

# U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

### 114<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS

## OVERSIGHT PLAN

This oversight plan is filed pursuant to clause 2(d) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives that requires that, not later than February 15 of the first session of a Congress, each standing committee of the House shall adopt its oversight plan for that Congress.

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# OVERSIGHT PLAN FOR THE 114TH CONGRESS

## INTRODUCTION

The oversight responsibilities of the Committee on Armed Services are conducted throughout the calendar year. They are instrumental in the committee's consideration of the annual defense authorization bill, which covers the breadth of the operations of the Department of Defense as well as the national security functions of the Department of Energy and other related areas. The annual national defense budget involves millions of military and civilian personnel, thousands of facilities, and hundreds of agencies, departments, and commands located throughout the world. Contingency operations related to the global war on terrorism will continue to expand the range of topics requiring committee oversight including strategic, operational, and budgetary issues of great scope and complexity.

The committee has jurisdiction over laws, programs, and agencies under permanent authority in numerous titles of the United States Code, including title 10 (Armed Forces), title 32 (National Guard), title 37 (Pay and Allowances of the Uniformed Services), title 41 (Public Contracts), title 42 (Atomic Energy), title 46 (Shipping), and title 50 (War and National Defense).

The jurisdiction of the committee, pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives is as follows:

1. Ammunition depots; forts; arsenals; Army, Navy, and Air Force reservations and establishments.
2. Common defense generally.
3. Conservation, development, and use of naval petroleum and oil shale reserves.
4. The Department of Defense generally, including the Departments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force generally.
5. Interoceanic canals generally, including measures relating to the maintenance, operation, and administration of interoceanic canals.
6. Merchant Marine Academy, and State Merchant Marine Academies.
7. Military applications of nuclear energy.
8. Tactical intelligence and intelligence related activities of the Department of Defense.
9. National security aspects of merchant marine, including financial assistance for the construction and operation of vessels, the maintenance of the U.S. shipbuilding and ship repair industrial base, cabotage, cargo preference, and merchant marine officers and seamen as these matters relate to national security.
10. Pay, promotion, retirement, and other benefits and privileges of members of the armed services.
11. Scientific research and development in support of the armed services.
12. Selective service.
13. Size and composition of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force.
14. Soldiers' and sailors' homes.

15. Strategic and critical materials necessary for the common defense.

16. Cemeteries administered by the Department of Defense.

In addition to its legislative jurisdiction and general oversight function, the committee has special oversight functions with respect to international arms control and disarmament and the education of military dependents in schools pursuant to clause 3(b) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

#### OVERSIGHT AGENDA

The committee will continue its oversight and assessment of threats to U.S. national security as it considers the fiscal year 2016 and fiscal year 2017 defense budget requests. This effort will involve appropriate oversight hearings with the Secretary of Defense; the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; the individual service secretaries and chiefs of staff; combatant commanders; other officials of the Department of Defense and the military departments; officials from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, Central Intelligence Agency, and other defense-related intelligence agencies; and the Secretary of Energy, the Under Secretary for Nuclear Security, and other officials of the Department of Energy. In addition, the committee will invite the views and perspectives of outside experts in academia, industry, associations and advocacy organizations, and those in private life with expertise on these matters. Finally, the committee will continue its aggressive outreach program to seek the views and perspectives of service members and their families to include Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve members across the United States and at deployed locations overseas.

The committee carries out its oversight of the Department of Defense and its subordinate departments and agencies as well as portions of the Department of Energy through activities involving the full committee and its standing subcommittees. Each subcommittee with assigned topical or programmatic responsibilities conducts oversight of the programs within its jurisdiction as specified in the committee's rules. Certain issues and activities requiring more extensive, lengthy, and in-depth review are assigned to the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. This subcommittee works with the relevant subcommittees (and/or full committee) in a coordinated manner to undertake the necessary oversight.

The oversight agenda below, unless otherwise noted, is designed to support the consideration by the committee and, ultimately, the House of Representatives of the annual defense authorization bill, as well as the committee's broader oversight responsibilities. The issues identified are expected to be ongoing areas of oversight activity throughout the 114th Congress. In addition, the committee will continue to pay particular attention to the mandates placed on executive departments and agencies. In this context, pursuant to clause 2(d)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the committee will continue to emphasize the examination of relevant rules, regulations, statutes, and court decisions affecting

the Department of Defense and the Department of Energy for their effects on efficiency and good management practices.

Given the unique nature of national security issues and related oversight of the Armed Forces, the committee believes that a qualifier is once again necessary with regard to the ability to plan comprehensively and predict all oversight activities. Much of the committee's most demanding oversight will be, by definition, event-driven and not subject to prior planning. Such events significantly complicate the ability to prescribe with great accuracy or specificity the committee's entire oversight agenda. For instance, the oversight of defense activities by the committee has historically involved in-depth assessments of military operations and other major events that are generally difficult to predict in advance, such as the recent operations in the Republic of Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic to counter the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, the war in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and responses to catastrophic events. In the 112th Congress, a significant portion of the committee's oversight agenda was dedicated to assessing the effects of defense sequestration, as a result of the Budget Control Act of 2011 (Public Law 112-25), which could not have been foreseen at the time the oversight plan for the 112th Congress was adopted. These reviews can dominate committee and staff resources, sometimes at the expense of other planned activities. The committee fully expects that this type of event-driven oversight will continue to be required.

The committee has a long tradition of translating oversight activities into prescriptive legislative action as reflected in past comprehensive efforts such as: providing for concurrent receipt of retirement and disability benefits for veterans with qualifying combat-related disabilities; the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-433); the Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act of 1991 (Public Law 101-510); the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-355); the establishment of the National Nuclear Security Administration and related reform of the management of the national security programs of the Department of Energy; the Military Commissions Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-366); the Wounded Warrior Assistance Act of 2007 included in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181); the Weapon System Acquisition Reform Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-23); the Implementing Management for Performance and Related Reforms to Obtain Value in Every Acquisition Act of 2010 (IMPROVE Acquisition Act of 2010), as included in the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (Public Law 111-383); the Small Business Innovative Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Reauthorization Act of 2011, as included in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112-81); and the application of additional sanctions against the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as included in both the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 and the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-39). In the 113th Congress, the committee's focused oversight of the sensitive military operations of the Department of Defense led to the

introduction of the bipartisan bill H.R. 1904, the Oversight of Sensitive Military Operations Act, in May 2013, much of which was included in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-76). Similarly, the committee's oversight series on the national security challenges in the Asia-Pacific in 2013 and 2014 led to the introduction of the bipartisan bill H.R. 4495, the Asia-Pacific Region Priority Act, portions of which were included in the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291). The committee will continue to oversee these and other prior legislative provisions in the 114th Congress. In general, the committee will continue to maintain a strong linkage between formal oversight efforts and legislative initiatives.

As previously noted, the committee has dedicated significant oversight to the examination of the implications of the Budget Control Act (BCA) of 2011 for national defense and defense sequestration. The committee will continue to oversee the Department of Defense's implementation of the planned budget cuts to ensure the military is responsibly applying cuts and continuing to invest in high priority national security requirements. Likewise, the committee will assess the effects of declining defense resources and sequestration on the health of the force and risk associated with executing the national defense strategy. While the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-67) provided some relief to defense by increasing the BCA discretionary spending caps for fiscal years 2014 and 2015, fiscal year 2016 will see a return to the BCA caps and defense sequestration. The committee shares the concern of the National Defense Panel that the BCA, on top of previous cuts to defense dating back to 2009, will "lead to a high risk force in the near future," have "caused significant shortfalls in U.S. military readiness and both present and future capabilities," and have prompted allies and adversaries alike "to question our commitment and resolve." The committee continues to oppose the sequester of national defense funding, and will continue to conduct oversight in the 114th Congress to highlight the consequences for the military, the defense industrial base, and national security, and to ensure that the damage to U.S. national security is mitigated to the greatest extent possible.

The committee has also focused on comprehensive defense reform, spanning such areas as acquisition, institutional, security, and strategy reforms. The committee recognizes that, in this austere budget environment, we must get more defense for the dollar and thus it is more essential than ever that all Department of Defense processes and institutions become as efficient as possible. The committee will oversee reforms efforts undertaken by the Department of Defense and, working in partnership with relevant stakeholders, will also develop reform proposals through its traditional legislative process and other appropriate mechanisms.

In addition to the above, the following specific areas and subjects are identified for special attention during the 114th Congress.

## POLICY ISSUES

## National Defense Strategy, National Military Strategy, and Related Defense Policy Issues

Recent events highlight what the National Defense Panel Review of the 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) has observed: "the United States faces perhaps the most complex and volatile security environment since World War II." These encompass the violence and brutality fomented by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant in the Republic of Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic; continued security challenges in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan; regional aggression by the Russian Federation; destabilizing actions by the People's Republic of China in the South and East China Seas; continued tensions on the Korean peninsula; continued terrorism threats, instability, and the spread of global extremism particularly across the Middle East and North Africa; natural disasters and epidemics like the Ebola virus; and the continued spread of lethal and disruptive technologies. These events and other security developments across the globe also serve to highlight the continued need for the U.S. military to be postured and capable of defending the Nation's interests and addressing security challenges, wherever and whenever they may arise.

Through its constitutional responsibility arising from article I, section 8, to raise and support armies and to provide and maintain a Navy, the committee has a responsibility to ensure that the military can meet its future missions, as well as today's operational requirements. The committee will closely review how the Department of Defense postures itself to meet these simultaneous, and oftentimes competing, demands: ongoing military operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria; ongoing global counterterrorism operations; strategic reassurance and deterrence activities in Europe and the Asia-Pacific; and ensuring that the Department invests in modernization and remains capable of addressing new conventional and unconventional challenges. Therefore, the committee will provide oversight to ensure that all Department activities, capabilities and functions, including doctrine, organization, training, education, exercises, materiel, leadership, personnel, facilities, and planning, appropriately reflect the need to meet the full range of security requirements.

The committee will continually evaluate the Nation's defense and military strategy, including the strategy outlined in the Department of Defense QDR released in 2014, to specifically include evaluating the alignment of the strategy to the security environment and the posture, capabilities, and resources necessary to execute the strategy. The committee will also evaluate other relevant strategies developed by the Department of Defense, including the military departments and services, defense agencies, and combatant commands. Additionally, the committee will consider strategic risk; put in simple terms, this means ensuring that U.S. forces retain the ability, regardless of present operational pressures and budgetary constraints, to deter any potential foe, respond to any contingency that threatens U.S. interests, and defeat any adversary who might threaten America's interests, in the worst case. In this regard, the committee will closely examine the Department

of Defense's range of assumptions about future threats made in strategy documents to assess the adequacy of forces and capabilities, the resources available, and the associated risk, particularly when these are misaligned.

