

★ HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE ★

STATEMENT BY
HONORABLE PAUL MCHALE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
FOR HOMELAND SECURITY

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Introduction

Chairman Saxton, Congressman Meehan, distinguished members of this Subcommittee: Thank you for inviting me back to address the critical subject of our nation's security. I appreciate the opportunity to return today to update you on our progress. When I appeared before this Subcommittee a year ago, new Department of Defense (DoD) organizational structures for homeland defense were still under development. With a continuing sense of urgency and focus, DoD has implemented substantial improvements in homeland defense capabilities over the past year, increasing the safety of the nation. At the same time, there is no reason for complacency. We fully recognize that significant challenges lie ahead.

The focus of DoD's efforts to combat terrorism is on bringing the fight to the terrorists abroad through the prosecution of the global war on terrorism. Thus, our first line of defense is abroad -- to confront the enemy where he lives, trains, plans, and recruits, as we are doing today in Afghanistan and Iraq. Since my last appearance, the Global War on Terror has achieved many more successes. U.S. forces toppled Saddam Hussein's vicious regime in Iraq, freeing its innocent population from the grip of tyranny. We have captured or killed nearly two-thirds of al-Qaeda's known senior operatives. We have disrupted terrorist cells throughout the world, likely preventing planned attacks and disrupting the planning of others. The second line of defense also lies beyond the borders of the nation -- the air and maritime avenues of approach -- where we will engage terrorists before they reach our borders. Inside our borders, the domestic law enforcement community is responsible for countering terrorist threats; and the Department of Defense stands ready to provide assets and capabilities in support of civil authorities, consistent with U.S. law.

DoD's Role in the Security of Our Nation

As you know, following the tragic events of 9/11, at the direction of the President and

with Congressional support, DoD moved quickly to establish new organizations focused on homeland defense and civil support: U.S. Northern Command (NORTHCOM) and the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense (ASD(HD)).

At the request of the Secretary of Defense, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense was established by Congress in the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003. I am honored to have been nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate to serve as the first Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense. My office was established in recognition of the need to have a focal point to assist the Secretary improve policy and provide guidance to combatant commanders regarding air, ground, and maritime defense of U.S. territory and the conduct of support to civilian authorities. As provided in the establishing statutory language, I provide overall supervision of the homeland defense activities of DoD.

You will recall that on October 1, 2002, DoD activated NORTHCOM, headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colorado. This is the first combatant command with a primary mission to defend the land, sea, and air approaches to the United States. NORTHCOM conducts operations within its assigned area of responsibility to deter, prevent, and defeat threats and aggression aimed at the United States, its territories, and interests. Accordingly, as directed by the President or Secretary of Defense, NORTHCOM would direct military operations within its area of responsibility, including combat operations. In addition, when directed by the President or Secretary of Defense, NORTHCOM would also provide military assistance to civil authorities to mitigate the results of disasters and catastrophes, including those resulting from a WMD attack.

NORTHCOM's area of responsibility includes the continental United States, Alaska, Canada, Mexico, and the surrounding water out to approximately 500 nautical miles. The defense of Hawaii and U.S. territories and possessions in the Pacific remains the responsibility of U.S. Pacific Command. The commander of NORTHCOM is also the commander of the bi-national U.S.-Canada North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD). I am pleased to report that NORTHCOM achieved full operational capability on September 11, 2003 and is fully able to conduct missions assigned to the command in the Unified Command Plan.

Air domain. NORAD guards, patrols, and monitors the skies over Canada and the United States. Each and every day the men and women of the United States Air Force, United States Air Force Reserve, and the Air National Guard secure the skies over major metropolitan areas, historic monuments, and our nation's critical infrastructure. Since September 11, 2001, these dedicated professionals have executed over 30,000 air defense sorties and responded to over 1700 requests from the Federal Aviation Administration to intercept potential air threats.

Maritime domain. Similarly, the U.S. Navy mans the sea approaches to the United States and works with the U.S. Coast Guard to patrol international waters and our territorial seas. On a daily basis, the U.S. Navy vigilantly monitors the blue water approaches to our nation's territorial seas, operating under new and expanded authority to interdict vessels potentially bearing terrorists or their weapons before they reach our shores. Further, under Operation NOBLE EAGLE, naval maritime surveillance and engagement forces are designated for transfer to NORTHCOM command and control when directed by the Secretary of Defense.

Land domain. The Homeland Security Act of 2002 assigns the Secretary of Homeland Security the responsibility for the security of the nation's borders. That responsibility

includes preventing terrorists and instruments of terrorism from penetrating our borders, protecting our ports of entry, immigration enforcement, and ensuring the speedy, orderly, and efficient flow of lawful traffic and commerce. DoD's role in that border security mission is to provide support to civil authorities, principally the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), when appropriate. To that end, DoD is prepared to respond swiftly when required. DoD has established and maintains Quick Reaction Forces and Rapid Reaction Forces, which, when deployed, will operate under NORTHCOM command and control. These highly-trained U.S. Army and Marine Corps personnel are postured to respond to the full range of potential threats to the United States. Additionally, when authorized by the Secretary of Defense, in the case of a WMD attack, Joint Task Force Civil Support headquartered in Norfolk, Virginia, Joint Task Force Consequence Management East headquartered at Fort Gillem, Georgia, or Joint Task Force Consequence Management West headquartered at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, under the command and control of NORTHCOM, would provide consequence management support to civil authorities.

Role of DoD and Other Agency Exercises

DoD is committed to maintaining the readiness of military forces to execute the full spectrum of homeland defense operations and to support civil authorities, when needed. To this end, DoD has hosted or participated in our own exercises and those sponsored by other government entities. Over the last year, these include: Unified Defense (February 2003); TOPOFF 2 (May 2003); Determined Promise (August 2003); Livewire (October 2003); Scarlet Cloud (November 2003); and Unified Defense (February 2004). These exercises addressed a range of potential threats to the United States, from cyber attacks to bioterror attacks, and from radiological attacks to a nuclear detonation. The exercises support the DHS National Homeland Security Exercise Program established by the December 2003 Homeland Security Presidential Directive-8 (HSPD-8) on National Preparedness. Homeland security and homeland defense exercises are critical in identifying gaps and potential weaknesses within each agency and across agencies in responding to terrorist attacks, including multiple, simultaneous challenges.

DoD Support of Critical Infrastructure Protection

Public Law 107-296 (the Homeland Security Act of 2002) assigned DHS the responsibility to develop a comprehensive national plan to protect our nation's critical infrastructure and key assets. The National Strategy to Secure Cyberspace (February 2003) and the National Strategy for the Physical Protection of Critical Infrastructure and Key Assets (February 2003), as well as HSPD-7 on Critical Infrastructure Identification, Prioritization, and Protection, (December 2003) designate DoD as the Sector Specific Agency for the Defense Industrial Base sector. This designation recognizes DoD's important role in the protection of the nation's critical infrastructure that sustain our capability to defend our nation and fight its wars. In this capacity, DoD must work closely with private sector owners of critical defense infrastructure to deter, mitigate, or neutralize terrorist attacks in order to sustain military operations.

In September 2003, I was assigned the responsibility for Defense Critical Infrastructure Protection by the Secretary of Defense. Since then, we have consolidated Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) funding within the Office Secretary of Defense into a single program, managed by the newly-established Defense Program Office for Mission Assurance. Under my oversight, this office conducts focused research and development using a systems approach for CIP activities supporting DoD missions. We have also taken steps to protect critical defense installations and facilities from chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats. Pentagon efforts are helping to develop DoD-wide installation protection standards and requirements, which we will apply at 200 other key

installations over the next few years.

Intelligence and Information Sharing

DoD works closely with the constituent elements of the intelligence community to maintain maximum awareness of potential attacks against and emerging threats to the United States. My office engages actively with the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence (USD(I)), established in 2003 by Public Law 107-314, on all homeland defense intelligence matters. USDI is charged with ensuring that the senior DoD leadership receives the warning, actionable intelligence, and counter-intelligence support needed to pursue all of the objectives of the updated defense strategy, including defense of the homeland. USD(I) also provides a single point of contact for coordination of national and military intelligence activities with the Community Management Staff under the Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) and strengthens the relationship between the Secretary of Defense and the DCI.

With the assistance of my office, the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, is working with DHS and other federal departments and agencies to fulfill the tasking set forth by Executive Order 13311, "Homeland Security Information Sharing," (July 2003) to establish procedures for the horizontal sharing of information between federal agencies and the vertical sharing of information with authorities at the state and local levels.

Additionally, DoD is a full partner in the Terrorist Threat Integration Center (TTIC), a multi-agency joint venture announced by the President in the January 2003 State of the Union address and launched in May 2003. TTIC integrates terrorist-threat related information, minimizing any seams between analysis of terrorism intelligence collected overseas and inside the United States, to form a comprehensive threat picture. On a daily basis, TTIC coordinates terrorist threat assessments with partner agencies, including DoD, DHS, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Central Intelligence Agency, and the Department of State.

DoD Relationship with the Department of Homeland Security

DoD focuses on and is responsible for homeland defense, which is the protection of United States territory, domestic population, and critical defense infrastructure *against external threats and aggression*. It also includes routine, steady-state activities designed to deter aggressors and to prepare U.S. military forces for action if deterrence fails. DHS, on the other hand, focuses on homeland security, which is defined in the 2002 National Strategy for Homeland Security as "a concerted national effort to prevent *terrorist attacks within* the United States, reduce the vulnerability of the United States to terrorism, and minimize the damage and assist in the recovery from terrorist attacks."

In simpler terms, the Defense Department provides the military defense of our nation from all attacks that originate from abroad, while DHS protects the nation against, and prepares for, acts of terrorism. DoD is organized and prepared, however, at the direction of the President and the Secretary of Defense, to play a vital role in support of the DHS mission.

