

[H.A.S.C. No. 113-43]

HEARING  
ON  
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT  
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014  
AND  
OVERSIGHT OF PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED  
PROGRAMS  
BEFORE THE  
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS  
FIRST SESSION

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FULL COMMITTEE HEARING  
ON  
**NATIONAL DEFENSE PRIORITIES  
FROM MEMBERS FOR THE  
FISCAL YEAR 2014 NATIONAL  
DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT**

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HEARING HELD  
MAY 8, 2013



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**NATIONAL DEFENSE PRIORITIES FROM MEMBERS FOR  
THE FISCAL YEAR 2014 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHOR-  
IZATION ACT**

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,  
*Washington, DC, Wednesday, May 8, 2013.*

The committee met, pursuant to call, at 12:35 p.m., in room 2118, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Howard P. “Buck” McKeon (chairman of the committee) presiding.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. HOWARD P. “BUCK” MCKEON,  
A REPRESENTATIVE FROM CALIFORNIA, CHAIRMAN, COM-  
MITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES**

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will come to order.

Good afternoon. The House Armed Services Committee meets today to receive testimony from Members of Congress on their national defense priorities for the fiscal year 2014 National Defense Authorization Act [NDAA].

In exactly 4 weeks, this committee will reconvene to mark up our 51st consecutive NDAA. And, as we begin crafting our legislation, it is essential we seek input from all Members of the House to better enable us to fulfill Congress’ article I, section 8 constitutional mandate to provide for the common defense. We all share the responsibility to provide the best possible resources for our warfighters, and we look forward to hearing from this group of our fellow Members of Congress on their proposals for how best to carry out our mandate.

In a tough budget environment, such as the one we face this year, I hope to enlist all of you who care deeply about our troops and our national security in focusing on solutions to the damage to our force caused by the across-the-board cuts known as sequestration, not just targeted fixes.

A quick note on our format for today. In consultation with the ranking member, we will depart from our regular questioning process. Each witness will have 5 minutes to testify, followed by a 5-minute round of clarifying questions from the committee. Members of the committee may seek recognition by raised hand and will be granted 2 minutes apiece, up to the 5-minute limit. This will ensure we can hear from all witnesses today in a timely fashion.

As this hearing is intended to be a listening session, it is not my intent to engage in extended debate or colloquy with all our witnesses.

We look forward to today’s testimony and thank the participating Members for their advocacy on behalf of our troops.

Mr. Smith.

**STATEMENT OF HON. ADAM SMITH, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM  
WASHINGTON, RANKING MEMBER, COMMITTEE ON ARMED  
SERVICES**

Mr. SMITH. I just concur in the chairman's remarks and look forward to hearing from all the Members.

You know, we have 62 Members on this committee, and we work with them, but the entire House is interested in what goes in the Defense Authorization Act. So it is always good to hear from all the Members, and I look forward to doing that this afternoon.

I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

We, you know, go through a markup process where members of the committee all get to offer amendments, and then when we get to the floor, Members get to offer amendments. But this is a way to get something in the bill without going through the cumbersome amendment process.

So Mr. Takano.

**STATEMENT OF HON. MARK TAKANO, A REPRESENTATIVE  
FROM CALIFORNIA**

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chairman, thank you very much.

Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member Smith, members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Recently, a crew from the California Air National Guard that was operating a remotely piloted aircraft out of March Air Reserve Base was able to locate a survival raft less than 2 minutes after being given a rough approximation of its position—not 2 days, not 2 hours, 2 minutes.

We are on the cusp of a new era. Remotely piloted aircraft, or RPAs, simply perform tasks better than manned airplanes do.

The majority of the United States RPA expertise, both combat and defense support of civil authorities, is located in the Air National Guard. Unfortunately, that previously mentioned California Air National Guard unit will be out of business in less than 4 years unless they are included in the Air Force's RPA upgrade plan, a plan they are not currently even mentioned in. Similar fates threaten Air National Guard units flying the soon-to-be-phased-out MQ-1 Predator in Arizona, North Dakota, Texas, and Ohio.

The United States is on the verge of incorporating RPAs in the National Airspace System, and these Air National Guard units have the most experience of any RP [remotely piloted] operation. They are the true experts in how to do this right. In light of this, the Guard should be at the top of the list for conversion to safer, higher flying follow-on RPAs, like the MQ-9 Reaper, rather than as an afterthought.

America needs to capitalize on the Air National Guard's expertise to reap fully the benefits of seamless RPA support for search and rescue efforts, disaster relief, and emergency services. Converting to the MQ-9 swiftly will also protect the thousands of jobs and countless small businesses that support these units.

The next 5 years will see substantial, maybe even exponential growth in remotely piloted aircraft operations worldwide, and America cannot afford to squander the significant advantage we have in this arena.

As the MQ-1 nears the end of its service life, it is absolutely imperative that the Air Force revises its RPA upgrade plan and upgrades the forgotten Air National Guard MQ-1 units in California, Arizona, North Dakota, Texas, and Ohio to the MQ-9 as quickly as possible to prevent a gap in mission coverage. This will also ensure we capitalize on, rather than lose, the Air National Guard's critical expertise and maintain America's lead beyond the approaching RPA horizon.

While the Air Force does have a strategic basing process for the recapitalization of MQ-1s to MQ-9s, the criteria do not place proper emphasis on the importance of current MQ-1 flight training schoolhouses. The Air Force should prioritize the replacement of MQ-1s with MQ-9s at locations with existing flight training unit schoolhouses, which would allow the Air Force to capitalize on existing infrastructure, trained personnel, instructor expertise, and save taxpayer money.

We need to see a formal recapitalization plan for the replacement of all National Guard MQ-1 aircraft with MQ-9 aircraft. That plan should contain the criteria for bed-down, including both the weight and scoring that will be given to MQ-1 wings and squadrons with collocated flight training unit schoolhouse missions.

That concludes my testimony, Mr. Chairman.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Takano can be found in the Appendix on page 165.]

The CHAIRMAN. Boy, you used the exact minute, right to the second.

Mr. TAKANO. I didn't want to outstay my welcome, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. You did a very good job.

Mr. TAKANO. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much. Appreciate it.

I said in my opening statement we would have 5 minutes, but it will be 4 minutes. In all of the Members that we have signed up, it worked out we will only have 4 minutes.

Next will be Mr. Nunes from California.

#### **STATEMENT OF HON. DEVIN NUNES, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM CALIFORNIA**

Mr. NUNES. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Smith. I appreciate the opportunity to testify.

I have a letter that I would like to submit for the record based on the Air Force's decision to draw down forces at Lajes Field on Terceira Island.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, so ordered.

[The information referred to can be found in the Appendix beginning on page 175.]

Mr. NUNES. Lajes has an unparalleled strategic value. Located on the Azore islands between Europe and the United States, it is like the Hawaii of the Atlantic Ocean, only closer to America's homeland.

The islands belong to Portugal, a strong U.S. ally since World War II that has never prevented us from conducting operational missions. The base was critical to our tracking of Soviet submarines during the cold war. Today, it allows us access to Europe, the Middle East, to Western and Sub-Saharan Africa. It is also a

vital site for countering AQIM [Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb] and other jihadist groups in Southern Sahara Africa.

Furthermore, Lajes is well-positioned to act as a logistical hub, not only for Department of Defense, but for USAID [United States Agency for International Development], the State Department, and other agencies.

I want to bring Lajes to your attention today due to the dire consequences of the decision to draw down the base. Our strategic planners may believe we can leave a mere skeletal operation at Lajes and retain access there, but, in reality, the decision means a total end to the U.S. presence at the facility.

Scaling back to current plans will severely impact the Azorian economy, forcing authorities to look for a new tenant for the site. In light of Portugal's weak economy, we do not want to make Azorians choose between their loyalty to the United States and the ability to feed their families.

Next slide, please.

[The slide referred to can be found in the Appendix on page 177.]

Mr. NUNES. While our strategic planners may not want to be in the Azores anymore, leaders of other nations feel differently. Several high-ranking Chinese officials have visited the Azores in recent years, culminating in a June 2012 visit by Premier Wen Jiabao. The Chinese did not divulge what these delegates were doing there, but I highly doubt they were sipping port and enjoying the pleasant climate.

Next slide, please.

[The slide referred to can be found in the Appendix on page 178.]

Mr. NUNES. Crucially, we cannot assume the Portuguese will exclude China or other bad actors from the site simply out of allegiance to the United States. The recent decision to send 500 U.S. Marines to Morón, Spain, a contingent that would have much more flexibility at the logistics hub of Lajes, could easily be perceived as a calculated insult to our Portuguese allies.

I fully understand the budget reality we face. However, as we reduce our European footprint comprising of 110,000 personnel and 29 military installations, we need to consider each site's geostrategic value. It would cost billions to build a base like Lajes today. And if our strategic planners insist on giving up something this vital, then at the very least I would urge this committee to create a pilot program to privatize its operations to guarantee 24/7 access to the site for TRANSCOM [Transportation Command] and other agencies.

I would like to draw the final slide. It is up on the screen now.

[The slide referred to can be found in the Appendix on page 179.]

Mr. NUNES. In conclusion, the retention of Lajes was not an issue for 70 years—70 years—because prior planners never contemplated surrendering something so crucial to the United States interests.

And I leave this committee with three questions. The first: If we withdraw from Lajes, should we assume that Chinese and Russian submarines will suffer some mishap that prevents them from sailing beneath the Atlantic Ocean?

Second, if we withdraw from Lajes, should we assume that jihadists will stop training in Sub-Sahara Africa?



And, finally, I want to draw your attention to the map and ask an extremely simple question: If the U.S. Government wants to fulfill its responsibility to protect the United States, its people, and its interests, then I ask you to look at the map, and what location of the 29 locations on the map is most critical? I would argue that a strategic site equivalent to Hawaii in the Atlantic Ocean is the most critical.

And, with that, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member, I appreciate your time, and I look forward to answering any questions that you may have.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Nunes can be found in the Appendix on page 86.]