While the committee understands that the annual defense budget must remain consistent with the caps contained in the Budget Control Act of 2011 (Public Law 112-25) and defense sequestration, it also continues to recognize the severe impacts these cuts have had, and will continue to have, on the military. The committee will continue to highlight these impacts and is committed to providing full authorization for the funding required for the readiness of the military, to enhance the quality of life of military service members and their families, to sustain and improve the Armed Forces, and to properly safeguard the national security of the United States.

Lastly, the committee will continue to seek inputs from non-government experts and independent entities, such as the National Defense Panel, which released its independent review of the 2014 QDR in July 2014. In addition, the committee will oversee the Department's implementation of a reformed Defense Strategy Review, as required in the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291).

### U.S. Military Effort in Afghanistan

The U.S. military effort in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has transitioned to training, advising, and assisting the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF), conducting counterterrorism operations against Al Qaeda, and executing force protection of U.S. personnel and facilities.

The committee will conduct robust oversight of the execution of the post-2014 missions in Afghanistan, including whether the proper resources are in place to support the post-2014 mission sets. The committee will also continue to examine the regional security environment, including efforts by the Afghans and the Pakistanis to deny safe havens to Al Qaeda, the Haqqani Network, and other jihadist organizations.

The committee will also continue to monitor other critical efforts in Afghanistan such as the effectiveness of the ANSF, as well as their ability to sustain operations and institutional requirements.

#### *Force Protection*

The committee will continue to emphasize force protection as a high priority issue for special oversight, with a particular focus on areas having a direct impact on the safety of military personnel engaged in the continued operations in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, as well as Operation Inherent Resolve. The committee will seek to expedite the promulgation of policies and the fielding of technology and equipment that prevents and/or reduces combat casualties, as well as meeting the urgent operational needs of the global combatant commands.

For all current overseas contingency operations, focus areas will continue to include but are not limited to: the policies for management and acquisition of counter improvised explosive device (IED) equipment throughout the force; persistent surveillance, particularly prevention of IED emplacement; actionable tactical intelligence processing, exploitation, and dissemination capabilities in support of ground operations; effective intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance equipment capabilities; capabilities to counter indirect fire such as artillery and mortar munitions; effective and properly resourced quantities of personnel protection equipment, to include body armor, night vision, combat helmets, and flame-resistant combat uniforms; vehicle armor, to include survivability improvements to the combat and tactical vehicle fleets; improving current biometric systems; and effective aircraft survivability equipment (ASE), specifically ASE for the current rotorcraft fleets.

During the 114th Congress, the committee will continue to provide robust oversight and monitoring of any "insider attacks" perpetrated by Afghan security forces against U.S. and coalition personnel in Afghanistan. Additionally, the committee will continue its oversight of the steps the Department of Defense is taking to understand, protect U.S. troops, and prevent such attacks, to include: the motive of such attacks; the tactics, techniques, and procedures leveraged by the attacker; the impact of the attacks the mission; and the procedures being taken to mitigate for and, to the maximum extent possible, prevent future "insider attacks."

### Operation Inherent Resolve

The U.S. and coalition forces continue to conduct operations against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). This effort is known as Operation Inherent Resolve. Presently, U.S. and coalition operations include an air campaign that is focused against ISIL in the Republic of Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic.

The committee will conduct oversight of this effort, including the effectiveness of the effort against ISIL, as well as the political and sectarian dynamics in both Iraq and Syria, which have, in part, fostered the context and political climate for ISIL to expand and grow.

In addition, the committee will closely monitor the stability of the countries in the region of Iraq and Syria and any growth or expansion of ISIL in the region. The committee will closely monitor any changes to the mission set of Operation Inherent Resolve and will conduct oversight of the efforts that are intended to complement Operation Inherent Resolve, including the activities of coalition nations, as well as the training and equipping of the Iraqi Security Forces and the vetted elements of the moderate Syrian opposition.

### *Authorization for Use of Military Force*

The committee will continue to examine the legal basis for the President's military actions against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). To date, the President has cited his Article II authority under the Constitution as well as

certain statutory authorities, including the 2001 Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF) and the 2002 AUMF.

The 114th Congress may consider an AUMF to authorize U.S. military operations against ISIL. The committee will examine those aspects of the AUMF relevant to its jurisdiction, including the integration of lessons learned from the implementation of the 2001 and 2002 AUMFs, as well as knowledge gained through oversight of Operation Inherent Resolve, to inform consideration of any new AUMF against ISIL.

### *Force Protection*

As previously discussed, the force protection of U.S. troops deployed in support of Operation Inherent Resolve will be a top priority for the committee. The committee is aware of the risks to U.S. forces in Iraq, including the potential for attacks against U.S. troops emanating from within the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) as well as from Shia militias, Iraqi tribes, and Iranian forces operating inside of Iraq. In addition to the matters previously described, the committee will closely monitor the contextual factors that may lead to a change in force protection posture for U.S. forces and will conduct close oversight of the steps that the Department of Defense is taking to protect and prevent any such attacks against U.S. forces in Iraq. Moreover, if the mission changes for U.S. forces deployed to Iraq, the committee will examine the force protection measures in conjunction with any change in mission.

### Global War on Terrorism

Since the 9/11 attacks, the United States has dealt Al Qaeda repeated and significant blows during the global war on terrorism. Despite many notable successes, Al Qaeda remains potent in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the organization's affiliates continue to operate in countries such as the Federal Republic of Somalia, the Republic of Yemen, and the Republic of Mali. The committee will continue to conduct extensive oversight, often in classified form, over terrorism issues, with particular attention to special operations capabilities, and the changing nature of Al Qaeda's organization and affiliates and their operations. The committee will also continue to focus on efforts to build partner nation counterterrorism and conventional warfare capabilities to counter these threats at the regional and local level. As the United States strengthens and builds partnership capacity with key allies around the globe, the committee will remain focused on the Department of Defense's efforts to aggressively fight the global war on terror and counter radicalism in places of concern, such as Pakistan, Yemen, the Horn of Africa, and threats posed by groups such as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. Ensuring security and stability in volatile regions that cannot adequately govern themselves or secure their own territory will remain a top priority for the committee.

## The Greater Middle East

The Greater Middle East remains an area of particular focus for the committee in the 114th Congress. This geographic area includes countries in which the United States has invested, and continues to invest, significant military resources. Al Qaeda, its affiliates, its associated organizations, and other jihadist organizations continue to leverage certain countries within this region to conduct operational planning and to serve as launch points for attacks against the United States, its allies and partners, and U.S. interests. As a result, the committee will continue to conduct oversight of U.S. defense policies, readiness, and military programs in this region.

### *Islamic Republic of Pakistan*

The committee will continue its oversight of the broad range of security issues involving the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and, given the transition of the U.S. military effort in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, will continue to carefully review the use of Coalition Support Funds, which are provided to reimburse Pakistan for its support to U.S. military operations and security assistance. The committee will monitor the security and stability of Pakistan; including the security of Pakistan's nuclear weapons, Pakistan's on-going and future nuclear weapon projects, and its willingness and operational capacity to combat key terrorist groups, such as Al Qaeda, the Afghan and Pakistani Taliban, the Haqqani network, and other terrorist organizations. Moreover, the committee will evaluate the terrorist activity emanating from the border area between Pakistan and Afghanistan, and will conduct oversight of the Department of Defense's efforts to combat that threat.

### *Republic of Iraq*

The U.S. military posture, strategy, and approach has changed significantly within the Republic of Iraq, including the on-going U.S. military air campaign against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, known as Operation Inherent Resolve, and the effort to re-train and re-build the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF). The committee will conduct robust oversight of Operation Inherent Resolve, as well as the entirety of the U.S. military effort in Iraq, including the Office of Security Cooperation in Iraq.

The committee will focus its oversight on key aspects of the U.S. military effort in Iraq such as any change in the employment of U.S. military forces, the effectiveness of the air campaign, the effort to train and equip the ISF, and the political situation in Iraq, which is critical to the success of any U.S. military effort there.

### *Islamic Republic of Iran*

The committee will continue its oversight into the development of nuclear weapons, and/or nuclear weapons capability, by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. During the 114th Congress, the committee will continue to monitor the threat posed by a nuclear, or nuclear-capable, Iran.

The committee will monitor the implementation of the Joint Plan of Action (JPOA) between the P5+1 (the United States of America, the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the French Republic, and the Federal Republic of Germany) and Iran, including Iran's fulfillment of its commitments under the JPOA, as well as any changes to Iran's nuclear program under the JPOA. Additionally, the committee will conduct close examination of any potential "comprehensive" or "final" agreement between the P5+1 and Iran. The committee will also conduct oversight of the full range of U.S. military planning, prepositioning of military assets, and operations to counter Iran's nuclear program should the P5+1 negotiations fail.

Finally, the committee will continue to monitor the strategic orientation, operational capacity, and goals of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps. The committee also will focus its attention towards Iran's Quds Force, including the activities of the Quds Force in the Syrian Arab Republic, the Republic of Iraq, and the region.

### *Syrian Arab Republic*

The committee will continue its inquiry into the evolving security and humanitarian situation inside the Syrian Arab Republic as well as effects of the ongoing conflict on its neighbors, including the Republic of Turkey, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Republic of Iraq, and the Lebanese Republic. Additionally, the committee will conduct robust oversight of U.S. and coalition military operations in Syria against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant as part of Operation Inherent Resolve. The committee will also conduct inquiry into the U.S. policy and approach against the Assad regime, as it remains a key feature of the conflict in Syria and is consistently highlighted as an area of concern by countries in the region that are part of the coalition. Furthermore, the committee will continue to focus on the movement of jihadists to and from Syria, including the capacity and relative strength of the terrorist groups.

Finally, the committee will conduct oversight of the effort to train and equip the moderate elements of the vetted Syrian opposition and will continually monitor the deployment and positioning of military personnel and resources to the region to address this issue set.

### *Republic of Yemen*

The security situation in the Republic of Yemen will continue to be a significant focus for the committee. The committee will maintain its oversight of the U.S. military's counterterrorism activities in Yemen. The committee will examine the capability, capacity, and strategy of Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula

to conduct transnational terrorist attacks as well as the overall political situation in Yemen, including the status of the Houthis and the southern secessionist movement in Yemen.

