleblower protections to postal employees.

### *Mail Processing Infrastructure*

The Service has developed a highly complex infrastructure that includes about 450 plants that process and distribute an average of 660 million pieces of mail per day. To meet its universal service obligation, which requires it to provide mail delivery to all people residing in the United States, the Service delivered mail to over 142 million addresses in fiscal year 2004. With major changes that affect its mail processing operations, including declining mail volumes, increasing employee compensation costs, and a more competitive marketplace, the need for the Service to increase efficiency has become more urgent. In April 2005, GAO issued a report that raised concerns about the Service's plan to become more efficient by standardizing operations and reducing excess capacity at its mail processing and distribution infrastructure. The Subcommittee will examine the Postal Service's strategy for realigning its mail processing and distribution infrastructure.

## **District of Columbia**

### *Budget and Legislative Autonomy*

The Subcommittee will hold hearings on proposals designed to reduce congressional control over the District of Columbia. These legislative proposals would amend the Home Rule Act to remove any congressional input into the budget and legislative process of the District of Columbia.

### *District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999*

The District of Columbia College Access Act (the Act) was created by Congress in 1999 and amended by D.C. College Access Improvement Act of 2002. The Act funds the D.C. Tuition Assistance Grant Program (TAG). D.C. TAG covers the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition rates for District high school graduates at public colleges and universities throughout the nation. The program also provides limited financial assistance to D.C. high school graduates attending private schools in the D.C. metropolitan area as well as students who attend private historically Black colleges and universities in other states.

The D.C. College Access Act will expire on September 30, 2007, unless reauthorized. The Subcommittee will hold a hearing on reauthorization of the Act.

### *Offender Reentry*

Since the enactment of the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997, sentenced felons from the District of Columbia have been incarcerated within the federal prison system. Decisions regarding their commitment and release are made by the Federal Bureau of Prisons, the U.S. Parole Commission, and the D.C. Superior Court. The responsibility for reintegrating ex-offenders into the community rests with the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency. These agencies will be called to testify at a hearing to examine the commitment, rehabilitation, and reentry of offenders in the District of Columbia.

### *The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority*

The Washington Area Transit Agency (WMATA) was created in 1967 by an interstate compact that resulted from the enactment of identical legislation by the District of Columbia, Virginia, and Maryland, with the concurrence of Congress. WMATA was established to “plan, finance, construct, and operate a comprehensive mass transit system in the National Capital Region.” WMATA faces many challenges.

Questions have been raised about the safety of Metrorail after a series of incidents including a derailment in January that injured 20 passengers near the Mount Vernon Square Station. In addition, four Metro workers were killed in three train accidents in a span of a little more than a year. Metro riders have also expressed a desire for more timely information on Metro delays so they can adjust their travel plans accordingly. An oversight hearing will be held to assess what Metro is doing to address safety and communications concerns.

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT, ORGANIZATION,  
AND PROCUREMENT**

**Government Management**

*Construction of Federal Facilities*

Auditors have recently found extensive cost overruns and mismanagement in the construction of new federal buildings. The Subcommittee will review oversight of construction projects by the General Service Administration's Public Buildings Service, investigate reported problems in recently completed projects, and prevent further waste of taxpayer dollars by monitoring ongoing projects with high potential for excessive costs.

*Inspectors General and Auditors*

By preventing and detecting waste, fraud, and abuse, federal inspectors general and auditors generate savings for taxpayers that exceed their office budgets. The Subcommittee will investigate whether inspectors general and auditors have received adequate resources to keep pace with the increase in federal contracting. The Subcommittee will also conduct oversight to ensure that these offices remain neutral watchdogs and are not subject to partisan and political pressure.

*GAO High Risk List*

The Subcommittee will pay close attention to several programs on GAO's 2007 High-Risk List. The Subcommittee will primarily focus on the GAO-identified topic of "Managing Federal Contracting More Effectively," including interagency contracting and contracting by the Department of Defense, Department of Energy, and NASA. Other at-risk programs identified by GAO that the Subcommittee will review include "Managing Federal Real Property," and the "DOD Approach to Business Transformation."

*Federal Government Finance*

The Subcommittee will examine federal financial management. This review will include compliance with financial management and accounting laws, and the security and reliability of federal financial systems. The Subcommittee will also focus on agency efforts to reduce improper payments and achieve a clean governmentwide audit.

GAO and other federal auditors have found that purchase card programs, through which government employees make small-value procurements using individually issued credit cards, are highly vulnerable to abuse without proper internal controls. The Subcommittee will monitor purchase card programs to ensure that departments and agencies maintain adequate oversight and review of purchase card spending.

The federal government acts as a guarantor of certain private sector financial liabilities, such as pensions, student loans, and bank deposits. The Subcommittee will

review whether federal agencies responsible for managing these financial liabilities, such as the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, are properly managing and mitigating the risk that these liabilities will be shifted to the taxpayer.

### *Identification Documents*

The Subcommittee will provide oversight of the REAL ID program, which mandates security and verification standards for state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards, and Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12, which establishes standards for secure identification cards for federal employees and contractors. This oversight will include review of contracts and grants, costs of compliance, and privacy and data security considerations.

### *Technology*

The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the federal government's use of information technology. Topics to be reviewed include IT procurement, accessibility, and cost-efficiency. This oversight will further the goal of building information systems that are compatible and interoperable across federal agencies.

### *Health Information Technology*

The Subcommittee will provide oversight of federal programs to incorporate health information technology into the public health system, the adequacy of federal funding for health information exchanges, and the levels and uses of current federal investment. The Subcommittee will review the adequacy of health IT provisions in the 2003 Medicare Modernization Act and the implementation of Executive Order 13335, which established the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology and requires the Secretary of HHS to adopt electronic prescription standards and establish a Commission for Systemic Interoperability.

### *Project Bioshield*

The Subcommittee will review the management of Project Bioshield and conduct oversight of federal facilities, federal and private laboratories, and contractors that develop or expedite vaccines, therapeutics, products related to the clean-up of biological agents, and other bioengineered agents. The Subcommittee will review federal plans and procedures to distribute vaccines and other therapeutics to states and localities, especially communities of color, both urban and rural.

### **Government Organization**

The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of recent reorganizations within federal departments, as well as the management of large interagency projects.



