



**Subcommittee on National Security,
Emerging Threats and International Relations**

Christopher Shays, Connecticut
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****MEDIA ADVISORY****

**For Immediate Release
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Contact: Bob Briggs

**National Security Subcommittee to Hold August 2nd Field Hearing
On the Protection of Explosives Storage Facilities**

(Washington, DC) -- Congressman Christopher Shays (CT-4), Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats and International Relations, will convene an oversight hearing Monday, August 2, 2004, 10:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers of the City of San Mateo, 330 West 20th Avenue, San Mateo, California.

The hearing is being held at the request of Congressman Tom Lantos (CA-12).

Officials from the Department of Justice, state law enforcement officials and local government leaders, along with explosives industry experts will testify on federal and state guidelines for the storage, monitoring and protection of explosive materials. The hearing will focus on the potential terrorist threat and adequacy of safeguards and security measures for publicly managed explosive storage facilities.

According to Congressman Shays, "While it is not possible to eliminate the vulnerability of all attractive terrorist targets throughout the country, strategic improvements in security can make it more difficult for attacks to succeed and can lessen the impact of attacks that do occur."

Congressman Lantos said, "Explosives stored at public facilities are a real target of opportunity for terrorists and other criminals. We must learn from the recent theft of explosive material in San Mateo and San Francisco in order to improve and protect our communities. Our hearing will not be a court proceeding, and we will go well beyond the facts of the current case. The point is to minimize the risk that such a problem will occur here or elsewhere in the future."

Walfred A. Nelson, Deputy Assistant Director of Enforcement Programs at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) at the Department of Justice and Michael Gulledge, of the Office of the Inspector General at the U.S. Department of Justice will testify. The federal witnesses will be questioned about the adequacy of federal laws and existing enforcement programs to assure the security of high explosives stored by law enforcement agencies.

San Mateo County Board of Supervisors President Mark Church and Supervisor Mike Nevin will address municipal government safety concerns at the hearing. Local law enforcement witnesses will include San Francisco Chief of Police Heather Fong and San Mateo County Sheriff Don Horsely. Witnesses from the California State Department of Homeland Security and the California Highway Patrol will testify about state storage regulations.

James Christopher Ronay, President of the Institute of Makers of Explosives (IME) and Barney T. Villa, International Director of the International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators (IABTI) will describe best practices for the storage of high explosives and industry recommendations security improvements.

Prior to the hearing, Members of Congress participating in the hearing and law enforcement witnesses will visit the site near the Crystal Springs Reservoir from which explosive materials were taken earlier this month. NOTE: Press wishing to accompany the group in order to take photographs of the storage site should contact Lynne Weil at 202-225-2817 to make arrangements.

Witness List

“Homeland Security: Surveillance and Monitoring of Explosive Storage Facilities”

August 2, 2004

Panel One

Mr. Walfred A. Nelson, Deputy Assistant Director
Enforcement Programs and Services Division
The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
U.S. Department of Justice

Mr. Michael Gullede, Director
Office of Evaluation and Inspections Division
Office of the Inspector General
U. S. Department of Justice

Panel Two

Mr. Don Horsley, County Sheriff
San Mateo County Sheriff's Office
State of California

Ms. Heather Fong, Chief of Police
San Francisco Police Department
City of San Francisco, California

Mr. Scott MacGregor, *Assistant Chief*
California Highway Patrol
California Department of Justice
Sacramento, California

The Honorable Mark Church, President
San Mateo County Board of Supervisors
State of California

The Honorable Michael Nevin, Supervisor
San Mateo County Board of Supervisors
State of California

Panel Three

Mr. James Christopher Ronay, President
The Institute of Makers of Explosives (IME)

Mr. Barney T. Villa, *International Director*
International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators (IABTI)
Whittier, California

