

**OVERSIGHT PLAN**  
**Committee on Oversight and Government Reform**  
**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**111<sup>th</sup> Congress**  
**Honorable Edolphus Towns**  
**Chairman**

Rule X, Clause 2(d) of the Rules of the House requires each committee of the House to adopt and submit a two-year oversight plan to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on House Administration by February 15 of the first session of Congress.

The following is the oversight plan for the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform for the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress. This plan consists of topics designated for investigation, evaluation, and review by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. The topics were selected by Chairman Edolphus Towns, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, Rep. Darrell Issa, other members of this Committee, and other Committees. In developing this oversight plan, the Committee reviewed oversight proposals by various entities, both inside and outside government.

Below are descriptions of some of the issues the Committee intends to investigate during the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress. The list is not exhaustive, but highlights significant areas for Committee oversight. The Committee will retain the flexibility to investigate emerging abuses and other issues as appropriate.

**Economic Stimulus**

Congress is currently considering economic stimulus legislation to invest in the nation's critical infrastructure. The Committee is committed to ensuring that the legislation provides for an unparalleled level of oversight, transparency, and accountability.

The Committee will review the implementation of any oversight mechanisms that the legislation creates and will monitor the ability of existing oversight bodies, such as inspectors general and the Government Accountability Office (GAO), to provide timely identification of problem areas. The Committee will maintain ongoing, real-time oversight of all stimulus spending at the federal, state, and local levels to prevent waste and fraud, with special attention to any contracts awarded with less than full and open competition.

The Committee will also review the federal government's long-term budget and fiscal outlook.

**Financial Sector**

The Committee will continue oversight of the financial sector, including forward-looking monitoring of all recovery programs and investigations of practices that led to the current economic climate.

Key topics for oversight include executive compensation and bonus policies at companies receiving government funds, costs and competition in contracting, whether the Treasury Department is receiving adequate equity in return for its investment of taxpayer money, compensation and recruitment of federal employees implementing the plan, the effectiveness of internal oversight from the Special Inspector General and GAO, and the potential market, legal, and regulatory implications of the federal government's ownership of shares in private banks.

The Committee will also review the administration of the Troubled Assets Relief Program (TARP), including the implementation of recommendations made by the Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program (SIGTARP), and to ensure greater accountability and transparency in TARP agreements.

The Committee will also review potential reorganization of federal financial regulatory agencies and the effectiveness of past legislation to regulate the financial sector, including Sarbanes-Oxley. The Committee will also review Department of Justice policies and practices on white-collar crime, including privilege and federalism issues.

The Committee will also investigate financial services industry practices that could undermine economic recovery, including bank speculation on oil and other energy prices; and conflicts of interest, such as investment banks marketing credit default swaps on states with fiscal difficulties while underwriting debt for the same states.

### **GAO and IG Recommendations**

In January 2009, the Government Accountability Office issued its biannual "High Risk" report, which identifies government programs that are particularly vulnerable to waste, fraud, or abuse. Chairman Towns and Ranking Member Issa sent a letter to Secretary of Defense Robert Gates requesting a meeting to discuss plans for improving the fifteen DOD and Defense-related programs that appear on the list. The Committee will request such meetings with the head of every agency that has programs included on GAO's high-risk list, and will provide ongoing oversight of the agencies' corrective action plans. Among the issues contained in the High Risk series of particular interest to the Committee are all proposals for restructuring the U.S. financial regulatory system per the Committee's jurisdiction over reorganizations in the Executive Branch.

Also in January 2009, Chairman Towns and other Members issued a report finding that over 13,000 recommendations made by Inspectors General (IGs) since 2001, with potential savings of \$25 billion, had not been implemented. The Committee will continue review of all outstanding and new Inspector General recommendations to determine whether they are being implemented.

### **Government Contracting**

In recent years, the "shadow government" of private companies working under federal contract has exploded in size. In the last several years, procurement spending

increased by nearly \$200 billion, making federal contracts the fastest growing component of federal discretionary spending. This growth in federal procurement has sometimes come at a steep cost for federal taxpayers. The Committee will examine the causes and effects of the increase in procurement, the importance of safeguards like competition from the procurement process, and shortfalls in the acquisition workforce.

The Committee will continue its work investigating waste and fraud in federal contracting and supervising the federal procurement system. Major challenges identified by the Committee in past Congresses include linking contract award and funding decisions with performance, and determining which functions are inherently governmental and should be performed by federal employees.

The Committee will oversee implementation of recent contracting reform legislation, focusing on support for contract auditing and management staff. The Committee will also continue its review of tax compliance by federal contractors and the status of contracting goals for small and disadvantaged businesses.

### **Iraq and Afghanistan Contracting**

The Committee will continue to conduct oversight of contracting issues associated with Iraq reconstruction. Since 2004, the committee has been engaged in comprehensive oversight of contracting activities in the war zone. The Committee will also consider issues related to contracting in Afghanistan.

### **Open Government**

The Committee will investigate allegations that the federal government may be inappropriately or unduly restricting access to information by Congress and the public. The Committee will examine public access to information through the Freedom of Information Act. The Committee will also examine the implementation of other open government laws, such as the Presidential Records Act and the Federal Advisory Committees Act, to ensure that they are being implemented to ensure public access to information.

The Committee will examine issues related to national security classification. These include concerns about the rapid growth in classified information, the process for declassifying information that no longer needs to be kept secret, and the proliferation of pseudo-classification designations such as “sensitive but unclassified.” The Committee will continue to conduct oversight of the National Archives Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO) to assist it in its dual role of policy making and oversight of the Government-wide security classification system and the National Industrial Security Program. ISOO must balance the need to protect classified information with the transparency required by the Freedom of Information Act and Presidential Records Act.

### **Technology and Cybersecurity**

The Committee will review the federal government’s use of technology to make government more efficient, transparent, and interactive with citizens. Key topics for

oversight will include implementation of requirements to post government expenditure information online, accessibility of federal information to search technologies, and management of large information technology procurements.

The Committee will also review the security and integrity of federal systems, including the requirements of the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) and notification and remediation practices when personally identifiable information is compromised. The Committee will also review the recent problems involving security breaches at the Veterans Administration and the Office of Personnel Management's USAJOBS system. Other topics for review include the security of mobile digital devices and peer to peer networks.

### **Improper Payments**

This Committee will further investigate improper payments distributed by federal agencies. Under the 2002 Improper Payments Information Act (IPIA), federal agencies are required to annually review all programs and activities to identify those susceptible to significant improper payments. Improper payments are payments made in error or without proper documentation. For FY2008, improper payments may have exceeded \$72 billion, the highest dollar figure since the Act's introduction. While some of that money will be recovered, a huge portion of it may never be retrieved. Moreover, what is being reported today may only begin to scratch the surface. At a time when the federal government is looking to spend an unprecedented amount of taxpayer dollars on new programs, proper financial programs and proper financial reporting is of great importance to ensure that the federal government wastes as little money as possible.

