

STATEMENT OF
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BEFORE THE
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

ON
THE JOINT IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE
DEFEAT ORGANIZATION

SEPTEMBER 16, 2008

Mr. Chairman, Congressman Akin, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO). Joining me today are Lieutenant General Thomas Metz from JIEDDO, Tom Matthews from the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, William Beasley from the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, and Major General Jason Kamiya from U.S. Joint Forces Command.

The Defense Department aggressively supports JIEDDO and its institutionalization. In January 2006, the Deputy Secretary established JIEDDO to focus the Department's efforts on rapidly and systematically reducing the effects of improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, targeted against our combat forces. Since then, combatant commanders in the field confirm that JIEDDO has provided a synergy unique within DoD, and has enabled joint and coalition forces to respond effectively to the disruptive threat posed by IEDs and the networks behind them. The Secretary and his most senior military and civilian advisors have concluded that there is a continuing need for an organization that can design, develop, and field counter-IED capabilities well inside normal budgetary timelines. Initially, funding for JIEDDO was entirely in the supplemental budget request, out of necessity. More recently, the Department has included JIEDDO funds in its base budget by requesting \$500 million for the Joint IED Defeat Fund in both 2008 and 2009.

The enduring value of an organization like JIEDDO—one that rapidly innovates, acquires, and fields counter-IED capabilities—strongly indicates that base budget funding will continue to be needed in this vital mission area. In coming years, the Department will strive to work with the Congress to strike the proper balance between enduring needs that can be partly or wholly anticipated—which will be funded as part of the base budget request—and less predictable needs that vary with the size and intensity of ongoing combat operations—which will be financed through the supplemental budget request. In FY 2010 and beyond, as we gain a better understanding of the enduring need for counter-IED efforts, we may need to shift additional amounts of JIEDDO's supplemental funding into future base budget requests. Furthermore, because JIEDDO must respond to unforeseen developments on the part of adversaries, the ability to rapidly redirect these resources as new technological solutions emerge gives JIEDDO a distinct and valuable advantage in the fight against IEDs. Your continued support of this unique feature of the Joint IED Defeat Fund will enable our forces to continue rapidly exploiting cutting-edge capabilities in the future.

Currently, JIEDDO's director reports to the Deputy Secretary of Defense in close consultation with the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. This direct linkage between JIEDDO and DoD's most senior leadership reflects the Department's top priority of protecting our troops. It also facilitates oversight at the highest levels for the resources and authorities the Congress has entrusted to the Department for JIEDDO, and represents an important management control over this nontraditional DoD approach. Finally, JIEDDO's direct access to the Deputy Secretary and his senior advisors enables it to draw support across the Department. The result is that JIEDDO is empowered both to create synergy among organizational elements and to leverage core competencies toward defeating IEDs as a weapon of strategic influence.

As with our other mission-critical organizations, JIEDDO must recruit and retain an innovative, highly capable workforce that operates in direct support of our combat forces. Providing assurances of continuity for this workforce presents a distinct challenge, owing not only to the newness of the organization, but also to the significant uncertainty stemming from its supplemental funding. Funding JIEDDO in the base budget communicates to its employees that the Department intends to continue JIEDDO's operations in the future as long as the threat

persists. Therefore, we encourage the Congress to support the President's base budget request for JIEDDO to validate continuity of this enduring function and ensure our access to the talent that provides these capabilities.

Certainly, the fact that other elements of the Defense Department are also engaged in the counter-IED fight can create the potential for duplicative efforts. Here again, having a single focal point for IEDs presents discernable advantages for DoD. As the designated lead for this effort within the Department, JIEDDO's director is charged with providing a joint forum for collecting and synchronizing all applicable efforts of DoD and other agencies. Thus, JIEDDO is able to leverage DoD and interagency capabilities—including intelligence support, rapid acquisition, research and development, and training—and can bring to bear a formidable array of forces toward a single end: saving lives.

Our soldiers, marines, sailors, and airmen deserve nothing less.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.