

HOOVER (June 29) – Congressman Spencer Bachus (AL-6), Chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, today presided over a field hearing that highlighted the role of the National Computer Forensics Institute (NCFI) in Hoover in fighting cybercrime.

“The National Computer Forensics Institute is providing valuable training to the state and local law enforcement officials who are our first line of defense against crime. They are being equipped with the skills needed to combat the new wave of cybercriminals. Investigations based on information drawn from computers and electronic devices can be highly complex, and the training provided by the NCFI is critical to bringing these cases to successful prosecution,” Bachus said.

Bachus was joined at the hearing by Congressman Mike Rogers (AL-3) and Congressman Steve Fincher (TN-8). Witnesses were: Alvin T. Smith, Assistant Director of the U.S. Secret Service, Randall Hillman of the Alabama District Attorneys Association, Gary Warner, Director of Research for Computer Forensics at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and Clay Hammac of the Shelby County Sheriff’s Department, whose training at the institute helped lead to the arrests of suspects in a drug-related quintuple homicide.

Congressman Bachus said that cybercrime is increasingly international, making it a national security concern. He pointed to recent hacker attacks on U.S. government websites, including the CIA’s website, and on computer systems operated by major financial institutions.

“The National Computer Forensics Institute is a great asset to our country. It is helping to protect us from attacks targeting our financial system and our defense and intelligence agencies. The training performed here has also put financial fraudsters, child molesters and murderers behind bars. We can be proud that the education being provided here is protecting public safety across our nation,” Bachus added.

Congressman Bachus played an instrumental role in helping to locate the NCFI at the Hoover Public Safety Building. The center has trained more than one-thousand law enforcement officials since its opening in 2008.

The committee hearing today was attended by more than 200 people, including 27 judges currently receiving training at the institute. A number of the judges called the program at the NCFI the best computer crime training available anywhere in the U.S.