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SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE,
SUB-COMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS
AND CAPABILITIES

STATEMENT OF

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THE U.S. CHEMICAL DEMILITARIZATION PROGRAM

JULY 12, 2001

BEFORE THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

SUB-COMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS

AND CAPABILITIES

UNITED STATES SENATE

[FIRST SESSION 107TH CONGRESS]

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MR. CHAIRMAN AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS, I WISH TO THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAR BEFORE THIS COMMITTEE TODAY TO DISCUSS THE UNITED STATES CHEMICAL DEMILITARIZATION PROGRAM. I AM DR. ANNA JOHNSON-WINEGAR, DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE. MY OFFICE IS THE SINGLE FOCAL POINT WITHIN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERSIGHT, COORDINATION, AND INTEGRATION OF THE CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE, COUNTERPROLIFERATION SUPPORT, CHEMICAL DEMILITARIZATION, AND ASSEMBLED CHEMICAL WEAPONS ASSESSMENT (ACWA) PROGRAMS.

RECENT PROGRAM CHANGES

TODAY I WOULD LIKE TO HIGHLIGHT FOR YOU THE MAJOR CHANGES THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE IS IMPLEMENTING WITH RESPECT TO THE UNITED STATES CHEMICAL DEMILITARIZATION PROGRAM. AS YOU WELL KNOW, MR. E.C. (PETE) ALDRIDGE WAS CONFIRMED AS THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (ACQUISITION, TECHNOLOGY, AND LOGISTICS) IN THE SECOND WEEK OF MAY. ON MAY 21, AFTER EXAMINING CONCERNS RELATED TO PROGRAM COST, SCHEDULE, AND MANAGEMENT, SECRETARY ALDRIDGE DIRECTED THAT THE PROGRAM BE CATEGORIZED AS AN ACQUISITION CATEGORY-ID PROGRAM. THIS CHANGE IS INTENDED TO STREAMLINE FUTURE DECISIONS AND OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY. IT IS ALSO CONSISTENT WITH THE SIZE AND SCOPE OF THIS PROGRAM, INTERNATIONAL TREATY OBLIGATIONS, AND THE LEVEL OF LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL INTEREST IN THE SAFE AND TIMELY DESTRUCTION OF OUR NATION'S CHEMICAL WEAPONS STOCKPILE.

IN THIS CAPACITY, SECRETARY ALDRIDGE WILL OVERSEE A DEFENSE-WIDE REVIEW THAT WILL PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT OF OUR ENTIRE CHEMICAL DEMILITARIZATION PROGRAM. THE DEFENSE ACQUISITION EXECUTIVE (DAE) REVIEW IS AN EXTENSIVE AND RIGOROUS PROCESS THAT BEGAN APPROXIMATELY ONE YEAR AGO WHEN THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR ACQUISITION, TECHNOLOGY AND LOGISTICS DIRECTED A TOTAL PROGRAM REVIEW. SUBSEQUENTLY, SPECIAL PANELS CONSISTING OF COST, SCHEDULE AND PROGRAM ANALYSTS FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER FOR CHEMICAL DEMILITARIZATION (PMCD) AND PM ACWA WERE ESTABLISHED AND HAVE MET CONSISTENTLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING A REVIEW OF EACH PROGRAM COMPONENT. THIS INCLUDES CHEMICAL STOCKPILE DISPOSAL, CHEMICAL STOCKPILE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGIES AND APPROACHES, NON-STOCKPILE CHEMICAL MATERIEL AND THE ASSEMBLED CHEMICAL WEAPONS ASSESSMENT. AS THE STATUS AND FUTURE PLANS FOR EACH OF THESE AREAS IS EXAMINED, THE FOLLOWING ISSUES WILL BE COVERED: CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC) COMPLIANCE, LIFE CYCLE COST ESTIMATES, PROGRAM PLANS FOR CLOSURE OF THE STOCKPILE FACILITIES, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES RELATED TO PROGRAM MANAGEMENT. THE DAE REVIEW IS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD THE FIRST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT FOCUS OF THIS REVIEW IS THE NEED TO SELECT A DESTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY FOR THE CHEMICAL WEAPON STOCKPILES STORED IN PUEBLO, COLORADO AND BLUE GRASS, KENTUCKY. IN ACCORDANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 105-261, THE DEPARTMENT IS PERFORMING DETAILED ASSESSMENTS OF THE ASSOCIATED COSTS, SCHEDULES, AND SAFETY OF INCINERATION AND THE CANDIDATE TECHNOLOGIES FOR THOSE SITES. OUR ANALYSIS ALSO