Sixteen months after Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast, rebuilding efforts are still stymied by bureaucracy. Dozens of federal departments and agencies have a role to play, yet central coordination is weak. The Subcommittee will review the activities of the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Gulf Coast Rebuilding, designated by the White House to coordinate rebuilding across all federal agencies, and will assess whether this office has sufficient authority and resources to complete its mission.

The FY 2007 DHS Appropriations Act passed by the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress included a reorganization of FEMA within DHS, pursuant to the lessons learned from investigations of the Hurricane Katrina response. The Subcommittee will monitor implementation of this reorganization.

The Subcommittee will also continue to review management challenges at DHS in merging diverse federal agencies into one department. The review will examine whether administrative functions and systems for procurement, financial management, property management, and security have been consolidated.

The Subcommittee's review of DHS organization will also include the coordination between Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) in monitoring the border and enforcing immigration and customs laws. The overlapping responsibility of the two agencies may create duplication in some areas and gaps in enforcement in others. Subcommittee oversight of the adequacy of the agencies' resources and the authorities vested in each agency could help bring to light some of the enforcement gaps that exist and help improve coordination between ICE and CBP.

In the area of homeland security organization, the Subcommittee will also review how the federal government balances security interests and economic needs in creating new border crossings and expanding existing crossings. It is unclear whether any expansion in border crossings would take place on an ad hoc basis or whether the expansion would be part of a comprehensive strategic plan dealing with the flow of commerce across our borders. Oversight by the Subcommittee would examine whether all appropriate federal agencies and interests are represented in the decision-making process concerning when and where to expand or reduce border patrol crossing.

### **Procurement**

The Subcommittee will work collaboratively with the full Committee on all procurement topics identified in the full Committee oversight plan. This oversight will include reviews of waste, fraud, and abuse in federal contracting, and determination of topics for new legislation and amendments to the Federal Acquisition Regulation. The Subcommittee will focus especially on the misuse of emergency authority to issue long-term, no-bid contracts. Another topic for review is whether the government relies too heavily on large prime contractors, who subcontract the majority of work and do little more than add a layer of expense and bureaucracy. The Subcommittee will also examine whether penalties for overcharges are sufficient to deter contractors from overbilling, and

whether auditors and agency inspectors general have sufficient authority and resources to detect and take action against waste and fraud.

The Subcommittee will supplement the work of the full Committee by conducting oversight of the General Services Administration (GSA), reviewing the performance of GSA's procurement management responsibilities, and monitoring GSA management to identify and prevent improper political or partisan influence in the procurement process. The Subcommittee will also conduct oversight of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy in the Office of Management and Budget.

In addition, the Subcommittee will continue its oversight of large information technology procurement programs, particularly the projects on the Office of Management and Budget "Management Watch List" and "High Risk IT Project List."

Federal law and policy requires that contracting opportunities be made available to small businesses, minority-owned businesses, and businesses located in disadvantaged communities. The Subcommittee will conduct oversight to ensure that agencies are complying with laws and policies and meeting goals for diversity in contracting.

The Subcommittee will provide oversight for federal contracts that focus on public education and public awareness, including contracting opportunities awarded to firms under Section 8(a) programs for small and disadvantaged business.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE ON INFORMATION POLICY, CENSUS, AND NATIONAL ARCHIVES**

This oversight plan provides an overview of the Subcommittee's oversight plan but does not preclude additional oversight on subjects under the Subcommittee's jurisdiction as the need arises.

### *Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)*

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), first passed in 1966, codified the presumption that the public has a right to information about the activities of its government. FOIA requires executive branch agencies to publish or make available descriptions of agency organization and addresses; statements of agency operations and rules of procedure; substantive rules and general policy statements; final opinions on the adjudication of cases; and administrative staff manuals that affect the public. All other "records" – usually defined as any item containing information that is in the possession and control of an agency – must be provided to a member of the public who requests them under the FOIA.

Subcommittee oversight will address agency compliance with meeting FOIA requests, including recent trends in the number of backlogged cases and request denials. The hearings will also evaluate the activities of the Department of Justice to assure the

agency community is complying with statutes and regulations. Specific examples include the impact of the Card and Ashcroft memos that reverse the presumption of disclosure and limit disclosures in many cases. The Subcommittee plans to explore legislative proposals in order to remedy agency backlogs, such as providing additional resources, reducing FOIA costs and litigation for requestors, and enhancing the E-FOIA process for the dissemination of information.

#### *National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)*

According to GAO, the mission of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is to ensure “ready access to essential evidence” for the public, the President, Congress, and the courts. NARA is responsible for oversight of records management and archiving, which increasingly involves dealing with documents that are electronically created and stored. NARA has responsibility over the Presidential Library system, and, through its Information Security Oversight Office, develops guidelines and assesses agencies’ classification management programs for classified or sensitive information. The budget for NARA for FY 2006 was \$329 million.

The Subcommittee intends to take a holistic approach to reviewing NARA’s activities and strategic plans. Oversight topics will likely include NARA’s operations, budget needs, general management challenges, activities related to the declassification of public records, and stewardship of the Presidential Library system. Specific topics may include activities of the Information Security Oversight Office, its role in aiding agencies that are archiving electronically stored information, and changes in the classification of government information. Issues related to privacy and the declassification of information also may be examined by the Subcommittee when conducting oversight on general privacy issues or the Privacy Act.

Another area of interest to the Subcommittee will be presidential records, as defined under the Presidential Records Act of 1978 (PRA). The PRA was borne out of the establishment of our presidential library system in 1955 and the need to preserve presidential documents related to the official duties of the office. It established a legal definition of what constitutes “presidential records” and made all such records federal property to be held in the custody of the Archivist of the United States once the President has left office. The law became effective January 20, 1981, making President Carter the last president to have ownership of his presidential papers. The Subcommittee plans to review recent activities and applicable Executive Orders from the Bush Administration to determine if all appropriate records are being released and catalogued for public access in a timely fashion as required by law. In addition, proposed legislative solutions to improve access and resources available from the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress will be examined.

