

PRESS RELEASE

House Armed Services Committee

Bob Stump, Chairman

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 28, 2001

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STATEMENT BY HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BOB STUMP

“Last night, President Bush declared that our nation’s military must remain second-to-none and that his budget would ensure this outcome. The President also stated, ‘Our defense vision will drive our defense budget, not the other way around.’ These are welcome and encouraging statements.

“The President also noted that after a strategy review, we may need to increase defense spending. I fully agree and urge the Administration to conclude this defense strategy review expeditiously. I believe that, if done correctly, this review will reaffirm the reality that significant deficiencies in our military preparedness exist, including shortfalls affecting the readiness, modernization, and quality of life of the armed forces. Therefore, I expect that the Administration’s detailed defense budget request will reflect these realities. I am convinced that these deficiencies must be addressed immediately if our military is to be prepared to confront the range of 21st century threats that the President spoke about last evening.

“I will continue to work with the Administration and the congressional leadership to provide the necessary resources to ensure that America’s defense needs are adequately addressed.”

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