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**WRITTEN STATEMENT OF  
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CHAIRMAN OF THE  
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**BEFORE THE 108TH CONGRESS  
SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE  
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It is an honor to report to this committee on the state of our armed forces, our current military commitments, and on-going operations around the world, as our Nation enters its third year of the War on Terrorism

I would like to start by thanking you for your great support of our men and women in uniform. What they are doing is vitally important. The stakes could not be higher: defeat means the destruction of the way of life Americans have enjoyed over two and a quarter centuries; and victory will restore the sense of security that was shattered on 11 September 2001.

We are winning the war on terrorism, but it will be a long fight, and requires our patience, our full commitment, and most importantly our will to win. Every day, US servicemen and women, along with other US agencies and our Coalition Partners, are making great progress disrupting terror networks, eliminating safe havens, seizing financial assets, and hunting down terrorists worldwide.

I have visited our troops in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere in the region, as have many members of Congress. I am convinced that our servicemen and women's sense of purpose is clear, their resolve is steadfast, and their morale is excellent. They have shown their commitment and will to win. We should all be very proud of their bravery, and dedication to duty.

### **War on Terrorism**

Here at home, our servicemen and women are also working hard to protect our own shores from future attacks. Two weeks ago, I had the opportunity to observe a bio-terrorism consequence management exercise,

Operation DETERMINED PROMISE 03, in Clark County, Nevada. US military active, Reserve, and Guard forces along with US federal, state and local officials did a magnificent job coordinating efforts to respond to a simulated terrorist attack.

We must be able to provide adequate defense within our own borders, and standing up US Northern Command last year fully integrated our armed forces into the homeland defense role. However, when possible, the better military option is to take the fight to the enemy.

### **AFGHANISTAN**

In Afghanistan, we currently have nearly 10,000 US troops and 8,000 Coalition forces conducting security and stability operations in Afghanistan. Together with our Coalition Partners, we are training the Afghan National Army (ANA) and police in Kabul and the provinces, contributing to election preparations, building schools and clinics, and providing a secure environment to support the emerging private sector.

Most of Afghanistan is stable and secure, but pockets of resistance still remain, mostly in the South and East. The threat is primarily from the Taliban, in loose coordination with al-Qaida and Hezb-e Islami Gulbuddin. The ANA is key to increasing stability and security in Afghanistan. ANA training is going very well. Ten battalions totaling 4,600 soldiers have been trained so far. The ANA is already patrolling the borders side by side with US, Afghani Militia, and Coalition forces. And last week they were part of the forces that fought and successfully defeated a large number of Taliban forces.

We are in the process of expanding the number of Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) in Afghanistan from four to eight, to provide coverage for more of the country. PRTs are improving roads, bridges, wells, clinics and schools, and having a very positive effect on the lives of Afghani citizens in the outlying regions of Afghanistan. I believe that with the Coalition's support, Afghanistan is on a steady road to peace, stability, and prosperity.

### **IRAQ**

In Iraq today, we have approximately 129,000 US forces and more than 22,000 coalition forces. Over 40 nations are providing various levels of support to the coalition in Iraq, and 29 of those are providing military forces. The goal in Iraq is to restore freedom, peace and prosperity to the Iraqi people through the combined efforts of the US government, the Iraqi Governing Council, and the international community. The Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) has developed a four-pronged reconstruction strategy for Iraq consisting of increasing security, restoring essential services, creating economic growth, and helping establish a democratically elected government.

The threat in Iraq is from former regime loyalists and Ba'athists as well as foreign jihadists and other terrorist groups. US and Coalition military forces are on the offensive against these threats. Every day, more Iraqi citizens are reporting suspected Regime Loyalists, and the locations of arms caches to Coalition forces. To date, 42 of the 55 "most wanted" and approximately 100 of the top 235 wanted Iraqis have been captured or killed, and we are making

good progress eliminating other terrorist elements. Terrorists are continuing to target humanitarian facilities, police stations, and other civilian targets such as oil, water and electric infrastructure, slowing our efforts to repair damage caused by the war and by the neglect of the former regime.

In spite of these attacks, we are making progress restoring essential services in Iraq. US Central Command (CENTCOM) and the CPA are working with leading industry, agency and international experts to assess and fix the short and long term requirements for Iraqi essential services.

There has been discussion about the need for additional troops in Iraq. I fully support CENTCOM's assessment that the answer is not more US forces in Iraq, but more focused intelligence, assigning more Iraqis to critical, more visible security roles, and getting the international community more involved – and CENTCOM is doing just that.

To improve security conditions in Iraq, we are training the Iraqi Police Force, a Civil Defense Corps, a National Defense Force, a Facilities Protective Service and a Border Guard Service. There are currently over 50,000 trained Iraqis under arms working side-by-side with US and coalition forces, and more coming onboard every day. As in Afghanistan, this will improve security in Iraq by allowing Iraqis to protect their own country. Working closely with US forces, Iraqi police are making significant contributions to preventing attacks, and some of these Iraqis have given their lives in the service of the new Iraq.

