

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE DURING THE 110th CONGRESS

prepared by the House Armed Services Committee staff

From the start of the 110th Congress in January 2007, the House Armed Services Committee has set an aggressive hearing and legislative schedule in order to develop defense policies that keep America safe and meet our national security requirements, while also demonstrating support for our men and women in uniform.

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE EFFORTS

- HASC has held 177 hearings – including 62 full committee hearings and 115 subcommittee hearings.
- HASC has held 18 subcommittee or committee markups and has passed eight major pieces of legislation through the full House of Representatives.
- After an absence of twelve years, HASC re-established the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, which has published six reports outlining its bipartisan work on a range of issues from the Iraqi Security Forces to dental readiness.
- Chairman Ike Skelton and Ranking Member Duncan Hunter established the Roles and Missions Panel to examine and report on the establishment of roles and missions of the military services. This panel produced a useful compilation of articles, both from its members and the media, at the end of its six-month mission.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

In December 2006, Chairman Skelton outlined six strategic priorities for committee oversight. During the 110th Congress, Members have focused significant attention on each of these strategic issues:

- **Afghanistan** – Through over fifteen full committee hearings and briefings, the committee has examined the NATO-led international force, the instability of the border region with Pakistan, and the problem of increasing drug production. The FY09 NDAA requires DOD to report on the command and control structure for military forces in Afghanistan and requires future budget requests to clearly display any funding requests for U.S. operations in Afghanistan.
- **Iraq** – There have been over 40 hearings and briefings on a wide range of issues involving U.S. activities in Iraq. The committee has focused particular attention on the missions of U.S. forces and force protection, the training of Iraqi Security Forces,

and the status of reconstruction efforts. The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 places limits on the types of reconstruction projects certain U.S. funds can be used for, prohibits permanent U.S. bases in Iraq, and requires a strategy for monitoring the performance of provincial reconstruction teams in Iraq.

- **War on Terrorism** – Through over 15 hearings and briefings, the committee and the Terrorism and Unconventional Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee have examined the attention counter-terrorism efforts receive within the military services, how the roles of special operations forces and intelligence-gathering have evolved, and how DOD teams with other government agencies in its counter-terrorism efforts. The FY09 NDAA authorizes \$100 million above the budget request for Special Operations Command.
- **Fixing U.S. Forces** – The committee is focused on ensuring that the military gets the people, equipment, and training it needs, that units returning from Iraq and the National Guard are fully reset, and that military families receive a quality of life their sacrifice deserves. The Military Personnel and Readiness Subcommittees have held over 30 hearings and briefings on these matters. The full committee further held six posture hearings with the military departments, and seven posture hearings with combatant commanders. The FY09 NDAA provides an increase of 7,000 soldiers and 5,000 Marines, and additional \$800 million for National Guard equipment, and authorizes \$8.6 billion for Army reset and \$1.8 billion for Marine Corps reset.
- **Nuclear Non-Proliferation** – The committee is committed to increasing resources devoted to strengthening counter-proliferation programs. The Strategic Forces Subcommittee held hearings on the Department of Energy’s budget requests for nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear weapons policy. The committee contributed to legislation implementing the 9/11 Commission’s recommendations on non-proliferation and the FY09 NDAA provides over \$2.3 billion for non-proliferation and counter-threat reduction efforts.
- **The Future of the Department of Defense** – The committee has been working to ensure that DOD is correctly postured for the security threats of the 21st century. HASC has held over 30 hearings or briefings overseeing military modernization and transformation, with a focus on shipbuilding and ensuring that the acquisition system is getting materials to our troops in a timely and efficient manner. The committee held a hearing on and passed legislation mandating that DOD comprehensively reassess its roles and missions, and created a special HASC panel to evaluate the changing missions of the military services. The full committee and Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee also held a series of hearings on the need to establish a grand strategy for U.S. national security that calls on all elements of national power to keep our nation secure.