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Thornberry.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Nunes, let me be sure I understand. So the military thinks they can leave a skeletal force and then come back if we need it. And your point is that if we leave, they have, by necessity, got to do something else with the base, and so it will not be an option to come back.

Mr. NUNES. Right. I think rough numbers, Mr. Thornberry, is that it would cost multiple billions dollars to construct a base like we have there today. It is a 10,000-foot runway, hundreds of homes and facilities. It used to house 5,000 troops; today it is down to 500.

So the problem is, if you want to draw down from 500 to 50 or 75 or 100 and then cut the civilian workforce there, I mean, this is a no-brainer that they are going to want to sell that base, because the economics are going to require it. That is the problem.

You have 25 percent unemployment on the islands already. In mainland Portugal, you have 20 percent unemployment. Likely, if you close this base, you are going to see 35 or 40 percent employment. That is not a sustainable economic model.

Mr. THORNBERRY. And so the danger is, if we walk away, we lose it forever.

Mr. NUNES. Right. If we walk away and draw down, the Portuguese will be forced to make a very tough decision, which is, do we support the United States, which I think they want to do, or do we make a strategic decision to try to feed our families? And that will be the decision they will be down to.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Okay. And could you just briefly, again, describe what you are suggesting about private—

Mr. NUNES. Well, roughly, I would think that—this has been tried some times. It has been tried some times in the past. But I think, roughly, they are spending about \$50 million a year there now. I think they are trying to draw it down closer to \$30 million. The base is going to go to part-time; it is going to be a skeleton crew.

I would argue that maybe we could use that \$30 million to look for a way to keep it open 24/7 under a smaller maybe military contingent, but locals possibly, and we could get more for less. We could actually save the government money.

I mean, look, I don't believe that we should withdraw the presence there at all. In fact, I would argue that we should probably increase the presence at Lajes and draw down other facilities. But if they are dead set in their plans, perhaps this is an opportunity

for a pilot project to privatize and save some money and, most importantly, keep our access there.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Cook.

Mr. COOK. Yes, sir. I have a quick comment and maybe a question.

And, by the way, I support what you are saying there.

And I would just call the committee's attention to a little bit of history. And that was, many, many years ago, when the Shah of Iran's regime had changed, there were certain contingencies. And it was about relief forces that were to go into Iran via that particular base, then into insulate Turkey, and then into Tehran. At that time, it was to evacuate the embassy. Never happened for a variety of reasons, one of which is the op plans, I think, were leaked to the press.

I kind of know the area a little bit. I would hope that the military has reviewed that. But with the situation in the Middle East with Syria and Iran, I just think that the gentleman from California is making an excellent point about the importance of that. I didn't even know it was going to be on the docket today, but I did want to offer that support.

Thank you. I yield.

Mr. NUNES. Well, thank you, Mr. Cook. And I appreciate your service to our country.

And I would point out that, in the past, similar times throughout history, almost all the other European countries have blocked our access except for Portugal.

The CHAIRMAN. Any further questions?

Thank you. Thank you very much for your presentation.

Mr. NUNES. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Next would be Mr. Cartwright from Pennsylvania.

**STATEMENT OF HON. MATTHEW A. CARTWRIGHT, A  
REPRESENTATIVE FROM PENNSYLVANIA**

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Thank you, Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member Smith, members of the House Armed Services Committee. I come before you today to testify about the importance of our defense industrial base and specifically about military depots.

Right now, we stand at the tail end of two long wars that have stretched our budgets and severely strained our All-Volunteer Force. As the committee is well aware, hard choices about defense spending will have to be made in the near future. In order to shrink our defense budget to fit a peacetime force, this committee will have to identify programs that are no longer vital to American safety, while at the same time maintain funding for readiness for a myriad of continuing threats.

I hope you will join me in supporting replacing the sequester-level cuts with a defense budget policy that thoughtfully and appropriately reshapes our fighting forces.

Now, depots. Our military depots are a fiscally prudent tool in maintaining readiness. As you set their budget, I urge you to consider the value of depots to the warfighter, the return on the investment that the American taxpayer receives from depots, and the

indispensable economic role these facilities play in communities where they are located.

In my district alone, the Tobyhanna Army Depot, the Army's only C4ISR [command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance] communications depot, generates \$1.68 in economic activity for every dollar invested. Additionally, every job at Tobyhanna generates two and a half jobs in the larger community. Letterkenny Army Depot, also in my State, generates over one and a half local jobs for every employee who goes to work for the base.

In many cases, as with Tobyhanna, depots are the largest employers in their respective congressional districts. Dramatic reductions would economically devastate these communities.

I would further ask you to consider the impact sequestration and the fiscal year 2013 continuing resolution have already had on Tobyhanna. Five hundred people have already lost their jobs. Projected funding is about \$100 million below what was originally planned, and funding actually received by the depot is now only about 72 percent of the revised scaled-back plan.

Work stoppages on several key systems will begin occurring next month. To maintain costs of competitiveness, the depot has curtailed contracts and canceled its capital investment program for this fiscal year.

As the ability of depots to refurbish essential supplies becomes lost because of such costs, the outlook for better integrating our forces through upgraded communications networks and equipment becomes bleaker. As Army Chief of Staff General Raymond T. Odierno stated last August, network upgrades remain the Army's, quote, "number-one modernization priority," unquote.

Now, going forward, last year the House voted to cut nearly \$2 billion from our military depot budget. Depots are required to run like businesses. They have to win work and remain cost-competitive within the private sector. If they can't do so, they have to cut costs. Slashing their operational funding means they are able to do less work. And if overhead costs become too great a percentage of total costs, the facility becomes less competitive when bidding for new work. That leads to the kind of a death spiral that is just doomsday for a depot.

In addition to increasing operational funds, this committee should seek to enforce the 50-50 rule and ensure that the essential go-to-war items are identified so that depots maintain sufficient workload. We should use the oversight power of Congress to ensure that the service branches move quickly to establish new systems that will be supported by depots and that will support depot workloads for decades to come.

I urge you to authorize an expansion of the electronic technology that tomorrow's warfighter will need, along with increased direct funding for our Nation's military depots. Only a well-equipped, well-supported force will allow America to meet all of its future threats.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Cartwright can be found in the Appendix on page 139.]

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

Any questions of the gentleman?

Thank you very much.

Next is Mr. Thompson from Pennsylvania.

**STATEMENT OF HON. GLENN THOMPSON, A REPRESENTATIVE  
FROM PENNSYLVANIA**

Mr. THOMPSON. Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member Smith, members of the Armed Services Committee, I want to thank you for allowing me to testify before you today.

This committee has done an excellent job supporting the brave men and women who serve our country, which is a passion I share with each of you.

Two years ago I worked very closely with the committee to include the Servicemembers' Telemedicine and E-Health Portability Act, or STEP Act, in the fiscal year 2012 National Defense Authorization Act, which was signed into law in December 2012. The STEP Act was a positive step forward in modernizing how the Department of Defense delivers health care. Specifically it made widespread telemedicine possible and accessible by expanding the State licensure exemption to all DOD [Department of Defense] healthcare professionals, regardless where they are or the patient is located.

Many committee members have worked closely on the issue of mental health and suicide prevention and know just how important it is for our service members to get treatment without delay. Of equal importance is ensuring our service members can access care without the stigma that is often associated with seeking mental health treatment. The STEP Act is assisting with achieving these very goals.

Last year, after passage of the STEP Act, the Army was able to perform nearly 36,000 teleconsultations, which included over 31,200 tele-behavioral health clinical encounters. This is an incredible achievement and a great start. Since its passage I have worked closely with the Department of Defense to monitor its implementation.

In large part the services have embraced these changes. In a new memo to the service chiefs this year, the Department of Defense presented the first part of the STEP Act implementation with a broad waiver to expand telemedicine. This waiver was a tremendous step forward.

However, there remains two issues which the Department of Defense needs to address. First, the waiver does not allow service members to use telemedicine from their homes, only fixed facilities. Second, TRICARE providers were not included as a part of this waiver for licensure portability. However, the STEP Act has already clearly addressed both of these waiver issues. And this is my concern, that the Department of Defense has not fully implemented the spirit of the law.

We need to make health services and care as convenient and accessible as possible, especially when it comes to the mental health. There is no better way to remove the stigma of seeking mental health from a bricks-and-mortar facility, in plain sight of colleagues than to allow our service members to access care in the comfort and privacy of their own homes.

I did have the opportunity to speak yesterday with Dr. Jonathan Woodson, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, and relayed some of my concerns to him. As we move forward, I would appreciate your help with that.

I cut short some of my original prepared remarks just to elevate an issue that came from constituents just this week. And I would just ask, with this, the committee's close oversight as we prepare to draw down and depart from Afghanistan. This week I received multiple constituent contacts from members of the military currently deployed in Afghanistan. They were from different FOBs [forward operating bases], but had the same issue: hunger.

I recognize, as they do, that we are at war, and at times of war circumstances will dictate nights when the troops won't go to sleep, and will go to sleep hungry, or may not go to sleep at all. That is what happens when you are at war, at times. But the situation I am talking about is not one of those times.

In a conversation with CENTCOM [Central Command] on this issue, after the constituent contacts, I was provided the U.S. Expeditionary Mindset Campaign Key Messages. Bullet 4 of that document states, quote, "It is no longer business as usual. We do not need money for non-mission-essential resources. In this cost culture, we need to ask, Do we need it?"

Well, colleagues, I would argue that the safety, shelter, and sustenance—or food—are mission-essential resources and an obligation to the men and women serving in harm's way. I just ask your oversight that we fulfill these mission essentials until the last set of boots are out of Afghanistan.

Let me close with sharing just the following email I received 2 days ago from a constituent. It is short. I got it May 6. And it is a quote.

"So they took away breakfast and midnight chow and replaced it MREs [Meal Ready to Eat]. It doesn't affect me much because it's helping me lose weight, but the guys I work with that work a 12-hour shift overnight really get hosed. What they have been doing is going to dinner, which is their breakfast, grabbing a to-go plate for a meal later on. Tonight"—and I replaced the position with just senior NCO [noncommissioned officer]—"told them that they're not allowed to do that. Other times the dining facility soldiers have told the guys that they can only take one MRE. Basically these guys are trying to starve people, I think. Just filling you in. Maybe a phone call to someone would help."