### **Regulatory Process**

Federal regulations can be critical to ensuring effective implementation of the laws that Congress passes to protect human health, consumers, and the environment. The integrity of a rule can be compromised if the process in which it is developed is not open and transparent. The Committee will focus on the role of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) in agency rulemakings and the transparency of OIRA's interactions with agencies and outside entities. The Committee will also focus on the need to improve the efficiency of the federal regulatory process, the effectiveness of the federal regulatory process in achieving the desired outcomes of regulation, and ways to improve the regulatory process and regulatory agencies so that they are more likely to accomplish their important missions.

### **Rating Agency Performance**

The Committee will examine Administration efforts to rate the performance of federal programs including the extent to which such efforts incorporate input from Congress, agencies, independent analysts, and the public.

## **Minerals Management Service**

GAO and the Inspector General for the Department of the Interior have documented numerous problems with the Minerals Management Service (MMS) and its Royalty-in-Kind Program (RIK). In September 2008, the Inspector General released the results of three investigations that described appalling abuses and inadequate oversight at MMS.

In 2006, this Committee began an investigation of the MMS for corruption and cover-ups surrounding faulty oil and gas leases signed in 1998 and 1999. The investigation revealed that Interior Department officials knew the leases were faulty, yet chose to conceal the truth in hopes that nobody would notice.

The Committee intends to delve deeper into whether energy companies are correctly reporting the amount of oil and gas being produced and whether the correct royalties are being paid on that production. In tandem, the Committee will scrutinize Interior Department efforts to ensure private sector reporting and payment compliance. Oil and gas royalty payments represent one of the country's largest non-tax sources of revenue. Taxpayers must get every cent that is owed them.

## **Interior/Backlogs**

The committee will review the issues surrounding the maintenance backlogs at the Department of Interior, particularly the National Park Service, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and Fish and Wildlife Services (FWS). Estimates of these backlogs vary greatly and despite appropriations, especially to the NPS, the backlogs continue to grow. The Committee will review these backlogs, how maintenance needs are being prioritized, and subsequently addressed. The review will include maintenance backlogs at important cultural and historical sites such as the National Mall.

## **Healthcare**

The Committee will investigate alleged waste, fraud, and abuse that undermine government and government-funded health programs, with special attention to abusive pricing and marketing tactics. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will remain a major subject of oversight, including in such key areas as drug safety and the regulation of dietary supplements and medical devices.

The Committee will also conduct oversight of the efforts of HHS and the Veterans Administration (VA) to assure the efficient use of federal health care dollars, including federal workforce health insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, and VA spending. Topics for review include whether funds are being spent efficiently on medically necessary services and potential waste, fraud, abuse, and improper payments in the programs, especially areas identified by GAO as high risk. In addition, the Committee will examine indirect costs, such as the efficiency of the drug approval process at FDA and the efficacy of the efforts of the HHS-IG and other law enforcement agencies charged with investigating and prosecuting health care fraud.

The Committee will also investigate potential conflicts of interest at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), focusing on the NIH practice under which extramural researchers at NIH are able to take money from pharmaceutical companies at the same time they are receiving grant money to test drugs for the federal government. This investigation will probe whether weak conflict of interest rules for extramural grantees has permitted federally funded science to become tainted.

In order to improve the quality of care in the United States the Committee will conduct oversight into federal efforts to prevent medical errors and healthcare associated infections which result in significant injury and death in the United States as well as unproductive health care spending.

The Committee will continue its oversight of Administration efforts to improve health preparedness for terrorist attacks and naturally occurring disease outbreaks, such as pandemic influenza.

### **Food Safety**

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that upward of 56 million Americans suffer from food poisoning each year. The Committee will investigate the safety and security of our Nation's food supply, with a particular focus on imported food, including melamine contamination of food imported from China. The Committee will attempt to determine how widespread the problem of melamine contaminated products is and whether the FDA's efforts to ensure that food products are not tainted with melamine are sufficient.

The Committee will investigate the adequacy of food safety law enforcement by the FDA, the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) of the USDA and Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) of DHS. This will include an examination of the extent to which the authority to inspect, interdict, and test domestic and imported food and to enjoin or prosecute industry practices that threaten the public health has been weakened over time.

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has identified 15 federal agencies responsible for administering 30 food safety related laws. The Committee will conduct oversight into the federal food safety regulatory structure to address fragmentation and insure that federal efforts are coordinated and that agencies are effectively and efficiently using resources to improve food safety.

### **Oversight of the Department of Homeland Security**

The creation of the DHS required one of the largest consolidations of federal agencies in history. The department was ultimately formed by bringing together 22 different parts of government. Though the department has made progress in integrating these various agencies, incidents such as the response to Hurricane Katrina reveal that there is still room to improve efficiency and responsiveness. The Committee will review the operations, management, and decisionmaking at DHS, focusing particularly on procurement, the extensive use of outside contractors, and issue of whether DHS has

attempted to usurp some important programs and functions that properly lie with other agencies.

### **Energy**

Energy policy must address all facets of energy production as they relate to the economy, national security, and the environment. The Committee will examine the role of the federal government in the advancement of renewable energy. Federal lands also provide a valuable resource for helping America meet its energy goals and the Committee will oversee all aspects of their use for energy production.

In addition to finding and utilizing cleaner and more efficient sources of energy, oversight of the electricity generation and delivery infrastructure is imperative. An aging grid and transmission line system that has proved increasingly unreliable, leading to shortfalls and blackouts, will not be able to keep pace with the changing face of power generation.

Building on the Committee's long and bipartisan history of conducting oversight over the federal government's role in controlling climate change, which is inextricably linked to our nation's energy policy, the Committee will continue to examine the role of the federal government in the advancement of alternative and low carbon energy sources. The regulation of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases will require the coordination of multiple government agencies and the Committee will continue to conduct oversight and investigations as the Federal government crafts a framework to regulate CO<sub>2</sub>.

The Committee will continue its review of the domestic carbon market and conduct oversight of proposed cap-and-trade systems. No single regulatory body has oversight responsibility of the domestic carbon market. Given the federal government's direct participation in the market, in the form of purchasing carbon offsets and facilitating some offset projects, addressing this lack of oversight is necessary. The Committee will conduct oversight to minimize the potential for fraud and to direct the establishment of standardized quality assurance mechanisms.

