

PRESS RELEASE

House Armed Services Committee Bob Stump, Chairman

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STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN STUMP ON AMENDED FISCAL YEAR 2002 DEFENSE BUDGET

“I commend the Bush Administration for requesting the largest increase in defense spending since the Reagan build-up of the 1980s. Such a commitment to our nation’s defense is long overdue, and Secretary Rumsfeld and the White House deserve credit for their effort to rebuild our national security.

“However, it is also appropriate to note that this budget is only one step in what needs to be a longer journey. It is a widely accepted fact that the U.S. military has been under-resourced for more than a decade. Therefore, it is critical that we sustain this increased level of resources for defense into the future in order to properly address the readiness, modernization, and quality of life shortfalls that exist today.

“The Administration has proposed a budget that largely seeks to patch the most pressing shortfalls in the defense program it has inherited, with one significant exception - modernization of our equipment. While I understand the decision to await the completion of the Quadrennial Defense Review, the fact that this proposed budget increase defers urgently needed fixes to our ailing modernization program underscores the clear need for a strong commitment to a multi-year increase to the defense budget.

“I am committed to meeting this challenge, and look forward to working with Secretary Rumsfeld and the President to rebuild our national defense.”

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