



Chairman Charlie Dent

*Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs
House Committee on Appropriations*

**Oversight Hearing – Department of Veterans Affairs Office of the Inspector General
February 25, 2016
Opening Statement As Prepared**

I'm pleased to call to order our first hearing of the fiscal year 2017 cycle. What topic could be more appropriate to start with than oversight? Taking to heart Ranking Member Sanford Bishop's suggestion, today we're pleased to welcome the Deputy Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Linda Halliday. Ms. Halliday is a well-known figure to us since the IG's office has been very involved in investigating and auditing many of the VA problems that confront us in daily headlines. She is accompanied by Dr. John Daigh, of the Office of Healthcare Inspections.

Before we get underway, I want to remind Members of our traditional hearing rules. For those Members present in the room when I gavel in the beginning of the hearing, I will recognize you for questions in order of seniority, alternating between majority and minority. For those of you who arrive after the hearing has started, I will recognize you in order of arrival, alternating between majority and minority. This order will continue through all rounds of questioning. I intend to observe the five-minute rule for questions and answers. The goal is to have more opportunity for all of you to ask questions and hear from witnesses, so if we keep the proceedings moving, we stand a better chance of accomplishing that.

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