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Strategic Posture Commission

posted Friday May 11, 2007 under **nuclear-weapons** by **jeffrey**

Representative Ellen Tauscher (D-CA), chair of the Strategic Forces subcommittee, has inserted language into the FY2008 Authorization Bill creating a *Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States*.

Congresswoman Tauscher said the Commission will “create a public discussion about future requirements for nuclear weapons.”

If the Senate, which is not expected to include similar language, recedes to the House position, the Commission will “assess the benefits and risks associated with the current strategic posture and nuclear weapons policies of the United States” and “make recommendations as to the most appropriate strategic posture and most effective nuclear weapons strategy” including:

- (1) the military capabilities and force structure necessary to support the strategy, including conventional means of providing global strike capabilities;
- (2) the number of nuclear weapons required to support the strategy, including the number of replacement warheads required, if any;
- (3) the appropriate qualitative analysis, including force-on-force exchange modeling, to calculate the effectiveness of the strategy under various scenarios;
- (4) the nuclear infrastructure (that is, the size of the nuclear complex) required to support the strategy;
- (5) an assessment of the role of missile defenses in the strategy;
- (6) an assessment of the role of nonproliferation programs in the strategy;
- (7) the political and military implications of the strategy for the United States and its allies; and
- (8) any other information or recommendations relating to the strategy (or to the strategic posture) that the commission considers appropriate.

The Congressionally-appointed commission will replace a Commission that was to examine implementation of the *Nuclear Posture Review* and appointed by the Secretary of Defense—something the SECDEF never got around to doing.

The Commission will have 12 members. Who would *you* pick?

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Comment

1. Please Click the Pic :



Thomas B. Cochran is the director of NRDC's Nuclear Program and holds the Wade Greene Chair for Nuclear Policy. He initiated NRDC's nuclear weapons databook project and the U.S.-Soviet nuclear weapons verification project, a four-year collaboration between NRDC and the Soviet Academy of Sciences, to demonstrate that a low-threshold nuclear test ban treaty could be verified. Dr. Cochran has been a member of numerous government advisory committees on nuclear energy, nonproliferation and nuclear clean-up issues; he joined NRDC in 1973.

(For another profile of Dr. Cochran, see the May 1998 issue of Scientific American.)

— yale · May 11, 04:36 PM ·

2. So, let's be clear.

You need a chair, vice-chair and ten panel members.

You might also include a staff director.

For reference, here was the Rumsfeld Ballistic Missile Commission:

The Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld, Chairman
Dr. Barry M. Blechman
General Lee Butler, U.S. Air Force (Ret.)
Dr. Richard L. Garwin
Dr. William R. Graham
Dr. William Schneider, Jr.
General Larry D. Welch, U.S. Air Force (Ret.)
Dr. Paul D. Wolfowitz
The Honorable R. James Woolsey