



# PRESS RELEASE

## House Armed Services Committee

### Floyd D. Spence, Chairman

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
February 22, 2000

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

### PRESS ADVISORY

#### HOUSE ARMED SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE TO CONDUCT FIELD HEARING AT FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA

The Subcommittee on Military Personnel of the Committee on Armed Services of the U.S. House of Representatives will conduct a field hearing on the quality and effectiveness of the military health care system for active and retired beneficiaries. The hearing will take place on Monday, February 28 at 9 a.m. in the Officers Club at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

#### **Media Information:**

- All members of the press interested in covering the hearing should contact Lt. Col. Jim Hinnant or Jackie Thomas at the Fort Bragg Public Affairs Office at 910-396-5620 or 910-396-5600.
- On the day of the hearing, press should arrive at the Officers Club no later than 8:30 a.m.
- **Directions:** Contact the Fort Bragg Public Affairs Office for directions to the Officers Club.
- In compliance with Department of Defense election-year policies, the subcommittee will be unable to address questions from the media at the Officers Club. Subcommittee members *will* hold a press availability immediately following the hearing at Spring Lake Town Hall located at 300 Ruth Street.

#### **Public Information:**

- The hearing is open to the public.

#### **Witness List:**

##### **Panel 1: Active Duty Military Personnel**

Sgt. Togia, USA  
Lt. Commander Jamie Otto, USN  
Sr. Airman Glenn McClelland, USAF  
Maj. Scott Fazekas, USMC  
Mrs. Tony Maffey  
Mrs. Glenna G. Butler  
Mrs. Marjorie McClain  
Mrs. Tracey Fazekas

##### **Panel 2: Retired Military Personnel**

HMC Randy Reichler, USN (Ret)  
CMSgt. John Tucker, USAF (Ret)  
LTC Bob Garman, USA (Ret)  
CDR Jacob Overman, USN (Ret)  
MSgt. Russell Farmer, USAF (Ret)

### **Panel 3: Local Healthcare Provider Representatives**

RDML Marion Balsam, USN

Michael Bryant, M.D. – President, Sand Hills Physician Associates

Mr. Steve Dickson – Village Surgical Associates

Mr. John Heckert – Practice Administrator, Cumberland Anesthesia

### **Panel 4: Command Representatives**

Brig. Gen. Larry Gottardi, USA

RADM Christopher Cole, USN

Brig. Gen. Norman R. Seip, USAF

Maj. Gen. Thomas A. Braaten, USMC

Command Sgt. Maj. Butts, USA

Master Chief Daniel Hengerer, USN

### **Background Information:**

The Military Personnel Subcommittee is in the process of considering the personnel-related aspects of the President's fiscal year 2001 defense budget request. Military health care is an important quality of life benefit for all military personnel, and the subcommittee will hold three hearings on health care issues in 2000. The first hearing of the series will be held on February 25 at Grissom Air Reserve Base, Indiana. This hearing will be the second of the series, and will provide the subcommittee with "first-hand" accounts of the TRICARE system from active and retired military personnel and their families.

In past years, subcommittees of the House Armed Services Committee have held similar "field" hearings on subjects ranging from military readiness to domestic counter-terrorism preparedness. In many cases, testimony provided at these hearings directly influenced provisions contained in the annual National Defense Authorization Act.

The jurisdiction of the House Armed Services Committee includes the operations of the Department of Defense (DOD) as well as the national security operations of the Department of Energy's (DOE) budget. DOD's annual budget of nearly \$280 billion (in fiscal year 2000) affects 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 House Armed Services Committee 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 three special oversight panels (Morale, Welfare, and Recreation; Merchant Marine; and DOE Reorganization).

The Military Personnel Subcommittee is chaired by U.S. Representative Steve Buyer (R-IN) and is comprised of 18 members of Congress. The subcommittee is responsible for the annual authorization of funding for military forces and endstrengths, integration of active and Reserve components, military personnel policy, compensation and other benefits, and related legislative oversight.

###