The Committee will investigate the performance of the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) with regard to ensuring safety at the Nation's nuclear power plants and other nuclear facilities. This investigation will include the adequacy of the new facility licensing process and the NRC's proposal to license nuclear reprocessing plants.

In addition, DOE has been on the GAO's high risk program list for 19 years. The Committee will investigate whether DOE has adequate project management capabilities for major projects, such as the \$70 billion Hanford vitrification plant.

### **Environment**

The Committee will review Department of Defense (DOD) environmental activities and ascertain its record of clean-up effectiveness, ongoing monitoring, and compliance with Federal and state environmental laws and regulations. The Committee

will particularly examine EPA's failure to enforce environmental laws at DOD facilities; DOD opposition to the listing of toxic waste sites on the NPL; DOD refusal to sign interagency cleanup agreements with EPA; DOD challenges to state regulatory authority under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) at formerly utilized defense sites (FUDS); and DOD delays in cleaning up its Superfund sites.

The Committee will also investigate the Department of the Navy's long-term refusal to provide medical care to current and former servicemen and their dependent families who were injured by environmental contamination at Navy facilities. The Committee will particularly examine extensive water contamination at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune and air contamination at Atsugi Naval Air Facility.

Finally, the Committee will investigate the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) development of proposals to conduct human testing of pesticides on children. In connection with this issue, the Committee will also examine EPA's treatment of whistleblowers and others who have disagreed with the agency's official.

### **Consumer Protection**

The Committee will investigate the adequacy of efforts by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to safeguard consumers, particularly children, from faulty or dangerous products. This will include review of the CPSC's implementation of Section 15(b) of the Consumer Product Safety Act pertaining to Substantial Product Hazard Reports; other data gathering and dissemination efforts with respect to products within its jurisdiction; the assessment of civil penalties to enforce safety; CPSC work on emerging hazards; and the relationship of CPSC orders to common law.

The Committee will also examine the enforcement activities of the Federal Trade Commission, particularly with respect to false and deceptive advertising, including offerings made by mail and email; telemarketing; identity theft; and privacy.

### **Trade**

The Committee will examine the implementation and effect of multilateral trade agreements (including World Trade Organization agreements) and bilateral agreements, focusing particularly on the issue of whether these trade agreements adequately protect the interests of domestic and foreign workers and the environment. Some of the trade practices that require investigation include: currency manipulation by China and others; widespread theft of American intellectual property; failure to abide by agreements regarding environment and worker health and safety; use of offshore havens to perpetrate frauds on US consumers and investors; and the proper enforcement of anti-dumping and countervailing duty laws by the Department of Commerce.

### **9/11 Health Care**

The Committee will continue its oversight of ongoing programs to monitor and assist victims of the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center (WTC). An unknown number of people were exposed to harmful toxins during the aftermath of the

attacks and the clean-up and recovery efforts. The health effects attributable to the attacks have proven to be both immediate and long-term, and are still not fully understood.

The Committee will continue to evaluate the adequacy of existing programs to assist those exposed to Ground Zero toxins. Key to that evaluation will be a review of the data being collected on the health of exposed populations. The Committee will also examine liability issues faced by the City of New York and private contractors who committed workers to the rescue and recovery efforts.

### **USDA Civil Rights**

The Committee will continue its review of civil rights issues at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Given USDA's acknowledged history of discrimination against black farmers, the Committee will review leadership and the implementation of programs within the department's Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights. The Committee will also monitor whether USDA's IG has appropriate access to review civil rights enforcement and management procedures, including delays in the processing of discrimination complaints and the lack of diversity among county committees.

### **Army Corps of Engineers**

The Committee will continue to conduct oversight with respect to the Army Corps of Engineers civil works program. In conjunction with the economic stimulus package, the Army Corps is readying numerous backlogged programs. According to the Corps, they have the ability to accelerate over 580 construction programs.

### **Executive Office of the President and the Office of Administration**

House Rule X 3(i) directs the Committee to "review and study on a continuous basis the operations of Government activities at all levels with a view to determining their economy and efficiency." Pursuant to this requirement, the Committee will conduct oversight of all federal entities as warranted, including the Executive Office of the President, the Office of the Vice President, the White House Office and the Office of Administration. In order to ensure compliance with the Presidential Records Act, the Committee will continue to monitor the technology associated with the Office of Administration's e-mail archiving system for the Executive Office of the President. The Committee will also continue its review of legal issues related to how the Hatch Act applies to the Office of Political Affairs.

### **SUBCOMMITTEE ON DOMESTIC POLICY**

The Domestic Policy Subcommittee's jurisdiction is broad. In the past, the subcommittee has devoted attention to financial markets and the foreclosure crisis, the performance of Medicaid, and the adequacy of handling veterans' claims for benefits, among other topics.

In the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, the subcommittee intends to continue its work on financial markets and banking regulation, resolution of the foreclosure crisis and oversight on the federal response to the financial crisis.

Additionally, our oversight plan includes but will not be limited to the following areas:

- Consumer protection – Waste, fraud, and abuse in corporate billing practices; enforcement of anti-trust laws by relevant agencies; certain cases of product safety enforcement;
- Workplace rights – Enforcement of the National Labor Relations Act and related laws and regulations; enforcement of the Occupational Health and Safety Act and related laws and regulations; and enforcement of the federal minimum wage, overtime rules, and related laws and regulations;
- Retirement security – Waste, fraud and abuse in employee pension programs, and enforcement and adequacy of pertinent laws and regulations;
- Civil rights – Integrity of federal enforcement of and advocacy for civil rights statutes;
- Federal management of publicly owned assets – Enforcement of Telecommunications Act and regulations, with respect to concentration of media ownership, promotion of minority ownership, and the preservation of local broadcasting; examination of the goals of the Fairness Doctrine; and oversight of the Interior Department Minerals Management Service;
- Energy – Waste, fraud, and abuse in the energy industry and government regulation thereof; the safety record of the nuclear energy industry; adequacy of long term storage plans; enforcement of public health and safety laws; and utility rates, ratemaking, and deregulation;
- Native American affairs – effectiveness and integrity of federal initiatives, programs and administration;
- Health Care and Insurance – Waste, fraud and abuse in the health insurance industry; and
- Drug Policy – Effectiveness, cost-efficiency, and socio-economic consequences of current anti-drug policies, priorities, programs, and resources throughout the government, with particular attention to the coordination, direction, and management (where applicable) of such policies, priorities, programs, and resources by the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

- Patent and Trademark Review – The Subcommittee will continue its oversight into the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to insure that the Office is adopting the best methods and business model to achieve rapid review of applications and high quality decisions at every level.
- HUD CDBG Program – The Subcommittee should continue the Committee’s review into Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) with a particular interest in how Congress can retool this worthwhile program to better meet the needs of States and localities.
- Climate change and Carbon Reduction Strategies – The Subcommittee will review various strategies, including voluntary cap-and-trade and carbon taxes, and assess their overall potential impact on atmospheric carbon dioxide and the economy.

