

**(WASHINGTON, D.C)** - U.S. Rep. Mike Coffman (R-Colorado) has been appointed to a newly formed "Panel on Defense Acquisition Reform." The purpose of the panel is to examine the acquisition and procurement processes at the Department of Defense to see what reforms are necessary to improve the quality and to contain the cost of weapons systems and military equipment. Coffman, a freshman member of Congress, was one of only seven members of the House Armed Services Committee to be selected to sit on the panel.

"I fully understand the need to reform the acquisition and procurement processes to make sure that our men and women, who serve in defense of our freedom, have everything they need to accomplish their missions," said Coffman. "I also understand that the limited resources of the taxpayers require this to be done in the most cost effective manner possible."

The Panel on Defense Acquisition Reform will spend six months, with the possibility of a six month extension, reviewing solutions to a broad range of defense acquisition problems. The panel will release a report after the study is completed. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) last year found that the estimated cost of major U.S. defense programs it studied exceeded initial estimates by total of about \$295 billion. Underestimating the cost of defense programs greatly hinders the Defense Department's ability to fund new and important programs. The GAO's 2008 report also highlighted the need to decrease the time delay in delivering initial defense capabilities. Currently, delivery of initial weapons systems is delayed by an average of more than 21 months. These delays are unacceptable, needlessly waste taxpayer dollars, and hinder equipment delivery to our nation's warfighters.

"As a Marine Corps combat veteran, I fully understand the importance of maintaining the best equipped fighting force that is second to none," Coffman concluded. "As a new member of Congress, I will bring a fresh perspective and an open mind to the task of examining and improving our nation's flawed defense acquisition system."