#### *Census Bureau*

Before the operations of the 2000 census were evaluated or all of the data from the 2000 census released, the Census Bureau announced its strategy and budgetary estimates for the 2010 census. The Bureau estimates that all costs related to the

development and implementation of the 2010 census will range between \$11 and \$12 billion. According to GAO, the 2010 census will cost \$72 per household in real dollars compared to \$56 per household in 2000 and \$13 per household in 1970 when the Census Bureau first began relying on the Postal Service to deliver the census form.

Through 2005, Congress has appropriated approximately \$710 million for 2010 planning and system modernization, out of approximately \$1.8 billion in estimated costs for all 2010 census related technology procurements. In addition, Congress appropriated approximately \$580 million for the American Community Survey (ACS), which is used to collect various data from smaller samples of the population on an annual basis. For FY 2006, Congress appropriated \$812.2 million, of which \$198 million was dedicated to salaries and expenses, and \$614 million was dedicated to periodic programs such as the ACS and 2010 census planning activities.

Key topics to be reviewed by the Subcommittee include: (1) the implementation and success of the ACS; (2) planning activities related to the development of the 2010 census; (3) integration of the Bureau's information technology systems and software to be utilized during the 2010 census, including the Decennial Response and Integration System (DRIS), the Field Data Collection Automation (FDCA) program, and the Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing (TIGER) system; and (4) a review of Census leadership following the expected departure of Director Louis Kincannon.

### *Privacy*

The Subcommittee plans to review the federal government's methods and policies for protecting personally identifiable information held by agencies and utilized by government programs in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974. The Act allows for citizens or permanent resident aliens to have presumptive access to all personally identifiable information held by government agencies on the individual seeking access, with the exception of information held by intelligence or law enforcement agencies. Further, the Act provides a process for an individual to correct information held by a government agency on that individual that is incorrect or inaccurate, and permits individuals to seek relief in federal court in cases where access to information is denied. The Subcommittee will review both privacy and security practices used by agencies to ensure the privacy of such information, and evaluate areas where the Privacy Act may need amending.

In addition, there are numerous federal statutes addressing the security, integrity, and privacy of personal or consumer information held by private industry that may be reviewed by the Subcommittee. Key statutes include the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (Title V), the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, and the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (§ 404).

## *Information Security*

The Subcommittee may conduct oversight of federal agency information security practices that are required under the Federal Information Security Management Act, as well as regulations developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Office of Management and Budget in this area. Specific focus may be given to cyber security efforts to prevent attacks on federal information systems, planning, and training activities among Chief Information Officers to prevent or mitigate cyber security threats, and government vendor requirements to secure IT systems adequately. Other areas of concern are public and private sector coordinating activities to prevent widespread cyber security breaches that pose a significant threat to public works and the economy.

### *Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA)*

According to GAO, approximately 950 federal advisory committees (FACs) with 62,000 members shape policy by advising the federal government on many issues. Some topic areas include the economy, the environment, public health, and national security. For example, FACs may be used in the peer review process relating to an agency's scientific work or research that is conducted for regulatory purposes or to develop programmatic decisions. FACs also have been established recently to provide guidance to the government on specific issues like stem cell research or genetic engineering.

FACA established requirements for balance, independence, and transparency in FAC activities. It also contains provisions to ensure committee activities are safeguarded from special interests and committee proceedings are conducted publicly and noticed for public access. Lastly, FACA created guidelines for the establishment of committees by presidential directive and through legislation, including guidelines regarding establishing the committee's stated scope and objectives, charter, time constraints, and budget. Subcommittee oversight will examine to what extent FACA is fulfilling its mandate to ensure that FACs operate with appropriate oversight and transparency, and that their appointed members lack potential or existing conflicts of interest.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

In preparing this plan, consultation with other committees having jurisdiction over the same or related laws, programs, or agencies within this Committee's jurisdiction has been undertaken directly and indirectly to ensure maximum coordination and cooperation among committees.

This Subcommittee shall conduct oversight over the operations of Government activities in the areas of National Security, Foreign Policy and Homeland Security with a view to determining their economy and efficiency. The Subcommittee will conduct investigations into waste, fraud, and abuse of government operations in those areas. In doing so, the Subcommittee aims to publicize such misconduct, either as a direct or indirect result of Administration policies, in order to rectify and hold accountable those

responsible for such actions. As it deems necessary, the Subcommittee will use appropriate investigative authorities in order to gather information it seeks to conduct such oversight. Such activities will be done in coordination with the full Committee and other standing Committees with similar jurisdictions.

The Subcommittee intends to request, receive, and examine relevant reports of the Comptroller General of the United States as well as reports of Inspectors General, the Congressional Budget Office, and Congressional Research Service, among others, in order to submit to the House such recommendations as it considers necessary or desirable in connection with the subject matter of such reports. It will study intergovernmental relationships between the United States, and the states and municipalities with respect to matters of Homeland Security and National Security, and between the United States and international organizations, of which the United States is a member. Where appropriate, the Subcommittee will conduct business meetings to markup and introduce legislation over matters in its jurisdiction.

Matters which the Subcommittee intends to review include, but are not limited to:

- Diplomatic and military policy and related expenditures concerning U.S. relations with Iran, Iraq, and Afghanistan as well as Somalia, Sudan, Venezuela, China, and North Korea. Where appropriate, investigations of expenditures for reconstruction of infrastructure, training of personnel and other related issues will be examined;
- Non-proliferation policy and related expenditures together with the potential effects of actions or non-actions on certain treaties, agreements or military objectives related to the subject;
- U.S. policy for addressing the issue of global terrorism both in the short-term and long-term;
- Homeland security policy, laws and initiatives particularly as they relate to aviation, rail and transit, chemical, nuclear, port, border and other facilities or critical infrastructure at risk, local responder capabilities and funding levels, and public health matters;
- Visas, passports, and other border control and security identification issues, as well as in general, the operations and efficiency of U.S. consulates, border, and immigration policies;
- Subcontracting or private contracting role in military intelligence, diplomatic and related endeavors;
- Millennium Challenge Account goals and progress, and programs addressing poverty – especially as they may relate to long-term terrorism initiatives;