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL WORKFORCE, POSTAL SERVICE, AND  
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

The Subcommittee has jurisdiction over federal employee issues, the postal service, and the municipal affairs of the District of Columbia. The Subcommittee’s oversight plan includes areas under its jurisdiction, but does not preclude oversight or investigation of additional matters as the need arises.

**Federal Workforce**

*Oversight of Federal Human Resources*

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) listed Strategic Human Capital Management on its High-Risk Series List again for 2009. GAO designated strategic human capital management as a high-risk area in 2001 because of the federal government’s long-standing lack of a consistent approach to human capital management. GAO cited leadership; strategic human capital planning; acquiring, developing and retaining talent; and results-oriented culture as areas in need of improvement. The report also noted United States Office of Personnel Management’s (OPM) need to provide leadership in these areas.

The Subcommittee will work with congressional staff and federal employee stakeholders to research and evaluate the effectiveness of the OPM, existing federal pay systems, and human resources processes. The Subcommittee will develop legislation, and will encourage the implementation of policies and strategies, that will enhance federal human resource systems government-wide.

*Senior Executive Service*

The Senior Executive Service (SES) was created in 1979 to provide a government-wide, systematic program for the recruitment, retention, development, and

management of senior executives in the federal government. This cadre of nearly 7,000 top-level executives is noted for its policymaking and leadership responsibilities.

A new pay system for the SES was established in 2004. Key features of the new pay system include the elimination of locality pay and annual pay adjustments; replacement of six pay rates with one broad pay range; an increase in the cap on base pay; and the addition of a second, higher cap for SES appraisal systems that have been certified by OPM.

Some have expressed concern about the new system being equitable, transparent, and free from political influence. Several members of the Senior Executive Association have suggested that the new pay system has led to the politicization of the SES. Furthermore, under the Bush Administration the number of political appointees in government has increased, including political SESers who determine the pay of career SESers. The Subcommittee will examine SES's pay system, whether or not it has been politicized, and, if necessary, will propose legislative remedies.

#### *Diversity in the Senior Executive Service*

The Subcommittee will seek to move legislation that will result in greater diversity within the SES. The legislation would require federal agencies to put in place systems that will attract and retain minorities into the SES. In testimonies before the Subcommittee on April 3, 2008, GAO testified that a significantly lower number of minorities and women are members of the SES in comparison to the numbers of minorities and women employed in the GS-15 and GS-14 levels, the feeder pools for the SES. According to GAO, in 2007, minorities made up 22.5 percent of the employees in the SES development pool while only making up 15.8 percent of the SES. Adoption of the legislation would insure that there is not only a vibrant and diverse SES workforce but also insure all qualified employees have the opportunity to become members of the SES.

The Subcommittee will continue its oversight of SES diversity at the Postal Service. Through a series of hearings, federal agencies, and the Postal Service will be called to testify about programs and policies they have implemented to improve diversity in their SES.

#### *Merit Systems Protection Board*

Established by the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 (CSRA) as a successor agency to the U.S. Civil Service Commission, the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) is an independent, quasi-judicial agency. The majority of the cases brought to the MSPB are appeals of agency adverse actions, which are removals, suspensions of more than 14 days, reductions in grade or pay, and furloughs of 30 days or less.

MSPB's authorization expired at the end of fiscal year 2007. The Subcommittee will hold a hearing to consider legislation to reauthorize MSPB.

### *Office of Special Counsel*

The Office of Special Counsel (OSC) is an independent federal agency with four statutory responsibilities. The first is to investigate and prosecute employee allegations of prohibited personnel practices at federal agencies, including retaliation for whistleblowing and enforcement of federal Hatch Act provisions. In cases where an OSC investigation reveals reasonable grounds to believe a prohibited personnel practice has been committed, and an agency declines to voluntarily provide relief to a complainant, OSC will prosecute a petition for corrective action before the Merit Systems Protection Board.

OSC's current authorization expired at the end of fiscal year 2007. The Subcommittee will hold a hearing to consider legislation that would reauthorize OSC.

### *Federal Employees Benefit Programs*

The Subcommittee will hold a series of oversight hearings on the benefit programs that are available to federal employees.

The *Federal Employees Health Benefits Program* (FEHBP) became effective in 1960. It is the largest employer-sponsored group health insurance program in the world, covering over 9 million federal employees, retirees, former employees, family members, and former spouses. Over 350 health plans are offered under the FEHBP Program. Each health plan carrier under the program charges a different premium. The government pays up to 75% of the costs of the enrollees' health benefits coverage and the enrollee pays the rest. The Subcommittee will examine how premium rates are set and cost of prescription drugs for enrollees.

The *Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance* (FEGLI) Plan was established in 1954. It is the largest group life insurance program in the world, covering over 4 million federal employees and retirees, as well as many of their family members. The Subcommittee will hold a general oversight hearing on FEGLI.

The *Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program* (FLTCIP) was created by Congress in 2000 when it passed the Long Term Care Security Act (Act). The Act required the federal government to offer group long-term care insurance to federal and postal employees and annuitants, members and retired members of the uniformed services, and other qualified relatives. In 2001, OPM entered into a seven-year contract with Long Term Care Partners LLC -- a joint venture formed by John Hancock Life Insurance Company and Metropolitan Life Insurance Company -- that allows eligible individuals to apply for long-term care insurance.

GAO's March 31, 2006, report, "Long-Term Care Insurance: Federal Program Compared Favorably with Other Products, and Analysis of Claims Trend Could Inform Future Decisions," found that the federal program's benefits and premiums compared favorably with other plans, but enrollment and claims experience were lower than expected. The Subcommittee will hold the first congressional oversight hearing on FLTCIP.

The *Thrift Savings Plan* (TSP) is a 401(k) style retirement savings plan for federal government employees and members of the uniformed services. The Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board (Board) administers the TSP. The Subcommittee will seek to move legislation that requires the Board to automatically enroll newly hired federal and military employees in the TSP. Currently, 14% of eligible federal civilian employees and 75% of uniformed service members are not participating in TSP and are therefore less likely than participants to be financially self-sufficient in retirement. For civilian employees in the Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS), TSP represents one part of a three part system, the other parts being Social Security and the FERS annuity. TSP was designed to play an important role in employees' retirement income and participation should be strongly encouraged.