## The Continent of Africa

As discussed in greater detail below, the committee will maintain its oversight focus on Department of Defense activities in Africa. Additionally, the committee will continue to closely examine the Department's coordination within the interagency to address the range of activities that are occurring in Africa.

### *North Africa*

The committee will continue to conduct oversight of the evolving security situation in North Africa, including the failure of the State of Libya, the security challenges in the Arab Republic of Egypt, the tenuous security situation in the Republic of Mali, and the evolving nature of Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and the growth of other jihadist groups in this region.

The committee will focus its oversight on the Department of Defense's implementation of the lessons learned from the Benghazi attack within this region and beyond, including, but not limited to, interagency coordination, positioning of military assets, threat perception, threat analysis, intelligence cycle, intelligence sharing, operational coordination, and crisis response.

### *East Africa*

The committee will continue to provide oversight of the Department of Defense's efforts to counter the terrorist threats in East Africa. In particular, the committee will remain focused on the threat from Al Shabaab, as well as the steps that the Department is taking to counter this group and prevent it from launching transnational terrorist attacks on the United States, its allies and partners, or its interests.

Moreover, the committee will continue to monitor the overlapping ideological, strategic, and operational coordination between Horn of Africa terrorist groups, such as Al Shabaab, and terrorist groups on the Arabian Peninsula, such as Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula.

### *West Africa*

The committee will continue its oversight of the terrorist group Boko Haram (BH). The committee will pay particular attention to the continuing ideological, strategic, and operational evolution of BH. The committee also will concentrate its attention on the geographic overlap and operational coordination with other terrorist groups on the Continent of Africa, such as Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and Al Shabaab.

Also, as the Department of Defense continues to conduct Operation United Assistance to address the Ebola virus in West Africa, the committee will continue its close oversight of the operation and will closely monitor any expansion of the U.S. mission therein.

### *Central Africa*

The committee will continue its oversight of the Department of Defense's activities to support the Uganda Peoples' Defense Force and other national militaries with approximately 100 special operation forces to counter the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and apprehend or remove Joseph Kony. Additionally, the committee will examine the Department of Defense's transition plans for the counter-LRA effort.

### Europe

While the stability and security of Europe remain core U.S. national interests, increased pressures on Europe's eastern and southern borders due to recent aggressive actions by the Russian Federation, the ongoing civil war in the Syrian Arab Republic, and the rise of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant demonstrate that regional stability and security are not guaranteed. The committee will monitor and conduct oversight of U.S. military policy and strategy with regards to European allies and partners, including the capability and capacity of U.S. and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) forces to respond to threats that challenge both regional U.S. national interests and the security of NATO allies.

The U.S. military force presence in Europe has declined dramatically since the end of the Cold War. The recent withdrawal of two of the four Army Brigade Combat Teams has further reduced U.S. military presence in Europe. Nevertheless, there remain significant advantages that come from European-based U.S. troops, including the opportunity to train regularly with ally and partner forces at U.S. training centers in Europe and the ability to plan and launch operations elsewhere in the region. The committee will examine all overseas basing, including the European Infrastructure Consolidation review, to determine what is the most effective overseas force posture for our national security at the lowest possible cost.

European allies are strong partners with the U.S. military, contributing to a range of regional and global missions, including deploying approximately 3,000 personnel to the NATO-led Operation Resolute Support mission in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to train, advise, and assist the Afghan security forces. However, the continuing constrained fiscal environment has created pressures on the region's militaries, their defense budgets, and investments in future capabilities. Recent Russian aggression towards Ukraine and its neighbors requires both the United States and European allies to re-evaluate the current regional security threats and the capabilities and capacities required to deter and defeat those threats. The NATO 2014 Wales Summit declaration reaffirmed the alliance's commitment to "the security of its members through collective defense."

NATO allies also reaffirmed their commitment to “strengthen the military capabilities the Alliance needs” and the need to continue to “invest in modern and deployable armed forces that can operate effectively together and at a high level of readiness to fulfill NATO’s tasks.”

The committee will focus on the U.S. military capabilities and posture required in the European theater, and how those fit within the existing and future NATO requirements and structure. The committee will conduct oversight of the European Reassurance Initiative, as authorized in the the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291) in order to ensure the U.S. military is postured and resourced to effectively reassure European allies and partners and deter further Russian aggression.

### *Russian Federation*

Recent aggression by the Russian Federation towards Ukraine in 2014, including the illegal annexation of Crimea in March 2014, demonstrate that Russia, under President Vladimir Putin, has fundamentally challenged the vision of a Europe whole, free, and at peace. Russia’s continued support to separatists in Ukraine poses a threat to the long-term stability of Ukraine and the wider region. Russia’s demonstrated willingness and capability to engage in unacknowledged hybrid warfare in Ukraine presents a threat to its other neighbors, including North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies such as the Baltic nations and the Republic of Poland, and to international rules and respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty. The committee will examine Russian military capabilities and capacities, and the required U.S. and NATO military capabilities to deter and defend against Russian aggression, as well as to reassure European allies and partners. The committee will also carefully review the appropriate Department of Defense resources and tools to build the capacity of Ukraine and other NATO allies and partners to deter further Russian aggression.

Russia remains focused on reforming and modernizing its conventional forces, including the recruitment, training, and retention of its troops, and modernizing its nuclear forces. In parallel with this modernization effort, Russia has also failed to comply with several arms control treaties important for European stability and security. Since December 2007, Russia has ceased implementing its obligations to the Conventional Forces in Europe treaty, which include providing annual notifications and data on military forces and basing. In 2014, the Administration formally declared Russia in violation of the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty. The committee will closely watch these actions, coupled with Russia’s changes to its military doctrine in late-2014 that identify NATO as a top threat to Russian security, and seek countervailing solutions to prevent Russia from destabilizing or undermining regional security. The committee will also examine Russia's military modernization of its conventional forces and its hybrid warfare

capabilities, including its activities intended to destabilize or undermine regional stability.

## Asia

The committee will continue its oversight of the Department of Defense's implementation of the Administration's government-wide policy to "rebalance" to the Asia-Pacific region. In particular, the committee will continue to monitor the Department of Defense's strategy, force posture, capability needs, and readiness in the region, to ensure that U.S. forces are properly resourced and postured to protect U.S. national security interests.

Developments in the past few years continue to highlight the security challenges in the Asia-Pacific region. The People's Republic of China continues its unilateral efforts to assert regional influence, particularly in the South and East China Seas, while also continuing "at a fast pace" its military modernization in areas such as anti-access and area denial capabilities, power projection, nuclear forces, space, cyber, and other advanced technology areas, according to the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea remains a threat to stability on the Korean peninsula and the United States as it continues to advance its nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities, to include taking steps towards fielding its road-mobile intercontinental ballistic missile that poses a direct threat to the United States, and expand its asymmetric capabilities recently exemplified by its destructive cyber attack on a western corporation. The committee will continue to monitor these and other emerging developments to inform its views and actions to shape U.S. national security policy, strategy, and defense investments for the region.

These security challenges have led the United States to strengthen its relationships with traditional treaty allies while also forging new relationships, particularly with partners in southeast Asia. The committee will continue to closely oversee the Department of Defense's efforts to implement a range of posture, force structure, and engagement initiatives in the region, including rotational deployments of Marines, naval, and air assets; forward pre-positioning; infrastructure realignments; and training and exercises. Specific examples include: the realignment of U.S. forces based in Japan; key operational control transition initiatives between U.S. Forces Korea and the Republic of Korea; trilateral defense cooperation efforts between the U.S., the Republic of Korea, and Japan; rotational deployments of U.S. forces to the Commonwealth of Australia; enhanced defense cooperation with the Republic of the Philippines; and a defense trade and technology initiative between the U.S. and the Republic of India.

## Central and South America

The committee will examine the issues affecting the U.S. security in Central and South America, as many nations in this region increasingly face the dangers of illicit trafficking, political turmoil, and instability that pose a potential

threat to the homeland. The committee will oversee the execution of the military's security assistance programs in the Republic of Colombia, as it continues to improve its national security and make progress on peace talks with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. The committee remains concerned about the political situation in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the instability it brings to the region. Additionally, the committee will focus on the growing economies in the region, such as the Federative Republic of Brazil, which is the region's largest and fastest-growing economy, and will examine their influence both in the Western Hemisphere and globally. In addition, the committee is concerned with the ongoing instability in Central America, including the Republic of Honduras, the Republic of Guatemala, and the Republic of El Salvador, due to the influence of transnational organized crime. The committee will monitor the developing changes between the U.S. and the Republic of Cuba and any potential impacts on Department of Defense policies and operations. The committee continues to monitor potential threats from global terrorist organizations such as Al Qaeda, Hezbollah, and the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps, who have increasing influence in the region.

The committee recognizes the importance of the United States' relationship with its Central and South American neighbors and the ability of these partners to bring safety and security to the hemisphere.

### Addressing Emerging Threats

Terrorism, insurgency, and weapons of mass destruction proliferation are some of the emerging threats that challenge national security and global peace and stability. These threats require the Department of Defense and the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) within the Department of Energy to work effectively and efficiently with other Federal agencies and the governments of other nations. The committee will conduct oversight of numerous cross-cutting Department of Defense activities central to addressing these emerging and unforeseen threats, including the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, counterinsurgency, counterterrorism, security force assistance, and building partnership capacity (BPC), all of which received renewed emphasis in the 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review.

The committee will focus attention on how the Department of Defense addresses these broad threats in its strategic planning processes, how resources are arrayed to meet these threats, and how existing authorities are consistent with operational requirements. While there are roughly a dozen authorities that fall into the BPC category, two of the most significant authorities have been modified recently. These are the train and equip "1206", codified in the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291), and the Global Security Contingency Fund. Since 2006, the committee has been increasingly active in this area, and the last several National Defense Authorization Acts have reflected what Congress considers to be the appropriate balance of providing sufficient authority for the most pressing needs of

the Department of Defense while encouraging a more integrated interagency approach to building partnership capacity. Furthermore, the committee will continue to closely monitor and assess the execution of these BPC authorities, both during the initial congressional notification process and while those programs are in progress. The committee will also conduct oversight of the Counter Terrorism Partnership Fund allocations towards BPC activities.

The committee will also focus attention on the Defense of Defense Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) program and the NNSA Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation (DNN) activities. The CTR program has changed since it was initially authorized in the Soviet Nuclear Threat Reduction Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-228; also known as the Nunn-Lugar Act). Originally focused on securing and dismantling weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their associated infrastructure in former Soviet Union states, the CTR mission has since expanded to a global focus on protecting against WMD, including increased emphasis on chemical and biological weapons, and improving detection capabilities. The committee will conduct oversight of the updated CTR legislation in the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291). The committee, along with the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, will continue to focus on NNSA DNN strategy and activities to counter the threat of the global proliferation of nuclear weapons.