- International standing of the United States, humanitarian assistance and development programs, and public diplomacy efforts -- including oversight of the U.S. Foreign Service, International Broadcasting Bureau, Peace Corps, and U.S. Agency for International Development;
- Security and effectiveness of U.S. diplomatic personnel and embassies and facilities abroad, and the rightsizing and cost efficiency of U.S. presence overseas;
- Veterans Affairs matters as they pertain to troop morale, incentives for service, fulfillment of obligations to military service personnel – including consolidations and closures of facilities (only in coordination with the Veterans Affairs Committee);
- Protection against exposure of military personnel and civilians to biological, chemical, radiological, or nuclear weapons, such as depleted uranium; health effects of such exposure both in the short-term and long-term; as well as post traumatic stress disorder and other battlefield-related health issues which may develop in exposed populations in the long-term;
- Investigation of weapons systems procurement, development, operations, and compliance with statutory and other regulations, testing regimes, and their efficiency – including the Department of Defense Operational Testing and Evaluation (OT&E) directorate and other statutory compliance with respect to national missile defense and other programs;
- Weaponization of space and potential for protection of assets through treaty or other diplomatic means;
- “Modernization” of nuclear weaponry;
- Intelligence reorganization, intelligence gathering, intelligence use and misuse, treatment of detainees and prisoners, and the use of human intelligence – including cross-agency coordination, communication, and protection of civil liberties; and
- Conduct and effect of international trade agreements and obligations.

The foregoing will entail oversight of the Department of Defense, Department of State, Central Intelligence Agency, international organizations and Homeland Security entities within the Subcommittee’s jurisdiction.

The Subcommittee looks forward to working cooperatively with the full Committee, Ranking Minority Member, and other standing committees in order to help fulfill Congress’ mandate on oversight.

## RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUBCOMMITTEE RANKING MEMBERS

### Subcommittee on Domestic Policy

**Gangs Intervention, Prevention, and Enforcement:** The Committee conducted extensive oversight over the interaction between federal, state, and local law enforcement and public and private organizations in combating transnational street gangs in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress. The Subcommittee should continue this oversight by looking at how federal law enforcement agencies are coordinating with their counterparts in foreign countries (with a specific focus on Central America) to increase technological and enforcement capacity in those countries. Further, the Subcommittee will conduct oversight into how specific agency initiatives aimed at increasing intelligence sharing are progressing and what additional capacities are required by law enforcement agencies both within the U.S. and in the foreign countries.

**Assessing the Overall Impact of Government Rulemaking:** Congress passed the Paperwork Reduction Act, a product of the Committee on Government Operations in 1980 in order to prevent businesses from being buried in stacks of paperwork needed to comply with Federal Regulations. However, it soon became apparent that the paperwork was just one manifestation of the underlying problem. The real problem was the burgeoning government bureaucracy, which issued thousands of regulations, without ever assessing the scope or unintended impact of Federal Regulations. The Subcommittee should continue the legacy initiated in 1980 and continue to conduct oversight over the regulatory process and specific regulations to ensure that Federal Agencies only issue essential regulations that bring a net positive benefit to the citizens of the United States.

**Reviewing Government Regulations on Small and Start-up Businesses:** The Subcommittee should also recognize that the burden of Federal Regulations falls disproportionately on small businesses. The importance of small business to our economy cannot be overstated. They account for 50 percent of the country's private non-farm gross national product, create between 60 and 80 percent of the net new jobs and are 13 to 14 times more innovative per employee as large firms are. Accordingly, the Subcommittee should conduct oversight into specific regulatory requirements, the overall regulatory structure, trade policy, and tax policy- all with an eye towards empowering American entrepreneurs and maintaining our global leadership role in innovation and opportunity.

**Advocating for World Class Patent and Trademark Review:** The Subcommittee should recognize that a stable business infrastructure in finance, logistics, and intellectual property protection is one of the main assets influencing global innovators to locate within the United States. The Subcommittee should continue its oversight into the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to insure that the Office is adopting the best methods and business model to achieve rapid review of applications and high quality decisions at every level.



**Studying Plans for Making the American Worker as Competitive as Possible:** In 2005, more than 55 million Americans, or four out of every 10 workers, left their jobs in 2005. And during the same time there were over 57 million new hires. This new reality, that Americans will increasingly migrate through many jobs over their entire career, requires that the Federal Government seek out improved vehicles to meet family needs in the areas of health care and retirement.

**Department of Housing and Urban Affairs CDBG Program:** The Subcommittee should continue the Committee's review into the 30-year old Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) with a particular interest in how Congress can retool this worthwhile program to better meet the needs of States and localities. The CDBG program was created in the mid 1970's and was put in place to meet the needs of the late 20<sup>th</sup> Century America. As we proceed into the new century the CDBG program needs to be updated to meet State and community needs that have changed since the inception of the program.

**Department of Housing and Urban Affairs Public Housing Programs:** The Subcommittee should continue the Committee's review into public housing with particular interest in the various federal programs such as vouchers and direct aid to states and localities. Cities such as Chicago and New York are meeting their public housing needs through new innovative programs and the federal government can play a major role by ensuring federal dollars and programs are used in such a way that maximizes benefits and ensures housing needs are met.

**Brownfield Redevelopment:** The Subcommittee should continue the work of the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress by overseeing efforts to make states and localities more economically viable through brownfield redevelopment. The 2002 Brownfields Act was successful in addressing many problem areas throughout the United States but even with the success of this act there still remains 450,000 to 1 million brownfield sites that will go untouched. Further ideas and legislation are needed to address this nationwide problem and the Subcommittee will continue to look into innovative ways to address the problems of brownfield redevelopment.

**Historic Preservation:** The Subcommittee should review federal assistance to states and localities in the area historic preservation as a way to revitalize area economies. Our nation's heritage needs to be preserved so that future generations will better understand their past. In many instances localities can benefit economically if they work to preserve their history. Federal incentives exist for some preservation efforts but further exploration of the federal role is needed.

**Minerals Management Service:** The Subcommittee should continue its oversight investigation of the Interior Department's Minerals Management Service, including whether all measures are being taken to recover lost revenues as a result of flawed deepwater leases issued in 1998 and 1999. The Subcommittee should also continue to examine MMS compliance and audit functions, the agency's structure, organization and personnel policies. This is particularly important in light of the Government

Accountability Office (GAO) study requested by Ranking Member Davis, Mr. Issa, Mrs. Maloney and Sen. Bingaman, which is an overall examination of the effectiveness and accuracy of the royalty collection system managed by MMS.