## **Weapons of Mass Destruction**

The Iraqi Survey Group (ISG) continues to make progress in collecting new information on Iraq's WMD programs. Today, over 1,300 personnel are actively engaged supporting the ISG's strategy pursuing individuals with knowledge of Iraq's WMD programs and exploiting selected facilities. As Iraqis become more convinced that the former regime will never return, and more certain of the world's commitment to the reconstruction of Iraq, it is only a matter of time before we locate the remnants of all of Saddam's weapons programs.

## **Korea**

We currently have over 37,000 personnel assigned to South Korea. North Korea's weapons of mass destruction, missile programs and weapons proliferation constitute a substantial threat to the peace and security of the peninsula, the region, and the world. While a diplomatic solution to the North Korean threat is preferable, our military forces remain ready for any contingency if called upon.

## **Other Global Operations**

In pursuing our global efforts against those who pose a continuing and imminent threat to the United States and our allies, we continue to work closely with many other governments. Approximately 4,500 US personnel under command of Joint Task Force-Liberia (JTF-Liberia) are deployed to the West African region to assist the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Mission in Liberia (ECOMIL). We are helping ECOMIL forces

stabilize the environment, allowing humanitarian assistance for the people of Liberia and facilitating the transition to an UN-led peacekeeping operation, currently scheduled for 1 October 2003. JTF-Liberia consists of the IWO JIMA Amphibious Ready Group, the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, the 398th Air Expeditionary Group, and other supporting elements.

We have made good progress in the Philippines, where we have approximately 250 personnel working closely with the Armed Forces of the Philippines to enhance their counter-terrorist capabilities.

The nearly 1,500 US forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina supporting Operation JOINT FORGE, and the 2,000 forces in Kosovo supporting Operation JOINT GUARDIAN, not only promote peace and stability in the region, but also enhance our ability to conduct counter-terrorism operations in the Balkans.

US Southern Command has over 2,000 personnel deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and over 2,400 personnel deployed throughout Central and South America conducting counter-narcotics and counter-terrorism operations. The US has a strong national security interest in a secure, democratic and economically viable Western Hemisphere.

Helping the Colombian Government become free from the grip of terrorist and narcotics trafficking groups is critical to securing the stability of the entire region. After my recent trip to South America, I believe that we are helping the Colombians achieve some real successes. The US military's training and equipping of the Colombian Military is significantly contributing to their efforts to defeat terrorism and narcotics trafficking.

US forces are engaged throughout the world conducting bilateral and multilateral exercises with many countries to foster military to military relations that enhance US national security objectives.

### **Impact of US Military Commitments**

We are a nation at war. Our military forces are actively engaged to meet our national security interests by combating terrorism, providing peace and stability in many troubled regions around the world, and conducting military exercises with many different countries. US military ground forces are currently experiencing a high OPSTEMPO. Selected high demand units resident in both the active and reserve force are also heavily committed.

We must reexamine which military capabilities best reside with our Reserve and Guard components and which belong in the active duty force. Our goal is to minimize future demands on high demand units in the reserve force, such as civil-support teams, military police and intelligence teams. We also need to ensure we have enough of a given specialty, regardless of whether it is in the active or reserve component.

We are also reviewing our overseas basing requirements to ensure that they meet the needs of today's worldwide commitments, support the war on terror, and posture US forces to meet any future threats to our national security. For the most part, our current overseas presence and basing is representative of a Cold War strategy that evolved over the course of 50 years. In places like South Korea, the aging and failing infrastructure exacts a greater toll on readiness and quality of life of our forces each year. In other regions

such as Europe, our broad array of installations may no longer provide us the flexibility it once did. Focused investments in military construction are needed now to overcome these challenges and enhance our overseas posture in meeting future military commitments.

Maintaining a high level of readiness for our forces, along with a decent quality of life, is key to meeting future threats to our national security. Predictability in the lives of our active and reserve servicemen and women and their families is an essential quality of life issue we are addressing. To improve predictability, an OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM force rotation policy was developed and communicated to the force. Competitive pay and benefits programs are also important to maintaining a high quality of life for our troops.

One of the reasons for our many successes to date in the war on terrorism is the unprecedented level of cooperation between our joint military forces and other federal agencies. Another reason for our success is the continued support of our many Allies – more than 70 countries since 11 September 2001. In order to maintain our momentum and defeat future threats, we must continue to improve on this level of cooperation.

Most importantly, our military success in the global war on terrorism depends on our servicemen and women. They bravely fight to protect our freedoms. I want to thank this committee for your continued strong support providing our Nation's best with the resources and benefits they need and deserve. Our collective will, commitment and patience will defeat global terrorism and ensure our ultimate victory.