In the absence of an affirmative decision otherwise, participants in the TSP currently have 100% of their funds invested in the Government Securities Investment Fund, the G fund. Future legislation would authorize the Board to establish an alternative fund or funds as the default fund. The Board has indicated a desire to change the default to an age-appropriate lifecycle fund, or L Fund. These are funds which represent a combination of existing stock and other investment options to appropriately balance risk and return based on a projected retirement date.

The *Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program* (FEDVIP) held its first open season November through December 2006. FEDVIP allows dental and vision insurance to be purchased on a group basis by federal and Postal employees, retirees, and their eligible family members on an employee-pay-all basis. Premiums for enrolled federal and Postal employees are withheld from their salary on a pre-tax basis. An oversight hearing will be held on how FEDVIP is being implemented, what services are covered under the program and enrollment rates.

*Flexible Spending Accounts* (FSAs) and *High Deductible Health Plans/Health Savings Accounts* (HDHP/HSAs) have been introduced to the FEHBP over the last few years. HDHPs are health plans that typically involve lower premiums because the enrollee bears a greater share of the initial costs of care. FSAs are employer-established arrangements that reimburse employees for medical and dental expenses not covered by insurance. FSAs are funded by salary reduction agreements under which employees receive less pay in exchange for equivalent contributions to their accounts. Employees choose how much to put into accounts, which can vary from year to year; however, they must forfeit unused balances at the end of the year. HSAs are savings accounts for the purpose of health care spending that receive tax advantages.

FEHBP offers a type of "consumer-directed health plan" (CDHP) that combines a HDHP with a tax-advantaged HSA that enrollees use to pay for a portion of their health expenses. Proponents believe that HDHPs coupled with HSAs can help restrain health care spending because enrollees have an incentive to seek lower-cost health care services, and only to obtain care when necessary because account funds can accrue from year to year. Employee groups believe that these plans attract not only wealthier enrollees who use the HSA as a tax-advantaged savings vehicle but that premiums for traditional plans

could rise due to a disproportionate share of older and less healthy enrollees with higher care expenses remaining in the traditional plans.

In January 2006, GAO released a report on FEHBP's first-year experience with HDHPs and HSAs. It found that FEHBP HDHP enrollees were younger and earned higher federal salaries than other FEHBP enrollees. These differences were largely due to a smaller share of retirees enrolling in the HDHPs. The Subcommittee will evaluate the impact of FSAs and HSAs on the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program.

### *Telework*

Every executive agency is required to have policies in place that allow eligible employees to telework. Telework provides a number of benefits including reduced energy consumption and traffic congestion, competitive hiring and retention, cost savings, and emergency preparedness. Despite these and other benefits, many agencies continue to underutilize telework.

The Subcommittee will seek to move legislation that requires the head of each agency to establish a policy that allows authorized employees to telework, requires the General Services Administration (GSA) to issue guidance on issues related to telework, creates the position of Telework Managing Officer, requires GAO to evaluate and report on agency telework programs, and requires agencies to incorporate telework into their continuity of operations planning.

### *Law Enforcement Officers*

Federal civilian employees are covered by either the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) or the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). Employees hired before January 1, 1984, are covered by CSRS, unless they elected to switch to FERS. Employees initially hired in 1984 or later are covered by FERS. Both CSRS and FERS allow regular federal employees to retire at age 55 after completing 30 years of service, at age 60 with 20 years of service, or at age 62 with 5 years of service.

Congress has provided special retirement rules and benefits for federal employees who are classified as law enforcement officers (LEOs). Under both FERS and CSRS, LEOs can retire at age 50 with 20 years of service. They are required to retire at age 57, or after age 57 if the completion of 20 years of service occurs after age 57. Under FERS, LEOs can retire at any age after completing 25 years of service but in any case must retire at age 57.

To compensate LEOs for being required to retire earlier than other federal employees, LEOs accrue retirement benefits at a faster rate than other federal employees. For each year of federal service, LEOs earn 1.7% of the average of their 3 highest years of pay; non-LEO federal employees earn 1.0%. Furthermore, once retired, LEOs receive annual cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) regardless of age. Federal civilian employees do not receive COLAs under FERS until age 62.

For the purposes of retirement benefits under CSRS and FERS, title 5 of the U.S. Code defines a law enforcement officer as “an employee, the duties of whose position are primarily the investigation, apprehension, or detention of individuals suspected or convicted of offenses against the criminal laws of the United States.” Federal employees with the power to arrest, the authority to carry firearms, and the duty to enforce laws but whose primary duties do not include the investigation, apprehension, or detention of individuals are not classified as LEOs for the purposes of retirement benefits.

Over the years, numerous legislative proposals have been introduced relating who should be classified as LEOs and receive LEO pay and benefits. The Subcommittee will examine how law enforcement officer is defined and who should and should not be classified as a LEO.

### **Postal Service**

#### *Financial Stability of the United States Postal Service*

The Postal Service is facing unprecedented economic challenges. During FY 2008, the Postal Service suffered a net loss of \$2.8 billion. The Postal Service has experienced a 4.5 percent (9.5 billion pieces) decrease in mail between 2007 and 2008. Because of the different ways in which people communicate today, using the internet and text messages, it is unclear how much of the previous mail volume will actually return after the recession. The spike in fuel prices during the spring and summer of 2008 had a negative impact on the Postal Service’s finances. Compounding these difficulties, the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006 (PAEA) required the Postal Service to put \$5.6 billion of its revenue into the Retiree Health Benefit Fund.

The economic challenges confronting the Postal Service are not expected to improve during FY 2009. The Postal Service projects an additional decrease in mail volume of 8 billion pieces. The Postal Service reduced 50 million work hours from the FY 2007 levels, the largest decrease in work hours since FY 2003. The Subcommittee will hold hearings on the economic viability of the Postal Service.

#### *Whistleblower Protections*

The Postal Service is not, by law, subject to the Whistleblower Protection Act (WPA). The Employee and Labor Relations Manual (ELM) contains provisions adopted by the Service that replicate the more significant protections found in the WPA for victims of unlawful reprisal. These protections are termed “corrective actions,” which involve remedies for the victims of unlawful reprisal. The term does not include disciplinary actions that may be issued to managers or supervisors. As the ELM provisions concern only “corrective actions,” they do not mandate discipline for managers who retaliate against whistleblowers.

Ensuring employees whistleblower protections contributes to uncovering waste, fraud, and abuse. The Subcommittee will hold a hearing to examine the need to extend full whistleblower protections to postal employees.

### *Additional Postal Issues*

The Subcommittee will hold hearings on Workers' Compensation costs, including an examination of how limited/light duty assignments affect productivity; postal initiatives in efficiency and economy (Flat Sequencing Program and the reduction in mail delivery costs); mailer discounts (particularly, the Intelligent Barcode program); the Postal Regulatory Commission's report to Congress on the Postal monopoly; and environmentally friendly initiatives in the Postal Service.

