

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY, INFORMATION POLICY,
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS AND THE CENSUS
CONGRESSMAN ADAM PUTNAM, CHAIRMAN



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Strengthening Oversight of DOD Business Systems Modernization

STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN

Good afternoon.

Let me first say thank you to those here today from the Department of Defense for being here during this challenging period for our Nation. The thoughts and prayers of all of us go out to those in harm's way and we thank the men and women of the armed forces for their tireless efforts.

This is an appropriate hearing to be holding at this time. For the fiscal health of our Defense Department speaks directly to our ability as a Nation to be ready to face military conflicts. In the 70's and 80's the famous cost overruns in DOD involved hammers, toilet seats and military hardware. In the effort to tackle that problem, the IT end of the equation got severely neglected. The result was the loss of untold millions of dollars because of poor strategic planning, implementation, oversight and accountability.

A seven-year DFAS project terminated after \$126 million is tax money down the drain, a \$316 million investment in four projects that may not resolve the very financial management weaknesses that they were designed to address. That is just simply unacceptable. It is unacceptable to the Congress and unacceptable to the American people, whom, after all, are footing the bill.

These are the types of things that happen in Washington that make those people outside the beltway simply shake their heads and wonder exactly what is it we do here in D.C.

That being said, DOD is not the only negligent party at the table. After all, it is the Congress that continually writes the checks without full knowledge of how the money is being spent. Until Congress decides to get serious in holding DOD accountable for its poor and unwise spending habits, there is little or no chance that things will substantially improve.

I'm looking forward to being a partner-in-progress with the President and Defense Secretary in making real and substantive reforms. I know, they both take this issue very seriously and are working towards measurable improvement.

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