

STATEMENT BY
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DISRUPTING THE MARKET: STRATEGY, IMPLEMENTATION, AND
RESULTS IN NARCOTICS SOURCE COUNTRIES

Chairman Souder, Representative Cummings, distinguished members of the Subcommittee, it is my pleasure to appear before you today to discuss the Department of Defense programs and policy that assist nations around the world in their battle against narcoterrorism. In particular, I am honored to speak before the Government Reform Committee, where I spent two wonderful years as your Senior Counsel. I value the work that you do and congratulate you on your continued leadership.

Each year, my office expends a great deal of time, effort, and resources to keep drugs from crossing our borders. This is a complex process that requires coordination and funding from all levels of government agencies, local and state law enforcement, and the foreign countries in which we assist in the eradication of crops and disruption of their transportation to the United States. A large portion of the profits from drug sales indirectly support terrorist organizations – another reason we are working hard to reduce the supply of drugs.

Domestically, the Department is working with law enforcement, the National Guard, United States Northern Command, and the new Department of Homeland Security to coordinate counternarcotics efforts. The National Guard is an exceptional partner to law enforcement in domestic counternarcotics missions requiring military-unique skills. The Department's objective is to increase the overall effectiveness of the United States Government in countering the flow of drugs into the United States. To effectively meet this objective, the Department is

transitioning the National Guard counterdrug effort out of missions that are not militarily unique (cargo-mail inspections, maintenance and logistics, marijuana eradication), to those that are militarily unique (air/ground reconnaissance, intelligence analysts, training for law enforcement agencies), and is enhancing National Guard support to law enforcement along the Southwest Border, and at linguist centers in California and Washington.

We are increasingly aware of linkages between terrorist organizations, narcotics trafficking, weapons smuggling, kidnapping rings, and other transnational networks. Terrorist groups such as the FARC in Colombia, Al Qaida in Afghanistan, and groups around the world partially finance key operations with drug money. The Department of Defense, with our counterparts in the Department of State and other government agencies, seeks to systematically dismantle drug trafficking networks, both to halt the flow of drugs into the United States, and to bolster the broader war on terrorism effort.

In the international arena, the Department of Defense provides much of its counternarcotics support through deployments and programs to train and furnish intelligence and operational support for drug detection, monitoring, and provide equipment to partner counterdrug forces. These countertrafficking methods aim directly at disrupting the terrorist drug trade and finance networks that train partner-nation military forces.

This, of course, includes cooperative military-to-military programs in which countries grant access to our military operators and enable access to target areas.

Our authorities permit us to: maintain, repair and upgrade equipment, transport personnel, establish bases of operations or training facilities, assist with detection, monitor and communicate trafficking activities, construct roads, fences, and lighting installations, establish C4 networks, provide intelligence analysis assistance and conduct aerial and ground reconnaissance.

Colombia

As you may already know, over 75 percent of the world's coca is grown in Colombia. Colombian narcoterrorists receive a large majority of their funds from this illegal drug trade. These narcoterrorists seek to overthrow the freely elected Colombian government, the oldest democracy in Latin America.

The Secretary of Defense promised Colombian President Uribe increased support to the Colombian counternarcoterrorist effort. Under his leadership, the Colombian government is regaining control of areas long held by narcoterrorists. The Colombian government and its people are committed now more than ever before to save their country, and their military is making great strides in taking an active role in the nation's defense. However, in order to maintain this momentum, they need to show visible signs of success.

Within the congressionally approved troop cap, the Department of Defense is supporting the Colombian military in various ways. One initiative includes providing United States military assistance teams to help the Colombians fuse their intelligence and operations. This is an increased effort to capitalize on the

commitment by President Uribe in the fight against narcoterrorism. Other DoD counternarcotics programs supporting Colombia include training, logistics, maintenance support, construction, radar support, and equipment.

We focus our joint programs on the development, equipping, and training of strategically focused units within the Colombian military. These units include the Colombian Counternarcotics Brigade, Special Forces Commando Battalion, LANCERO Battalion (Rangers), and a Special Operations Command headquarters staff. United States - funded infrastructure will allow the LANCEROS to deploy forward and put the training and equipment to use. In order to support these new forces, we are assisting both the Colombian Army and Air Force with mobility, including aviation training and C-130 logistics and maintenance support. By upgrading C-26 aircraft and providing logistics and maintenance support to the Colombian Air Force Schweizer program, we are increasing their ability to detect, monitor, and intercept illicit air traffic. Our plans include increased support to the Colombian Navy, such as infrastructure, interceptor boats, fuel, and command and control systems.

