

## OPENING STATEMENT

**THE HONORABLE VERN EHLERS (R-MI)**  
**Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Research and Science Education**  
**U.S. House Committee on Science and Technology**

*Role of the Social and Behavioral Sciences in National Security*  
Thursday, April 24, 2008  
9:00 am  
2118 Rayburn Office Building

Thank you Chairman Smith. I am pleased to be a part of this joint hearing, because I agree that social and behavioral science research has a tremendous role to play in the security of our nation. General Patton said, "Wars may be fought with weapons, but they are won by men. It is the spirit of the men who follow and of the man who leads that gains the victory." Social and behavioral research can help us determine what motivates the spirit of our military men and women and their leaders, as well as those who wish our nation harm.

I know that the National Science Foundation is doing yeoman work in the social and behavioral sciences, much of which could have applications for our military, and I look forward to hearing today about the behavioral science research currently being conducted by the Department of Defense and how that research is being applied. This issue creates numerous opportunities for these two agencies to work together on the research areas recommended in the National Research Council and U.S. Army Institute for the Behavioral and Social Sciences study, *Human Behavior in Military Contexts*.

In the military context, an advanced understanding of other cultures, teamwork in complex environments, technology-based training, nonverbal behavior, emotion, and behavioral neurophysiology can make the difference between life and death. These factors affect more than the Army combat engineer on the ground in Iraq and her family here at home or the Navy Admiral and everyone under his command. They also affect all of our service members, all of the families that support them, all of us whom they are defending, and yes, even those who threaten our freedom. Therefore, social and behavioral research is of crucial importance to this entire nation and our own security as we move forward in an ever-changing world filled not only with new technological advancements, but also with increasingly complicated human dimensions.

I thank our witnesses for being here this morning, and I look forward to their testimony.