**Industry Carbon Reduction:** Various U.S. and multinational corporations have taken substantial, historic, and proactive steps in instituting programs to reduce carbon emissions. The Subcommittee should consider reviewing these various voluntary programs (e.g., the Climate Action Partnership, etc.) and their overall impact on atmospheric carbon dioxide.

**Alternate Energy:**

- **Nuclear.** Nuclear energy is thought to be the cleanest source of energy available. Further, recently the Speaker of the House stated she was keeping an open mind about nuclear energy as an option. The Subcommittee should review the benefits of increasing nuclear generation capacity in the United States and to ensuring its safe and efficient operation.

- **Other.** The President announced in his State of the Union speech renewed push towards alternative fuels, and a number of these alternative fuel sources, including ethanol, will be coming on-line within the next couple of years. What challenges will be faced by energy companies and other companies involved in the production of distribution of fuel, and what lessons can the U.S. learn from countries such as a Brazil who claim they will be energy self-sufficient within the next few years? The Subcommittee should review how the alternative fuels market operates to ensure a smooth transition to these fuels.

**Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service, and The District of Columbia**

**District of Columbia Oversight:**

**College Access Act:** The District of Columbia College Access Act, sponsored by Ranking Member Tom Davis, was passed by Congress on November 1, 1999 and signed by President Clinton on November 12, 1999. It funds a District of Columbia Tuition Assistance Grant Program. As amended in 2002 it covers the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition for D.C. high school graduates at public colleges and universities throughout the United States. It also provides some financial assistance to such graduates attending private colleges in the Washington Region along with students attending historically Black Colleges and Universities in other states. The original Act has previously been reauthorized through September 30, 2007. President Bush, in his FY 2008 Budget Submission, has included \$35.1 million for this program. Reauthorization is a suitable subject for oversight.

**Procurement:** The Government Accountability Office reports that the District of Columbia procurement system is fatally flawed both in its structure and execution. The GAO found that the current procurement system “undermine(s) transparency, accountability and competition. . .increases the risk of preferential treatment for certain

vendors and ultimately drives up costs.” In a scathing report to Ranking Member Tom Davis, the GAO also found that “The District’s Procurement System Does Not Reflect Sound Management and Oversight Practices.” Procurement is also very much at issue in the crisis involving the District’s public schools. The GAO’s recommendations include a reform plan to be submitted by the city’s mayor to Congress. Mayor Fenty has indicated concurrence with the thrust of the GAO’s recommendations. What is called for by the GAO goes beyond management reform and would involve new law.

**METRO:** Ranking Member Tom Davis, joined by the entire National Capital Region delegation, introduced legislation to provide funding for the Washington Region’s Metro system. The House passed the measure last year. Federal investment in the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Administration dates back to the Eisenhower Administration in 1960, with periodic funding infusions in recognition of the federal government’s unique reliance on Metro. Issues regarding security, service interruptions, and accidents, require oversight.

**Water and Sewer:** The District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DCWASA) is an independent Authority under legislation approved by Congress in 1996, serving Washington, D.C., Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties in Maryland and Fairfax and Loudon counties in Northern Virginia. It provides, inter alia, wholesale wastewater treatment for over 2 million people in the Washington region, establishes rates, and operates the Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant, largest of its kind in the world. The Committee held hearings concerning DCWASA, including its lead contamination experience. Recent issues include the condition of the Anacostia River, privatization efforts, and the possibility of moving to a true Regional Authority.

**Education:** Education in the District of Columbia could be at a major turning point. Legislation proposed by Mayor Fenty may be adopted by the City Council as early as this spring and forwarded to Congress. In its present form, the legislation would require congressional amendment of the Home Rule Act to be effective. With a new mayor, a new City Council chair, and a new president of the D.C. School Board, an excellent opportunity exists to exercise oversight of a critical issue affecting overall education and its impact on quality of life, economic development, and the city’s bond rating. The city’s Chief Financial Officer has listed D.C. public schools as a leading “concern”, and the Department of Education has designated DCPS as “High Risk” in terms of federal grants management.

**Courts:** Under the D.C. Revitalization Act of 1997, sponsored by Ranking Member Tom Davis, Lorton prison in Northern Virginia was closed and sentenced felons incarcerated elsewhere in the federal system. The Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency was created by Revitalization to transition offenders leaving the system back within the city. Operation of the D.C. courts is a federal responsibility. Rehabilitation and re-entry issues are suitable subjects for oversight of the Agency, which Congress created.

## **Postal Service Oversight:**

**Implementation of Postal Reform:** On December 20, 2006 the President signed the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (P.L. 109-435), the most comprehensive postal reform legislation enacted since the early 1970s. The Act requires significant organizational as well as cultural changes at both the Postal Service and the new Postal Regulatory Commission. In addition, the Postal Service is undergoing broad internal changes even as it implements the Act -- the long-planned automation of flat shaped mail, the Evolutionary Network Design initiative, a currently pending rate request that is the most complex since the late 1990's as well as a rumored additional rate request to be based on the Postal Service Shape Based Pricing Initiative. The Subcommittee should continue to monitor the progress the Postal Service makes in transforming itself to ensure that the goals of the Act are met.

**The Postal Service's Office of Inspector General:** Last month marked the 10-year anniversary of the establishment of the United States Postal Service Office of Inspector General. The Subcommittee should examine the evolving role of the OIG, especially in light of recent changes to their and the Postal Inspection Service's jurisdiction over internal crimes.

## **Federal Workforce Oversight:**

**Revitalizing the Federal Workforce:** The Subcommittee should continue to focus on improving the federal workforce to recruit and retain the best and the brightest employees. A January 2007 report released by the Office of Personnel Management indicated that almost half of the federal workforce believes that an employee's pay is based more on one's longevity than on one's performance. This demonstrates that we still have a long way to go before the federal workplace is able to recruit and retain hard-working employees that are motivated to excel. In addition, GAO continues to include "Strategic Human Capital Management" as one of the top problems facing the federal government on GAO's biannual High-Risk List.

