



## United States Mission to the OSCE

# Statement in Response to the Report of OSCE Representative to the Estonian Commission on Military Pensioners Captain Mahrenholtz

As delivered by Political Counselor Bruce Connuck  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
June 23, 2005

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We welcome Captain Mahrenholtz back to the Permanent Council, and thank him for his continued work with OSCE in obtaining residence permits for military pensioners.

We are especially pleased to note the good working relationships that you have, Captain Mahrenholtz, with the Estonian and Russian authorities.

We also commend the goodwill shown by Estonian authorities in carefully reviewing the applicability of domestic laws and international commitments with respect to pensioners' rights to long-term temporary residency and in some cases allowing permanent residence permits with the amendment of the January 2004 law.

We fully respect the laws of Estonia and the authority of Estonian courts to determine their application.

Once again, the United States appreciates very much the efforts of Captain Mahrenholtz and we wish him continued success in his work.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.