Well, I hope the opportunity that you have allowed me today, quite frankly, has fulfilled that constituent's request. And I yield back.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Thompson can be found in the Appendix on page 115.]

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman's time has expired.

We will include your whole statement in the record. No objection. Thank you very much.

Mr. THOMPSON. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Ms. Blackburn from Tennessee.

**STATEMENT OF HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN, A  
REPRESENTATIVE FROM TENNESSEE**

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Smith. We appreciate the opportunity to testify today.

I represent the Seventh Congressional District of Tennessee, which is home to the brave men and women of Fort Campbell, and that is home to the storied 101st Airborne, the 5th Special Forces Group, and the Army's 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, which piloted Navy SEAL [Sea, Air, and Land] Team 6 during the raid on Osama bin Laden.

The nearly 3,500 officers and 27,000 enlisted personnel who call Fort Campbell home have gone through intensive training which has pushed their minds and bodies to the limits. In the end, those who made the cut have truly earned the right to be part of the U.S. military and serve on the front lines in the fight against terrorism.

However, due to the extreme cuts facing our military under sequestration, some of our military readiness programs are in jeopardy. One program that I am especially concerned about is the Flying Hour Program. This vital program provides aviation training resources for individual crew members and units according to approved aviation training strategies. In addition, it also provides individual and collective proficiency in support of ongoing combat and noncombat air operations. For aviation units like the 101st Airborne, this training is not only vital to mission success, but to the safety of our soldiers.

As a result of sequestration, the Army has already begun curtailing training, canceling training center rotations, ending collective training above the platoon level except for the next-to-deploy units, and reducing flying hours, which is leaving many units unprepared for possible contingencies both at home and abroad.

Many military specialties, such as pilots, are acutely affected, with many set to lose their currency in a matter of months. The Army could have to cut 37,000 flying hours from aviation training, creating a shortfall of over 500 aviators just this year.

I urge the House Armed Services Committee to pay close attention to restoring the Flying Hour Programs to their full capacity in fiscal year 2014. Without it, vital national security assets like the 101st Airborne will find their important mission at risk. More importantly, the lives of the soldiers we count on to deploy in our defense will also be put at much greater risk.

One additional program that I would like to highlight for the committee is the Troops to Teachers program. Given that the current unemployment rate for veterans is a staggering 10 percent, it is important that we help our troops exiting the military transition to a new career. Becoming a teacher is the perfect outlet for many of our veterans who are looking to continue their service. The program is currently underutilized in the Fort Campbell area, despite the large presence of veterans in the communities. I urge the committee to provide a thoughtful review of the program and look for ways to enhance it through innovative changes so that institutions of higher education can work more closely with members of the armed services.

I thank you for your time, and I yield back.

[The prepared statement of Mrs. Blackburn can be found in the Appendix on page 80.]

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

Any questions? Thank you.

Next will be Mr. Hudson from North Carolina. The gentleman is recognized.

**STATEMENT OF HON. RICHARD HUDSON, A REPRESENTATIVE  
FROM NORTH CAROLINA**

Mr. HUDSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman McKeon, and Ranking Member Smith, I want to thank you and this committee for the opportunity to share with you some of the national security priorities I hold for the upcoming year on behalf of the Eighth District of North Carolina.

As I have traveled around communities in North Carolina, people have consistently told me that restoring fiscal responsibility is their number one priority, and that they sent me to Washington to help force the government to live within its means. Accordingly, I am committed to cutting spending, reducing the size of government, promoting economic growth, and putting our budget on a path to balance.

Today I would like to discuss a number of issues; namely, the challenges that we face, along with our allies and partners; the commitments we have made to our men and women in uniform; and the importance of ensuring accountability and transparency when trying to maintain a strong national defense in a tough budget environment.

The past decade has taught us that many of the threats we face no longer come from traditional nations, but rather from determined groups of extremists who seek to wreak havoc on the American dream. While the war on terror is an ongoing battle against evil, in most cases states continue to pose the greatest threat to our national security, whether through the sponsor of terrorist groups or outright provocation. A failure to exercise U.S. diplomatic and military leadership means nuclear states like Iran and North Korea will be able to bully the entire international system.

North Carolina is fortunate to be home to over 700,000 proud veterans, and I am lucky to represent a district that has a strong military presence, given its proximity to Fort Bragg. I just returned from a terrific visit to Fort Bragg and am proud to report that some of the finest Americans are working there on behalf of this great Nation. The men and women of Fort Bragg have very unique capabilities and a very unique mission.

I look forward to working with this committee on behalf of Fort Bragg to make sure their priorities are understood and met. Among these are a number of new centers, including a skills sustainment course building for the Joint Special Operations Medical Training Center, an engineer training facility for the 1st Special Warfare Training Group, a language and cultural center for the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School.

As the United States increases its Special Operations and airborne operations presence, it is critically important that we support in-depth training and techniques, an area where Fort Bragg continues to excel. I look forward to working with you and this com-

mittee to provide the necessary resources to ensure the utmost success for our dedicated men and women in uniform serving at Fort Bragg and around the world.

America has made promises to the men and women who have made countless sacrifices for this Nation, and we must guarantee these promises are kept. As chairman of the Subcommittee on Transportation Security, I have worked for and support the TSA's [Transportation Security Administration] decision to offer less-invasive screening for members of the military who have sustained severe combat-related injuries.

Finally, I would like to discuss the defense budget. I recognize the difficult challenges facing this committee in balancing the important needs of our Defense Department with diminishing resources. In tough economic times it is critical that we hold every Federal agency accountable for taxpayer dollars, and the Department of Defense is no exception.

I applaud the work of my colleagues, Congressman Mike Conaway and Congressman Rob Andrews, who have long urged DOD to make financial management a priority within the Department. We can all agree that DOD must make certain every dollar is accounted for and used to its fullest potential.

With that said, it is important to remember that defense spending represents approximately 19 percent of the Federal budget, yet has to absorb nearly half the spending reductions occurring in the past 2 years. We must always ensure that our military's readiness is not compromised by an inability in Washington to properly set spending priorities.

Thank you to the committee for the opportunity to speak to you today and for your efforts on behalf of our Nation's warfighters and their families.

I yield back my time, Mr. Chairman.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Hudson can be found in the Appendix on page 153.]

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

Are there any questions of the gentleman?

Thank you.

Mr. Pierluisi from Puerto Rico.

**STATEMENT OF HON. PEDRO R. PIERLUISI, RESIDENT  
COMMISSIONER FROM PUERTO RICO**

Mr. PIERLUISI. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member, for the opportunity to summarize my requests.

First, the Corps of Engineers is cleaning limited areas of Culebra, Puerto Rico, a former training range under the FUDS [Formerly Used Defense Sites] program. However, the Army argues that a 1974 law prohibits the Federal cleanup of a 400-acre parcel that was part of the bombardment zone. This parcel is the only former defense site in the Nation the Federal Government says it is not authorized to clean.

The committee has recognized that this state of affairs is dangerous, since the parcel includes beaches, walkways, and campgrounds. In the 2010 bill, the House repealed the relevant provision in the 1974 law to authorize cleanup of the parcel, but receded in conference.



In the 2011 bill, Congress required a study on the amount of unexploded ordnance within the parcel, the risk it poses, and the cost of removal. DOD completed the study after this committee marked up the 2012 NDAA. To preserve the issue for conference, I offered a successful floor amendment expressing the sense of the House that if this parcel could be cleaned at reasonable cost, the 1974 law should be relaxed or repealed. Again, the Senate failed to act.

This March, the consequences of the Senate's inaction became terribly clear. A young girl visiting a Culebra beach suffered burns and was hospitalized after she picked up a munition containing white phosphorous. Officials responding to the scene found additional UXO [unexploded ordnance], including naval gun rounds that were detonated by the FBI [Federal Bureau of Investigation]. This incident highlights the need for congressional action. So I ask the committee to again include language to relax or repeal the 1974 law and to defend this provision in conference.

My second request concerns the 156 Airlift Wing of the Puerto Rico Air National Guard. The 156th has had the highest operational tempo of any C-130 unit in the Guard, conducting ISR [intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance] and other missions in AFRICOM [Africa Command], CENTCOM, and SOUTHCOM [Southern Command], and fulfilling its commitments under Operation Coronet Oak, all while flying the oldest C-130s in the inventory.

The unit has unmatched operational experience in its AOR [area of responsibility], is strategically located, and is fully bilingual, yet its future is uncertain. The unit has three C-130Es that are scheduled to be retired this year, and recently received WC-130s, which are not combat-coded. I understand these planes are intended to be a stopgap measure until the unit is provided with newer H or J models that are fully mission capable; however, when I ask about the delivery date of the new planes, no clear response is provided.

There are multiple options that would be good for the unit and good for our national security. Allowing the unit's flying mission to lapse would be a strategic mistake and is inconsistent with repeated assurances I have been given by defense officials, including the Secretary of the Air Force. Therefore, I ask the committee to address this matter in its report.

My final request concerns counterdrug activities. The murder rate in Puerto Rico is far higher than any State, and most murders are linked to the drug trade. The Coast Guard seized or disrupted over 17,000 pounds of drugs around Puerto Rico in 2012, an 800 percent increase over the previous year. DEA [Drug Enforcement Agency] seizures rose nearly 100 percent. CBP [Customs and Border Protection] seized more drugs in Puerto Rico than along the Mexico-New Mexico border. Meanwhile the price of drugs in Puerto Rico has decreased. This is a problem of national scope because most of the drugs that enter Puerto Rico are transported to the U.S. mainland.

The commanders of NORTHCOM [Northern Command] and SOUTHCOM recently testified that this is a matter of great concern to them. I ask this committee to direct DOD to report on its activities to support counterdrug operations in and around Puerto

Rico, and I hope you will work with me to ensure that DOD enhances its role as appropriate.