In addition, the Subcommittee will continue to focus on improving the investment options for federal employees by, for example, expanding the array of Thrift Savings Plan investment options to include a Real Estate Stock Investment Fund. Based on a recent survey conducted by the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board (FRTIB), employees support more investment options that would enable them to diversify their retirement portfolio. Any consideration of statutory changes to the Thrift Savings Plan or the FRTIB this Congress should include consideration additional investment options for federal employees.

Finally, the Subcommittee should work with the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to advance the good government initiatives that the President proposed in his FY08 budget including promoting the use of retirees in federal employment as a way to alleviate pressures from the pending wave of retirements facing government. Along

similar lines, the Committee will continue its support of OPM's efforts to modernize the federal government's retirement systems.

### **Subcommittee on Government Management, Organization, and Procurement**

**Overview:** The Subcommittee should continue to oversee the increasing challenges facing our federal acquisition system. Each year our government spends well over \$300 billion buying goods and services ranging from paper clips to advanced weapon systems; from sophisticated information technology and management services to grass cutting and window washing. Recent reforms culminating in the Services Acquisition Reform Act of 2004 (SARA) have revolutionized the way the government does business with the private sector. While these reforms have vastly improved the system, we still have a way to go to create a truly effective system that will leverage the best and most innovative services and products our vigorous private-sector economy has to offer. It is critical that the government have the tools and the skilled acquisition professionals it needs to manage its increasingly complex contract workload – and that it have a flexible, responsive, and impartial competitive acquisition system that will enable it to leverage the best services and technology the private sector has to offer at fair and reasonable prices with the necessary accountability.

**Improving General Services Administration (GSA) Operations:** The Subcommittee should be focused on the continued improvement of GSA's operations through the Administrator's implementation of the reorganization plans. The Subcommittee should also follow closely the Office of Federal Procurement Policy's (OFPP) inventory of Government-wide contracts and how that relates to GSA's role as the government's centralized acquisition infrastructure for commercial goods and services. The bottom line here is that in most instances, government-wide contracts ought to be managed out of GSA unless there is a good management reason for them to be managed by another agency.

**Oversight of Critical Acquisitions:** The Subcommittee should continue its oversight of the GSA's government-wide voice and data telecommunications program, Networx, as it progresses through the award of the two contracts and the complex transition process. Given the difficulties that plagued past telecom program transitions, the Subcommittee should be concerned that the transition be successful. Ranking Member Davis has asked the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to monitor GSA's transition plans and their implementation. It is critical that Networx be a success. In addition, the Subcommittee should plan to monitor the GSA's Alliant program, which will provide IT support services to customer agencies through large, broad, indefinite delivery, indefinite quantity contract vehicles. GSA plans to make awards under the Alliant program this summer.

**Acquisition Workforce/SARA Acquisition Law Review Panel:** In the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, the Committee conducted a preliminary review of the results of the acquisition law review panel established under the Services Acquisition Reform Act (SARA) and found

that the merits of recommendations are rather mixed. However, Ranking Member Davis is encouraged by the panel's recommendations on the acquisition workforce. Ranking Member Davis hopes that the recommendations will foster a good discussion on the improvement of the operations of our acquisition workforce. In this connection, Ranking Member Davis has requested that GAO review the panel's recommendations for the improvement of acquisition laws and policies.

**Federal Property Management:** The federal government is one of the world's largest property owners with a portfolio valued at over \$328 billion. Many of these properties are vacant, underutilized, or in disrepair; lack modern technological infrastructure; or pose health and safety threats. Billions of dollars are spent annually to maintain these excess or underutilized properties. Agencies are often forced to vacate properties and lease costly space from the private sector. As a result, federal real property management has been on GAO's High Risk Series since 2003. GAO finds that the on-going crisis in federal property management puts the government at significant risk for lost revenues and opportunities. Specifically, GAO points to the fact that underutilized or excess property is costly to maintain, and excess government buildings and land could be put to more cost effective uses, exchanged for more useful property, or sold. The Subcommittee should continue its oversight work in this area and seek comprehensive real property management reform legislation that could provide solutions to this government-wide problem.

**GPRA Performance Goals:** The Subcommittee should continue to monitor federal agencies efforts to establish measurable performance goals as required by Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA). The Subcommittee should continue to examine agencies GPRA reports, consult with OMB concerning agencies' efforts to improve performance, and focus more closely on both specific agencies that have been successful at developing and meeting performance goals and those that have not.

**Improving internal controls at DHS:** Congressman Davis, Platts, Towns, and Waxman sponsored the DHS Financial Accountability Act of 2004, which requires an audit opinion on internal controls at DHS. DHS inherited 12 material weaknesses from its legacy agencies- the most of any department other than DOD, and the intent of the legislation was to correct those problems sooner rather than later. The audit opinion was rendered for the first time in FY06 and it was adverse. In order to make progress on each weakness, the OIG is engaged in targeted performance audits on a quarterly basis. Those reports will be monitored closely to ensure that DHS is making progress.

**Financial Management Line of Business:** The FMLoB is one of several initiatives by OMB to consolidate "back office" functions at Shared Service Providers. Congressman Platts held several hearings on this topic in the 109th Congress to address concerns of software providers and agency managers. Among the issues are lack of clear guidance, confusion of the use of A-76, and resistance from appropriators. The FLMoB was dealt a serious setback when OPM canceled its move to the Bureau of the Public Debt. A staff level dialogue should continue to both monitor and guide process.

## **Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census, and National Archives**

**National Archives:** The Subcommittee should continue its investigation of former National Security Advisor Sandy Berger's classified document theft from the National Archives. As Mr. Berger was provided extraordinary access to uninventoried original documents, questions remain with regard to the integrity of the terrorism-related Presidential Records of the Clinton Administration housed at the National Archives. Following up on the staff's investigation, the Committee will seek the testimony of Mr. Berger and senior Justice Department officials responsible for Mr. Berger's prosecution to obtain a complete account of all four of Mr. Berger's visits to the National Archives. The Committee and subcommittee should also work with the Executive Branch to declassify the materials Mr. Berger admitted to taking.

**Protecting Citizens Personal Information and Privacy:** The Subcommittee should continue to pursue House passed data breach legislation (H.R. 6163) requiring that timely notice be provided to individuals whose sensitive personal information could be compromised by a breach of data security at a federal agency, and ensuring that costly equipment containing potentially sensitive information is accounted for and secure.

