

STATEMENT OF

MR. ROBERT ANDREWS

**DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
FOR COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY**

BEFORE THE

**COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

ON

**"LOW CLEARANCE: WHY DID THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
SUDDENLY STOP PROCESSING PRIVATE SECTOR SECURITY
CLEARANCES?"**

MAY 17, 2006

Good morning, Mr. Chairman. I'm Bob Andrews. I'm the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Counterintelligence and Security. The decision to suspend security investigations was made shortly after I took up my post. This was not the finest hour for the Defense Security Service which reports to me. We failed to estimate accurately the demand for security investigations. We failed, moreover, to understand the systemic problems that further contributed to suspension of the investigations.

I am responsible for taking steps to resume the investigations. I am also responsible for fixing the underlying problems in the process so something like this is unlikely to happen again.

We have lifted the investigations suspension. And, we are on the path toward identifying and fixing fundamental flaws in our process. In the coming weeks, I will keep the Committee abreast of our progress, and, at the Committee's convenience, consult with you as we move forward.

Rob Rogalski, Special Assistant to the Under Secretary for Intelligence, is the person most knowledgeable about the suspension. I've asked him to lay out what happened and to outline the near-term and longer-term solutions we've identified.

Thank you.