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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE, DRUG POLICY, AND HUMAN RESOURCES

STATEMENT OF
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DIRECTOR
JOINT INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE WEST
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE, DRUG POLICY, AND HUMAN RESOURCES
ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE COUNTERNARCOTICS
21 APRIL 2004

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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify on the Joint Interagency Task Force West's counterdrug initiatives and the role they play in helping the United States Pacific Command (USPACOM) achieve enhanced security in the Asia-Pacific region.

Joint Interagency Task Force (JIATF) West stood up in 1989 as a subordinate command to USPACOM serving as its executive agent for counterdrug programs. The command has a distinguished record of providing DOD unique resources to federal law enforcement agencies in support of their efforts to detect and monitor drug shipments and providing actionable intelligence enabling US law enforcement to interdict those shipments. Specifically, the command has directly contributed to the seizure or disruption of over 240 metric tons of cocaine with an estimated value of 5 billion dollars. During FY03, a USPACOM/USSOUTHCOM agreement realigned responsibilities allowing JIATF West to relinquish its counterdrug efforts in the eastern Pacific to JIATF South in order to focus our resources entirely toward Asia.

JIATF West provides support to various US Country Teams in embassies throughout the Asia-Pacific region. This support includes unique analytical capability as well as training and facility improvements which enhance the professionalism and capabilities of Partner Nation police and military units with a counterdrug mission. Our goal is to facilitate effective interagency cooperation and multilateral application of effort to reduce and contain drug trafficking.

To further integrate JIATF West programs with other USPACOM components, JIATF-W will relocate from Alameda to PACOM headquarters during FY04. This

relocation is ongoing and the JIATF West command staff will be in place in June. We expect JIATF West to achieve full operational capability in Hawaii by December of this year.

Let me conclude these remarks by saying we anticipate the activities of JIATF West will expand significantly over the next five years in conjunction with USPACOM's Theater Security Cooperation Plan and Regional Maritime Security Initiative, and these activities will complement Department of State programs in the region. Thank you for your support and the opportunity to testify before your committee.