Thank you. I yield back.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Pierluisi can be found in the Appendix on page 170.]

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

The gentleman's time has expired. Are there any questions of the gentleman?

Thank you very much.

Next is Mr. Heck from Washington. The gentleman is recognized.

**STATEMENT OF HON. DENNY HECK, A REPRESENTATIVE  
FROM WASHINGTON**

Dr. HECK. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Smith. I appreciate the opportunity to testify before you today.

I have the great privilege to represent the congressional district that contains Joint Base Lewis-McChord, the third largest military installation in America. Thousands of families in my district are connected to this joint base in some way. They are the families of Active service duty members, reservists, civilian workers, veterans, and more. In the past few months, many of these families have begun to feel the negative effects of the decisions the Department of Defense has had to make as a result of the sequestration cuts.

I want to read you just part of a letter I received from one of the members of one of these families. It comes from a woman named Lacey, who lives in Olympia, the same city as I do. Lacey's husband is stationed at JBLM [Joint Base Lewis-McChord]. He has been deployed multiple time overseas in the last decade. Lacey and her husband have two young sons, ages 3 and 1.

She writes: "Our lives together have held surprises, both good and bad, thanks to my husband's military commitment. But I support my husband in his service. I know that for the bad days at 'the office' that he has far more good days. He truly enjoys his job. My husband was put on orders to come here to Fort Lewis, and we were told that this particular assignment, though chaotic, would result in more time home for him. More time with our young boys. . . .

"The first portion of my husband's assignment was wonderful. He was home for dinner. We could actually eat a family meal, for the first time since we have had children, I might add. He was able to actually do the whole bedtime routine for our older son instead of barely skidding in the door to read him part of the story and put him to bed. My sons blossomed with this extra time with their father. . . .

"In the few short weeks that these sequester cuts have been coming downhill, I can tell you that there has been a significant and miserable change in my children. Both of them have become moody and angry. . . . My husband wakes up at 5 a.m. and isn't getting back home from work until 6 p.m. on a good day. Many days he is barely getting through the door at 7:30 p.m. at night, and that is with leaving tasks incomplete at his desk. We have barely 2 hours together before he is falling asleep, exhausted, on the couch. While I cook a meager dinner, he works on his graduate course (he just started that program in January).

"I know my husband is a hardworking man. I have supported him through two Iraq tours, two assignments in Africa, and an assignment in a former Soviet territory. I have brought two children into this world with him. I have moved completely across the country with him, and I am putting my graduate degree and career on hold in order to support him and raise our children until they are of school age.

"I know what kind of hours he works when he is deployed; it is the same daily hours as he is working now. My job, as I see it, is to hold this family together, to make sure that my children are connected to their dad. But how can I keep them connected to a husk of a person? The schedule, this pace, will turn my husband into a shell of himself."

Mr. Chairman, often this town gets lost in the numbers, and the percentages and the statistics that go into our Federal budgeting process. We lose focus on the fact that the decisions we make impact real families in real ways. These are real people out there, who have to deal with the consequences of Congress' action or our inaction, as the case may be.

I know this committee does not have jurisdiction on this issue. I can guarantee you, however, that sequestration has affected the district of each and every member of this committee. Congress and we can still get this right. We can stop the unnecessary hardships that Lacey talks about in her letter. We just need to muster the will to act, and I hope, for the sake of our military families around the country, including those like Lacey's, that we will.

Thank you, sir, very much.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Heck can be found in the Appendix on page 151.]

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Are there any questions of the gentleman?

Thank you.

Mr. Kildee. The gentleman is recognized.

**STATEMENT OF HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM MICHIGAN**

Mr. KILDEE. Thank you, Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member Smith, and distinguished members of the committee, for holding today's hearing and allowing me the opportunity to share some of the defense priorities I hope you will consider in preparing the fiscal year 2014 National Defense Authorization Act. Although I do not serve on the Armed Services Committee, all Members of Congress have a responsibility to protect our Nation, and your gracious invitation reflects that. It is an honor to be here.

I respectfully ask that you fully fund the National Guard to enable it to continue to play a critical role as a member of the total force. The National Guard provides a significant portion of the Active Duty services' capabilities. Since September 11, 2001, individual National Guard members have mobilized over 750,000 times in support of overseas operations, including over 17,000 individual deployments from my home State of Michigan.

The Air National Guard supplies 35 percent of the Air Force capability at a fraction of the Active Duty Air Force's budget. Moreover, the Army National Guard provides 32 percent of the total

Army force, again, with a significantly smaller portion of the Active Duty components' budget.

In addition to providing the military combatant commanders with fully deployable capability, the National Guard continues to fulfill its critical State mission. Last year, the National Guard responded to over 100 national disasters, including deploying 12,000 personnel to assist with the Hurricane Sandy relief efforts. Further, the National Guard, particularly in my home State of Michigan, has started to take a leading role in strengthening our cybersecurity at both the State and national levels.

Finally, the National Guard members serve as military ambassadors in our communities. As less than 1 percent of the population has served in the military, many citizens' largest connection to our service members and their sacrifices is via the citizen soldiers of the National Guard.

For these reasons fully funding and supporting the National Guard is both sound fiscal and defense policy.

I also ask that the committee consider some additional priorities particularly relevant to individual service members. A smart and well-educated military is a more effective and adaptable force. Thus, I ask that you fully fund the Military Tuition Assistance Program. This program enables service members to pursue educational opportunities while serving. Members of the military use this critical program to advance their military careers as well as prepare for their transition back to civilian life.

Further, to address the significant veterans' unemployment rate, the Department of Defense must improve the assistance it provides to service members as they transition from the military. Improving opportunities to transfer military credentials and training to the civilian sphere, job training and assistance, and implementing programs to ensure that service members are aware of the support and benefits available to them would all be positive steps.

Moreover, as the committee is well aware, military suicide and mental health issues are major problems facing service members and recent veterans. I ask that you continue to explore ways to address these issues and increase funding for programs that will help treat and identify mental illness. In this area in particular, our service members deserve our Nation's best.

And finally, please continue to support programs that seek to prevent sexual assault in the military. Sexual assault is becoming a significant concern in the armed services, and our service members deserve the opportunity to serve their country honorably and in an environment free of this type of mistreatment.

Thank you again, Mr. Chairman, for this wonderful opportunity to testify before the committee.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Kildee can be found in the Appendix on page 156.]

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

Any questions of the gentleman?

Thank you.

Mr. Broun from Georgia. The gentleman is recognized.

**STATEMENT OF HON. PAUL C. BROUN, A REPRESENTATIVE  
FROM GEORGIA**

Dr. BROUN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member Smith, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today.

There are two issues which I would like to briefly discuss before the committee. The first relates to the continued controversy over the U.S. Government's ability to indefinitely detain, without trial, U.S. citizens who are accused of terrorism or collaboration with terrorist groups. The second issue is related to the first, regarding the government's use of unmanned aerial vehicles, UAVs or drones, to kill suspected terrorists either in the U.S. or overseas.

These issues are related insofar as they both raise the question of how, under the Constitution, suspected terrorists ought to be treated, particularly those who are U.S. citizens. While past versions of the National Defense Authorization Act, the NDAA, have attempted to shed light on this question, it seems that there remains significant doubt over what the legal process should be when suspected terrorists are identified by our government.

Central to this debate is the Authorization for Use of Military Force in Afghanistan, AUMF, giving the U.S. Government the authority to indefinitely detain individuals suspected of terrorism. The AUMF became law in 2001 and was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2004 in *Hamdi v. Rumsfeld*. While both the 2012 and 2013 NDAA bills stated nothing in the underlying bills gives the U.S. Government the authority to detain U.S. citizens suspected of terrorism without due process, neither bill included language to repeal the authority granted under the AUMF.

This apparent disparity has resulted in widespread concern about whether the U.S. Government may, in fact, indefinitely detain U.S. citizens accused of terrorism. If the government does have this power under the law, it is unclear under what circumstances it may use this potentially sweeping power against its own people.

Last year I supported an amendment to the NDAA offered by Ranking Member Smith which would have ensured that individuals arrested on U.S. soil under either the AUMF or the fiscal year 2013 NDAA would be provided with due process as guaranteed by our Constitution. Unfortunately, this amendment did not pass the House and was not included in the final bill language. I urge the committee to include similar language in the fiscal year 2014 NDAA so that individuals who are accused of terrorism are afforded their right to a fair trial and due process, either via the criminal justice system or the military court system, depending on the situation and the citizenship of the accused.

Moreover, I urge the committee to work toward protecting the definition of "enemy combatant," a broad designation which lacks a clear meaning and may be placed on individuals under the AUMF in order to allow for their indefinite detention. Allowing any administration to use such a vague designation to punish individuals without due process opens the door to exceedingly dangerous scenarios, including classifying dissenters as potential terrorists who may be punished without regard to their constitutional rights.

At the same time I am very concerned about the white paper recently released by the Justice Department, which outlines the legal framework for the use of deadly force against American citizens. While this document purportedly relates only to individuals who are suspected of working as forces of Al Qaeda, I believe that it is highly dangerous nonetheless. Most significantly, it is unconscionable for the U.S. Government to kill any of its own citizens without first allowing them due process and their day in court. As with the designation of enemy combatants, I believe that no administration has the right to be judge, jury, and executioner of American citizens. Our country was founded under the notion that citizens must be protected from this type of tyrannical overreach, and even in these times marred by terrorist threats, it is imperative that we stay true to that important principle.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman's time expired, but we will include your whole testimony in the record.

Dr. BROUN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I ask the committee to do all it can do to ensure that Americans' God-given, constitutionally protected rights are defended as it begins this important legislation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[The prepared statement of Dr. Broun can be found in the Appendix on page 105.]

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

Any questions of the gentleman?

Thank you.

Dr. BROUN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Fattah from Pennsylvania. It was Ms. Lee's turn, but she is not here. So Mr. Fattah. The gentleman is recognized.

**STATEMENT OF HON. CHAKA FATTAH, A REPRESENTATIVE  
FROM PENNSYLVANIA**

Mr. FATTAH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you to our ranking member. I have submitted testimony for the record, but I wanted to come and make this case personally. And I thank you for the opportunity.

