

***Cites recent inspection failures as cause for concern***

**(WASHINGTON, D.C.)** – U.S. Rep. Mike Coffman (R-Colorado) today will ask for a meeting with the United States Air Force over their recent failure to pass nuclear inspections. This occurred after the U.S. Air Force had already failed two previous inspections regarding the safety and transport of nuclear intercontinental ballistic missiles. Coffman, a veteran of both the U.S. Army and the Marine Corps, is a member of the House Armed Services Committee.

The most recent Defense Nuclear Surety Inspection failure took place at the F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming which also crosses over into Colorado. The 90<sup>th</sup> Missile Wing located at the base did not properly document tests on nuclear missiles in December, 2008.

Other mishaps occurred in 2006 and 2007. In 2006, sensitive non-nuclear components in ballistic missiles that originated from F.E. Warren were mistakenly shipped to the island nation of Taiwan. Fortunately, the components were transported to an ally, instead of a sworn enemy, and were recovered.

In 2007, nuclear weapons were mistakenly flown from a military base in North Dakota to one in Louisiana. Defense Secretary Robert Gates initiated several corrective actions, including the establishment of a Task Force on Nuclear Weapons Management after the incident.

“Maintaining a safe and effective nuclear deterrent is vital to our national security,” said Coffman. “I look forward to using my position on the House Armed Services Committee to work with the Department of Defense, and Air Force in particular, to improve the management and security of our nuclear deterrent.”