

**Opening Remarks
As Prepared For Delivery**

**Rep. Martha Roby
Chairman
Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee
Hearing entitled “The Quadrennial Defense Review: Process, Policy, and Perspectives”
February 26, 2013**

The Quadrennial Defense Review undertaken by the Pentagon every four years is an extraordinary effort.

It is a very important mechanism for our defense leaders to consider our nation’s long-term military strategy.

It is a way to attempt to match our defenses to the likely threats of the future.

Since the dissolution of the Soviet Union, a clear articulation of the U.S. defense strategy has become more challenging. In this period, the threats to the United States have become more varied and unpredictable. Clearly describing our national defense posture in an unstable world is the difficult task of the QDR.

The QDR process is just now beginning. Over the next year, Department of Defense officials will carefully consider how to approach the world and determine what resources and force structure are consequently needed. The Department has committed to come before us in coming months to learn more about how the effort is proceeding.

Today we will hear from three distinguished witnesses who are knowledgeable about past QDRs and defense strategy in general. They will testify about how the QDR process might be shaped and about broader strategic issues they believe the coming QDR should consider.

I hope this panel can help to clarify the principles on which a national defense strategy should be based, and how those involved in the current effort might approach their task.

In two months, we will mark the thirty-third anniversary of historic testimony before this subcommittee. In May 1980, the Chief of Staff of the Army, General Edward “Shy” Meyer coined the phrase “hollow Army” in describing the conditions of Army units deployed across the globe to Members of this subcommittee.

The world has changed tremendously in the intervening years. But, it remains dangerous. The 2014 QDR is meant to guide our planning as we anticipate the threats to the nation and the

forces we must maintain in response. We cannot return to the days of a “hollow Army.”

I thank the witnesses for their attendance today and look forward to hearing their testimony.

I now turn to my distinguished Ranking Member for any remarks Rep. Tsongas may wish to make.