As the Secretary of Defense's principal representative to the DHS, I have worked hard to build upon on our excellent working relationships throughout the Department of Homeland Security. We have nearly completed a memorandum of agreement with DHS,

under which DoD will continue to provide on a detail basis some sixty-four personnel to the Department of Homeland Security to fill critical specialties, principally in the areas of communications and intelligence. We have also established a 24/7 DoD presence in the DHS Homeland Security Operations Center with direct connectivity back to DoD for rapid response. Additionally, we established planning teams to assist the DHS Interagency Incident Management Group – a group of senior interagency officials focused on incident response. This year, we are also enhancing our partnership with DHS by establishing a DoD advisory and liaison office -- called the Homeland Defense Coordination Office -- within DHS headquarters.

In accordance with Section 1401 of Public Law 107-314, I serve as the “senior official of the Department of Defense to coordinate all Department of Defense efforts to identify, evaluate, deploy, and transfer to Federal, State, and local first responders technology items and equipment in support of homeland security.” In that capacity, I work closely with the DHS Under Secretary for Science and Technology.

Recent examples of technology transfer initiatives include: information-sharing systems, such as the Disaster Management Interoperability Services; biometrics identification technologies; ground sensors and their application in border security; and unmanned aerial vehicle experimentation. Additionally, new Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration (ACTD) efforts are underway that have the potential to deliver capabilities supporting both DoD missions abroad and DHS missions at home. These include the High Altitude Airship, a prototype untethered platform that could provide wide area surveillance and communications capabilities, and the Air Transportable Cargo screening ACTD, designed to detect explosive threats in pallet cargo loads moving through military transportation systems.

Finally, DoD invests nearly \$100 million yearly in the Technical Support Working Group (TSWG), a U.S. national forum that brings together over 85 federal agencies to identify, prioritize, and coordinate interagency and international research and development requirements for combating terrorism. The TSWG rapidly develops technologies and equipment to meet the high-priority needs of the combating terrorism community. These technologies typically are also applicable to first responders and other homeland security missions. DHS is now a partner in the TSWG.

Homeland Security Council

The President established the Office of Homeland Security (OHS) and the Homeland Security Council (HSC) on October 8, 2001 to develop and implement a comprehensive national strategy to secure the United States from terrorist threats. The Department of Defense coordinates with the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and staff as appropriate. The Secretary of Defense is, along with the President, Vice President, Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, and other Cabinet officials, a member of the HSC. DoD worked closely with the OHS from October 2001 to March 2003, and continues to do so with its successor, the HSC staff.

As the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense, I am DoD’s principal representative to the HSC staff and normally represent DoD at HSC principals and deputies committee meetings. My office represents DoD on the HSC’s inter-agency policy coordination committees (PCCs) and subordinate working groups, with the participation of other DoD offices as appropriate. From personal experience, I can attest that the HSC has become an effective forum for interagency communication on homeland security and homeland defense matters, including evaluation of terrorist threats and the development

of responses in a crisis environment. As one example, the HSC functioned effectively throughout the tense weeks of Code Orange alert during the December 2003 holiday season.

Defense Support to Civil Authorities

DoD has a long tradition of support to civil authorities, while maintaining its primary mission of fighting and winning the nation's wars. Since my last testimony, DoD has continued to lend necessary assistance to civil authorities when they were overwhelmed or faced with challenges necessitating the Department's unique capabilities. Last year we acted on 75 requests for assistance from more than 20 civilian agencies, including DHS, the Department of Justice, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Transportation, the Department of State, the National Air and Space Administration, the U.S. Marshals Service, and the National Interagency Fire Center.

To provide several brief examples of civil support activities last year, DoD provided emergency support in natural disasters such as Hurricane Isabel in September 2003 and the October 2003 California wildfires. During the January 2004 ricin incident on Capitol Hill, NORTHCOM's Joint Force Headquarters-National Capitol Region, in its first operational use, provided command and control of U.S. Marine Corps Chemical-Biological Incident Response Force assistance to the U.S. Capitol Police.

Conclusion

Throughout our history, U.S. military forces – active duty and reserves -- have defended our nation against its enemies on land, at sea, and in the air, adapting continuously to engage threats to our nation.

Today we face a challenge that is equal to or greater than any we have ever faced before. We must cope not only with the threats produced by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and missile technology among nation-states, but also with threats posed by individual terrorists and terrorist organizations with global reach.

Throughout DoD we are transforming, increasing our capabilities for warfighting and homeland defense on a daily basis, while continuing a long tradition of support to civil authorities. Homeland defense and homeland security are featured on Secretary Rumsfeld's top priorities list for this year. We intend to develop a comprehensive Homeland Defense Strategy for the 21st century. This strategy will support the National Security Strategy, the National Strategy for Homeland Security, and the updated Defense Strategy. It will also provide the framework for pursuing operational capabilities to prepare for tomorrow's challenges.

Mr. Chairman, I commend you and the members of this subcommittee for your continued interest, efforts, and support in the Department's homeland defense mission. The citizens of this nation, its institutions, and our brave men and women in uniform have repeatedly demonstrated the patriotism, toughness, innovation, determination, and resiliency to defeat our enemies while retaining our freedoms. There is no doubt in my mind that those capabilities will be tested against this newest enemy threat – nor is there any doubt that we will prevail.

**House Armed Services Committee
2120 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515**