

United States House of Representatives



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

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

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**National Security Subcommittee to Hold October 31<sup>st</sup> Field Hearing:  
Second Hearing on Protection of Explosives Storage Facilities**

(Washington, DC) -- Congressman Christopher Shays (CT-4), Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats and International Relations, today announced the panel will convene an oversight hearing entitled, "*Homeland Security: Surveillance and Monitoring of Explosive Storage Facilities, Part II.*" The hearing will be held on Monday, October 31, 2005, 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers of the City of San Mateo, 330 West 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue, San Mateo, California.

In August 2004, the Subcommittee held a hearing in California to investigate the July 2004 theft of several hundred pounds of explosives from a storage facility being used by local law enforcement agencies. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' (ATF) authority to oversee explosives storage facilities is limited to the private sector. As a result, ATF has no means to ensure that all state and local government facilities nationwide are in compliance with safeguards and security guidelines.

Out of concern that state and local government explosives storage facilities could be vulnerable to theft, the Subcommittee asked the General Accountability Office (GAO) to study the security and oversight of local and state magazines. During the hearing GAO will release a new report and discuss their findings and recommendations regarding guidelines for the storage, monitoring and protection of state and local explosive materials.

Officials from the Department of Justice, state law enforcement officials and local government leaders, along with explosives industry

experts, will testify on the challenges federal, state and local authorities face in securing and protecting publicly owned explosive storage facilities.

**Witness List**

**Ms. Laurie E. Ekstrand**, Director  
Homeland Security and Justice Team  
U.S. Government Accountability Office

accompanied by

**Mr. Philip Caramia**, Senior Analyst  
Homeland Security and Justice Issues  
U.S. Government Accountability Office

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

**Mr. Lewis P. Raden**, Assistant Director  
Enforcement Programs and Services Division  
The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms  
U.S. Department of Justice

**Mr. Fernando Gonzalez**, Battalion Chief  
Fort Worth Fire Department,  
Division of Arson/Bomb Investigation

**Dr. Tibor G. Rozgonyi**  
Professor and Head, Mining Engineering Department  
Colorado School of Mines

**Sgt. Stanley Mathiasen**, Chairman  
National Bomb Squad Commanders Advisory Board

**Dr. Vilem Petr**, Assistant Research Professor  
Mining Engineering Department  
Colorado School of Mines

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

**The Honorable Don Horsley**, County Sheriff  
San Mateo County Sheriff's Office

**Lt. Gary Kirby**  
San Jose Police Department