



U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: (202) 224-3904

BYRD TO FOCUS ON “COLLARS AND DOLLARS” AS PART OF OVERSIGHT HEARING ON WASTE, FRAUD AND ABUSE OF CONTRACTS IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

Washington, DC – Senator Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, is expected to focus on the failure to investigate and prosecute fraud and abuse as the Senate Appropriations Committee prepares to hold a hearing on the Department of Defense’s lack of oversight of contracts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

As a result of this lack of oversight, billions of dollars have been lost or wasted, bad contractors have been rewarded, and shoddy workmanship – some of which has resulted in the deaths of our soldiers – has gone uncorrected.

The Committee is expected to question witnesses on the factors leading to these failures; efforts currently underway to address these failures; and improvements that are still needed. In addition, members will question the witnesses about the slow pace of prosecutions of those contractors involved in the mismanagement of taxpayer dollars.

Byrd is expected to say in his opening statement that, “As a result of the lack of enforcement actions, more individuals think they can get away with bilking the U.S. government or the Iraqi government, embezzling funds, taking and making bribes, substituting inferior goods or inferior workmanship, or just plain stealing. This illegal activity takes money directly away from the pressing needs of our troops and the needs of the Iraqi and Afghan people.”

Specifically Byrd will suggest to the witnesses that we make “collars and dollars” our motto – meaning better oversight which will result in more arrests, more indictments, and more funds recovered.

The hearing will be held:

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 2008
10:30 A.M.
106 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING**

See Page 2 for Witness List

Expected to testify:

The Honorable Gordon England
Deputy Secretary of Defense

General Benjamin S. Griffin
Commanding General, U.S. Army Materiel Command

The Honorable Gordon S. Heddell
Acting Inspector General, U.S. Department of Defense

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