**Securing Government Computers and Systems from Intrusion:** In light of ongoing data breaches at federal agencies, the Subcommittee should continue to evaluate agency information security posture under FISMA (the Federal Information Security Management Act), grade agency performance, and highlight weaknesses. The Subcommittee should continue to evaluate barriers to FISMA compliance, and will continue to work to strengthen and improve FISMA to ensure it keeps pace with rapidly evolving technologies and agency initiatives.

**Bringing Best Practices to Government:** The Subcommittee should continue to bring a performance-based approach to government, and work to move government to a functionally focused approach, and away from an agency-centric approach where appropriate. The Subcommittee should also continue to evaluate management reforms and push for E-Government and other government-wide initiatives that can bring efficiency and cost-savings.

**Ensuring Agencies Can Share Information:** The Subcommittee should continue to highlight agencies' need to share information across departments and among all levels of government. Ensuring equipment interoperability, and removal of artificial barriers caused by redundant information classifications and security clearances will remain priorities. At the same time, the Subcommittee should work to ensure agencies balance demands to share information with safeguarding individual privacy.

**Enabling a Flexible and Efficient Workplace:** The Subcommittee should continue to push for policies enabling federal employees to work remotely under telework policies, thereby reducing congestion, improving employee morale and retention, and enabling the federal government to operate during crisis. In addition, the Subcommittee should pursue

reauthorization of the Digital Tech Corps program, established by the E-Gov Act, and oversee its implementation.

**Protecting Taxpayers Investments in Technology:** Ensuring that the Government's annual \$65+ billion investment in IT is sound and secure remains a top priority. The Subcommittee will continue to highlight and review projects on OMB's Management Watch List and GAO's High Risk List.

### **Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs**

**REAL ID Implementation:** Following up on Congress's efforts in 2004 in response to the 9/11 Commission recommendations to standardize driver's license issued by all 50 States (establishing minimum standards for acceptance by the federal government), DHS is expected to issue regulations implementing the program within the coming months. The regulations are expected to be a balancing act between States' rights and national security and we intend to carefully monitor the rollout of the new policy in order to ensure that States are given the guidance they need to ensure that the Nation's security is protected without unduly tying the hands of the State motor vehicle administrators.

**Interior Enforcement:** The Subcommittee should continue to oversee the nation's immigration process, and build upon efforts in the 109th Congress to strengthen this task, which is an essential duty of every sovereign state. This will include efforts to facilitate legal migration, as well as to stop unauthorized entry into the United States and to prevent those who enter lawfully from remaining beyond the permissible period. Special attention will also be paid to "interior enforcement," especially in connection with employers who knowingly hire undocumented workers, or who do so because failures in the administrative process precludes an accurate understanding of employee immigration status. In addition, consideration will be given to how the Immigration and Customs Enforcement bureau allocates its limited resources in order to determine if the situations which pose the most danger to homeland security (such as access by illegal immigrants to certain sensitive locations) are properly addressed. All this will be done amidst evaluations to ensure that the Department of Homeland Security has the appropriate and necessary organization, management, personnel, processes, procedures, and funding to carry out its responsibilities.

**United States Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology (US-VISIT):** The federal government has initiated a program which will attempt to record and retain information on foreign visitors as they enter and exit our borders. This program, United States Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology (US-VISIT) was established in accordance with several Congressional mandates requiring that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) create an integrated, automated entry-exit system that: (1) records the arrival and departure of aliens; (2) deploys equipment at all ports of entry to allow for the verification of aliens' identities and the authentication of their travel documents through the comparison of biometric identifiers; and (3) utilizes an entry-exit system that records alien arrival and departure information from these biometrically



authenticated documents. The US-VISIT program is an endeavor that will take years to mature, and DHS is using a phased approach in the implementation of the program. In the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, the Committee worked closely with the stakeholder community to make sure this phased approach is workable for all involved. The Subcommittee should oversee the land border application of US-VISIT and the exit system as it is applied to airports and seaports. The Subcommittee should work with DHS and other stakeholders to make sure this carefully crafted program is implemented as quickly and efficiently as possible.

**Afghanistan and Drugs:** The Subcommittee should review actions that can be taken by U.S. and coalition forces to stop heroin cultivation in Afghanistan. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime estimates Afghanistan produces three quarters of the world's illicit opium. Additionally, the Subcommittee should investigate the connection between heroin and terrorist/insurgency financing. A robust drug trade helps finance terrorist organizations, contributes to destabilization, threatens peace, and hobbles reconstruction efforts and a sustained economic recovery. Without an extensive and organized security force and effective rule of law throughout Afghanistan, law enforcement efforts to significantly reduce drug production and narcotics trafficking will progress very slowly.

**Plan Colombia and Andean Counterdrug Initiative:** The Subcommittee should continue to conduct oversight over Plan Colombia and the Andean Counterdrug Initiative. The Subcommittee should consider how U.S. efforts and assistance has given the Colombians the tools they need to fight narcotraffickers. The drug trade in Colombia is a major factor in the instability in Latin America, it is killing Americans every day, and most frightening, it is a source of funding for terrorism in this hemisphere. Colombia is a stronger democracy today than it was 6 years ago at the start of Plan Colombia. It is no longer a narco-terrorist state and has made strong progress in terms of eradication and interdiction, security and defense, and economic and social issues. The Subcommittee should also consider demobilization efforts and colombianization of programs.

### **Additional Oversight:**

#### **1. Homeland Security/Defense**

- A.** Review of security procedures at civilian and military nuclear facilities.
- B.** A review of National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) policy and procedures for the use of private security contractors.
- C.** Review of port security measures and coordination between federal, state, county, local and private authorities in securing shipping.
- D.** Review of homeland security strategies and implementation of the Homeland Security Act of 2002.

- E.** Review of doctrine and role of NORTHCOM and DOD role in homeland security.
- F.** Review of 9/11 Commission recommendations on matters within the Subcommittee's jurisdiction.
- G.** Inquiry into medical screening, testing and treatment of first responders and others who responded to the terrorist attack on New York on September 11, 2001, particularly regarding the expenditure of \$75 million dollars appropriated for those purposes.
- H.** Review of efforts to improve homeland security information sharing between federal, state, local and private stakeholders.
- I.** Review of management of pharmaceutical stockpile programs.
- J.** Review plans and procedures in place between United States and adjacent countries of North America to enhance US security.
- K.** Continue to monitor the role of the National Guard in homeland defense, homeland security and military assistance to civilian authorities.
- L.** Examine the interaction between DOD and DHS in defining their common roles and responsibilities in homeland security and homeland defense.

