

## Castle's 10 Most Wanted Wasteful Defense Projects -- August 24, 2006

Castle highlights programs and projects that are fleecing the American taxpayers, soldiers

Dover, DE -- Continuing his efforts to expose and eradicate wasteful defense spending programs that are fleecing American taxpayers and shortchanging soldiers, Delaware Congressman Mike Castle today unveiled his top Ten Most Wanted List and outlined a legislative strategy for moving forward.

"There seems to be a stagnant culture at the Pentagon that facilitates problems such as millions of dollars in unearned bonuses, late delivery of weapons systems and spare parts. This culture also allows for a revolving door between the Pentagon and the defense industry, which may lead to conflicts of interest and simple waste, fraud and abuse," Castle said.

"I am concerned that cost increases and business management weaknesses damage our government's ability to provide soldiers with the resources that keep us safe. The more we cut down on waste and abuse, the more we can spend on much-needed resources for troops overseas. Some of these weapons programs may be absolutely necessary, but they should be developed strategically with a focus on meeting cost, schedule and capability goals."

Castle outlined a four point legislative strategy for moving forward:

### Pass Castle Legislation to End Wasteful Contractor Bonuses

- Legislation, attached to the House FY 2007 Defense Authorization and Appropriations Bills to bar defense contractors from receiving unearned bonuses, unless they meet requirements outlined by the Department.

### Address Conflict-of-Interest Problems Through New Legislation

- Federal government depends on Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (F-F-R-D-C's) for outside, impartial assessments. Recently, it has been revealed that some FFRDC's have board members with financial ties to defense contractors and subcontractors.

- Castle will introduce legislation to require FFRDC's to comply with the same conflict-of-interest laws that require federal employees to recuse themselves when it is necessary to avoid any semblance of partiality or bias.

### Increase Transparency in Government Contracting

- Push for passage of legislation authored by Senators Tom Coburn and Barack Obama to require all government contracts and grants to be posted on a public database, searchable over the Internet.

#### Increase Competition Between Defense Contractors

- The current trend is for no-bid and single-bid contracts - which make up 50 percent of government contracts, with a handful of large companies monopolizing the defense industry.

- Castle is joining Senator John McCain in requesting that the Pentagon take steps to limit the use of non-competitive contracting and to promote full and open competition, which will lead to innovation, aggressive negotiations, and better deals for the taxpayer.

Please contact the Castle office for a copy of Castle's Ten Most Wanted Wasteful Defense Projects, followed by a fact sheet.