

House Armed Services Committee

Ike Skelton, Chairman

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For Immediate Release: December 6, 2007

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SKELTON PRAISES AGREEMENT REQUIRING PENTAGON TO REVIEW ROLES AND MISSIONS

Washington, DC – House Armed Services Committee Chairman Ike Skelton (D-MO) today highlighted the provision of the defense authorization conference agreement requiring the Department of Defense to conduct a thorough review of the military services' roles and missions.

“The roles and missions of our military services are largely unchanged since the Truman Administration and the Key West Agreement of 1948. After almost six decades, it’s time to once again analyze the Defense Department’s roles and missions, identify the services’ core competencies, discover the missions going unaddressed, and examine possible duplication of effort among the branches,” said Skelton.

“In today’s rapidly evolving security environment, the Department of Defense must be able to reform and modernize to meet 21st century threats. The defense authorization conference agreement, which requires a roles and missions review every four years, will be an invaluable tool to ensure that our forces are properly prepared and ready to respond to future national security challenges,” said Skelton.

The conference agreement to H.R. 1585, the Fiscal Year 2008 National Defense Authorization Act, requires the Department of Defense to initiate a major internal review of roles and missions. Its provisions would:

- Require a review of the roles and missions of the Department of Defense every four years, with the first review in 2008 and subsequent reviews occurring in 2011 and every four years thereafter;
- Require that the missions of the Department be organized into core mission areas, and that the requirements, acquisition, and budget processes follow this organizational structure;
- Require the review to identify the core competencies and capabilities of the military departments, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the commands, defense agencies, and field activities;

- Require the Joint Requirements Oversight Council (JROC) to provide the military services with clear guidance on the priority assigned to each requirement to ensure that the resources allocated align with the assigned priority level; and
- Require the future years mission budget to be displayed by core mission area, allowing Congress and the Department of Defense to assess whether resources are being allocated properly between mission areas.

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