The committee, as well as the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities (given the key role Special Operations Forces play in this area), will continue its oversight of the full range of emerging threats to national security and U.S. military forces, and the capabilities needed to respond.

#### Detainee Policy, Military Commissions, and Related Matters

The Department of Defense continues to be the custodian of detainees who are being held in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and United States Naval Station (GTMO), Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

With regard to detainee operations in Afghanistan, the committee will primarily focus on the transfer and release of third country national detainees and cases of recidivism. The committee will specifically focus on the disposition of detainees who pose a continuing national security threat to the United States.

With respect to detention operations at GTMO, the committee will continue to monitor transfer and release policies and practices, as well as the use of the Military Commissions Act (Public Law 109-366; Public Law 111-84) that established the current legal framework governing the operation of military tribunals to try detainees for war crimes and codified some of the procedural rights of GTMO detainees.

The committee will also focus on issues relating to detention policy for future captures, detainee interrogations, prioritization of intelligence collection, procedures for detainee reviews, conditions of confinement, and the Department's

role in the High Value Interrogation Group. The committee will also take other necessary actions and conduct related oversight.

## Intelligence

In the 114th Congress, the committee will continue to monitor the reorganization of the intelligence community through implementation of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-458) and the creation of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence position as authorized by the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107-314). The committee will also place particular attention on: resource allocation for intelligence-related programs for effectiveness and affordability; defense intelligence strategies and policies in consideration of current and anticipated future threats; organization and management of the elements of the Department of Defense that are part of the intelligence community; and the consideration and prioritization of defense intelligence requirements across the intelligence community. Additionally, the committee will monitor the Department's security practices, audit capabilities, and information-sharing policies following recent extensive unauthorized disclosures of classified information. All of the committee's efforts will be focused on ensuring the highest possible quality of intelligence support to the warfighter.

Finally, the committee will continue to coordinate with the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence on intelligence and counterintelligence matters of the Department of Defense, and intelligence and counterintelligence activities of the Department of Energy in the course of its annual oversight of the intelligence community and the authorization of appropriations for intelligence activities shared by the two committees.

## National Guard and Reserves

The debate that began during the 112th Congress about the most appropriate force structure mix of Active and Reserve Components, about the proper roles and missions of the Reserve Components, be they an operational or strategic reserve, and about the affordability of the required force to meet national security requirements will intensify again in the 114th Congress. Competition among the Active and Reserve Components for diminishing resources will serve as a catalyst for that debate.

The Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291) included provisions that commission GAO to study the appropriate balance between the Active force and the Guard. National Guard end strength reductions, as well as the redistribution of important Guard aviation assets are blocked in fiscal year 2015. This provision allows Congress time to study the issue in-depth.

Building on the outcomes of the National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force report, in the 114th Congress the committee will continue its review of

the various recommendations and proposals and monitor proposed changes to ensure the recommendations will meet the National Military Strategy requirements, as well as homeland security and disaster requirements. Given the uncertainty of the current and projected fiscal environment, the availability of equipment needed to sustain and modernize the National Guard and Reserve Components as an operational reserve and for their domestic support missions, to include legacy aircraft as part of the Aerospace Control Alert mission, remains a concern. The committee will also focus oversight efforts on current equipment investment strategies for the National Guard and Reserve Components with particular emphasis on affordability and modernization of critical dual-use equipment platforms that are essential to the National Guard's title 32 mission, defense support to civil authorities. Furthermore, the committee will continue to monitor and evaluate the obligation and execution rates of funds provided as part of a separate procurement account, entitled the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account that would be used to address equipment shortfalls for the National Guard and Reserve Components.

## FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND EFFICIENCY

### Overview

The committee is responsible not only for ensuring that the U.S. military has the capabilities required to preserve our national security, but also to ensure that the Department of Defense operates efficiently and with fiscal discipline in order to maximize the return on the taxpayers' investments. To that end, the committee will conduct oversight of the organization and management of the Department of Defense, its business operations, and the means by which the Department acquires goods and services. Acquisition programs that no longer represent the best value for the taxpayer, due to a changing security environment, mismanagement, or the time required to deliver a useful capability to the warfighter, will be re-evaluated by the committee as part of the annual defense authorization process.

Moreover, the committee will continue to examine the impacts of declining national defense budgets, as a result of the Budget Control Act of 2011 (Public Law 112-25) as modified by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-67). These cuts will reduce military end strength, force structure, and significantly alter planned procurements. Pursuant to clause 2(d)(1)(F) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, as the committee examines the impact of these funding reductions, the committee will cut or eliminate programs, including mandatory spending programs, that are deemed inefficient, duplicative, outdated, or more appropriately administered by State or local governments.

Additional plans for oversight in this area during the 114th Congress follow below.

### Organization and Management of the Department of Defense

As part of the committee's emphasis on defense reform, it will provide particular focus on the organization and management of the Department of Defense in order to ensure that it is properly postured to meet the complex and evolving security threats of the 21st century. Declining resources resulting from the Budget Control Act of 2011 (Public Law 112-25) and defense sequestration are driving the Department of Defense to reevaluate its organization and management structure to identify cost savings. The Department continues to implement organizational and management changes within the Department's major headquarters resulting from the announcement by the Secretary of Defense in July 2013 to identify cost savings through management efficiencies and overhead reductions.

The committee will carefully review any proposed organizational changes and monitor the Department's implementation of these changes, working to ensure that the missions of the Department are appropriately aligned with organizations that have the core competency to perform them. The committee will also work to ensure that the Department's enterprise, including the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Staff, the military departments, the combatant commands, and the defense agencies, operate efficiently, cutting out organizational waste and redundancy. To that end, the committee will seek to ensure that any reductions in personnel are done smartly and strategically, and in consideration of the total workforce management.

Lastly, pursuant to clause (2)(p) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the committee will also carefully review issues raised by the Comptroller General of the United States indicating that programs or operations that the committee may authorize are at high risk for waste, fraud, and mismanagement, known as the "high-risk list" or the "high-risk series."

### Financial Management

The committee will continue to oversee military effectiveness in this era of declining budgets. Funding levels have been stagnant for national defense over the last 3 fiscal years, and under the Budget Control Act of 2011 (Public Law 112-25), fiscal year 2016 will only be \$5 billion higher than the level appropriated in fiscal year 2013, resulting in an increase of less than 1 percent over the 3-year span.

The Comptroller General of the United States has consistently identified the Department of Defense's financial management as a high-risk area since 1995. The Department's inability to track and account for billions of dollars in funding and tangible assets continues to undermine its financial management systems. It also creates a lack of transparency that significantly limits congressional oversight.

Measures to reform defense acquisition or to find efficiencies within the Department are undermined by the Department's inability to produce auditable financial statements. Without these objective tools, neither the Department nor Congress can fully verify that greater value is being created.

The committee will continue to review efforts to implement the Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness (FIAR) plan as the Department moves to

accomplish auditable financial statements by September 30, 2017, as mandated by the National Defense Authorization Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-84). The committee will monitor closely the interdependencies between the FIAR plan and the hundreds of millions of dollars per year being spent on business systems modernization programs that the Department has proposed to address its financial management problems.

## Acquisition Issues

### *The Acquisition System and Acquisition Policy*

Over the past 50 years, acquisition reform efforts focused primarily on identifying the failures of the acquisition system, a complex system which includes requirements setting, funding, and execution. While some progress has been made, the conditions in the early 1980s described by Dr. J. Ronald Fox in his seminal work on acquisition reform, "Defense Acquisition Reform 1960 - 2009: An Elusive Goal," could still be used to describe the system today:

"Congressional critics, for example, blasted the services for rampant cost growth and schedule slippages. Aggressively pushing the frontiers of technology prompted cost overruns, they argued, while fierce inter-service competition for funds encouraged overly optimistic program cost estimates. The services, meanwhile, complained about excessive paperwork and reporting procedures required by the ... milestone reviews; micromanagement of weapons programs by OSD and Congress; and unrealistic demands for accurate cost estimates, especially when unknowns existed in the early stages of weapons program planning. Program managers directed similar criticisms at both OSD and the services, while OSD criticized the services for failing to restrict the number of weapon systems competing for limited resources. Other service shortcomings, according to OSD, included inadequate support and readiness for fielded weapons systems and lengthy acquisition cycles. Industry directed its frustrations across the board—at OSD, Congress, and the services. Program instability—caused by sudden production starts and stops, program stretch-outs, redirections, and long decision times—threatened the bottom line and risked financial ruin, while micromanagement and excessive surveillance of programs by OSD and the services disrupted efficient contractor performance. Industry representatives also believed that OSD's emphasis on increasing price competition among contractors resulted in poor cost realism."

The committee is concerned that the current system incentivizes a reality that too many defense acquisitions concurrently chase finite dollars. This is reflected in the fact that there remains a vast difference between Department of Defense budgets and the reality of the cost of the weapon systems they acquire. To keep weapon system programs alive, the Department continues to develop, and Congress continues to accept, fragile acquisition strategies that downplay technical issues and assume only successful outcomes to high risk efforts. As a result, the

Nation often ends up with too few weapons, delivered late, at too high of a cost, with performance that falls short, and that are difficult and costly to maintain.

In addition to challenges in weapon systems procurement, the committee notes that Department expenditures for contracted services have grown in magnitude and face many management and oversight challenges. The Department currently obligates more than half of its total contract obligations on contracted services. However, Pentagon leadership, to include the Department's own comptroller, have limited insight into the services being acquired and even less awareness of the services that may need to be acquired in the future. The Department currently lacks accurate and reliable data on contracted services, and the military departments and defense agencies have failed to develop processes to use available data to inform workforce planning, workforce mix, and budget decision making. This lack of data collection, failure to analyze data that has been acquired, and lack of general transparency hamper budget planning and Congressional decision-making.

Furthermore, the conventional acquisition process has proven to not be sufficiently agile to support warfighter demands. Congress and the Department have consistently expressed concern that urgent warfighting requirements for hardware, as well as services, are not being met. As a result, several authorities have been put in place for rapid acquisition practices envisioned to work around the general acquisition processes. However, many still argue that the current processes are so rigid and time-consuming that the Department is often not able to effectively tap into the innovation occurring in the commercial marketplace, thereby losing opportunities to improve efficiency and effectiveness of both its business operations and warfighting capability.