The CHAIRMAN. Your testimony that you submitted will be included.

Mr. FATTAH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Since the First Tee was born in 1997, it has worked to help over 7.5 million young people in terms of character development and perseverance through teaching the skills of golf.

In 2008, because of the work of both the chairman, Congressman Clyburn, myself, others, there was a \$3 million Department of Defense grant that allowed First Tee to operate on all of our military bases. So it is now in 50 States. It is all across the world on our military bases so that the children of our service men and women can take advantage of this great program.

Now, as the Federal dollars are coming to a conclusion, First Tee has raised private dollars. And like the Boys and Girls Clubs, like other programs on our bases, these are critically important programs to really provide real help to young people there and skills that they will need to go forward.

And so I know that the committee has heard a lot of testimony on Member's Day about a lot of important issues. And, Chairman, I know about your great work and concern for our national defense. I remember fondly our traveling to the International Atomic Energy Agency to learn more details about the Iranian weapons development program. This is not as weighty an issue as you are going to deal with.

What I am asking is that even though it will no longer be federally funded—and it doesn't need Federal funding. Joe Barrow and his board, they have done a tremendous job in raising money. I am going to be joining former President Bush in Philadelphia at the U.S. Open. We are doing a little event for First Tee there. And they have done the work to raise the money. We want to make sure that they can continue to provide this service on all of our military bases, both domestically and internationally.

And I thank the committee for allowing me an opportunity to make my point.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Fattah can be found in the Appendix on page 53.]

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much. I am glad you didn't mention any of my scores.

Any questions of the gentleman?

Thank you. And it is great to see a program that starts out using Federal funding, weans itself from the Federal funding, and is able to move forward in the private sector. They have been a fantastic program.

Mr. FATTAH. It is an extraordinary program and widely successful in 5,300 elementary schools this year. And when they make this announcement to double their efforts, they are going to be in 11,000 elementary schools. We want them in all our Boys and Girls Clubs. It is just a great program.

Thank you for your time, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

Mr. Roskam. The gentleman is recognized.

**STATEMENT OF HON. PETER J. ROSKAM, A REPRESENTATIVE  
FROM ILLINOIS**

Mr. ROSKAM. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Smith. I am here to congratulate and thank the committee for your past support for the U.S.-Israeli missile defense cooperation and to urge your consideration of that continued support.

There are four programs that I know are well known to this committee, but are certainly in need of highlighting, particularly in the season of incredible challenge that we are facing. Those programs are Iron Dome, David's Sling, Arrow, and Arrow 3. Two of them, Mr. Chairman, as you know, are already deployed, that is Iron Dome and Arrow, and two of them are in development.

I know many of us in Congress have visited the city of Sderot on the Gaza border, and we have interacted—I know I have—first-hand with the men and women and families who are there. A particular conversation when I was there made an impression on me. A mother described the challenge of having a 15-second lead time when an alert goes that an incoming missile is coming from Gaza. And you can imagine now the success and transformation that has

happened through this joint effort between the U.S. and Israel, and it has had an 85 percent success rate in knocking down hundreds of missiles. This is exactly the type of thing that I think the United States should be involved in.

It is a joint effort. All of these programs are a joint effort between the U.S. and Israel. It is an opportunity for us to share in technology; share in, essentially, the fruits of this product. And it continues to enhance our relationship with one of our key allies in the world and certainly our best friend in the Middle East.

So, Mr. Chairman, I know that these programs—and along with the ranking member—have no better friend than this committee. I am here to cheer you on and urge your consideration and advocacy. And if I can help in my role, I am happy to do that. And I appreciate the chance to testify today.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Roskam can be found in the Appendix on page 100.]

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much. We appreciate your efforts in this area. I was talking to the ambassador, Ambassador Oren, maybe, oh, it has been a month or two ago, and had just had a series of attacks over the weekend, and Iron Dome at that point was 95 percent effective. No loss of life. And it probably kept us from having a much bigger war, because if they had lost lives, they probably would have gone to war.

Mr. ROSKAM. We in the whip's office had a meeting yesterday with the ambassador, had 30 members in, and it was a continuous conversation about that exact issue. He was deeply grateful for the U.S. participation. And it is an incredible win for the U.S. as well.

The CHAIRMAN. Sure is. Thank you very much.

Mr. ROSKAM. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Any questions of the gentleman?

Thank you.

Mr. ROSKAM. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Hanna.

#### **STATEMENT OF HON. RICHARD L. HANNA, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM NEW YORK**

Mr. HANNA. Thank you, Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member Smith, members of the committee, for this opportunity and for your bipartisan support of our Armed Forces. I come before you today to formally request the committee's support for programs of monumental value to our Nation's modern defense capabilities as you prepare for your 2014 National Defense Authorization Act.

Specifically, I request that the committee support the President's fiscal year 2014 budget request for the Air Force's Dominant Information Sciences and Methods program and the Air Force's Battleship Knowledge Development and Demonstration program. These programs fulfill an essential mission that is critical to our Nation's defense and our information management. The work completed by this funding is vital to the development and maintaining of our defensive and offensive cyber capacities. Adequate funding of these programs is essential if we are to preserve our secure networks and the technologies that will allow us to deter enemy attacks against our systems.



Equally important, these programs provide critical services for our advanced communications, battleship and command control, and intelligence exploitation abilities. As our services work to become more efficient and unified, these assets are central to the establishment of joint operations. I believe the funding levels laid out by the President's budget request acknowledge the critical nature of these important programs.

The technologies that are developed and demonstrated through these fundings are essential to our continued 21st century national defense priorities. Their importance is clearly recognized by those who utilize the technologies and practices developed under these programs, including services of the Defense Department, the Intelligence Community, and other Federal agencies.

Therefore, I would like to formally ask my colleagues on this committee to maintain the President's recommended funding levels for both of these programs within the fiscal year 2014 National Defense Authorization Act. And I thank you for your time today.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Hanna can be found in the Appendix on page 132.]

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

Are there any questions of the gentleman?

Thank you.

Mr. HANNA. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Barr.

Mr. BARR. Thank you, Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Gentleman is recognized.

**STATEMENT OF HON. GARLAND "ANDY" BARR, A  
REPRESENTATIVE FROM KENTUCKY**

Mr. BARR. Thank you, Chairman McKeon, for providing me the opportunity to speak before the House Armed Services Committee today. I come before you in support of our Active, Guard, and Reserve Components, as well as our veterans, to ensure they receive the needed equipment and support they deserve.

Today I want to particularly focus on the National Guard, which faces mounting challenges regarding how to replace equipment that is obsolete and worn out through normal wear and tear, as well as strengthening family readiness programs. I stand beside the Commonwealth of Kentucky's Adjutant General, Major General Edward Tonini, in requesting that we fully fund the fiscal year 2014 National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account request in order to remain mission capable and a valuable asset toward maintaining our national defense.

I know that appropriations are not within this committee's jurisdiction, but I do want to commend Chairman McKeon for his persistent and strong efforts when it comes to advocating for our military to have the funding resources it needs to do its job and maintain readiness.

I also would like to address the alarming increase in suicides, which, as you know, are quickly becoming an epidemic throughout the U.S. military and among veterans. The VA [Veterans' Administration] reports that 22 veterans take their lives every day. On-site access to mental health professionals has proven successful in overcoming time, geographical, and stigma barriers that have saved

countless lives. I ask that this committee work to strengthen programs that will aid in stabilizing our service men and women's mental health.

Separately, a number of concerns have been brought to my attention regarding the Blue Grass Chemical Activity which is taking place at the Blue Grass Army Depot, located in Richmond, Kentucky. As you know, the United States is legally obligated to ensure the destruction of all chemical weapons under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction Treaty. Many are concerned that the Blue Grass Chemical Activity at the Blue Grass Army Depot is not receiving the resources needed to complete the chemical demilitarization operations.

A major source of funding for BGCA [Blue Grass Chemical Activity] is Operation and Maintenance, Army [OMA] funding. OMA funds have been reduced from \$23 million to \$18 million. This cut in funding comes at a very critical time, in addition to hiring freezes, furloughs, and a reduction of force that have taken place at the depot. Due to these cuts, BGCA will be challenged to continue supporting vital chemical demilitarization operations obligations demanded by the CWC [Chemical Weapons Convention] Treaty, and so I hope to work further with the committee to address these concerns and provide the necessary response.

Further, I would like to personally thank Chairman McKeon and this committee for your leadership and strong support for increasing public-private partnerships at arsenals and depots. As someone who recognizes that public-private partnerships can play an important role in bringing long-term stability and jobs to communities, I certainly encourage this committee to continue to take an active role in this area.

By providing increased opportunities for additional business not limited to the defense industry to locate or relocate two depots, it would not only increase revenue to the Army Working Capital Fund, but also allow for additional jobs to the people of the community. I look forward to working with this committee, the DOD, and the BGAD [Blue Grass Army Depot] in my district in order to help the depot reach its fullest potential.

I yield back. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Barr can be found in the Appendix on page 137.]

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

Any questions of the gentleman?

Thank you.

Mr. BARR. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Young.

Mr. YOUNG. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Gentleman is recognized.

**STATEMENT OF HON. DON YOUNG, A REPRESENTATIVE  
FROM ALASKA**

Mr. YOUNG. Thank the committee. Thank you for holding this hearing.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, Alaska is a proud State and has a proud military State. Not only is Alaska home to the largest per

capita population of veterans in the country, it is also home to a significant force structure for both the Air Force and the Army. Since I have numerous issues to discuss today, I will keep my remarks brief on each issue. My staff will be happy to follow up and provide additional information on any of these issues.

First, I would like to ask the committee to consider including language for two reports on the possibility of co-locating both defense-related and other Federal government tenants on large military installations in the Asian-Pacific region. These reports, which would be completed by the Department of Defense and Government Accountability Office, would go a long way to finding efficiencies that will help us complete our strategic shift to the Pacific.

