

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Rep. Harry E. Mitchell today was named chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

Mitchell's appointment was approved by the full House Veterans' Affairs Committee. He is one of only two freshman members who were named subcommittee chairs by the committee.

"This is an important role, and I'm truly humbled to have earned the confidence of my colleagues," said Mitchell. "We have a lot of work to do to make sure our veterans are treated with the respect they deserve, and I'm proud that I'll have a role in doing that."

Mitchell and the subcommittee will focus on oversight of the Department of Veterans' Affairs procurement and acquisition system, technology programs, and information security management program. Security of veterans' personal information has been a high-profile issue. Last year, the personal information of more than 26 million veterans was stolen from a VA employees' home. [Source: MSNBC.com , May 22, 2006]