The committee's ongoing acquisition improvement efforts seek to enhance oversight in these areas and to improve processes via a different approach from previous efforts. The committee seeks to improve the environment (i.e., human resources, culture, statutes, regulations, and processes) driving acquisition choices in the Department, industry, and Congress. As part of this ongoing effort, the committee solicited input from industry, academia, and the Department, as well as others during the 113th Congress, and will continue to engage these stakeholders during the 114th Congress. In addition, the committee held a series of hearings in the 113th Congress in order to gather testimony from key acquisition leaders and experts. While the committee recognizes that there are no "silver bullet" reform packages that can immediately fix the current acquisition system in a holistic manner, the committee intends to take the inputs it has received to facilitate its efforts in this area in the 114th Congress. The committee recognizes this effort will be an iterative process that will result in direct oversight and will be embedded in the committee's regular work throughout the 114th Congress.

*Defense Industrial Base and Technology Transfers*

The committee will continue to closely examine the health, security, and innovative capacity of the defense industrial base, especially in light of sequestration, changes to the defense strategy, and the needs for recapitalization and modernization after almost a decade and a half of active combat operations in forward locations. The industrial base for complex major weapons systems has become more fragile during this period, limiting the ability of the Department of Defense to control costs and encourage innovation through the use of competition. Industry has also struggled in many cases to make the long-term investments that are vital to the health of the defense industrial base. The committee will continue to examine and enhance the policies and funding tools available to the Department to facilitate the health of the defense industrial base.

### *Information Technology and Business Systems*

Information technology (IT) systems are critical enablers for the Department of Defense. As the IT budget represents nearly \$32 billion of the Department of Defense's total budget, it also represents a major investment area requiring the same rigorous planning, analysis, and oversight as any other complex major weapon system. The Department recognized this area as a source of greater efficiencies and has managed to reduce spending in IT by several billion dollars across the Future Years Defense Program. It remains to be seen if these reductions are driving any real change in how the Department does business, or whether those reductions are made with any strategic plan in mind.

The committee will continue to review the Department's IT investment planning and review processes, as well as specific acquisitions, to improve the ability to identify and reduce unwarranted duplication and eliminate programs of little value to the warfighter. The committee will pay particular attention to how the Department leverages the commercial marketplace, as well as the various IT systems of the Department where egregious programmatic failures have been made to provide lessons for future acquisitions. The committee also plans to focus on how the IT investments of the Department will contribute to future warfighting capability, and support a defensible architecture that is resilient to cyber attacks, while maintaining the command and control to support mission needs.

## READINESS

### Reset

The committee will continue to monitor the military services' reset strategies to repair, recapitalize, and replace equipment used in ongoing operations, and will also closely monitor progress toward complete reconstitution of prepositioned stocks. The committee believes that full reset remains at risk in a constrained budget environment. Subsequently, the committee will provide oversight of ongoing property accountability and remaining retrograde efforts aimed at returning equipment with remaining military value to home station or in-theater

re-utilization. Further, the committee will continue to monitor the disposition of non-standard equipment returning from the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to ensure that important items are incorporated into units' tables of equipment, are budgeted for and sustained properly, and that items no longer of military utility are disposed of in the most cost-effective manner possible. The committee will also continue to reexamine reset objectives and requirements in light of a draw-down in total force end strength and several previously unanticipated contingencies.

### Force Readiness

In the 114th Congress, the committee will hold force readiness as one of its highest priorities and will continue its oversight in this area, focusing not only on the readiness of deployed personnel supporting ongoing operations worldwide, but also on the ability of the services to generate ready and trained forces for unforeseen contingencies, including full-spectrum combat missions should the need arise. Shortfalls in full-spectrum readiness have improved as operational tempo has slowed in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, the most acute equipment and personnel shortfalls have been addressed, and time at home station has increased, allowing for a return to full-spectrum training. However, challenges in key areas, such as U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Southern Command, still exist, namely in the capacity to provide the ready and trained forces needed by these and other geographic combatant commanders. Therefore, the committee will closely monitor how planned and potential additional end strength reductions will impact force readiness. Further, the committee will continue its oversight of the Department of Defense's efforts to prepare for a wider range of possible contingencies and its efforts to restore readiness in key combat support areas such as logistics, prepositioned stocks, and contracted service support.

### Life-Cycle Sustainment

Without appropriate and timely input from the logistics community, decisions made during system design can create unnecessary sustainment problems that drive millions of dollars in depot-level maintenance once the system is fielded. The committee will focus on reducing the total-ownership costs of weapons systems and equipment by ensuring the Department of Defense is developing, procuring, and modernizing weapons systems and equipment with consideration of life-cycle support and sustainment requirements and cost. In its oversight of the Department's life-cycle sustainment efforts, the committee will monitor the implementation of section 2337 of title 10, United States Code, which requires that each major weapons system be supported by a product support manager and section 832 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112-81), which requires additional visibility of the operation and support of major weapon systems. The committee will also hold the Department accountable for improving its estimations of total weapon system life-cycle costs to better inform sustainment strategies, such as the cost effectiveness of acquiring technical data

from original equipment manufacturers to allow future changes in sustainment path. Furthermore, the committee will continue its oversight of the Department's corrosion control efforts and will monitor resourcing of corrosion prediction and prevention efforts with a focus on increasing the service life of weapons systems while reducing long-term sustainment costs.

### Depot and Arsenal Capability

A critical piece of equipment sustainment is the capability provided by the Nation's organic arsenals and depots, including air logistics centers and shipyards. The committee is concerned about the health of the organic industrial base in an extended period of declining workload with the formal end of combat operations in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the completion of Republic of Iraq combat operations-related equipment reset. While some military departments have completed an organic industrial base sustainment plan, the committee is concerned that the Department of Defense continues to lack a comprehensive strategy to ensure U.S. military depots and arsenals are viably positioned and have the workforce, equipment, and facilities for efficient operations to meet the Nation's current requirements, as well as those in the future. The committee will continue oversight of depot and arsenal operations and management, focusing on capital investment in facilities and equipment, the implementation methodology and use of sustainment concepts such as performance-based logistics, the role of public-private partnerships, the use of working capital funds for timely product improvement, and the services' logistics enterprise resource planning systems. Furthermore, the committee will examine how previous efficiency initiatives and workforce reductions impact depot and arsenal capability, how more recent initiatives to increase arsenal and depot visibility among program managers and program executive offices are working, and how well programs and plans designed to assure the availability of critical organic manufacturing capabilities are being executed.

### Civilian Personnel

The committee will continue to oversee the development of the Department of Defense's strategic workforce plan for its civilian personnel and other initiatives aimed at ensuring that the Department has the human capital required both now and in the future to expertly and capably achieve its critical national security mission. The committee has been particularly concerned about the impact of budget cuts, furloughs, hiring freezes, and lack of training opportunities that have negatively impacted morale and led to an adverse working environment for the Department's almost 800,000 Federal employees. Finally, the committee will focus extensive oversight on workforce sourcing decisions, transparency, and personnel system reform.

### Energy and Environment

An effective energy strategy for the Department of Defense will increase the operational effectiveness of the military and will enhance the Nation's national and energy security. Therefore, the committee will review the energy strategies promulgated by the Department of Defense and will monitor the Department's energy use on military installations, for military training and operations, as well as opportunities to reduce energy demand through cost-effective investments that enhance combat capability and demonstrate a return on investment.

The committee will also continue its oversight of the Department of Defense and military services' environmental programs and will monitor Department of Defense funding and adherence to Federal, state, and local requirements for cleanup, compliance, and pollution prevention. Specifically, the committee will continue oversight to protect Department of Defense training, testing, and operations from encroachment.

## MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

### Basing

The Department of Defense is undergoing a significant change in force structure both in the United States and overseas. These changes are being implemented to enhance operational efficiencies and ensure access to future contingency operations. The committee will continue to review all significant domestic and overseas basing proposals to ensure that these proposals adhere to existing statutory limitations. The committee will continue discussions with the Department of Defense and military departments on excess infrastructure capacity associated with military installations to ensure excess infrastructure capacity assessments are based on current infrastructure data and informed by current force structure projections.

### Military Construction Programming

The committee will review the Department's military construction program to manage the overall capacity of the Department's infrastructure and to ensure prudent long-term military construction investments are provided.

### Real Property Acquisition, Maintenance, and Disposal

The real property management process requires extensive oversight to maintain almost \$850.3 billion in infrastructure at an annual cost of nearly \$37.0 billion. The committee is concerned that infrastructure inefficiencies result in duplicative operations and uncoordinated investment decisions and will seek to apply best practices across the Department of Defense in order to efficiently maintain the services' taxpayer funded infrastructure.

## TOTAL FORCE, PERSONNEL, AND HEALTH CARE ISSUES

## Manpower Sufficient in Quantity and Quality to Meet Global Commitments

Some argue that military personnel costs have exploded and will continue to rise to unsustainable levels. The committee rejects that assertion because such a budget-oriented focus misses the fundamental question that the committee will assess: What does the Nation need in terms of the quantity of manpower and the quality of that manpower to meet its current and future global military commitments, without undue risk to the Nation? In this context, the fiscal year 2015 budget request proposed to continue to reduce the end strengths of the Army and Marine Corps by 100,000 over a five-year period, which began with the fiscal year 2013 budget request, bringing both services down to approximately pre-9/11 levels. The committee remains concerned with such reductions while those services are still engaged in stability operations in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, advisor and training missions in the Republic of Iraq and numerous smaller engagements throughout the world. Reflecting that concern, in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239), Congress limited the personnel reductions the Army and Marine Corps could execute each year between fiscal years 2015 and 2017, and again in the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for 2015 (Public Law 113-291) limited the personnel reductions, thereby seeking to prevent a hollowing of the force. The committee will continue to provide aggressive oversight of military manpower levels and force structure to ensure they meet the National Military Strategy. This oversight will seek to provide Active, Guard and Reserve Forces that have manpower levels sufficient to sustain varying scales of activation, while maintaining deployment ratios at or above Department of Defense objectives. Within this focus, the committee will examine closely trends in overall total force structure requirements, end strength, recruiting, retention, morale, benefits and compensation.

## Morale, Welfare and Recreation Programs and Military Resale Programs

While some have criticized the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) and military resale programs (commissary and exchange stores) as being unnecessary and wasteful and targeted for reductions in appropriated funding, the committee believes the cost efficient sustainment of MWR and military resale programs (commissaries and exchanges) is required to protect quality of life in military communities and maintain the combat readiness of the force. The committee will provide oversight efforts directed toward that end.

