

**Opening Statement of Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Joe R. Campa, Jr. to  
the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans  
Affairs.**

**7 February 2008**

MR. CHAIRMAN, DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THIS SUBCOMMITTEE,  
THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TODAY. IT IS WITH GREAT  
PRIDE THAT I COME BEFORE YOU ON BEHALF OF OUR SAILORS AND THEIR  
FAMILIES.

JOINING ME IS MY WIFE DIANA, WHO SERVES AS THE OMBUDSMAN-AT-  
LARGE FOR OUR NAVY REPRESENTING OVER 223,000 NAVY FAMILIES.

ALSO JOINING ME IS THE FORCE MASTER CHIEF OF OUR NAVY RESERVE,  
MASTER CHIEF DAVE PENNINGTON.

FROM COMBAT OPERATIONS TO HUMANITARIAN RELIEF EFFORTS, OUR  
SAILORS CONTINUE TO MEET THE HIGH EXPECTATIONS THE AMERICAN  
PEOPLE HAVE OF THEM IN THE DEFENSE OF OUR GREAT NATION.

I WISH TO EXPRESS THEIR GRATITUDE FOR THE HARD WORK OF  
CONGRESS IN SUPPORTING THE MANY INITIATIVES OVER THE LAST YEAR  
THAT HAVE DIRECTLY IMPROVED THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE.

OUR NAVY HAS MOVED BEYOND THE BLUE WATERS OF OUR OCEANS AND  
AS OF JANUARY THIS YEAR HAS CONTRIBUTED OVER 63,000 INDIVIDUAL

AUGMENTEES SINCE THE BEGINNING OF GROUND OPERATIONS IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN.

DUE TO THE HIGH DEMAND ON OUR MARITIME FORCES AND WITH THE CONTINUED ROLE OF THESE NON-TRADITIONAL GROUND SUPPORT MISSIONS, PILLARS OF SUPPORT, SUCH AS HEALTH CARE, CHILD CARE AND HOUSING ARE MORE CRITICAL THAN EVER.

MY WIFE DIANA AND I HAVE SEEN FIRST HAND THE IMPACT ON FAMILY STABILITY AND PEACE OF MIND THAT THESE TRADITIONAL PILLARS OF SUPPORT PROVIDE WHEN A SAILOR IS DEPLOYED.

NAVY FAMILIES ARE STRONG, RESILIENT AND PROUD OF THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS DURING THIS CRITICAL TIME IN OUR NATION'S HISTORY. SURGE DEPLOYMENTS, INDIVIDUAL AUGMENTATION AND DUTY IN PLACES OUR NAVY HAS NEVER BEEN HAS RESULTED IN A NEED FOR STRONG FAMILY SUPPORT. THE PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES WE PRESENTLY HAVE IN PLACE TO SUPPORT OUR FAMILIES MUST CONTINUE TO EVOLVE AS THE NEEDS OF OUR FAMILIES CHANGE.

IN MY TRAVELS THROUGHOUT THE FLEET, I CONTINUE TO BE INSPIRED BY THE DEDICATED EFFORTS AND PATRIOTISM OF ALL OUR MEN AND

WOMEN. THEY ARE SUCCEEDING BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE IN WHO THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY DO.

OUR TOTAL FORCE OF ACTIVE DUTY AND RESERVE SAILORS CONTINUE TO RISE TO THE CHALLENGE OF WORLD EVENTS AS THEY ALWAYS HAVE. THEY DO THIS BECAUSE THEY ARE KEENLY AWARE OF THE TRUST, CONFIDENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE IN THEM AND BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE IN THE RICH TRADITION OF OUR NAVAL SERVICE.

MR. CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE MEMBERS, I AM HONORED FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK HERE TODAY AND I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR QUESTIONS, THANK YOU.