



**HOUSE ARMED SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM AND
UNCONVENTIONAL THREATS
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CHAIRMAN**

PRESS RELEASE

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OPENING STATEMENT OF JIM SAXTON

Hearing on the Department of Defense's Irregular Warfare Roadmap

Washington, D.C. – The Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities meets today to discuss the Department of Defense's Irregular Warfare Roadmap. The terrorist attacks on September 11th, 2001 marked the engagement of the United States in a very different form of warfare than had been the focus of strategic military planning during the Cold War. The Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) is defined by its long-term and irregular nature, and it requires an approach that does not solely focus on conventional capabilities or direct action missions to kill or capture terrorists and their supporters.

Recognizing the irregular nature of the GWOT, the Department of Defense is taking measures to adapt to this new threat environment and to focus on building and improving our military's irregular warfare capability by expanding special operations forces, shifting conventional forces towards irregular warfare, and, significantly, developing an Irregular Warfare Roadmap. This roadmap will guide the implementation of the 2006 Quadrennial Defense Review recommendations as well as provide an important tool for the Department to continue refinement of its approaches to the GWOT.

At the end of the hearing, we should walk away with a good understanding of where the Department of Defense stands in developing the Irregular Warfare Roadmap; what impacts the roadmap will have on policy, planning, and resourcing decisions; and what operational activities and issues can be expected in the conduct of an Irregular Warfare campaign. As a committee, we must remain focused on the strategic objectives in this war, and Irregular Warfare will prove to be a deciding factor in the GWOT.

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