

**Chairman Wilson Opening Statement**  
**Impact of the Continuing Resolution, sequestration, and declining Operations and Maintenance budgets on military personnel and family related programs**

The hearing will come to order. The Subcommittee today will once again focus on the challenges of maintaining an all volunteer force in a budget constrained environment by looking at the impacts on military personnel and family related programs.

These programs, such as Morale, Welfare and Recreation; Child Care; Military Exchanges; Commissaries; and Family Services which include DOD Schools, are vital to maintaining the readiness of the military. Since most of these programs are staffed by civilians, the furloughing of military civilian personnel has a huge impact on these programs, to include our medical treatment facilities. Although the Department and the services have made commitments to minimize the impact a continuing resolution and sequestration will have on these programs, especially those impacting wounded warriors and families; there will be reductions and it will affect the daily lives of our servicemembers and their families, to include retirees.

The committee will hear from the witnesses on how the continuing resolution, sequestration and declining operations and maintenance accounts will impact the military personnel and family programs, which have been crucial for maintaining an all volunteer force during more than 10 years of war. Although the House has passed a Defense Appropriations bill for the remainder of Fiscal year 2013, the Senate has yet to do so and the threat of a year long CR is still there. It is a challenge for the services to manage these programs without a timely budget, and unfortunately CRs have become a norm.

I would like to welcome our distinguished witnesses:

**The Honorable Jessica L. Wright**

Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness

**Dr. Jonathan Woodson**

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs

**Lieutenant General Howard B. Bromberg**

Deputy Chief of Staff G-1  
Department of the Army

**Vice Admiral Scott R. Van Buskirk**

Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Manpower, Personnel, Training, and Education  
Department of the Navy

**Lieutenant General Robert E. Milstead, Jr**

Deputy Commandant, Manpower and Reserve Affairs  
United States Marine Corps

**Lieutenant General Darrell D. Jones**

Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services  
Department of the Air Force

Mrs. Davis, did you have any opening remarks?

Secretary Wright we will begin with your testimony. As a reminder please keep your statements to 3 minutes. We have your written statements for the record.