Additionally, the committee believes that MWR and military resale programs must remain competitive with private sector entities to ensure that service members and their families benefit fully from these programs. The committee must monitor current practices and policies to ensure that MWR and military resale programs are employing the full range of strategies available to private sector competitors to inform authorized patrons about the benefits associated with these programs and attract them to participate. This is especially

true for commissaries that are restricted from using pricing, product, and advertising strategies that are common in the private sector because of legislative and policy barriers. The Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291) requires the Department of Defense to review management, food and pricing options for the Defense Commissary System in consultation with an organization experienced in grocery retail analysis to assist in maintaining a competitive and effective commissary system in the future.

### Military Benefits and Compensation

During the 114th Congress the Department of Defense budget will remain under considerable stress and military benefits will be targeted for reductions. The committee must give close scrutiny to proposals from the Department of Defense and other organizations, both governmental and private sector, calling for funding reductions to military compensation and other benefit programs in order to ensure any proposed change assesses the impact to the all volunteer force. To that end, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239) authorized a Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission to review the full range of compensation and benefit programs that could applied to service members, families, retirees, and survivors, to include programs managed by the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Education. The commission's deliberations must be closely monitored and its recommendations, due at the beginning of 2015, carefully scrutinized by the committee as changes to compensation and benefit programs are considered.

### Mental Health Services for Members of the Armed Forces

A continued principal focus of the committee during the 114th Congress will be to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of mental health services provided to members of the Armed Forces and their families. Particular attention will be given, but not limited to, the suicide prevention efforts undertaken by each military service and the consistency and comprehensiveness of the Department of Defense policy on prevention of suicide among members of the Armed Forces and their families, including methods of collecting and assessing suicide data. An additional focus will be the adequacy of suicide prevention programs for members of the special forces and their families.

### Sexual Assault in the Military

The committee will continue to hold the Department of Defense and the military services accountable to address sexual assaults in the military and ensure victims are provided the appropriate care and support. In that regard, the committee will continue rigorous oversight in this area, focusing not only on sexual

assault prevention and response, but on the capability of the military justice system and the Uniform Code of Military Justice to prosecute and bring offenders to justice. In that regard, the committee looks forward to receiving the recommendations of the independent reviews and assessments of judicial proceedings of military sexual assault cases that were mandated by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239). The committee will actively oversee the Department of Defense's implementation of the recommendations by the Responses Systems to Adult Sexual Assault Crimes Panel to improve programs and policies to prevent and address sexual assaults involving members of the Armed Forces. In addition, the committee will focus on efforts to prevent and address retaliation and ostracism of members of the Armed Forces who report sex-related crimes.

### Military Health Care System

The committee is committed to a robust military health system which provides quality health care for service members, retirees, and their families. The committee will continue to explore innovative strategies to improve the health status of beneficiaries and control cost growth within the military health care system, while ensuring access to the benefit at a reasonable cost to beneficiaries. Additionally, to ensure that the military health system is efficient and effective, the committee will monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Defense Health Agency and closely examine the Department's plans to reduce the capacity and availability of military medical treatment facilities. The committee remains committed to a robust medical research and development program focused on military health issues, such as blast injury mitigation and treatment, combat trauma care, military infectious diseases, and medical biological/chemical defense. Robust oversight on the progress towards implementing the requirements for an electronic health record that is inter-operable with the electronic health record of the Veterans Administration will continue during the 114th Congress. Particular attention will be focused on health information technology systems and the acquisition process for military health related procurement. Finally, the committee will evaluate the recommendations regarding the military health care benefit from the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission, established by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239) to modernize the military compensation and retirement systems.

### Wounded Warrior Care

The committee will continue its efforts to assess the adequacy of the Department of Defense policies and programs for wounded and disabled service members and their families. In this regard, the committee will continue to evaluate the Department Defense's ability to integrate and coordinate the multitude of services and resources available to assist the wounded and disabled, not only from other Federal agencies, but also from the private sector. In addition, the committee will monitor the Department's progress toward establishing uniform performance

outcome measurements for use by each military service in the Warrior in Transition programs. Particular focus will be given to policies regarding the selection of individuals employed by the Warrior in Transition Programs and mechanisms for continually assessing the quality of the services provided by such programs. The congressionally mandated Department of Defense centers of excellence will be reviewed for opportunities to expand capabilities and make improvements. The committee will continue to closely monitor translational research and treatment advances in traumatic brain injury. Particular attention will be focused on the Integrated Disability Evaluation System with a view to ensuring the fairness, effectiveness, timeliness, and efficiency of the program and to simplify the process for service members.

### Military Family Readiness

We remain a Nation on a war-footing. Consequently, the families of the members of the Armed Forces continue to experience the strains associated with deployments. In this regard, the committee will continue to focus on the needs of military families and to identify the programs and policies that can be developed or modified to improve their lives. As end strengths of the Armed Forces are reduced and resources shrink, the committee will closely examine the Department of Defense and military service family support programs to ensure the continued viability of these programs to address the needs of military families. In addition, the committee will continue close oversight on the quality of services and hiring practices at Department of Defense child development centers.

### Prisoner of War and Missing in Action

During the 114th Congress, the committee will continue active oversight of the Department of Defense's Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) activities, as the committee of jurisdiction. Specifically, the committee will assess the implementation of modifications to the requirements for accounting for members of the Armed Forces and Department of Defense civilian employees listed as missing by establishing a single defense agency for POW/MIA affairs directed by the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291). In addition, the committee will assess the progress towards meeting the requirement that the accounting effort achieve significantly higher levels of identification by 2015.

### Women in Service

The Department of Defense and the military services continue to work toward opening all military occupations to women. During the 114th Congress, the committee will continue to aggressively evaluate the process for identifying occupational specialties that may open to women with particular focus on the occupational standards established for each occupational specialty. The committee

will monitor the military service's personnel policies and assignment practices for those occupational specialties which have recently opened to women. Further, the committee will focus on the long-term plans for assuring retention and advancement for women in newly opened career fields.

## MODERNIZATION AND INVESTMENT ISSUES

### Overview

The committee will devote particular attention to the examination of military equipment modernization strategies with respect to overall military capability against all threats and adversaries. The committee will conduct oversight of the full range of modernization and investment issues facing the Department of Defense, to include the impacts of current budget uncertainty and sequestration. How Congress chooses to fund Department of Defense future acquisition programs will dramatically affect the size, health, age, and supporting industrial base of the air, sea, and land force structure available to U.S. forces in support of the National Military Strategy and current strategic defense planning guidance, as well as the Nation's vital interests. The committee, through rigorous oversight and legislative action, will develop strategies to help mitigate cost growth and schedule delays among all categories of acquisition programs. The committee will also assess the need for legislative action by examining causes of these problems including: late determination of requirements, requirements growth, and failure to properly control requirements changes; inadequate analyses of alternatives, concurrency in test and evaluation, military services proceeding prematurely with development of immature technology; poor cost estimating; inadequate funding profiles; over-estimation of potential production rates; and program instability.

In particular, the committee will also seek to ensure the military services have the appropriate authorities, capabilities, and force structure to defend against any potential challenges posed by the advanced anti-access capabilities of countries, such as the People's Republic of China and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

### Army and Marine Corps Armored Vehicle Modernization

The committee will focus on oversight of the Army and Marine Corps' evolving plans to recapitalize their entire fleets of heavy and medium-weight armored vehicles over the next two decades, including the M1 Abrams tank, M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicles, Stryker Vehicles, the family of Amphibious Combat Vehicles, upgrades for Light Armored Vehicles, upgrades to Paladin artillery systems, as well as the Armored Multipurpose Vehicle (AMPV) research and development program, the planned replacement for Army M113 troop carrier vehicles. In particular, the committee will focus on ensuring that the existing fleet of armored vehicles is properly upgraded and reset after very heavy use in the Republic of Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and that the Army and Marine Corps continue to field vehicles that stay ahead of the evolving anti-vehicle

threat posed by improvised explosive devices and advances in anti-tank guided missiles. Consistent with committee oversight activity from the 113th Congress, the committee will also continue to assess and mitigate the impacts of budget uncertainty and sequestration on the Armored Combat Vehicle industrial base.

### Army and Marine Corps Tactical Wheeled Vehicles

The committee will focus oversight efforts on the Army and Marine Corps' tactical wheeled vehicle (TWV) modernization strategies for their families of light, medium, and heavy TWVs, the family of mine resistant ambush protected (MRAP) vehicles, line haul tractor trailers, and construction equipment. In particular, the committee will focus on ensuring that the existing fleet of TWVs and MRAPs are properly modernized and reset after very heavy operational use in the Republic of Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The committee will closely monitor TWV fleet size and composition and focus on ways to adequately sustain the TWV industrial base given significant decreases in overall requirements, as well as attempt to mitigate the impacts to modernization of the TWV fleet that are a result of sequestration and the current fiscal environment. Of particular interest to the committee will be the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV) program. The committee will closely monitor the JLTV budget, cost, schedule, and performance as the program transitions from development into low-rate initial production. The committee will continue to coordinate with the Government Accountability Office regarding the Department's efforts in the long-term management and sustainment of the TWV fleet and its associated industrial base.

### Army Aviation Programs

Legacy rotorcraft platforms, including the CH-47, UH-60, AH-64, and OH-58, will likely continue to be operated at high operational tempos, in very challenging environments. These high operational tempos will require continued upgrade and reset efforts. The committee will focus on the need to continue to upgrade and reset these critical equipment platforms for both the Active and Reserve Components through formal activities and legislative action. In addition to its oversight of aviation requirements for, and performance in combat operations, the committee will continue to provide oversight of the Army's Aviation Restructure Initiative (ARI), as well as future Army combat aviation programs. In particular, the committee will focus on the Army's restructured acquisition plan resulting from the cancellation of the Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter, the divestment of the OH-58 Kiowa Warrior fleet, and the rationale for transferring AH-64 Apache helicopters from the National Guard to the Active Component. The committee oversight activity will build on the actions from the 113th Congress and continue to gain a better understanding of the Army's intent with the ARI. The committee will also conduct oversight on the initiation of modernization programs, such as the Joint Future Theater Lift program, as well as the critical need for advanced aircraft survivability

equipment upgrades to provide warning and protection against evolving surface-to-air missile threats.