Second, I would like to ask the committee to broadly consider the amazing training opportunities in Alaska in JBER [Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson]. Specifically, as the President begins to ask for more funding for training ranges, I would like to encourage the committee to find ways to apply those resources to ranges of the future, like JBER. Along these lines, I would also like the committee to consider working with the Army to pre-position mobility and instrumented land warfare equipment at bases like Fort Wainwright for force-on-force training. The U.S. is an Arctic nation. As other countries in which we have conducted combat operations in our history, we must be able to project power into the Arctic environment, and extreme Arctic training is needed to do that. Mr. Chairman, I would like to suggest respectfully, as Billy Mitchell said, he who controls Alaska controls the military of the world.

Third, I would like to request the committee include language for the report to analyze the capacity of the Northern and Southern Pacific air bridges. This report would ask the Secretary of the Air Force to provide information on the benefits of adding additional manpower and/or aircraft to these air bridges. These bridges are the logistic keys to power-projection and rapid-response capabilities of the Pacific.

Finally, I would like to draw my committee's attention to four remaining issues.

One, given the ongoing drawdown of the C-23, I ask the committee to work on a specific solution for Alaska's Sherpa fleet. These aircraft can land on many of Alaska's short rural runways and a capability cannot be filled with any other aircraft.

Two, when working with the Air Force on OCONUS [outside the contiguous United States] basing review of the F-35A, please consider Alaska's unique and highly strategic location. I have included a chart in my testimony that demonstrates a unique position in the world.

Three, as the committee works with the Army on basing the Gray Eagle, consider interior Alaska. Interior Alaska has a huge amount of airspace that could be ideal for the Gray Eagle.

Four, I would like to invite all members of the committee to Alaska. We have a lot of amazing force structure and are quite proud of it. Specifically, though, one area I would like to encourage you to visit is the IED [improvised explosive device] training lane at JBER. This lane is a model of IDA training on which the rest of the Department of Defense does its training.

Again, I would like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, the ranking member, the committee members who listen to my testimony. Again, come to Alaska, see what we can do militarily, and see how we can accomplish the mission for the rest of the military and this Nation defending our shores.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Young can be found in the Appendix on page 45.]

The CHAIRMAN. Thank the gentleman.

Are there any questions?

Mr. YOUNG. Oh, come on. There has got to be a question somewhere.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Mr. YOUNG. You are quite welcome, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. You did such a great job of selling Alaska.

Mr. Crawford. Gentleman is recognized.

**STATEMENT OF HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD, A  
REPRESENTATIVE FROM ARKANSAS**

Mr. CRAWFORD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you, Ranking Member Smith and distinguished members of the committee. Thank you for the work you do to preserve the security of our great Nation and for allowing me to testify before the full committee regarding Explosive Ordnance Disposal or EOD priorities for fiscal year 2014 National Defense Authorization Act.

I served in the Army as an EOD tech, and proud to be a cofounder, along with committee member Susan Davis, of the House EOD Caucus. EOD soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines are the military's preeminent team of explosive experts. They are trained and equipped to identify and neutralize explosive used by terrorist networks across the globe. The military's EOD mission is to defeat global emerging threats using explosive. EOD techs protect their fellow military personnel and innocent civilians from these threats while providing support across a wide range of military and civilian national security operations.

EOD forces have proven to be game changers in attacking and dismantling terrorist cells and associated networks. These forces will continue to be indispensable assets for the foreseeable future supporting counterterrorism operations, building the capacity of partner nations, and protecting the homeland through providing support to civilian law enforcement agencies at Federal, State, and local levels.

Thank you for the committee's support of EOD, beginning with the fiscal year 2008 NDAA that inquired into the health and viability of EOD forces. I am especially appreciative of the committee's direction to the Secretary of Defense in the last three NDAA's to provide reports to the committee to develop a better understanding of the services' plans for EOD force structure and funding.

It is critical that EOD is provided with adequate levels of funding for procurement, research, development, tests, evaluation, and operations and maintenance to carry out their mission. A GAO report from last month concluded that the DOD needs better resource planning and joint guidance to manage EOD. The report also reveals that the Army and Marine Corps still have not established

a program element for their respective EOD force since the committee's initial inquiry in the 2008 NDAA.

The Boston bombings serve as a stark reminder of the threat of the terrorist detonation of explosives in the United States and have revealed gaps in the Nation's ability to defeat a sustained bombing campaign in the homeland. Following the attacks, the Army Forces Command issued guidance that the local staff judge advocate must review every civil law authority request for emergency EOD response prior to sending aid to ensure that the support does not violate the Posse Comitatus Act of 1878. In addition, the guidance requires that a general officer must then approve each of these EOD immediate responses and must ensure that civil authorities will reimburse the Army as a condition of immediate response.

There is an estimated 66,000 call outs annually across the United States on explosive ordnance by interagency, military EOD, and public safety bomb squads. Army EOD units responding under immediate response authority have historically departed their home station installation with 30 minutes of notification during duty hours and within 60 minutes of notification after duty hours, 365 days a year. On these civil support missions, EOD has provided support to civil law enforcement authorities, but they do not perform law enforcement activities.

In one of the most significant examples of EOD civil support missions, the 387th Ordnance Company from Camp Edwards, Massachusetts, responded to 64 call outs during the Boston bombing. This support was critical in the aftermath of the attack. I understand the need to ensure the EOD is compliant with Posse Comitatus Act in any of its civil law enforcement authority missions, but it is vital that we do not overcorrect for a nonexistent violation and negatively impact the ability of our EOD forces to provide increasingly needed and immediate support to our civilian law enforcement agencies.

We must also ensure that our EOD units, like the 387th out of Massachusetts, are properly equipped to respond to explosive threats in cities and towns throughout the United States. Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles, or MRAPS, are critically needed vehicles for EOD operations in Afghanistan, but I feel that Army National Guard EOD units, comprising one-third of Army EOD force, need response vehicles like those used by WMD [weapon of mass destruction] civil support teams. These units also need portable containment magazines to safely store explosives as well as communications capable of integrating with civil law enforcement authority that they are supporting. These National Guard units should also receive training readiness oversight and Active Duty soldier support from FORSCOM/20th [United States Army Forces Command] Support Command.

I will leave the remainder of my comments in writing. And I appreciate the chairman's permission to testify this morning. Yield back.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Crawford can be found in the Appendix on page 121.]

The CHAIRMAN. Gentleman's time expired. But your full testimony will be included in the record.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much for coming.  
Ms. Ros-Lehtinen.

**STATEMENT OF HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, A  
REPRESENTATIVE FROM FLORIDA**

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman, committee members. Thank you for everything that you do, because you all have dedicated your congressional service on behalf of our service men and women who bravely protect us. And whether it is Active Duty and Reserve and veterans and their families. So thank you for your service.

Those who dedicate their lives to the service of others truly embody the heart and spirit of America, and I thank each one of you for what you do and for helping all of our brave Americans continue in their battle to keep our country free.

Florida—and I am here with Congressman Bill Posey, my colleague—is a very active State in terms of military presence and is rated among the States that is most accommodating to service men and women, as well as their families. As you craft this year's National Defense Authorization Act, I know that you will rightfully be focused on the warfighter well-being here at home, as well as downrange. Heightened security demands on our military installations caused by an increasingly dangerous world is of utmost importance to your committee, and many installations still suffer from inadequate security measures, which is a recipe for disaster.

And that brings me to why I am here today, Mr. Chairman, because the Homestead Air Reserve Base is a perfect example of a facility that is in dire need of enhanced security measures. The installation has two entry gates to allow traffic in and out of the base, but at present one of them has been forced to be closed due to terrorism concerns. The remaining gate is substandard. You would not believe it if you looked at it. It is completely ill-designed to function as a primary entry control point. It is a single insufficient guard shack that is within close proximity of the base fuel storage compound and is only a 30-second drive to the F-16 ramp, which holds \$800 million in F-16 fighter jets.

So just think about that, Mr. Chairman and members. A little guard shack very close to the fuel storage, and then just a 30-second drive and you have got access to fighter jets worth \$800 million. So it fails in every aspect to meet force protection standards. And with the current and projected mission growth at the Homestead Reserve Base, we know that it is a high visibility target for potential attacks.

And truck inspections is currently being conducted outdoors during all weather conditions. And if you have ever been to South Florida, you know it is raining half the time. So you have got this terrible weather condition, that is the only time that they can inspect the trucks, and once again in close proximity to the base bulk fuel storage compound. It is extremely small, the inspection area, and when the volume of traffic is very high, unfortunately, the inspections are not done as high as they really should be done. And these service men and women are doing the best they can within very difficult parameters.

So we have got traffic backups, we have got terrible weather conditions, no space, proximity to high value targets. So we have had in many circumstances traffic backed up over a mile long during the high volume usage that this facility regularly sees. So more often than not, the traffic is backed up more than a mile. It is a long procedure. And Homestead Air Reserve Base serves 2,700 airmen, soldiers, sailors, marines, coastguardmen, Customs and Border Protection agents, and Florida National Guardsmen who dedicated their lives, work to serving our Nation throughout our country.

There are projects out there that demand our attention. And I know that you are committed, as well as every member here, to issues affecting service members. And I hope, Mr. Chairman and members, that you take a careful look at the needs of Homestead Air Reserve Base and the security concerns that are hampering their ability to do as good a job as they want to do. And they are doing it to the best of their abilities.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Ros-Lehtinen can be found in the Appendix on page 50.]

The CHAIRMAN. I have a question. You say there are two gates, but one is closed.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Correct.

The CHAIRMAN. Is it a better gate than the guard shack?

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. No. It is the same type of problems.

The CHAIRMAN. They are both bad.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. They are both bad. But because of the budget constraints they had to choose one, and they chose the one where the traffic could be backed up without it being a problem for the base. And that is why they chose this one. It is two bad options. They chose the one that could be less dangerous. And those men and women who patrol those gates, they are doing the best they can. We couldn't ask more of them. And they do it every day and very professional and courteous. And we thank them for their service. We just want to make life a little bit better for them so they can do their job in a better way.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, members.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Ms. Lee. Gentlelady is recognized.