### **District of Columbia**

#### *General Oversight of the District of Columbia*

Article I, Section 8, Clause 16 of the U.S. Constitution provides for the creation of District of Columbia to serve as the home of the federal government and grants Congress exclusive legislative oversight and budgetary authority over such District. While over the years the day to day functions of the City have been transferred to the District of Columbia government in accordance with the Home Rule Act, Congress continues to exercise its oversight authority over the legislative and budgetary affairs of the District of Columbia. The Subcommittee will hold oversight hearings on issues where there is a compelling federal interest, such as the District's financial management practices, procurement process, land transfers, firearm regulations and criminal justice functions.

#### *Budget and Legislative Autonomy*

The Subcommittee will hold hearings on proposals designed to reduce congressional control over the District of Columbia. These legislative proposals would amend the Home Rule Act to remove or redefine the level of congressional oversight over the budget and legislative process of the District of Columbia. In previous Congresses legislation has been introduced to grant the District of Columbia legislative autonomy, budget autonomy and the right to establish an elected District Attorney. The Subcommittee expects to once again hold hearings on each, if not all of these matters during the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress.

#### *District of Columbia School Reform*

The District of Columbia School Reform Act of 1995 (the Act) was enacted by Congress in 1996 and created a long-term reform and funding plan for the District's public school system and established the city's Public Charter School System. Since enactment of the Act, the District has continuously worked to improve the delivery of educational services to District of Columbia students and families. For instance, in 2007, the District of Columbia enacted the Public Education Reform Amendment Act of 2007 which authorized a comprehensive approach to school reform in the District of Columbia by granting the Mayor and a cabinet level chancellor ultimate authority over the District's schools system.

Given the Subcommittee's legislative authority over several of the District's education related statutes, the Subcommittee expects to hold both oversight and legislative hearings throughout the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress on the District's traditional public school system, its public charter school system and the District of Columbia Opportunity Scholarship Program.

### *Offender Reentry*

Since the enactment of the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997, sentenced felons from the District of Columbia have been incarcerated within the federal prison system. Decisions regarding their commitment and release are made by the Federal Bureau of Prisons, the U.S. Parole Commission, and the D.C. Superior Court. The responsibility for reintegrating ex-offenders into the community rests with the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency. The Subcommittee will continue to conduct the requisite oversight of these agencies and examine their commitment to the rehabilitation and successful reentry of offenders in the District of Columbia.

### *District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority*

In April 1996, the District of Columbia City Council passed the "Department of Public Works Reorganization Act of 1996" (the Act) which established the D.C. Water and Sewer Authority (WASA). The Act authorized WASA to serve as a quasi independent regional utility charged with providing retail drinking water distribution, wastewater collection, and wastewater treatment services to District of Columbia customers and the federal government and to provide wholesale wastewater treatment services to surrounding Maryland and Virginia suburban jurisdictions.

Since the creation of WASA, Congress has held numerous oversight hearings examining a host of related issues and topics ranging from the quality of the area's drinking water to WASA's capital infrastructure projects and its compliance with Environmental Protection Agency regulatory standards. Recent news articles questioning WASA's involvement and knowledge of the Washington, DC "lead in drinking water crisis" from 2001-2004 serves as further evidence for the continual oversight of the utility agency. To this end, the Subcommittee will hold at least one general oversight hearing to examine issues confronting WASA.

### *The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority*

The Washington Area Transit Agency (WMATA) was created in 1967 by an interstate compact that resulted from the enactment of identical legislation by the District of Columbia, Virginia, and Maryland, with the concurrence of Congress. WMATA was established to "plan, finance, construct, and operate a comprehensive mass transit system in the National Capital Region." WMATA faces many challenges.

During the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, legislation was passed and enacted authorizing federal funding in the amount of \$1.5 billion over 10 years to support WMATA's aging

infrastructure and system. The legislation makes the funding contingent upon Virginia, Maryland and the District each dedicating \$50 million a year for 10 years to WMATA. In addition to the agency's infrastructure challenges, WMATA has also experienced numerous problems relating to customer safety and Metrorail accidents over the past several years. While WMATA has publicly committed itself to taking the necessary steps to address operational and safety deficiencies, routine and rigorous oversight of the agency continues to be warranted. Therefore, an oversight hearing will be held to assess what WMATA is doing to address safety and communications concerns as well as to follow up on progress made on WMATA's major capital projects.

### *Financial Management*

The Committee will conduct oversight of the District of Columbia financial management system, including embezzlement in the Office of Tax and Revenue and potential material weaknesses in the Medicare, Medicaid, and Child and Family Services agencies.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT, ORGANIZATION, AND PROCUREMENT**

### **Government Management**

#### *Inspectors General and Auditors*

By preventing and detecting waste, fraud, and abuse, federal inspectors general and auditors generate savings for taxpayers that exceed their office budgets. The Subcommittee will investigate whether inspectors general and auditors have received adequate resources to keep pace with the increase in federal contracting. The Subcommittee will also conduct oversight to ensure that these offices remain neutral watchdogs and are not subject to partisan and political pressure.

#### *GAO High Risk List*

The Subcommittee will pay close attention to several programs on GAO's 2009 High-Risk List. The Subcommittee will primarily focus on the GAO-identified topic of "Managing Federal Contracting More Effectively," including interagency contracting and contracting by the Department of Defense, Department of Energy, and NASA. Other at-risk programs identified by GAO that the Subcommittee will review include "Managing Federal Real Property," the "DOD Approach to Business Transformation," and the "Outdated U.S. Financial Regulatory System."

#### *Federal Government Finance*

The Subcommittee will examine federal financial management. This review will include compliance with financial management and accounting laws, and the security and reliability of federal financial systems. The Subcommittee will also focus on agency efforts to reduce improper payments and achieve a clean governmentwide audit.

GAO and other federal auditors have found that purchase card programs, through which government employees make small-value procurements using individually issued credit cards, are highly vulnerable to abuse without proper internal controls. The Subcommittee will monitor purchase card programs to ensure that departments and agencies maintain adequate oversight and review of purchase card spending.

### *Identification Documents*

The Subcommittee will provide oversight of the REAL ID program, which mandates security and verification standards for state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards, and Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12, which establishes standards for secure identification cards for federal employees and contractors. This oversight will include review of contracts and grants, costs of compliance, and privacy and data security considerations.

### *Technology*

The Subcommittee will conduct oversight of the federal government's use of information technology. Topics to be reviewed include IT procurement, accessibility, and cost-efficiency. This oversight will further the goal of building information systems that are compatible and interoperable across federal agencies.