### Army Communications Programs

Given the growing importance of battlefield communications networks in global combat operations, the committee will continue to aggressively monitor the Army's plans for its future battlefield network and the supporting research programs now in place, to include rigorous oversight of the Army's Tactical Network Modernization roadmap. In particular, the committee will focus oversight efforts on the Warfighter Information Network-Tactical (WIN-T) and the follow-on efforts resulting from the restructured Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS) programs. The committee will work with the Army to ensure that the future battlefield capabilities it creates results in a network-enabled, rather than a network-dependent, Army. The committee, in coordination with the Department of Defense, aims to empower soldiers to accomplish their missions, rather than create an Army that is dependent on its communications network, so much so that it is not able to function without it. As such, the committee will also help direct the Army's limited modernization resources to investments that will have the greatest short-, mid- and long-term impact for the end user.

### Organizational Clothing and Individual Equipment

The committee will continue to devote substantial attention to the oversight of the research, development, and procurement of organizational clothing and individual equipment and other complementary personnel protection programs. Focus areas will continue to include but are not limited to: advances in weight reduction ("lightening the load") in clothing and individual equipment; development of specific personnel protection systems for military servicewomen; small arms and small caliber ammunition modernization with particular emphasis on the Army's individual carbine program, modular handgun program, and enhanced performance small caliber rounds; improved combat helmets to help mitigate traumatic brain injury; improved combat uniforms; and the overall management of these associated niche, but highly critical industrial bases.

### Tactical Aircraft Force Structure

The committee will continue to focus on the size and composition of the tactical aircraft force structure. Delays in the initial operational capability of the F-35 aircraft have the potential to result in future tactical aircraft force structure shortfalls if service life extensions for legacy aircraft cannot be accomplished.

With an operational requirement of 1,056 strike fighters, the Department of the Navy projects it can manage a strike fighter shortfall of 35 aircraft in 2023. The committee will focus on inventory objectives of F/A-18E/F and EA-18G procurement,

the effect of delays in the procurement of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, F/A-18 A through D service life limits, and mission capability of the AV-8B aircraft.

The Air Force has stated a strike fighter operational requirement of 1,900 aircraft, and, under current procurement and retirement plans, the Air Force projects its inventory to fall below that requirement as older aircraft are retired. The Air Force had planned to retire approximately 100 A-10 close air support aircraft in fiscal year 2015, but the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291) included a provision that would prohibit the Air Force from retiring any A-10 aircraft in fiscal year 2015. That provision would also allow 36 A-10 aircraft from the active component to be placed into back-up aircraft inventory (BAI) status subject to a certification by the Secretary of Defense concerning the requirement to place these aircraft into BAI status to enable readiness of the Air Force’s fighter aircraft fleets. Delays in deliveries of the F-35A aircraft and in achieving its initial operational capability will affect the Air Force fighter aircraft inventory. In the 114th Congress, the committee will continue its oversight of: aircraft retirement plans; the F-22 and F-35 aircraft programs; and life extension and modernization programs for the F-15, F-16, and A-10 aircraft.

#### F-35/Joint Strike Fighter

During the 114th Congress, the committee will continue oversight of the F-35/Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Program, particularly issues related to program cost, schedule, and performance.

With the JSF approximately 80 percent through a 15-year development process, the committee believes that there is still risk in completing JSF development within currently projected cost, schedule, and performance parameters. The committee’s primary concerns include software development, completing modifications prior to Marine Corps initial operational capability (IOC) in 2015 and Air Force IOC in 2016, addressing F135 engine problems, and the ramp-up in production planned for 2015 and beyond. In the 114th Congress, the committee will continue to receive JSF annual reports and receive testimony and briefings from both the Department of Defense and an independent review from the Government Accountability Office.

#### Bomber Force Structure

The committee understands that the Air Force will continue investments of significant fiscal resources for technology development and engineering, manufacturing and design of a next-generation, and long-range strike bomber aircraft during the next few years. While many details regarding the specific requirements and capabilities of the new bomber remain highly classified, the committee will maintain aggressive oversight of the new bomber acquisition strategy to ensure that the Air Force develops an affordable aircraft to timely meet

future requirements and recapitalize the current fleet of B-52, B-1, and B-2 long-range strike bomber aircraft.

During the many years of development, manufacturing, and eventual fielding of the new bomber aircraft, it will be imperative that the Air Force continues to maintain, modernize, and upgrade the existing fleet of bomber aircraft in order to preserve effective capabilities needed to meet current and future threat target sets. The committee will continue to maintain oversight of current bomber aircraft inventory requirements and modernization plans to ensure that the Air Force maintains a sufficient, credible, and lethal fixed-wing aircraft with conventional and strategic weapons delivery capability to support all aspects of the National Military Strategy.

### Aerial Refueling Aircraft

During the 114th Congress, the committee will continue to maintain active oversight of aerial refueling aircraft modernization and recapitalization programs of the Air Force. Currently, the KC-135 and KC-10 are the primary providers of U.S. air-refueling critical capabilities in executing operations in support of the National Military Strategy. Given the limited fiscal resources available to the Air Force for recapitalization of the KC-135 fleet of 395 aircraft, this will result in having to maintain and operate KC-135 aircraft that will have been in the fleet for over 70 years. Therefore, timely and efficient recapitalization of the Air Force's KC-135 tanker fleet with new KC-46 aerial refueling aircraft is critical. Additionally, the Air Force plans to perform an avionics modernization program on the KC-10 fleet of tankers to maintain relevant and effective aerial refueling capabilities until a successor program to the KC-46 aircraft is begun to replace the KC-10 aircraft.

The committee will continue to assess the KC-46 program to ensure it meets the U.S. Government's cost, schedule, and execution goals, which includes the projected initial operating capability date during calendar year 2018.

### Intertheater and Intratheater Airlift

Regarding intertheater airlift aircraft capabilities, the committee continues to remain concerned about Air Force plans to reduce the intertheater airlift aircraft inventory below 301 total aircraft in support of the defense strategic guidance issued in January 2012. Additionally, the committee has been concerned about Air Force plans to cancel the avionics modernization program (AMP) for C-130 aircraft since the absence of this modification would limit the future utility of C-130 aircraft, resulting in future Air Force plans to further reduce the inventory of intertheater airlift aircraft. Accordingly, the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291) included a provision that would prohibit the Air Force from canceling the avionics modernization program. The committee will continue to review the C-130 modernization program to ensure it is capable of meeting intertheater airlift requirements.

Regarding intratheater airlift aircraft capabilities, the committee believes that a minimum Air Force intratheater airlift inventory of 318 general support and 40 direct support aircraft, as reflected in section 1059 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-705), should be sufficient to meet both Air Force and Army operational requirements in support of combatant commander operational plans being developed to execute the defense strategic guidance issued in January 2012. The committee, however, remains skeptical that the Air Force has yet to fully embrace and institutionalize effective concepts of operations in support of Army direct support airlift requirements and will maintain close oversight of Air Force implementation of the January 27, 2012, memorandum of understanding agreed upon by the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and by the Chiefs of Staff of the Air Force and the Army.

The committee will continue close oversight of Air Force intertheater and intratheater airlift aircraft inventories and capabilities during the 114th Congress to ensure that a robust and effective fleet of airlift aircraft is maintained in the Air Force inventory to meet all mobility airlift requirements of the Department of Defense.

### Surface Warfare Programs

The Department of the Navy must collectively expand the core capabilities of U.S. seapower to achieve a blend of peacetime engagement and major combat operations capabilities. In pursuing this goal, the committee will provide oversight of the composition, capacity, and capabilities of the surface fleet. Specifically, the committee will assess the President's budget request to ensure compliance with the aircraft carrier force structure requirements associated with section 5062 of title 10, United States Code. The committee will also assess the large and small surface combatant requirements to ensure oversight of the force structure and the associated weapons and sensors employed on the surface force. As part of the weapons and sensors oversight, the committee will review the requirements associated with the Air and Missile Defense Radar, anti-ship missile capabilities and Littoral Combat Ship mission modules. Finally, the committee will review the combat logistics forces to ensure sufficient capacity is available to support the surface combat forces.

As part of this oversight, the committee will continue to place a significant emphasis on improving affordability in shipbuilding programs through: ensuring stable requirements; the use of acquisition best practices; stability within the overall program; increased reliance on common systems and open architecture; industrial base capacity, process, and facility improvements at the shipyards.

### Undersea Warfare Programs

The ability to operate freely at sea is one of the most important enablers of joint and interagency operations, and sea control requires capabilities in all aspects of the maritime domain. There are many challenges to our ability to exercise sea

control, perhaps none as significant as the growing number of nations operating submarines, both advanced diesel-electric and nuclear propelled. Exercising sea control in the undersea domain is essential to maintaining the freedom of navigation in support of U.S. maritime interests. The committee will continue to review the undersea domain to ensure warfare dominance. Specifically, the committee will review long-term plans to reverse the decline in the attack submarine force structure. The committee will also assess whether sufficient resources are available for the recapitalization of the ballistic missile submarine forces. Finally, the committee will assess the weapons and sensors employed in the undersea domain to retain maritime dominance, to include the capacity and capabilities of the heavy weight torpedo.

As part of this oversight, the committee will place specific emphasis on the efficacy of multi-year procurements, rigorous assessment of requirements, and retention of sufficient industrial base capacity.

#### Military Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Programs

Manned and unmanned intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) system programs have come to constitute a significant component of the overall Department of Defense force structure. The capability provided by these assets is critical to sustaining deterrence and warfighting capability of U.S. forces. The committee notes that the Air Force had planned to retire the U-2 aircraft in fiscal year 2016, but the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291) included a provision that would prohibit the Air Force from taking any action to retire, or prepare to retire, any U-2 aircraft in fiscal year 2015. The committee also supports the preservation of Global Hawk ISR capabilities since combatant requirements for ISR provided by both the U-2 and Global Hawk aircraft are not presently fully satisfied.

The committee will focus on the budget, cost, schedule, and performance outcomes of major manned and unmanned aerial systems programs and examine the ISR enterprise for balance in collection and analysis capabilities. Also, close examination of the Office of the Secretary of Defense ISR policy formulation and oversight has been and will continue to be of interest to the committee. Long-standing concerns of the committee remain: lack of an adequate long-term ISR architecture and acquisition strategy; lack of supporting analysis for programmatic decisions; failure to balance collection programs data output with adequate resources to process, exploit, and disseminate data and analysis; and unnecessary proliferation of manned and unmanned vehicles and sensors. The committee expects the Joint Staff and Joint Requirements Oversight Council to take a more active role in coordinating ISR system acquisition and coordinating employment with the combatant commanders.