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

- **S. 3001, Fiscal Year 2009 National Defense Authorization Act.** Authorizes \$531.4 billion for the Department of Defense and the national security programs of the Department of Energy. Also authorizes \$68.6 billion to support ongoing military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan during fiscal year 2009. (HASC markup 5/15/08; House approved 5/22/08; Signed into law 10/14/08)
- **H.R. 4986, Fiscal Year 2008 National Defense Authorization Act.** Authorizes \$506.7 billion for the Department of Defense and the national security programs of the Department of Energy. Also authorizes \$141.8 billion to support ongoing military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan during fiscal year 2008. (HASC markup 5/9/07; House approved 5/17/07; Signed into law 1/28/08)
- **H.R. 1538, Wounded Warriors Assistance Act of 2007.** Provides people, training, and oversight mechanisms to ensure that our wounded warriors will always receive high quality care from a healthcare system will not fail them. Also sets the stage for much needed reform of administrative processes that will restore confidence in the integrity and efficiency of the disability evaluation system and begin the process of achieving a truly seamless transition of service members to the Department of Veterans Affairs. (HASC markup 3/20/07; House approved 3/28/07; Included in H.R.4986)
- **H.R. 1362, the Accountability in Contracting Act.** Improves the quality of contracts by limiting the duration of non-competitive contracts, minimizing sole-source contracts, and maximizing fixed-price procurement contracts. Increases contract oversight by requiring executive agencies to make certain documents publicly available and by requiring reports to Congress on completed audits that identify unjustified spending or performance deficiencies. Also promotes integrity in contracting by tightening post-employment restrictions on government procurement officials. (HASC markup 3/13/07; House approved 3/15/07; Included in both H.R.4986 and S.3001)
- **H.R. 1, Implementation of the 9/11 Commission Recommendations.** Strengthens U.S. non-proliferation and threat reduction programs, repeals limits on Cooperative Threat Reduction Program assistance, authorizes funding to strengthen and expand these programs, and includes other measures to counter the threat that WMD proliferation and terrorism poses to the American people. (House approved conference report 7/27/07; Signed into law 8/3/07)
- **H.R. 2956, the Responsible Redeployment From Iraq Act.** Calls for beginning the redeployment of U.S. forces in Iraq within 120 days of enactment. By April 1, 2008, the transition to a limited presence would be complete. Emphasizes that troop reductions should be carried out in a way that maximizes force protection. Requires that the strategy that guides the transition, be submitted to Congress by January 1, 2008. The strategy must include diplomatic, political, economic, and military

measures for dealing with Iraq, encouraging regional engagement and political reconciliation, as well as consider our security interests in the broader Middle East. (House approved 7/12/07)

- **H.R. 3159, Ensuring Military Readiness Through Stability and Predictability Deployment Policy Act.** Sets minimum periods of rest and recuperation for active and reserve component units deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom. For active duty forces, the bill calls for time between deployments to equal or exceed the length of the most recent previous deployment. For the National Guard and Reserve, the bill calls for time between deployments of at least three times longer than the length of the most recent previous deployment. (Reported favorably by HASC 7/27/07; House approved 8/2/07)
- **H.R. 3087, Expressing the Sense of Congress that the Department of Defense should conduct robust contingency planning.** Requires the Defense Secretary to submit a report on redeployment planning and brief Congress on its contents within 60 days of enactment. (Reported favorably by HASC 7/27/07; House approved 10/2/07)

DUNCAN HUNTER FY 2009 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT (S. 3001)

The Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (FY09 NDAA) authorizes \$531.4 billion in budget authority for the Department of Defense and the national security programs of the Department of Energy. The bill also authorizes \$68.6 billion to support ongoing military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan during fiscal year 2009. The FY09 NDAA was approved by the House of Representatives on May 22, 2008, on a vote of 384 to 23. The full House approved the Joint Agreement with the Senate on September 24, 2008, on a vote of 392 to 39. The President signed S. 3001 into law on October 14, 2008.

The following are highlights from the FY09 NDAA:

- **Restoring Readiness** – The bill provides an increase of 7,000 soldiers and 5,000 Marines, an additional \$800 million for National Guard equipment; authorizes \$8.6 billion for Army reset and \$1.8 billion for Marine Corps reset; and requires reports on the current state of readiness of the armed forces.
- **Increasing U.S. Capabilities in Afghanistan** – The bill requires DOD to clearly display any funding requested for operations in Afghanistan in future budget requests and requires a report on the command and control structure for military forces operating in Afghanistan.
- **Improving Interagency Coordination** – The bill establishes an advisory panel on ways to improve coordination among DOD, State and USAID on matters relating to national security, including each department's roles and responsibilities.

