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OVERSEAS BASING COMMISSION HEARING SET FOR NOVEMBER 9

*Commission's third public session will receive testimony from military leaders and
Defense policy experts*

WASHINGTON, D.C., November 2, 2004 -- The Commission on the Review of Overseas Military Facility Structure of the United States (Overseas Basing Commission) will hear testimony from former military leaders, diplomats and defense policy experts at a hearing to be held beginning at 9:00 a.m., Monday, November 9, 2004, in room 138, Dirksen Senate Office Building, 1st and C Streets, N.E., Washington, D.C.

This will be the third meeting held by the Commission, which was established by Public Law 108-132 to provide Congress and the President with a thorough study and review of matters relating to U.S. military facility structure overseas. The law requires the Commission's report to include a proposal for an overseas basing strategy to meet current and future Department of Defense (DoD) missions.

The Commission's task is to assess independently whether the current overseas basing structure is adequate to execute current missions, and to assess the feasibility of closures, realignments, or establishment of new installations overseas to meet emerging defense requirements. The Commission's report will serve as another data point to assist the Congressional Committees in performing their oversight responsibilities for the DoD's basing strategy, future military construction appropriations, and the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission determinations.

At the November 9th hearing, the Commission will receive testimony from three panels of experts:

Panel One: Begins at 9 a.m.

Dr. John J. Hamre, Former Deputy Secretary of Defense and Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller);

Ambassador Robert E. Hunter, former U.S. Ambassador to NATO and U.S. Representative to Western European Union.

Panel Two: Begins at 10:30 a.m.

General Charles A. Horner, former Combatant Commander of North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Space Command, as well as the Commander of 9th Air Force and U.S. Central Command Air Force during operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm;

General Montgomery C. Meigs, former Commanding General, U.S. Army, Europe and 7th Army, and Commander of Multinational Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina;

General Charles T. Tony Robertson, Jr. former Combatant Commander for U.S. Transportation Command and Air Mobility Command;

General John H. Tilelli, Jr. former Combatant Commander of the United Nations Command, Republic of Korea/United States Combined Forces Korea and President of USO Worldwide Operations, as well as Vice Chief of Staff the Army and Deputy Chief of Army Operations.

Panel Three: Begins at 1:30 p.m.

Prof. Thomas P.M. Barnett, Senior Strategic Researcher, U.S. Naval War College;

Marcus Corbin, Senior Analyst at the Center for Defense Information;

Michael Noonan, research fellow (defense policy) and the National Security program director for the Foreign Policy Research Institute.

The OSBC began its operations in May, 2004. Public Law 108-324, the Fiscal Year 2005 Military Construction Appropriations Act, extended the Commission's reporting period until August 15, 2005.