**STATEMENT OF HON. BARBARA LEE, A REPRESENTATIVE  
FROM CALIFORNIA**

Ms. LEE. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. First, thank you for affording me the opportunity to explain my request to you to consider including in the fiscal 2014 Defense Authorization Act. I want to thank all of the members for this chance to be with you today.

I have a number of recommendations that I will quickly address and for which I strongly urge you to look at, support, and hopefully include. I have also submitted my full set of remarks for the record.

First, Mr. Chairman—

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, so ordered.

Ms. LEE. Thank you very much.

I am concerned that this bill may not contain language prohibiting permanent military bases in Afghanistan. As signed into law on numerous occasions by both former President Bush and President Obama, Congress has maintained a longstanding prohibition on the establishment of permanent military bases in Afghanistan. I request you to consider and include in the 2014 Defense Authorization Act that this be brought clearly in line with the “no permanent bases” provision which historically have been included into the defense authorization and related appropriations measures.

Secondly, it should come as no surprise that I share the belief of many in the Congress that there is no military solution in Afghanistan. As the daughter of a military veteran, I also know firsthand the sacrifices and the commitment involved in defending our Nation. Our troops have done everything that was asked of them and more. But the truth is that their mission in Afghanistan is far past due and we should be withdrawing all of our troops and military contractors as soon as safely possible.

In addition to auditing the Pentagon, which I will touch on in a few moments, it is important that the Pentagon face the same financial constraints that all other government agencies are being subjected to. I am deeply concerned that the Pentagon is already seeking an exemption from the sequestration cuts mandated by Congress as part of the deeply flawed legislation that, of course, I could not support last year. I urge the committee to consider commonsense defense spending reforms outlined by many organizations across the political spectrum. With billions each year lost to waste, fraud, and abuse at the Pentagon, we need to ask the same of the Department of Defense that we ask of other agencies.

Also, Mr. Chairman, I am deeply concerned to hear about a possible expansion of the 2001 authorization to use force. As you know, Congress has a solemn constitutional obligation to deliberate and authorize all war-making and hostilities abroad. If the executive branch is seeking expanded war-making authority, let them request it and let us engage in a full and transparent debate with the proper committees holding—excuse me, proper committee hearings—and also with Members of Congress who should be afforded the opportunity to consider the full implications of an expanded AUMF. I am as deeply opposed to expanding the 2001 AUMF as I was against authorizing the original one on September 14th, 2001, when I cast the lone vote against it, because I knew then that it was a blank check to wage war, that it really did erode our systems of checks and balances. We passed that with little debate, and it removed Congress from our constitutional responsibility again in matters of making war.

Lastly, on the AUMF issue, in addition to my opposition to expanding the 2001 AUMF, now is the right time really to repeal this overly broad 2001 AUMF.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I ask your committee to consider creating financial consequences for the Pentagon unless the Defense Department subjects itself to an audit, as it is required to do by law and as all other Federal agencies regularly do. I urge the committee to take a first step toward compelling the Pentagon to act with urgency in assuring fiscal responsibility in our defense dollars. As the



only Federal agency not subject to audit, the Pentagon has lost tens of billions of dollars to waste, fraud, and abuse.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify. And I strongly request you to consider these requested changes to the bill.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Lee can be found in the Appendix on page 63.]

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

Any questions of the gentlelady?

Mr. Posey. Gentleman is recognized.

**STATEMENT OF HON. BILL POSEY, A REPRESENTATIVE  
FROM FLORIDA**

Mr. POSEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to testify today in advance of the committee's consideration of the fiscal year 2014 National Defense Authorization Act. National defense is the government's greatest constitutional responsibility, and I appreciate the challenges faced by the committee, especially after sequestration, with its impact falling significantly more on the defense portion as compared to all other federal spending.

In regards to the 2014 NDAA, I have a letter that I am submitting with a number of priorities. And I would appreciate the committee's attention to those.

The CHAIRMAN. That will be included in the record without objection. Thank you.

[The information referred to can be found in the Appendix on page 112.]

Mr. POSEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to address my concern about the administration letting slip from its budget the important Range Communications Building, commonly known down in the Cape as the XY Building, at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. The building must be updated for the 21st century. The XY Building is the hub for commercial telemetry and radar for Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Kennedy Space Center, Wallops Island, and all downrange launch sites. It is indispensable for military and NASA [National Aeronautics and Space Administration] launches.

I have been inside the XY Building and not much has changed since the 1970s. Despite its importance for our national security, it feels like a museum. The original structure predates the Apollo era, and the facility still utilizes vacuum tubes. I believe we have Members of Congress who don't know what vacuum tubes are, and we are still relying on them to do our telemetry down there at the Cape.

The building is also prone to flooding, which can render it unusable. There are other safety concerns with the structure. And if anyone thinks I am exaggerating, I would be happy for them to tour it with me any time.

Our national security and our leadership in space depends on a capable and functioning XY Building. I am informed the Air Force has indicated in previous years that a new facility is a very high priority, but in the 2014 President's budget request it was not addressed. I understand the Air Force may place a request for a new facility in the fiscal year 2015 budget, but I have heard some in the Pentagon are looking to put this critical project off until 2017

or beyond. I am concerned that this can keep getting kicked down the road. I would ask that the committee include report language expressing interest in ensuring that a safe, secure, and reliable modern Range Communications Building be operational in accordance with the needs of the U.S. military and NASA. Such language should direct the Air Force to report back to the committee on the steps being taken to ensure the facility is properly upgraded. It is critical to our national security that it is not being unnecessarily delayed in a way that jeopardizes the U.S. space launch capabilities.

There are other defense priorities, Mr. Chairman, which I believe merit your attention, and they are included in my separate correspondence. I thank you and the members very much for your time and the opportunity to make this presentation. Yield back. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Posey can be found in the Appendix on page 110.]

The CHAIRMAN. All right. Any questions of the gentleman?

Thank you.

Ms. Jackson Lee. Gentledady is recognized.

**STATEMENT OF HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE, A  
REPRESENTATIVE FROM TEXAS**

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, let me thank you for your courtesies and that of this committee. Thank you for allowing me to come and make a brief presentation. I want to add my public comments again that all of us have mentioned on the concern for the incident in Boston, and due to the hearings on Benghazi I again add my sympathy to the families who lost loved ones serving their country in the Benghazi tragedy.

I am also one to acknowledge that I come from a State that has sent very large numbers, proudly so, of men and women to the front line with a number of bases. And in particular I guess most recently to Iraq and Afghanistan. And I want to thank those men and women over the ages that have served us in uniform and those that you care for under this committee.

I understand that my entire statement will be placed in the record, so I will, as I indicated, make these remarks brief on the issues that I would like to discuss.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the entire statement will be included in the record, thank you.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Authorization of appropriations adequate to fund research programs to treat and to prevent breast cancer, especially that understudied strain known as the triple negative breast cancer. Authorization of appropriations adequate to fund the increasing need for programs, including grant programs, to treat and recover from post-traumatic stress disorder. And an even stronger commitment to provide and extend to women and minority entrepreneurs' business enterprises the opportunity to compete for and win procurement contracts for military construction projects, overseas contingency operations, and other projects.

Very quickly, on the triple negative breast cancer, this disproportionately affects young women of color and others under the age of

50. This disease should continue to be of special concern to the Department of Defense because a significant portion of its personnel is comprised of women and women of color under the age of 50. And I am pleased that this committee responded to my request, including a provision in last year's Defense Authorization bill, that will lead directly to improve awareness, early detection, prevention, and treatment of breast cancer among Active Duty members of the Armed Forces.

But I am here today to ask you to ensure that the NDAA for fiscal year 2014 not only contains the same provision, but also utilizes all necessary resources within the Department of Defense and the National Institutes of Health to identify specific genetic and molecular targets and biomarkers for all types of breast cancer, including specifically triple negative breast cancer [TNBC]. I think that will give long life to many in the United States military who serve this country and who have a longer tenure as career officers, and I believe that it is crucial. As a survivor myself, I believe that this will not only help men and women in the United States military, since we realize that breast cancer is not a respecter of gender, but it will help expand the research that we have across the Nation.

I am respectfully asking that fiscal year 2014 authorize research funding needed for biomarker selection, drug discovery, and clinical trial designs that will lead to the early detection of TNBC and to development of multiple-targeted therapies to treat this awful disease.

I also want to add my advocacy for increased opportunities for treating post-traumatic stress disorder. The need for mental health services for service members and their families will continue to grow in coming years as the Nation recovers from the effects of more than a decade-plus of military conflict. As a Member of Congress from Texas, we have seen, as I indicated, a number of our men and women returning from Afghanistan and Iraq, and they join others from other wars needing urgent services regarding PTSD [post-traumatic stress disorder]. And I would hope that that would be one that would you be able to provide for, Mr. Chairman.

In addition—

The CHAIRMAN. Gentlelady's time has expired, but your full statement will be included in the record.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I close, if you would consider small businesses for opportunities for procurement. Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Jackson Lee can be found in the Appendix on page 54.]

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

Are there any questions of the gentlelady.

Thank you.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. DeSantis. Gentleman is recognized.

**STATEMENT OF HON. RON DESANTIS, A REPRESENTATIVE  
FROM FLORIDA**

Mr. DESANTIS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member Smith, members of the committee, thank you for

having me here to testify. I know this is a particularly busy period for the committee, and I appreciate your time.

I am here to talk about the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye, which, as you know, is the Navy's carrier-based Airborne Early Warning and Battle Management Command and Control system. Variants of this aircraft have been serving our military well since the 1960s. The most advanced version, the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye, has now been cleared for full production. The E-2D is equipped with new cutting-edge communication capabilities and radar systems. These advancements will enable the E-2D to synthesize information from multiple onboard and offboard sensors to provide increased missile protection to our carrier defense groups while also improving the aircraft's offensive capabilities, key capabilities in support of our combatant commands.