I am extremely optimistic about potential results in Colombia. Though much remains to be done, I believe we are on the right path. Our continued support to President Uribe during this window of opportunity is critical. We are at a point where the progress in eliminating drug trafficking and narcoterrorism ensures the future of Colombian democracy. However, if we do not keep up the pressure and momentum we will lose the progress that has already been made. Although there

are many pressing concerns in other regions of the world, we must keep in mind that Colombia is a close ally within this hemisphere. Our support to Colombia's continued progress is paramount to our national security. The attachment to this testimony includes further examples of our programs' successes in Colombia.

North Korea

Over the past several years, there have been numerous reports of drug seizures linked to North Korea, primarily of methamphetamine and heroin destined for Japan, Taiwan, China, and Russia. The Australians' April 2003 seizure of 125 kilograms of heroin transported by the North Korean merchant ship Pong Su, demonstrates that elements within North Korea are extending their illicit activities south into Australian waters. This incident underscores the need for multilateral efforts to stop North Korea's drug trafficking. The Pong Su seizure heightens concerns that North Korean officials may be using illicit trading activities to provide much needed hard currency to fund its army and weapons of mass destruction programs. North Korea is a proliferator of weapons of mass destruction to nations that support terrorism. It is clear that any illicit trafficking involving North Korea is a potential threat to the security of the United States and its friends and allies in Asia and around the world.

In June, Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer urged all governments in the region to work together to stop the smuggling. To that end, the Department is working with the Departments of State and Justice, the Drug

Enforcement Administration, and the intelligence community to review what assistance the United States is authorized to provide to partner nations to slow the flow of drugs and other illicit trafficking in Northeast Asia.

Thailand

The Department of Defense has provided support to the Government of Thailand's (GOT) fight against narcotics for over a decade. During this time period the GOT has virtually wiped out opium cultivation and heroin within the country of Thailand. The GOT continues to fight the scourge of narcotics that come across the borders, most notably from Burma. Thailand considers narcotics to be the nation's number one security threat.

Our support includes training, intelligence analysis and fusion, and building minor infrastructure. United States military personnel train Thai military and law enforcement units in counternarcoterrorism tactics and techniques. Intelligence analysts deploy to the region to work with the U.S. Country Team and Host nation officials. In May of 2003, PACOM Commander ADM Fargo dedicated the Interagency Intelligence Fusion Center in Chiang Mai, Thailand. In this center, the Thais are able to coordinate counternarcotics activities for the first time on an interagency level. We can duplicate this success in other areas of Thailand and other countries worldwide. In Fiscal Year 2003, the Department of Defense is funding the construction of a Counternarcoterrorism Training Center in Thailand, to aid in the training of Thai military personnel.

Although Thailand considers narcotics their number one security threat, terrorism is also a significant issue. Thailand has recently made several key arrests of members of the Jemaah Islamiyah terror group, and any United States training and intelligence assistance we give them will help them in this battle as well.

Central Asia

The Department of Defense has recently commenced its programs to combat narcoterrorism in Central Asia and the Near East. We currently provide assistance to Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, and efforts are underway to broaden the program to Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Oman and Pakistan. Afghanistan is now the largest opium producer in the world, and the funds from the illicit manufacture and trafficking of heroin help pay for the activities of anti-government groups in Afghanistan and the operations of terrorist groups in the region. Many of the countries surrounding Afghanistan have asked for assistance in combating the movement of narcotics, terrorists, WMD, and arms across their borders. It is destabilizing to their governments and helps fund the operations of terrorist groups operating within their borders.

Department counternarcotics support consists, up to this point, of funding several training deployments so that United States Special Forces can train host nation military and law enforcement units in border monitoring and interdiction and in counternarcoterrorism tactics and techniques. Other projects in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan will provide communications networking equipment to the border and

military forces and will assist in the design and construction of border posts. In Afghanistan, we will assist the United Kingdom and Germany in their efforts to tighten the Afghan borders and reduce trafficking of illicit material. In particular, the Deputy Secretary of Defense recently signed a memo committing to a \$2 million Department of Defense counternarcotics support program to augment German-led training for the Afghan Border Police.

As we expand the program, we will deploy American intelligence analysts to the region to work with the United States Country Team and host nation officials. We have also programmed funds for additional training and training deployments, and will continue to provide material assistance where needed.

Conclusion

The Department appreciates Congress' continued support of our initiatives, most notably the granting of expanded authority for Colombia, and the possible expansion of 1033 authority for Southwest Asia. These initiatives play a great role in our efforts to aid key allies around the world in their fight against narcoterrorism. I thank you, Chairman Souder, Representative Cummings and the Members of the Subcommittee for the tremendous support you have provided. I look forward to answering your questions.