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STATEMENT OF

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BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ON

LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT AND DEFENSE AGENCIES



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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee,

I am pleased to appear before you today to present the results of work we undertook at the request of the full Committee on two issues---(1) Congressional requests for information on defense activities and (2) the evolution of certain defense agencies.

The first of these issues was the subject of a report we issued on February 14 entitled LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT: Congressional Requests for Information on Defense Activities.

In early January, the Committee advised us that it was hearing comments from DOD officials that congressional requests for testimony, briefings and reports, and written and telephone inquiries from the Congress were imposing an immense burden on DOD. Some of the comments linked the growth in the number of congressional committees and subcommittees with which DOD must deal to an immense burden being imposed on DOD.

Some of these comments also included reference to the number of these requests. The Committee requested that we ask DOD officials where these figures came from and if they had compiled similar figures over the years. Specifically, we were requested to obtain the figures for past years and analyze the trends over the years.

We asked DOD for the information and found that some of the figures had been compiled every year for the past 20 years. Other figures were available only for some of those years. However, there was sufficient coverage in the information to allow us to conduct an analysis to respond to the Committee's concerns.

In analyzing the data provided by DOD we compared the 10-year period 1965 to 1974 to the following 10-year period. The comparison showed that:

- The average number of committees/subcommittees requesting hearings nearly tripled but the number of hearings increased by only 5%.

- The average number of testimonies per year by the Secretary of Defense decreased from 24 to 19...a decrease of 21%.

- The average number of written inquiries from congressional offices per year decreased from 164,388 to 108,772...a decrease of 34%.

- The average number of telephone inquiries from congressional offices per year decreased from 616,385 to 505,911 ... a decrease of 18%.

-There were significant increases in the number of pages in budget justification books and in the number of directions for reports/studies, provisions of law and other actions contained in the reports of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, on Armed Services and on Budget...particularly since fiscal year 1983. For example, the annual average increase in the number of reports and studies required in these reports was 14 during the period 1970 to 1982 but was 88 in the period 1983 to 1986. This is an increase of over 500%.

The information provided by DOD suggests that the increase in congressional requests for information on defense activities comes primarily from committees and subcommittees which have had jurisdiction over DOD's budget for many years rather than from an increase in the number of committees and subcommittees requesting information from DOD. However, the information does not clearly indicate whether the total burden of congressional requests has increased over the years.

I should note that the data which we analyzed was provided by DOD and we did not validate its accuracy or completeness.

On February 5, Chairman Aspin wrote to the Comptroller General requesting a more comprehensive undertaking on the subject of legislative oversight and the impact on DOD. We have begun work on this request and will be reporting to the Committee upon completion. In the meantime, we will continue to keep the staff informed of the progress of this work.

The second issue is the subject of a report we are issuing today entitled SELECTED DEFENSE AGENCIES: Current and Historical Information on Missions, Work Force and Budget.

The Committee requested that, in order to provide a ready reference for its Members during consideration of issues involving the defense agencies, we pull together in a single document selected current and historical information on eight of the major defense agencies. The eight agencies are:

-The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency - established in 1958, now has a budget of \$670 million and an authorized work force of 151 to manage high-risk, high-payoff basic research.

-The Defense Communications Agency - established in 1960, now has a budget of \$416 million and an authorized work force of 3,940 to support the Defense Communications System, the White House Communications Agency and ADP support for the National Military Command System.

-The Defense Contract Audit Agency - established in 1965, now has a budget of \$198 million and an authorized work force of 4,854 to provide audit, accounting and financial advisory services to DOD components and other government agencies.

-The Defense Investigative Service - established in 1972, now has a budget of \$145 million and an authorized work force of 4,194 to perform personnel security investigations and operate the Industrial Security Program.

-The Defense Logistics Agency - established in 1961, now has a budget of \$1.9 billion and an authorized operation and maintenance work force of 53,190 with a mission to provide contracting, supply, technical services and reutilization and marketing of excess DOD property.

-The Defense Mapping Agency - established in 1972, now has a budget of \$721 million and an authorized work force of 9,865 involved in mapping, charting and geodetic activities.

-The Defense Nuclear Agency - established in 1947, now has a budget of \$364 million and an authorized work force of 1,359 to provide consolidated management of the DOD nuclear weapons stockpile, DOD nuclear weapons testing and nuclear weapons effects research.

-The Defense Security Assistance Agency - established in 1971, now has a budget of \$6.1 million and an authorized work force of 145 to direct, administer and supervise the execution of security assistance program responsibilities for the Secretary of Defense.

These eight Defense Agencies were selected in consultation with the Committee staff. We did not include the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency/Central Security Service or other smaller agencies.

We provide a discussion of the method used to create each of these agencies and of the evolution of their assigned mission. We also include information on budget levels and staffing levels over time for each of the agencies. For example, we show that the Defense Logistics Agency's budget has increased from \$0.8 billion in fiscal year 1975 to today's \$1.9 billion. However, converting the fiscal year 1975 budget for the Defense Logistics Agency to calendar year 1986 dollars, can provide a much more accurate and meaningful comparison. This shows the fiscal year 1975 "base year budget" as \$1.6 billion compared to the fiscal year 1986 figure of \$1.9 billion.

Generally, the information presented indicates that most of these agencies experienced only moderate growth in staffing levels between 1975 and 1986.

I should point out that the General Accounting Office is now in the process of completing a general management review of the Defense Logistics Agency and that we will be issuing a report presenting the results of that review in the near future. In this review, we looked at DLA's planning, directing and other internal management processes.

I would be happy to respond to any questions you or your colleagues might have at this time.

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