



PRESS RELEASE

House Armed Services Committee

Floyd D. Spence, Chairman

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 2, 1999

CONTACT: Maureen Cragin
Ryan Vaart
(202) 225-2539

PRESS ADVISORY

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE TO ASSESS THE READINESS OF U.S. MILITARY FORCES IN EUROPE AT FIELD HEARING AT NAPLES, ITALY

The Subcommittee on Military Readiness of the Armed Services Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives will conduct a field hearing on March 8th at 10 a.m. at the Capo Landing Conference Center, Naval Support Activity complex, in Naples, Italy. The hearing is open to the public.

The subcommittee is in the process of considering readiness related aspects of President Clinton's fiscal year 2000 defense budget request. The purpose of the hearing is for the members of the subcommittee to hear from the commanders and troops in the region on the state of readiness of U.S. military forces deployed to and assigned in Europe. The subcommittee will hear from two panels made up of various military commanders, and junior officers and enlisted members.

Media Information:

All members of the press interested in covering the hearing should contact:

- Lieutenant J.G. Fred Kuebler at Naples +390.81.568.5110 or
- Captain Steve Warren at SHAPE, Belgium +32. 65. 44. 3871

Witnesses:

Panel 1:

- Maj. Gen. Larry R. Ellis, Commanding General, 1st Armored Division, U.S. Army, Bad Keuznach, Germany
- Brig. Gen. John T. D. Casey, Commanding General, 7th Army Training Command, U.S. Army, Grafenwoehr, Germany
- Vice Adm. Daniel J. Murphy, Jr., Commander, 6th Fleet, U.S. Navy
- Brig. Gen. Daniel P. Leaf, Commander, 31st Fighter Wing, Aviano Air Base, Italy, U.S. Air Force
- Lt. Gen. Peter Pace, Commander, U.S. Marine Forces, Atlantic, U.S. Marine Corps
- Brig. Gen. Eldon Bargewell, Commander, Special Operations Command, Europe

Panel 2:

- Capt. John Paul Charles, Commander, C Company, 501st Military Intelligence Battalion, 1st Armored Division, U.S. Army, Dexhein, Germany
- Capt. James P. Isenhower, III, Commander, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division (on deployment to Task Force Eagle, Bosnia-Herzegovina), U.S. Army
- 1st Sgt. Lon Mark Davis, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 40th Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Division, U.S. Army, Idar-Oberstein, Germany
- Master Sgt. Timothy A. Dodge, Division Master Gunner, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Cavalry Division (on deployment to Task Force Eagle), U.S. Army, Bosnia-Herzegovina
- Lieutenant Rich Dodson, Combat Systems Officer, USS Philippine Sea, U.S. Navy
- ENCS (SW) Paul Yarger (Senior Chief), Leading Petty Officer Auxiliaries, USS Philippine Sea, U.S. Navy
- Capt. Daryl R. Kitchen, Executive Officer, 100th Air Refueling Wing, RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom, U.S. Air Force
- Capt. James P. Meger, Chief, Standardization & Evaluation for 81st Fighter Squadron, Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, U.S. Air Force
- Senior Master Sgt. Rodney Billingham, Fabrication Flight Chief, 48th Equipment Maintenance, Squadron, RAF Lakenheath, United Kingdom, U.S. Air Force
- Senior Master Sgt. Mark A. Viggato, Production Superintendent, 86th Maintenance Squadron, Ramstein Air Base, Germany, U.S. Air Force
- Capt. Todd Lyons, Battery Commander for LIMA, 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines, U.S. Marine Corps
- Gunnery Sgt. Dan Fitzpatrick, Master Gunner, Company C, 1st Tank Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps

Background Information:

In previous years, the subcommittees of the House Armed Services Committee have conducted similar hearings throughout the U.S., and the information learned from the witnesses directly influenced many of the provisions contained in the annual defense authorization act.

The jurisdiction of the House Armed Services 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 Armed Services 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 of Virginia 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.

#