## **2. Emerging Threats**

- A.** Review of the status of U.S. participation in the Biological and Toxic Weapons Convention negotiations of an enforcement protocol by the Ad Hoc Working Group and other biological weapons counter proliferation strategies.
- B.** Review of Department of Justice regulations and procedures for protecting explosives storage facility sites.
- C.** Review of anti- and counterterrorism planning and preparedness best practices used by cities and regions in Europe, Asia and the Middle East.
- D.** Review of national security strategies to combat terrorism.
- E.** Oversight of interagency processes used to develop medical countermeasures to Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) and how that process is linked to validated threats.

- F. Oversight of efforts by agencies to detect anthrax contamination (particularly in federal facilities), analyze test results, validate detection protocols and improve detection methodology.
- G. Evaluate DoD and Department of State plans, programs, and initiatives meant to ensure continued freedom of space commerce and space operations in light of provocative developments by the People's Republic of China to test an anti-satellite system.

### **3. International Terrorism**

- A. Review of anti- and counterterrorism planning and preparedness best practices used by cities and regions in Europe, Asia and the Middle East.
- B. Review of national and international disease surveillance programs as counterterrorism sentinels.
- C. Review of the follow-up procedures employed by managers of the inter-agency Broad Area Announcement soliciting technology solutions for counterterrorism.

### **4. Department of Defense (DOD) Programs and Spending**

- A. Review of research, development and acquisition activities for chemical and biological defense equipment: masks, suits, detectors, decontamination equipment.
- B. Review of management and effectiveness of certain DOD threat reduction programs, particularly regarding chemical and nuclear weapons in the former Soviet Union.
- C. Review of operations and management at the Defense Reutilization Marketing Service.
- D. Review of DOD efforts to resolve Army National Guard pay and benefit calculations for deployed forces.
- E. Inquiry into the extent of use, standards for, and management of armed contractors by DOD and other federal agencies.
- F. Review of the effectiveness of DOD readiness measures particularly in view of force transformation efforts.
- G. Review of DOD communication satellite contracting practices.

- H.** Review of biodefense vaccine programs at DOD including the Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program, smallpox vaccine development and adenovirus vaccine shortages.
- I.** Review of DOD monitoring program for occupational and environmental health hazards for troops deployed in Operation Iraqi Freedom
- J.** Review status of host nation security support for US military installations.
- K.** Review US Army transformation plans for forces required in post-conflict situations, including efforts to properly train and equip US military forces.
- L.** General oversight will continue on the resourcing and readiness of all National Guard and Reserve Component units.
- M.** Investigate with GAO of the last Base Realignment and Closure round.
- N.** Review of the Base Realignment and Closure efforts, specially focusing on the effects of the Air Force/ Air National Guard.
- O.** Review of international maritime security, including jurisdictional conflicts and coordination of assistance in the event of an attack, specifically responding to issues of the security and safety of passengers aboard foreign flagged vessels.
- P.** Review the effectiveness of the Quadrennial Defense Review.
- Q.** Review the Reliable Replacement Warhead program for the US nuclear weapon stockpile, including an examination of the design selection, infrastructure base, and related nuclear posture
- R.** Evaluate proposals for a conventional Prompt Global Strike system, including cost and design challenges inherent in modifying an existing nuclear weapon or developing and deploying a new conventional alternative.
- S.** Investigate the adequacy of Defense intelligence collection and interpretation efforts, especially in connection with terrorism and emerging threats.
- T.** Review of the new US command in Africa and the role it will play in containing terrorist and threats to the US and US interests in Africa (e.g., humanitarian, other)

## **5. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Spending**

- A.** Review of VA implementation of Gulf War veterans' service-connection determinations and research coordination.
- B.** Review of the VA initiative to test and treat veterans at risk for Hepatitis C infection.
- C.** Review of VA Benefits Administration data showing anomalous death rates among a certain cohort of Gulf War veterans.
- D.** Review of DOD and VA surveillance and monitoring of long-term cancer rates associated with Gulf War (Desert Shield/Storm) deployment.

## **6. Department of State and USAID Programs and Spending**

- A.** Review of federal efforts to enhance security training and awareness of Americans abroad.
- B.** Review State Department rightsizing initiatives.
- C.** Review of humanitarian assistance and reconstruction plans in post-war Iraq.
- D.** Review of management and implementation of the biometric visa program.
- E.** Review of the United Nations Oil for Food Program (OFFP) and the Development Fund for Iraq (DFI).
- F.** Security of the Departments of Homeland Security- and State-run visa process, including the visa revocation process.
- G.** Review of management systems and initial results of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC).
- H.** Review of US public diplomacy efforts, particularly in the Arab and Muslim world.
- I.** Review the effectiveness of State Department, US Agency for International Development (USAID), and other US government agency assistance to the Arab and Muslim world, including the Middle East Peace Initiative (MEPI).
- J.** Review of visa processing delays and extended waits.

- K.** Review of visa issuance policies and procedures, including interagency coordination.
- L.** Review of gaps and vulnerabilities in the non-immigrant visa application and screening process with a particular focus on creating a first defense for terrorists.
- M.** Review of humanitarian and post-conflict reconstruction capabilities, including the rapid mobilization of resources

## **7. Post-Conflict Iraq**

- A.** Reconstruction: What factors, including coordination between agencies to identify and send civilian personnel to Iraq, have affected the US relief and reconstruction program and how have these factors been addressed?
- B.** Elections: How are US Agency for International Development and Department of Defense ensuring funds expended in support of Iraqi national elections are spent for the intended purpose?
- C.** Security: What progress has been made in training and equipping Iraqi forces?
- D.** Review of the scope and reach of democracy-building efforts in Iraq, particularly those activities undertaken by non-governmental organizations (NGO).
- E.** Review of the extent of use, standards for, and management of armed contractors by DOD and other federal agencies.