

OPENING STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN CULBERSON
Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee
House Committee on Appropriations
Quality of Life Hearing
February 16, 2012

Good afternoon. I want to welcome everyone to today's hearing on Military Quality of Life for our service members.

Today's hearing is on the quality of life for our enlisted soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen, and their families. The four witnesses at the table are the senior enlisted members of their respective branches. Members should know that we have roughly 125 years in combined military experience before us today. This hearing is a great opportunity to identify areas where we can do more to help those who protect us and defend this Nation.

Our witnesses today are:

Sergeant Major of the Army, Raymond F. Chandler III

- Sergeant Major Chandler is a returning witness
- Sergeant Major Chandler was sworn in on March 1, 2011
- 31 years of service (joined the Army in June 1981)
- Sergeant Major Chandler has served in all tank crewman positions and has had multiple tours as a troop, squadron and regimental master gunner.

Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Michael P. Barrett

- Sergeant Major Barrett is a first time witness
- Sergeant Major Barrett assumed his current post as the 17th Sergeant Major of the Marines Corps on June 9, 2011
- 31 years of service (He enlisted in March 1981)
- He was an infantry instructor, assigned to numerous support duties to include; Armorer, Nuclear Biological Chemical noncommissioned officer and Training Chief.
- He served in the Gulf War with Task Force Papa Bear, completed two combat deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in the Al Anbar Province, Iraq and deployed to Operation Enduring Freedom in March 2010 becoming the NATO Regional Command (Southwest) Command Sergeant Major for Nimruz and Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, Rick D. West

- Master Chief West is a returning witness
- Succeeded Master Chief Campa on December 12, 2008
- 31 years of service (entered the Navy straight from high school, 1981)
- Master Chief West is a submariner whose assignments include service on the staff of the Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, and Chief of the Boat aboard the USS Portsmouth
- Most recently served as Fleet Master Chief for U.S. Fleet Forces Command

Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, James A. Roy

- Chief Master Sergeant Roy is a returning witness
- Appointed on June 30, 2009
- 30 years of service (entered Air Force in 1982)
- His background includes numerous leadership roles at squadron, group, air force and combatant command levels.

- He served as Senior Enlisted Leader and advisor to United States Pacific Command Combatant Commander and staff

Thank you all for taking the time to be here. Without objection, your written statements will be entered into the record.

####

That concludes this morning's hearing. I would like to remind Members that our next hearing is February 29th @ 2:00pm in H-140, the US Capitol, with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the fiscal year 2013 budget submission.