### **Government Organization**

The current financial crisis has prompted reviews of whether the federal financial regulatory structure is adequate to supervise the modern financial sector. The Subcommittee will focus on proposals to reform and streamline financial regulatory agencies, with a focus on ensuring independence and accountability in the system.

### **Procurement**

The Subcommittee will work collaboratively with the full Committee on all procurement topics identified in the full Committee oversight plan. This oversight will include reviews of waste, fraud, and abuse in federal contracting, and determination of topics for new legislation and amendments to the Federal Acquisition Regulation. The Subcommittee will focus especially on the misuse of emergency authority to issue long-term, no-bid contracts. Another topic for review is whether the government relies too heavily on large prime contractors, who subcontract the majority of work and do little more than add a layer of expense and bureaucracy. The Subcommittee will also examine whether penalties for overcharges are sufficient to deter contractors from overbilling, and whether auditors and agency inspectors general have sufficient authority and resources to detect and take action against waste and fraud.

The Subcommittee will supplement the work of the full Committee by conducting oversight of the General Services Administration (GSA), reviewing the performance of GSA's procurement management responsibilities, and monitoring GSA management to identify and prevent improper political or partisan influence in the procurement process.

The Subcommittee will also conduct oversight of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy in the Office of Management and Budget.

In addition, the Subcommittee will continue its oversight of large information technology procurement programs, particularly the projects on the Office of Management and Budget “Management Watch List” and “High Risk IT Project List.”

Federal law and policy requires that contracting opportunities be made available to small businesses, minority-owned businesses, and businesses located in disadvantaged communities. The Subcommittee will conduct oversight to ensure that agencies are complying with laws and policies and meeting goals for diversity in contracting.

### **SUBCOMMITTEE ON INFORMATION POLICY, CENSUS, AND NATIONAL ARCHIVES**

This oversight plan provides an overview of the Subcommittee’s oversight plan but does not preclude additional oversight on subjects under the Subcommittee’s jurisdiction.

#### *Census*

In 2008, the U.S. Census Bureau’s mismanagement of the Field Data Collection Automation (FDCA) program led it to abandon plans of using handheld computers for the 2010 Decennial Census. The paper-based non-response follow-up operation for 2010 will likely cost more than \$14 billion.

GAO initially designated the 2010 Census as a high-risk area in March 2008 because of (1) long-standing weaknesses in the Bureau’s information technology (IT) acquisition and contract management function, (2) problems with the performance of handheld computers used to collect data, and (3) uncertainty over the ultimate cost of the census, currently estimated at more than \$14 billion.

Key topics to be reviewed by the Subcommittee include: (1) the Bureau’s plans to improve its information technology management capabilities; (2) evaluating operational planning and associated risks; (3) a review of the Bureau’s readiness for the 2010 decennial Census through continued rigorous end-to-end testing; (4) examining the Bureau’s efforts to reduce the differential undercount; (5) a review of the Bureau’s plans to count the homeless, people in special places and group quarters enumeration; and (6) cost overruns in contracts.

#### *Federal Advisory Committee Act*

Advisory committees play a crucial role in giving the president and agencies advice on complex issues. According to the General Services Administration (GSA), there were more than 900 advisory committees in 2008. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) is aimed at making these committees accountable, transparent, balanced, and independent from the influence of special interests. However, the courts

have created loopholes in FACA that undermine the purposes of the Act and agencies have not consistently implemented FACA. The Subcommittee will continue its oversight to ensure that FACA is implemented in a manner that ensures that advisory committees are appropriately transparent and balanced.

### *Freedom of Information Act*

The Subcommittee will focus on compliance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The Subcommittee will monitor implementation of the memorandum issued by the President on January 21, 2009, reinstating the presumption of disclosure. The Subcommittee will also examine implementation of the OPEN Government Act of 2007. The OPEN Government Act of 2007 made numerous important reforms to FOIA including incentives to reduce agency backlogs of FOIA requests and the creation of an independent Office of Government Information Services within the National Archives and Records Administration.

### *Privacy*

The Subcommittee will monitor and conduct oversight of federal agency information security practices that are required under the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA), and the Office of Management and Budget in this area. The Subcommittee will pay close attention to agency FISMA compliance and overall FISMA effectiveness. The Subcommittee will examine agency annual testing, along with their certification and accreditation procedures, plans for correcting IT security weaknesses and other measurable indications of FISMA compliance.

The Subcommittee will review public and private methods and policies for protection of personally identifiable information used by government agencies and utilized by government programs and used by the private sector. As reported by the Washington Post in January of 2009, data breaches within the United States continue to increase at an alarming rate, rising 50% in 2008 alone.

These breaches are reaching magnitudes not seen before as evidenced by the loss of 40 million card numbers by TJX holdings and the December 2008 breach at RBS exposing 1.5 million card holder data sets.

By processing \$27 billion annually in incoming credit and debit card transactions, the federal government is a prime target with data breaches and credit card fraud directly impacting federal and federally supported programs. Both the State Department and Amtrak had their credit card systems compromised in 2008.

The Subcommittee will examine and evaluate privacy and security practices used by agencies to ensure the privacy of such information.

### *National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)*

The Subcommittee will examine in depth the areas that the Archivist should concentrate on to improve delivery of services to the public and stakeholders.

As the Subcommittee performs its oversight function, it will look at NARA's operations and audit procedures, its budget needs, its leadership needs, and access and accessibility of NARA records – how the public can track the activities and decision making of NARA.

The Subcommittee will examine the Presidential Library system, specifically looking at the governance of the Presidential Libraries – how the foundations govern the libraries, how the foundations interact with NARA, and how the foundations and NARA coordinate and cooperate to fulfill the mission of the Presidential Library system.

Additionally the Subcommittee will review questions of legal access to Presidential records. We will compare legal access to documents to the related subject of practical accessibility and review how libraries provide accessibility to the public for the records that are legally available.

### *Performance-Based Government*

The Subcommittee should continue to bring a performance-based approach to government, and work to move government to a functionally focused approach, and away from an agency-centric approach where appropriate. The Subcommittee should also continue to evaluate management reforms and push for E-Government and other government-wide initiatives that can bring efficiency and cost-savings.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

In preparing this plan, consultation with other committees and subcommittees having jurisdiction over the same or related laws, programs, or agencies within this Subcommittee's jurisdiction has been undertaken directly and indirectly to ensure maximum coordination and cooperation among committees and subcommittees.

This Subcommittee shall conduct oversight of the operations of U.S. Government activities in the areas of national security, foreign affairs, and homeland security to assess their economy and efficiency. The Subcommittee will conduct investigations into waste, fraud, and abuse of U.S. Government operations in those areas. In doing so, the Subcommittee aims to publicize such misconduct and inefficiency in order to hold accountable those responsible for such actions and to make improvements going forward.