CAREFULLY CONSIDERS PUBLIC ACCEPTABILITY AS A CRITICAL FACTOR. WE REALIZE THAT WE OWE THE COMMUNITIES OUR BEST, NOT NECESSARILY THE EASIEST, SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM WE FACE. THIS PORTION OF THE DAE REVIEW WILL OCCUR IN THE SPRING 2002 TIME FRAME, IN ORDER FOR THE TECHNOLOGY DECISION TO BE MADE CONSISTENT WITH THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS AND SUBSEQUENT RECORDS OF DECISION FOR THE PUEBLO AND BLUE GRASS SITES. THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR PUEBLO WAS RELEASED MAY 9, 2001 WITH A 45 DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD THAT WAS EXTENDED AN ADDITIONAL 45 DAYS AND WILL END AUGUST 8, 2001. THE BLUE GRASS DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT IS EXPECTED TO BE RELEASED BY THE FIRST QUARTER FISCAL YEAR 2002.

PROGRAM STATUS

THIS YEAR THE CHEMICAL DEMILITARIZATION PROGRAM WILL ENTER A CRITICAL PHASE, WITH TWO NEW FACILITIES SCHEDULED TO BEGIN OPERATIONAL VERIFICATION TESTING (SYSTEMIZATION), AND WITH TOOELE CHEMICAL DEMILITARIZATION FACILITY CONTINUING FULL-SCALE OPERATIONS AT OUR LARGEST STOCKPILE SITE. THE STATE-OF-THE-ART FEATURES AT THESE FACILITIES AND ABILITY TO HANDLE THE THROUGHPUT RATES ARE UNPARALLELED ON A GLOBAL SCALE. THESE EFFORTS ARE INDEED RECOGNIZED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS A MAJOR STEP TOWARDS CONTINUED COMPLIANCE WITH THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC) DESTRUCTION DEADLINES. I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THAT AS OF JULY 5, 2001, THE UNITED STATES HAD DESTROYED 20 PERCENT OF THE STOCKPILE THAT EXISTED WHEN THE CWC ENTERED INTO FORCE FOUR YEARS AGO. THE INTERIM DEADLINES SET FORTH IN THE CWC REQUIRE 20 PERCENT DESTRUCTION BY APRIL 29, 2002, PUTTING US NEARLY 10 MONTHS AHEAD OF THE MILESTONE.

FINAL REMARKS

IN CLOSING, I WISH TO RE-EMPHASIZE THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S INTENTION TO ADDRESS CHEMICAL DEMILITARIZATION PROGRAM MANAGEMENT ISSUES UNDERSCORES OUR COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHENING AND IMPROVING OVERALL ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS. CHANGE HAS ALREADY BEGUN AT THE TOP, WITH FUTURE CHANGES EXPECTED TO POSITIVELY IMPACT DIFFERENT ASPECTS AND LEVELS OF PROGRAM MANAGEMENT. AS WE WORK OUR WAY THROUGH THE DAE REVIEW, THE DEPARTMENT WILL DEVELOP ITS RECOMMENDATION FOR A DECISION ON HOW TO PROCEED WITH DEMILITARIZING OUR REMAINING CHEMICAL STOCKPILE SITES. I WELCOME YOUR COMMENTS ON EVERY ASPECT OF HOW OUR PROGRAM IS PROCEEDING. I THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN, AND THIS SUBCOMMITTEE FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY TODAY. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU TO ADVANCE OUR COMMON GOAL OF THE SAFE AND COMPLETE ELIMINATION OF OUR NATION'S CHEMICAL WEAPON STOCKPILE.