



U.S.-CHINA ECONOMIC AND SECURITY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

## Hearing on “China's New Leadership and Implications for the United States”

**Opening Statement of Vice Chairman Dennis C. Shea**

**February 07, 2013**

**Washington, DC**

Thank you, Chairman Reinsch, and thank you again to our witnesses for joining us. Our first afternoon panel will address the military leadership transition that—like the broader political transition—held a few surprises. Chief among these was the clean break in the chairmanship of the Central Military Commission from Hu Jintao to Xi Jinping. This represents a clear deviation from the pattern set by Jiang Zemin, who held on to the chairmanship following the transfer of power to Hu Jintao a decade ago. Xi has already begun to consolidate his power over the military: he has managed a wave of high-level promotions and urged the People’s Liberation Army to maintain “combat readiness.” His personal linkages to the military have been said to help cement his authority as head of China’s armed forces. I look forward to a discussion with our witnesses about what we can expect from the PLA under Xi and the other new top military leaders. We’re hoping in particular to gain insight about what these personnel changes mean for China’s security policies over the coming decade.

We’ll conclude today’s hearing with a panel on policy implications of these transitions for the United States. By now, the broad outlines of the U.S. “rebalancing” policy to Asia are well-known. We’re interested in our witness’ views on how sound the policy is and how well it’s been implemented so far. We have made it a priority to invite panelists with different perspectives on the issue and we anticipate a fulsome discussion on the policy’s strengths and weaknesses. We have asked panelists to consider the Chinese response to the rebalancing, as well as regional responses.

Finally, a couple of housekeeping items before we begin. I’d like to offer our sincere appreciation to Representative J. Randy Forbes and the House Armed Services Committee and their staff for helping us to secure this room today. As always, I’d like to remind witnesses to keep remarks to 7 minutes so that we have ample time for our question-and-answer session. With that, I’ll yield back to Chairman Reinsch to introduce our first panel.