

Opening Statement
Chairman Mark Souder

“Implementation of National Supply Reduction Strategy”

Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy
and Human Resources
Committee on Government Reform

September 17, 2003

Good Morning. Because of our focus in the Subcommittee this year on the reauthorization of the Office of National Drug Control Policy and the President’s treatment initiative, this is a continuation of hearings in the 108th Congress on drug supply and interdiction matters. The abuse of illegal narcotics and its silent everyday impact on health, safety, families, and stability **in every community** across the country continues to be one of the most pressing issues facing the United States.

Tom Davis, the distinguished Chairman of the Full Committee and I, with the full support of Subcommittee Ranking Member Cummings, have introduced legislation reauthorizing ONDCP and its programs for five years. The bill makes some significant revisions to current law that will enhance the effectiveness and accountability of the National Drug Control Strategy and its programs, streamline and simplify the process for its development,

and provide increased flexibility to the ONDCP director to respond to changing circumstances. The bill is a forceful and bipartisan recommitment to our diverse national efforts to control drug abuse and to renew our support for a strong ONDCP to plan and coordinate the President's strategy to measurably reduce drug use by American youth and to control drug abuse and its consequences. The bill is a true bipartisan effort and represents the outcome of ongoing consultation and discussions with the minority. The bill contains the complete text of the Dawson Family Community Protection Act that was introduced by the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee, Mr. Cummings, to address witness and community protection initiatives in the wake of the tragic death of the Dawson family in Baltimore at the hands of violent drug dealers. The bill reported from Committee also contains a number of items requested by Mr. Waxman, the distinguished Ranking Member of the Full Committee, many of which reflect a clear bipartisan agreement that the Media Campaign should not be used for political purposes.

As I often point out, around 20,000 Americans die **each year** of drug-related causes -- more than in any single terrorist act to date. It is vitally important that we maintain vigorous efforts to control the sources of supply of narcotics and to interdict them prior to entering the United States. While we have recently begun to see real and tangible successes in some of our source country programs -- most notably Plan Colombia -- the federal government continues to face significant challenges on two fronts: supply reduction strategies and programs and secondly, interdiction strategies and programs. The challenges are caused both by policy and political issues and by resource constraints. Our witness today has some of the most

significant responsibilities for strategic matters relating to narcotics supply reduction and interdiction, and I appreciate the opportunity to have Dr. Crane enlighten us on the status of these critical programs.

First, I'd like to review the strategies used in Plan Colombia. Chairman Tom Davis of the Full Committee and I returned from a visit to Colombia, just after this nation's birthday this summer, which was the **third** Committee delegation **this year**. We are beginning to see real and tangible successes, and the Speaker of the House and both of us very much appreciate the continued strong support of President Uribe and Vice President Santos, with whom we have had the opportunity to spend a significant amount of time. We also obtained a renewed sense of the many steep challenges Colombia and our source country programs continue to have. We met with soldiers who had lost limbs and eyes to the increasingly terrorist attacks of the FARC. We met with widows who were grateful for the opportunity to learn skills toward earning a modest living by baking or sewing supported by the Agency for International Development. I would like Dr. Crane to address what else we should be doing from a policy or strategic perspective, to capitalize on the momentum.

Other serious issues must be considered relating to Plan Colombia. **Three Americans continue to be held hostage by the FARC.** The Attorney General of the United States has indicted members of both the FARC and the AUC for using drug proceeds to support their terrorist acts. Colombian heroin is becoming increasingly prevalent on the East Coast of the United States. As our programs succeed in Colombia, we now face increased attacks on spray planes and the **spillover** of the drug traffic,

violence, and terrorism to other nations of the Andean region. We must also continue to consider the failure of European nations to step up and provide sorely needed assistance, to build communities and institutions, at this crucial time. Those countries pledged to provide assistance at the very beginning **and have yet to contribute.**

The second significant issue is the question of allocation of national resources to drug interdiction missions. Many of our most significant interdiction assets used in this hemisphere were moved into the new Department of Homeland Security in March, namely the U.S. Coast Guard cutters and aircraft and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement aircraft and go-fast boats. The Subcommittee staff received briefings this summer at the Joint Interagency Task Force South in Key West and the U.S. Southern Command that suggest that the redirection of national resources from drug control missions to homeland security and combat missions have had a dire negative impact on drug interdiction. I also understand the Department of Defense wants to realign its Joint Interagency Task Forces with a closure and relocation of JIATF-West and the creation of JIATF-North. I am very curious to hear how the Office of National Drug Control Policy advocates and solicits cooperation from the contributing Departments in meeting the national strategy.

Finally, I'd like to hear about the strategic and policy responses to rapidly emerging new threats, such as the flood of Ecstasy into the United States and the resumption of large-scale heroin production in Afghanistan. A member of my staff just returned from Turkey and Uzbekistan where he gathered information about production trends, transshipment routes, and

precursor chemicals. The Drug Enforcement Administration has a limited number of personnel in the region, working closely with Department of State personnel and host nation personnel. Their efforts are noteworthy but miniscule in comparison to the size of the problem. I look forward to your testimony on this particularly dire narcotics supply issue.

Clearly, our plate this morning is very full, so I welcome our witness Dr. Barry Crane, Deputy Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy.