

Congressman John F. Tierney
Ranking Member

National Security, Homeland Defense and Foreign Operations Subcommittee

- From 2007 until the end of 2010, Congressman Tierney had the honor to serve as Chairman of the National Security and Foreign Affairs Subcommittee within the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. John understood from the get-go that with this role came great responsibility. We are involved in two wars and under great economic strain here at home. As Chairman, John's charge has been to conduct sustained, rigorous, and constructive oversight of our government's national security sector and foreign policy.
- While the Subcommittee exercised many aspects of its broad mandate, John focused the Subcommittee's oversight efforts on three themes:
 - Protecting us from acts of terrorism around the world with a focus on pursuing a smarter approach to Afghanistan and Pakistan;
 - Supporting our men and women in uniform by ensuring they get top-flight medical care, durable and needed equipment, and protection from harassment, domestic violence and sexual assault; and
 - Making our national security agencies and their contractors think ahead, work better, and cost less.
- In pursuit of these goals, John held 65 hearings; hosted countless briefings; and dispatched numerous fact-finding trips, including personally leading four delegations to South Asia and the Middle East. John also commissioned well over 30 GAO investigations and conducted Subcommittee investigations that exposed millions of dollars of government waste, fraud, and abuse.
- As a result of the Subcommittee's efforts, the U.S. national security agencies and policies are smarter, stronger, more efficient, more effective, more coordinated, and more accountable to taxpayers and to our men and women in uniform.

Afghanistan/Pakistan

- John sought to ensure that we fight a smarter war in Afghanistan and prosecute a smarter foreign policy in South Asia. John led four delegations and built relationships with key leaders in the region and held over 20 Subcommittee hearings on Afghanistan and Pakistan. He also led multiple investigations to expose U.S. government waste in the region.
- For example, John initiated a six-month investigation into a \$2.16 billion logistics contract in Afghanistan, exposing rampant extortion and corruption along military supply lines and the Defense Department's failure to respond to reports of violence and corruption by private security companies.
- In addition, due to John's efforts, the military has revamped methods of accounting for weapons provided to the Afghan forces, improved accountability for the billions of dollars given to the Pakistani military, and enhanced civilian ties and aid in Pakistan in accordance with 9/11 Commission recommendations.

Iraq

- As someone who opposed the Iraq war, John worked hard to ensure a careful and responsible withdrawal of troops from Iraq and that we provide sustained oversight of our reconstruction investments there.
- Under John's leadership the Subcommittee has: (1) exposed waste and labor abuse related to the construction of the U.S. Embassy in Iraq; (2) demanded accountability for small arms given to the Iraqi Security Forces; and (3) ensured the security of weapons stockpiles. John also commissioned a study on the costs of withdrawal and monitored the treatment of Iraqi refugees.

Supporting Military Health

- Congress has many responsibilities, but crucial amongst these is to do everything possible to protect the health, safety, and well-being of our troops and their families. As such, John directed the Subcommittee to conduct persistent oversight of the government's responsibility to provide our men and women in uniform state-of-the-art healthcare and protect them from violent crime, especially sexual assault and domestic violence.
- As a result of the Subcommittee's leadership, along with other stakeholders:
 - The Walter Reed National Medical Center has been renovated and transformed into a patient-oriented, visitor-friendly, and modern healthcare facility;
 - The Department of Defense's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office has been improved and empowered with increased funding and personnel; and
 - There are enhanced privacy protections for crime victims and ensured access to confidential reporting mechanisms and victim advocates.

Making Government Forward-Thinking, Functional & Cost Effective

- At the core of John's duties as Chairman is to make government work better and cost less. As part of that effort, the Subcommittee embarked on a sustained campaign to rationalize the defense budget and reform the acquisitions process. John also sought to ensure that the U.S. spends as efficiently as possible on weapons and technology that reflect the actual threats we face.
- John has vigorously investigated wasteful spending and promoted the best practices within our weapons acquisition system. Throughout this period, in each of GAO's annual reports and at each of the Subcommittee's series of hearings on defense spending, GAO has reported reductions in weapon system schedule delays and cost overruns. Congress has also passed critical reforms, including the Weapon Systems Acquisition Reform Act and the IMPROVE Acquisition Act.
- The Subcommittee has also taken significant steps to assess the troubling national security implications of a declining manufacturing industry, focusing on the security challenges posed by a shrinking defense industrial base, the

proliferation of foreign-made parts, outdated technology, and a depleted manufacturing workforce. Reforming our manufacturing policy is critical to the security of our country and the security of American jobs.

- Finally, one of John's most important responsibilities as Chairman has been to make sure our government identifies and devotes sufficient resources to emerging threats, and that our defense strategy is forward-thinking.
- As such, John directed the Subcommittee to focus on the challenges posed by changing population demographics, the emergence of transnational drug cartels with terrorist ties, and the rise of robotic drones in armed conflict.
- There is no greater priority to U.S. security however than securing nuclear materials, which is why John has also conducted rigorous oversight of the elements of our government responsible for securing these materials and preventing nuclear proliferation. As part of this effort, John has also examined the emerging threat posed by Iran, and its quest for nuclear power.
- John has worked hard to keep us safe and hold the government accountable. Overall, under John's leadership the Subcommittee oversight has touched on five continents and dozens of countries, and from the deep sea to outer space. Our government works better and costs less when under the critical eye of constructive oversight – all the more important in matters of war and peace, life and death.