#### Emerging Advanced Weapons Capabilities

Department of Defense investment in science and technology often leads to the development of new advanced weapons capabilities that contribute to the technological superiority of U.S. military forces. Maintaining technology overmatch of current and potential adversaries is a significant part of the qualitative advantage of U.S. forces, but is increasingly difficult in an environment of globalized technologies and asymmetric combinations of high-tech and low-tech capabilities. The committee will continue to monitor technological developments and support transition of the most promising ones, such as directed energy, hypersonics, and autonomy.

In the 113th Congress, the committee maintained a focus particularly on the directed energy programs of the Department. The results achieved by these programs in the past have not always met expectations, although recent technical advances appear promising. The committee continues to support these efforts, especially as they support missile defense and other emerging concepts for countering anti-access and area denial threats.

In the 114th Congress, the committee will more closely examine organizing concepts provided by the military services and the Office of Secretary of Defense as demonstration projects become viable programs and the respective services develop acquisition plans in support of fielding directed energy capabilities. Additionally, the committee will expand its focus to take a similar look at other emerging advanced weapons capabilities, such as hypersonics and autonomy, to see how they can contribute to new security strategies, and to ensure that they are supported by rigorous technical analysis and relevant concepts of employment.

### Nuclear Deterrence

The committee oversees the atomic energy defense activities of the Department of Energy and nuclear policies and programs of the Department of Defense to ensure the safety, security, reliability, and credibility of the U.S. nuclear deterrent. The committee will place particular emphasis on oversight of the Department of Energy and Department of Defense's nuclear modernization plans, including but not limited to infrastructure investments, warhead life extension programs, stockpile stewardship and management plans, delivery system modernization, nuclear command and control, cost savings and efficiency initiatives, and security.

The committee will conduct close oversight of implementation of corrective actions resulting from the Department of Defense's Nuclear Enterprise Review. The committee will also track the Administration's funding of the nuclear enterprise to ensure sufficient resources are provided and allocated effectively and efficiently across Department of Energy and Department of Defense requirements. The committee will emphasize oversight of major acquisition programs that will recapitalize and form the core of the U.S. nuclear deterrent for decades into the future, including the *Ohio*-class Replacement Submarine, the Ground-based Strategic Deterrent system, the Long-range Strike Bomber, the Long-range

Standoff weapon, and their associated nuclear warheads. Alongside overseeing and authorizing U.S. nuclear weapon programs, the committee will also closely monitor foreign nuclear weapon development and modernization programs as well as arms control commitments around the world.

In addition to programs, the committee will also provide oversight of the Administration's nuclear policy and posture, extended deterrence policy, arms control activities, nuclear nonproliferation activities, and force structure requirements. Particular emphasis will be placed on oversight of the Administration's nuclear weapons policies, including changes to nuclear weapon employment policies and efforts to reduce U.S. nuclear forces. The committee will also review the effectiveness of the Department of Energy and the Department of Defense's organization and management of the nuclear enterprise, including coordination of plans and policies through the joint Nuclear Weapons Council and alignment of the Naval Reactors program with Department of Defense requirements such as the *Ohio*-class Replacement Program. Finally, the committee will conduct oversight of the performance, efficiency, governance, and management of the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration, laboratory and production site management and operations, workforce sustainment, and defense nuclear cleanup efforts.

### Missile Defense

The committee oversees the Department of Defense's efforts to develop, test, and field layered missile defense capabilities to protect the United States, its deployed forces, and its friends and allies against the full range of ballistic missile threats. Particular emphasis will be placed on U.S. homeland missile defense capabilities (including the Missile Defense Agency's proposal and strategy for acquiring a Redesigned Kill Vehicle), European Phased Adaptive Approach implementation, continued implementation of other regional Phased Adaptive Approaches, ensuring an adequate hedging strategy for the protection of the U.S. homeland, developmental and operational testing, force structure and inventory requirements, sensor-to-shooter integration, and science and technology investments in areas such as directed energy. In the 114th Congress, the committee will closely watch the Administration's funding of the missile defense program, seeking the cost-effective application of resources, and looking for opportunities to enhance stability of the industrial base.

The committee will continue to monitor foreign ballistic missile threats and identify opportunities to strengthen international missile defense cooperation with allies and partners such as the State of Israel, Japan, the Commonwealth of Australia, the Republic of Korea, and North Atlantic Treaty Organization member states. Department of Defense oversight and management of missile defense activities, including the roles, responsibilities, and acquisition policies and procedures of the Missile Defense Agency and military services will also be reviewed. The committee will also provide oversight of the Administration's missile

defense policy and posture, including close examination of any Administration efforts that may limit missile defenses as part of a treaty or agreement, and implications for United States, regional, global security and strategic stability.

The committee also intends to pay particular attention to the Army's PATRIOT air and missile defense program. The Army's plans call for significant investment over a long-term and the committee will ensure these plans are cost-effective, based on proven technology, support continued Foreign Military Sales, and provide maximum deployable capability to combatant commanders and the warfighter.

### National Security Space

The committee oversees the national security space programs of the Department of Defense, including combat support agencies and elements of the Department of Defense that are part of the intelligence community. The committee will place particular attention on space acquisition strategies that provide necessary warfighter capability, while reducing cost and technical risk, and promoting greater stability in the industrial base; provide assured access to space, including the transition from non-allied rocket engines to domestic sources, and providing opportunities for competition, while maintaining mission assurance through our national security space launch programs; mitigate risks that could create gaps in space capabilities for key warfighter needs; provide affordability and increasing government buying power; invest in science and technology and improve the maturation of technologies into baseline programs; appropriately leverage commercial satellite services; provide exploitation of space sensor data to maximize effectiveness and efficiency; improve the synchronization between satellite, ground and terminal acquisition programs; and promote efforts that develop and sustain the technical workforce.

The committee will continue to monitor foreign space threats and carefully assess the Department's space security and defense program to include space situational awareness, space protection, space control, and operationally responsive space activities. The committee will also provide oversight of the Administration's space policy, posture, and any related international agreements. Lastly, renewed attention will be placed on efforts to improve governance and management across the national security space enterprise.

### EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

#### Investment in Future Capabilities Science and Technology

The Department of Defense faces difficult choices as it balances the competing needs of capabilities for current operations and those projected for future conflicts. In order to address the latter, investments must be made in the Department's Science and Technology (S&T) programs, and aligned appropriately with continued development and procurement programs to position the Department to meet future challenges. S&T investments can also be leveraged to support

broader acquisition improvements or defense industrial base sustainment activities by creatively utilizing competitive or operational prototyping, technical transition or integration, or requirements maturation.

Preparing for the challenges of the future, the Department must create a portfolio of technological options that can address the perceived threats identified in the defense planning process, as well as the emergence of unanticipated events or strategic competitors. Emphasis should be placed not only on support to acquisition roadmaps, but also on capabilities to institutionalize adaptability. Doing that will require better integration of intelligence into the S&T cycle, as well as better cognizance of global developments and industry-based independent research and development. It will also require a solid foundation to allow for adaptability, which means having world-class people and facilities in which to conduct certain types of research and development.

The committee will continue to encourage the Department to plan and execute a balanced S&T program that ensures the U.S. military can retain superiority for future generations. The committee will also continue to examine how S&T investments are integrated into strategic and operational plans to also ensure that the investments being made, including in people and infrastructure, are properly aligned.

### Cyber Operations Capabilities

Cyber operations have taken on an increasingly important role in military operations as well as overall national security. Accordingly, the committee will continue to closely scrutinize the Department of Defense's cyber operations, organization, manning and funding to ensure that the military has the freedom of maneuver to conduct the range of missions in the Nation's defense, and when called upon, to support other interagency and international partners. An important oversight role for Congress regarding the conduct of defensive and offensive cyber operations will be to ensure that the proper legal and policy frameworks are in place and are followed. The committee will also continue to scrutinize military cyber operations to ensure that they are properly integrated into the combatant commander's operational plans, and to ensure that adequate capabilities exist or are in development to employ these cyberspace operational tools with rigor and discretion to support a full range of options for the Nation's decision makers. In the course of monitoring the cybersecurity posture of the military, the committee will also continue to examine the effects of globalization on the assured integrity of microelectronics and software.

### Information Operations

Engagement with foreign audiences and nuanced understanding of the information environment is pivotal in navigating the 21st century security environment. Whether one is trying to influence nation-state actors or potential allies, counter violent extremist groups, or identify and counter efforts at deception

or misinformation, strategic communication and information operations are key elements to success on the battlefield and an important tool to prevent or deter conflict before escalation. The ability to carry out such operations against nation-states, as well as individuals and small terrorist groups, requires a flexible and adaptable strategy, as well as comprehensive understanding of specific groups, their motivating ideologies, and the tools to translate that understanding into action.

With the resurgence of violent extremist groups like Al Shabaab, Boko Haram, and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, the need for the Department of Defense to plan and execute effective information operations is continuing to grow. Recent examples illustrate how these groups are utilizing social media to support the radicalization process, as well as planning, financing and command and control for terrorist acts. The committee will pay particular attention to the Department of Defense's information operations and strategic communication strategies and how these tools will be further developed and adapted to support warfighter needs in a changing security environment, while maintaining appropriate controls for privacy and civil liberties. These activities enable military operations and military support to diplomacy, and the committee will continue to conduct oversight of these critical capabilities, with focus on how these tools are integrated into theater security cooperation plans and leveraged with related tools for cyber and security force assistance.

#### Compromises of National Security Information and Insider Threats

In the 114th Congress, the committee will continue to monitor the Department's efforts to identify and mitigate the threats to military operations stemming from the compromise of a large amount of classified information by a former Department of Defense contractor. Additionally, the committee will monitor efforts to mitigate future compromises by overseeing the implementation of the Executive Order directing improvements to insider threat programs within the executive branch as well as the Department of Defense's compliance with the requirements of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291) regarding the Department's security practices, audit capabilities, and information-sharing policies.

#### Use of Force in Counterterrorism Operations Outside the United States and Areas of Active Hostilities

The committee will continue to conduct extensive oversight, often in classified form, over the use of force in counterterrorism operations outside of the United States and areas of active hostilities. While the use of force in this area will be overseen in all aspects, the committee will pay particular attention to special operations and activities and the interagency coordination that occurs with the U.S. intelligence community. In conducting this oversight, the committee will also review and consider presidential policy guidance documents and similar Executive

Branch directives, and ensure that counterterrorism operations conducted outside of the United States and areas of active hostilities are in line with broader national security objectives, strategies, and resources. Finally, the committee will continue to coordinate with the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence on intelligence matters of the Department of Defense in the course of its annual oversight of the intelligence community and the authorization of appropriations for intelligence activities shared by the two committees.