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OVERSEAS BASING COMMISSION HEARING SET FOR MARCH 1

Fourth public session will focus on testimony from Service chiefs and strategy leaders from Defense, State Departments

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 18, 2005 -- The Commission on the Review of Overseas Military Facility Structure of the United States (Overseas Basing Commission) will hear testimony from current military service chiefs and Defense and State Department strategy leaders at a hearing to be held beginning at 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 1, 2005, in room 138, Dirksen Senate Office Building, 1st and C Streets, N.E., Washington, D.C.

This will be the fourth public meeting held by the Commission, which was established by Public Law 108-132 to provide Congress and the President with a thorough study and review of matters relating to U.S. military facility structure overseas. The law requires the Commission's report to include a proposal for an overseas basing strategy to meet current and future Department of Defense (DoD) missions.

The Commission's task is to assess independently whether the current overseas basing structure is adequate to execute current missions, and to assess the feasibility of closures, realignments, or establishment of new installations overseas to meet emerging defense requirements. The Commission's report will serve as another data point to assist the Congressional Committees in performing their oversight responsibilities for the DoD's basing strategy, future military construction appropriations, and the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission determinations.

At the March 1 hearing, the Commission will receive testimony from two panels. The first panel invitees include the Service Chiefs or their representatives from each of the military departments.

The second panel invitees include the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy and representatives from the Department of State, Under Secretary for Political Affairs and Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security.

The OSBC began its operations in May, 2004. Public Law 108-324, the Fiscal Year 2005 Military Construction Appropriations Act, extended the Commission's reporting period until August 15, 2005.