



National Association for Uniformed Services®

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The Servicemember's Voice in Government

Established in 1968



****NEWS RELEASE****

Senate Testimony Calls for Strong Defense, Higher Pay for Military

Springfield, Virginia (6/18/09) – The Legislative Director of the National Association for Uniformed Services® (NAUS), Mr. Rick Jones, testified before the Senate Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Defense Appropriations, expressing concern about the amount of our investment in our national defense. "At the height of the War on Terror, our current defense budget represents only a little more than 4 percent of the gross national product, as opposed to the average of 5.7 percent of GNP in the peacetime years between 1940 and 2000," Jones reminded the panel. "Leaders in Congress and the administration need to balance our priorities and ensure our defense in a dangerous world," he added.

In Mr. Jones' testimony before the Subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-HI), with ranking member Sen. Thad Cochran (R-MS), he also urged full funding of the military health care system, including TRICARE for retired military personnel, and testified in support of a 3.4% pay raise in 2010, to continue to reduce the military pay gap. Several other important issues including care of wounded warriors, seamless transition of health care of veterans from the Defense Department to the Veterans Administration system, and force readiness funding were addressed.

The complete NAUS testimony is available online at: <http://www.naus.org/what/testimony.html>.

NAUS is a nonprofit, non-partisan association dedicated to protecting the interests of - and benefits earned by - members of the uniformed services for themselves, their families and survivors. NAUS provides administrative support to the Society of Military Widows. For more information please contact Steve Hein, Director of Marketing, at 703-750-1342, x1009, or at shein@naus.org, or visit the Association's web site at www.naus.org.

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