Wartime Contracting Commission to hear from think tanks, industry and academia

ARLINGTON, VA, April 29, 2011 – The Commission on Wartime Contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan will hear comments and suggestions on its work from representatives of several think tanks, industry, and academic organizations starting at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, May 2, 2011, in Room 2203 of the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington, DC.

Participants appearing in the informal session before the Commission represent the Center for American Progress, Taxpayers Against Fraud, the development organization DAI, Professional Services Council, International Stability Operations Association, Nathan Associates, and the National Association of Government Contractors. Professor Steven Schooner of the George Washington University Faculty of Law will also speak.

The Congressionally chartered Commission is preparing a final report to Congress to be filed in July. The report will fulfil the Commission’s statutory mandate to assess contingency contracting for reconstruction, logistics, and security functions; examine the extent of waste, fraud, and abuse; and provide recommendations to Congress to improve the structures, policies, and resources for managing the contracting process and contractors. Details are in Section 841 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181), www.wartimecontracting.gov/index.php/about/statute.

Since its creation in 2008, the independent, bipartisan Commission has conducted 24 formal hearings, participated in more than 1,000 meetings, and made repeated fact-finding trips to theater. The Commission has published two interim reports and four special reports to Congress. The www.wartimecontracting.gov website has electronic copies of the February 2011 second interim report, “At What Risk? Correcting over-reliance on contractors in contingency operations,” and all other Commission reports.

The Commission has eight members: Michael Thibault and Christopher Shays, co-chairs; and Clark Kent Ervin, Grant Green, Robert Henke, Katherine Schinasi, Charles Tiefer, and Dov Zakheim. They are supported by 40 professional and administrative staff managed by Executive Director Robert Dickson.

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