



PRESS RELEASE

House National Security Committee

Floyd D. Spence, Chairman

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PRESS ADVISORY

NATIONAL SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE TO CONDUCT FIELD HEARING IN SAN DIEGO

The Subcommittee on Military Readiness of the Committee on National Security of the U.S. House of Representatives will conduct a field hearing on Friday, March 6 at 9 a.m. on the hangar bay of the USS CONSTELLATION (CV-64) located at North Island Naval Air Station, San Diego. The hearing is open to the public.

The subcommittee is in the process of considering the readiness aspects of the President Clinton's fiscal year 1999 defense budget request. The purpose of the hearing is to provide members of the subcommittee with a better understanding of the effects of high operations and personnel tempo, increasing involvement in operations other than war, and a fiscally constrained environment on unit readiness, personnel, and quality of life. The subcommittee will hear from representatives from each service, including the senior military commanders in the Pacific theater, commanding officers of units recently deployed and units preparing to deploy, as well as enlisted members from the same units.

Media Information:

- All members of the press interested in covering the hearing should contact Navy Cdr. Steve Burnett, Public Affairs Officer, Commander, Naval Base San Diego, at 619-532-1430 or beeper 619-896-5824.
- On the day of the hearing, press should arrive at the main gate of North Island Naval Air Station (located at the intersection of Alameda Blvd. and 4th St. in Coronado) no later than 8 a.m. for check-in and credentialing
- Directions: Take I-5 South to Coronado Bay Bridge to Coronado. Exit on 3rd St. Stay on 3rd St. and follow the signs to North Island Naval Air Station.

Witness List:

Panel 1: (9 a.m.)

Gen. David Bramlett, USA, Commanding General, U.S. Army Forces Command
Adm. Archie Clemmins, USN, Commander in Chief U.S. Pacific Fleet
Gen. Richard B. Myers, USAF, Commander Pacific Air Force
Lt. Gen. Jefferson Howell, USMC, Commanding General, Marine Forces Pacific

Panel 2: (Approximately 10:30 a.m.)

Lt. Col. Ronald Buffkin, USA, Commander, 3rd Squadron of the 6th Cavalry Brigade, (Apache) Korea
Lt. Col. Kevin Wendel, USA, Commander, 1st Battalion, 327 Infantry, 01st Airborne (Air Assault) Division
Cdr. Terry Kraft, USN, Commanding Officer, Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 131 (VAQ-131)
Cdr. John Hulft, USN, Commanding Officer, Strike Fighter Squadron 113 (VFA-113)
Lt. Col. Donald L. Hall, USAF, Commander, 421st Fighter Squadron, Hill AFB, UT
Lt. Col. Karen Torres, USAF, Commander, 22nd Airlift Squadron, Travis AFB, CA
Lt. Col. John T. Boggs, USMC, Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division
Lt. Col. Kevin P. O'Keefe, USMC, Commanding Officer, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division

Panel 3: (1 p.m.)

Sgt. First Class Richard Elder, USA, 1st Sgt. Of Alpha Troop, 3rd Battalion of the 6th Cavalry Brigade
Staff Sgt. David Spencer, USA, Platoon Sgt., 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry, 101st Airborne (Air Assault) Division
AME1 John Borella, USN, VAQ-131
ATC (AW) Todd Grever, USN, VFA 113
S.M.Sgt. David Rodriguez, USAF, Sortie Generation Superintendent, Hill AFB, UT
M.Sgt. Eugene D. Mehaffy, USAF, C-5 Flight Engineer/1st Sergeant, Travis AFB, CA
S.Sgt. Ben A. Grainger, USMC, Platoon Sergeant, Heavy-Machine Gun Platoon 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division
G.Sgt. Don W. Gallagher, USMC, Company Gunnery Sergeant, Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division

Background Information:

Last year, the subcommittee held a similar hearing on the East coast, and the information learned from the witnesses directly influenced many of the readiness provisions contained in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998 (Public Law 105-85).

The jurisdiction of the House National Security Committee covers the breadth of the operations of the Department of Defense (DOD) as well as the significant national security portions of the annual operating budget of the Department of Energy. DOD's annual budget in excess of \$260 billion involves millions of military and civilian personnel, thousands of facilities, and hundreds of agencies, departments, and commands located throughout the world. The oversight responsibilities of the Committee on National Security are conducted primarily within the context of the committee's consideration of the annual defense authorization bill.

The committee divides its responsibilities between five standing subcommittees (Military Procurement, Military Research and Development, Military Readiness, Military Installations and Facilities, and Military Personnel) and two special oversight panels (Moral, Welfare, and Recreation and Merchant Marine).

The Military Readiness Subcommittee is chaired by U.S. Representative Herbert H. Bateman (R-VA) and is comprised of 22 members of Congress. The subcommittee is responsible for the annual authorization of funding for operation and maintenance, the readiness and preparedness requirements of the defense establishment, and related legislative oversight.

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