- **Taking Care of Service Members and Their Families** – The bill authorizes a 3.9 percent across-the-board pay raise for all service members and prohibits increases in both TRICARE and pharmacy user fees. The bill also authorizes programs to increase the size of the force, improve career development for military spouses, and improve preventive healthcare services to military families.
- **Cracking Down on Contractor Fraud** – The bill includes the Clean Contracting Act of 2008 which promotes competition in federal contracting, increases taxpayer protections from fraudulent contractor practices, and establishes a database of information on contractors who violate the law.

FY 2008 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT (H.R. 4986)

Last year, H.R.1585 authorized \$506.7 billion for Department of Defense and Department of Energy programs, as well as \$141.8 billion for ongoing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The bill was approved by the House of Representatives on May 17, 2007, on a vote of 397 to 27. After the President vetoed H.R.1585, the House passed H.R. 4986, a nearly identical bill, on January 16, 2008. The President signed the new Defense bill into law on January 28, 2008.

The following are highlights from the FY08 NDAA:

- **Restoring Readiness** – The bill authorizes \$1 billion for the Strategic Readiness Fund; provides an additional \$1 billion for National Guard equipment; provides \$250 million to address training shortfalls; and establishes the Defense Readiness Production Board.
- **Restoring the Health of the Army and Marine Corps** – The bill authorizes \$13.6 billion for the Army and \$8.2 billion for the Marine Corps to fully address equipment reset requirements. The bill also increases the size of the Army by 36,000 soldiers, the Marine Corps by 9,000, and the Army National Guard by 1,300 individuals.
- **Providing Force Protection** – The bill authorizes \$4.1 billion for Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles, \$1.2 billion for body armor, and \$2.5 billion for up-armored HUMVEES.
- **Taking Care of Service Members and Their Families** – The bill authorizes a 3.5 percent across-the-board pay raise for all service members and prohibits increases in both TRICARE and pharmacy user fees.
- **Acquisition Improvement and Accountability Act of 2008** – The bill includes provisions of this Act to improve the acquisition system and increase the accountability of government contractors.

- **Oversight of Roles and Missions** –Initiates a long-overdue review of roles and missions within the military services.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT & INVESTIGATIONS

The committee re-established its Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations after a twelve year absence. The subcommittee has re-established processes to carry out in depth oversight of the Department of Defense and the Administration's military policies.

- In June 2007, the subcommittee concluded its first in-depth investigation with the publication of a 205-page report, *Stand Up and Be Counted: The Continuing Challenge of Building the Iraqi Security Forces*.
- In April 2008, the subcommittee released two reports:
 - *Deploying Federal Civilians to the Battlefield: Incentives, Benefits, and Medical Care*, which examines how well the government fulfills its obligation to support and adequately compensate those who are asked to take assignments in non-permissive security environments; and
 - *Agency Stovepipes vs. Strategic Agility: Lessons We Need to Learn from Provincial Reconstruction Teams in Iraq and Afghanistan*, which uses PRTs as a case study to examine how multiple agencies work together in complex contingency operations.
- In August 2008, the subcommittee released three reports on:
 - The Defense Travel System;
 - The Dental Readiness of the Reserve Component; and
 - Presidential Signing Statements.

COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

The accomplishments of the 110th Congress are due, in large part, to the strong leadership of each subcommittee:

- **Readiness**: Chairman Solomon Ortiz (D-TX), Ranking Member Randy Forbes (R-VA)
- **Seapower and Expeditionary Forces**: Chairman Gene Taylor (D-MS), Ranking Member Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD)
- **Air and Land Forces**: Chairman Neil Abercrombie (D-HI), Ranking Member Jim Saxton (R-NJ)
- **Oversight and Investigations**: Chairman Vic Snyder (D-AR) (1/07-6/07: Marty Meehan (D-MA)), Ranking Member Todd Akin (R-MO)
- **Terrorism and Unconventional Threats and Capabilities**: Chairman Adam Smith (D-WA), Ranking Member Mac Thornberry (R-TX)

- **Strategic Forces:** Chairman Ellen Tauscher (D-CA), Ranking Member Terry Everett (R-AL)
- **Military Personnel:** Chairman Susan Davis (D-CA), Ranking Member John McHugh (R-NY)
- **Roles and Missions Panel:** Chairman Jim Cooper (D-TN), Ranking Member Phil Gingrey (R-GA)