As it deems necessary, the Subcommittee will use all appropriate investigative authorities in order to gather information it seeks to conduct such oversight, including, but not limited to, document requests, interviews, depositions, and fact-finding travel. Such activities will be coordinated with the full Committee and other committees and subcommittees with similar jurisdictions. Where appropriate, the Subcommittee will conduct business meetings to markup and introduce legislation over matters in its jurisdiction.

The Subcommittee intends to request, receive, and examine relevant reports of the Comptroller General of the United States as well as reports of Inspectors General, the

Congressional Budget Office, and Congressional Research Service, among others, in order to submit to the House such recommendations as it considers necessary or desirable in connection with the subject matter of such reports.

Taking advantage of the Subcommittee's unique, interagency jurisdiction, the Subcommittee will examine the effectiveness, efficiency, and cooperation of all U.S. Government agencies and departments involved in national security issues. The Subcommittee will also study intergovernmental relationships among the United States, the various states, and municipalities with respect to matters of homeland security, and among the United States and international organizations of which the United States is a member.

Matters which the Subcommittee intends to conduct oversight on include, but are not limited to:

- Diplomatic, military, intelligence, economic, and development policy and related expenditures concerning U.S. relations with, among others, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Somalia, Sudan, Mexico, Venezuela, Columbia, Cuba, China, North Korea, and other potential global trouble spots. Where appropriate, investigations of expenditures for reconstruction of infrastructure, training of personnel, and other related issues will be examined;
- Oversight of U.S. diplomatic, military, intelligence, economic, and development efforts in Afghanistan will include, but not be limited to, investigations of the training and equipping of the Afghan National Security Forces; U.S. targeting procedures; the efficiency, accountability, and efficacy of a variety of development and reconstruction efforts, including the use of private contractors; the capacity of various U.S. Government agencies and departments to carry on needed activities in Afghanistan; U.S. force levels, deployment schedules, and equipment of U.S. forces in Afghanistan; and the development of the rule of law and justice sector.
- Oversight of U.S. diplomatic, military, intelligence, economic, and development efforts in Pakistan will include, but not be limited to, investigations of the efficiency, accountability, and efficacy of the U.S. Coalition Support Program; U.S. efforts in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA); U.S. efforts to train and equip Pakistan security forces, including the Pakistan Frontier Corps and various Pakistani police entities; U.S. efforts to bolster the rule of law and the justice sector in Pakistan; U.S. efforts to ensure the safety and surety of Pakistani nuclear weapons; and development efforts, including U.S. efforts to bolster primary education for Pakistani children;
- Oversight of the development, implementation, and sufficiency of the National Security Strategy of the United States;
- Oversight of U.S. diplomatic, military, intelligence, economic, and development efforts to address the issue of global terrorism both in the short-term and long-term, including whether the United States is maximizing the use of all elements of

the country's national security potential and how anti-terror efforts are coordinated with other important U.S. national security interests;

- International standing of the United States, humanitarian assistance, development programs, and public diplomacy efforts;
- Oversight of the U.S. Foreign Service, International Broadcasting Bureau, Peace Corps, and U.S. Agency for International Development, including an examination of the rightsizing, effectiveness, and cost efficiency of these and related U.S. national security agencies toward satisfying U.S. national security objectives;
- U.S. interagency efforts to strengthen the civilian law enforcement professionalism and capabilities (as well as the rule of law and justice sectors more generally) of partner countries;
- Oversight of U.S. military combatant commands, especially AFRICOM and SOUTHCOM that have significant interagency inputs and non-traditional outputs, including the implications for these combatant commands on interagency national security coordination and cooperation;
- An investigation into and evaluation of the need for interagency reform among the various U.S. national security agencies and departments;
- The organization and management of the national security infrastructure and personnel system at the National Security Council and the Executive Office of the President;
- Investigation of Defense Department weapons systems procurement, development, operations, and compliance with statutory and other regulations, testing regimes, and efficiency;
- Investigation of the U.S.'s national missile defense efforts, including the actual threat posed by long-range missiles; the technical capabilities of current systems; the costs and benefits of such systems; and ensuring proper oversight and accountability;
- Oversight of the newly-created Wartime Contracting Commission;
- Conduct and efficiency of private contractors in providing security, military intelligence, and other endeavors on behalf of U.S. national security;
- Efficiency and effectiveness of homeland security laws and initiatives particularly as they relate to aviation, rail and transit, chemical, nuclear, port, border and other facilities or critical infrastructure at risk; efforts to predict, react, and respond to mass casualty attacks; U.S. national government funding of and interactions with local responders; and efforts to strengthen the U.S. public health system;

- The adequacy and limitations of U.S. counterintelligence efforts, including but not limited to those of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
- Visas, passports, and other border control and security identification issues, as well as in general, the operations and efficiency of U.S. consulates, border, and immigration policies;
- Investigation into the care and conditions of wounded soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and other Defense Department medical facilities, including the Defense Department's efforts to treat post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injuries (TBI);
- Veterans Affairs matters as they pertain to the care of wounded soldiers, troop morale, incentives for service, and fulfillment of obligations to military service personnel – including examining the implications, intended or otherwise, in the consolidations and closures of facilities (only in coordination with the Veterans Affairs Committee);
- Oversight of the Defense Department's efforts to prevent, treat, and prosecute sexual assault in the military;
- Non-proliferation policy and related expenditures together with the potential effects of actions or non-actions on certain treaties, agreements or military objectives related to the subject, including an examination of nuclear developments in other nations; the role, status, conditions, reliability, and surety of U.S. nuclear weapons; the potential weaponization of space; and the “modernization” of the U.S.’s nuclear weaponry;
- Intelligence reorganization (including inter- and intra-agency cooperation and communication), intelligence gathering and dissemination, intelligence use and misuse, treatment of detainees and prisoners, and the use of human intelligence – including cross-agency coordination, communication, and protection of civil liberties; and
- Conduct and effect of international trade agreements and obligations, and, more generally, the intersection of economic / trade policy and national security.

The foregoing will entail oversight of the Department of Defense, the Department of State (including USAID), the Central Intelligence Agency, the Department of Homeland Security, international organizations of which the United States is a member, and other national security / homeland security entities within the Subcommittee's jurisdiction.

The Subcommittee looks forward to working cooperatively and constructively with the Subcommittee's Ranking Minority Member, all bipartisan Members of the Subcommittee, and other relevant House and Senate committees and subcommittees in order to help fulfill the oversight mandate and responsibility of the U.S. Congress.