The E-2D program has met every major milestone on schedule since the program's inception in 2003. As the program moves forward, I urge you to support the Navy's multiyear procurement of the E-2D in the President's fiscal year 2014 budget. Fiscal year 2014 is the first year of a planned 5-year, fixed-price, multiyear procurement which would provide the Navy with the full complement of 32 E-2D aircraft in the program of record over the next 5 years. Multiyear procurement will yield a 10 percent savings over single or over annual single-year contracts, an expected savings of more than \$522 million over the length of the contract term.

This is a critical program for the Navy. As my friend and committee member Congressman Jim Bridenstine from Oklahoma said, "Given the threats to the strike groups, multiyear procurement of E-2D is absolutely necessary. The only question is, are we purchasing enough E-2Ds and missile interceptors to counter the high volumes of incoming missiles that our sailors and soldiers could face?" End quote.

Thank you for your consideration of support for the multiyear procurement of the E-2D. This procurement method will ensure that this vital aircraft is produced in a timely and cost-effective way. As an appendix to my written testimony, I have attached a letter from May 7th from myself, Congressmen Bridenstine, Crenshaw, Mica, Brown, Posey, Rooney, Miller, Yoho, and Diaz-Balart to Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith in support of this program.

And I would just also like to encourage the Department of Defense to examine the advantages of acquiring simulation capability using short-term, fee-for-service contracting, thereby rewarding and expanding innovation and commercial off-the-shelf offerings. Likewise, DOD should encourage common, commercially developed, commercially supported R&D [research and development] investments by industry. These common standards would reduce costs, eliminate duplicative government R&D, create a competitive industry base, ensure that simulation components can plug and play, regardless of original equipment manufacture, and most importantly, eliminate the long acquisition cycle.

Thank you again for having me here today, and thank you for what you do to support our warfighters and our military.

[The prepared statement of Mr. DeSantis can be found in the Appendix on page 144.]

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.  
Are there any questions of the gentleman?  
Mr. Bridenstine.

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. I just wanted to thank you personally for your leadership on this issue. As you and I have talked, and our staffs have talked, this is an issue that is personally important to me as a naval aviator and somebody who has flown E-2 Hawkeyes for most of my adult career. Started off flying E-2Cs. Got many hours in that aircraft. And, of course, the E-2D is a platform, while I was on Active Duty, I was responsible for designing the requirements for that particular platform.

I am very glad that the President's budget had multiyear procurement for that platform, and I am so glad that you are leading the charge to make sure that this stays as it is in the NDAA.

Real quick, if it is okay, would you just share with us your philosophy or your thoughts on why this particular platform is so important to the future of the United States Navy?

Mr. DESANTIS. Absolutely. As a Navy guy, you know that, you know, these carrier groups that we have are essentially taking American sovereignty and putting them essentially anywhere in the blue seas throughout the world. And that is a huge capability for us. But because it is a good capability, that is obviously a target for our enemies. And so I think, you know, with the C [E-2C] that you have the experience in, this aircraft has even more capability for detection of threats and early warning that is going to be absolutely critical to maintaining the safety of our carrier groups, especially in a changing environment where we are facing new threats. This is the type of platform that can meet that challenge.

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Well, I appreciate that. And certainly as the threats around the world become more robust, it is absolutely critical that we have the ability to intercept those threats beyond the horizon, which requires an airborne platform capable of delivering what is required to do interdiction and interception of those threats. So I appreciate your leadership on this issue.

And, Mr. Chairman, I will yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much. Thank you.

Mr. DESANTIS. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Ms. Gabbard. Gentledady is recognized.

**STATEMENT OF HON. TULSI GABBARD, A REPRESENTATIVE  
FROM HAWAII**

Ms. GABBARD. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Smith, members of the committee. I appreciate the opportunity to testify before you today. I echo the words from last year's priorities for the 21st century defense strategy. We are in a moment of transition. Under your leadership with this committee, the United States has made significant progress in the drawdown of the costly and protracted wars in the Middle East that have consumed the resources and attention of our armed services for the previous decade. This is no easy task, and your leadership in seeing it through is greatly appreciated.

The priorities for the 21st century defense strategy also emphasize the importance to focus on a broader range of challenges and opportunities, including the security and prosperity of the Asia-Pa-

cific region, which has matured into our rebalance strategy. My representation of our constituents in Hawaii have placed us strategically and otherwise in the middle of this rebalance.

The regional instability created by the recent North Korean provocations, as well as the slow-boiling territorial disagreements around the Senkakus and South China Seas underscore the growing need to strengthen our Nation's military and diplomatic presence in this region where our economic and national security interests are inextricably linked; a region where our greatest security adversary is not a nation or a specific threat but the distance we must overcome to ensure open and secure access to the global domains and our national security interests.

Hawaii is a critical link in addressing this challenge. We must keep Hawaii safe, and in today's threat environment, this translates into ballistic missile defense. With the increased operational tempo that our naval forces are experiencing, the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Regional Maintenance Center provides full-service support to the surface fleet and the new *Virginia*-class submarines, which cover more than 60 percent of the world's surface and are essential to maintaining the robust presence called for in our national military strategy.

As we continue to realign our force posture in the Asia-Pacific region, it is important that we ensure that we provide the very best training facilities enabling combat readiness. This additional presence comes on the heels of the Marine Corps' decision to base two squadrons of its latest transport aircraft, the MV-22 Osprey, and one light attack helicopter squadron in my district at Kaneohe Bay.

The Pacific Missile Range Facility [PMRF] is the world's largest multi-environmental range capable of supporting surface, sub-surface, air, and space operations simultaneously. PMRF's work with the Aegis Ashore Missile Defense Test Complex is vital to enhancing our Nation's ballistic missile defense capabilities and protecting the United States and its territories from any future attack.

In addition, the Pohakuloa Training Area [PTA] serves as the premier combined arms training facility for all of the Pacific region. Ground and air units from all U.S. military services are able to train at PTA because it offers realistic training opportunities not found elsewhere and thus vital to our Armed Forces' readiness.

Each of these key enablers is critical to this committee's efforts to provide oversight to the ongoing military transportation that has already begun taking place. I look forward to working with the committee as we continue to build on the progress we have already made in executing the U.S. rebalance to this vitally important region.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Smith, for allowing me the opportunity to testify today about Hawaii's strategic importance in this process and rebalance. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Gabbard can be found in the Appendix on page 149.]

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Any questions of the gentlelady?

Thank you very much.

Ms. GABBARD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Sherman. Gentleman is recognized.

**STATEMENT OF HON. BRAD SHERMAN, A REPRESENTATIVE  
FROM CALIFORNIA**

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Smith, good to be with you. And the chairman asked me to keep it brief; said I would have a higher likelihood of success if I do that. I will follow that.

The CHAIRMAN. The lengthy one will be included in your record.

Mr. SHERMAN. I am here in support of inclusion of report language requested by Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez, the ranking member of the Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittee, directing the Transportation Command and Air Force Mobility Command to develop plans for the manufacture of an operational prototype hybrid airship. This would be an airship capable of carrying between 60 and 70 tons. The project would cost roughly \$300 million, spread out over the next 3 years. Roughly half of that money will come from the private sector because this technology has tremendous private sector potential as well.

I am here to testify not only on behalf of myself, but Grace Napolitano, Adam Schiff, Dana Rohrabacher, Steve Stockman, Judy Chu, and Mike Honda, and some of those Members will be submitting statements of their own in support of this project.

A new airship technology has the potential to carry perhaps hundreds of tons of material and personnel anywhere on the globe at a fraction of the cost per ton-mile of fixed-wing aircraft, because you can travel directly to where the cargo is needed and land anywhere where there is open space. You can provide necessary material and personnel where you need them, even if there is no infrastructure. That would be so important in Afghanistan, and so important to our humanitarian efforts, whether they be after a Pakistani earthquake, an Indian Ocean disaster, Haiti, et cetera. As TRANSCOM Commander General Fraser told the committee on March 6, "Hybrid airships represent a transformational capacity bridging the longstanding gap between high-speed lower capacity airlift and low-speed higher capacity sealift." Hybrid airship technology, he said, has the potential to accomplish "factory to foxhole" cargo delivery. Airships will also save in fuel costs, 20 cents per ton-mile as opposed to the 80 cents per mile for airlift today.

The advantages, psychological and physical, in humanitarian relief, where an enormous airship is able to bring relief to the distant village even when the airports and seaports are unavailable, offers an opportunity for our foreign policy that exceeds any other technology I am aware of.

The recently completed Pelican Project, an effort of the Emerging Capacities Directorate at DOD and Ames NASA, demonstrated that it is possible to overcome the previous challenges to hybrid airship development. The technology in the Pelican allows the airship to take off and land vertically and to move and to increase and decrease its altitude in flight without losing ballast or releasing helium.

The Pelican is a demonstrated technology. However, there is nothing in the budget right now in order to build on the success of the test completed just a few months ago in January. The government should move forward with an operational prototype. Therefore, I respectfully request that the committee include the

language requested by Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez calling for the development of this prototype. And I would welcome your questions.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Sherman can be found in the Appendix on page 60.]

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

Any questions of the gentleman?

Thank you.

Mr. SHERMAN. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Gosar.

**STATEMENT OF HON. PAUL A. GOSAR, A REPRESENTATIVE  
FROM ARIZONA**

Mr. GOSAR. Thank you, Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith. I thank you for allowing me to testify before you today. I appreciate the fair and open process that is taking place here today. I come before you to highlight a serious issue facing a group of my constituents.

By way of background, the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act of 1990, or RECA, as it is called, established a trust fund to provide a compassionate lump-sum payment to individuals, commonly referred to as “down winders,” who have contracted certain cancers and other serious diseases that are presumed to be the result of their exposure to ionizing radiation from above-ground nuclear weapons testing or from various activities in connection with uranium mining.

Though the testing in question was performed in Nevada, radioactive elements affected people in Utah and Arizona as well. The original language in the 1990 RECA used a broad definition of the affected areas in Arizona. The language reads “that part of Arizona that is north of the Grand Canyon and west of the Colorado River.” That definition, therefore, included northern Mojave County, Arizona, in its definition as it is the county in Arizona that is closest to Nevada, and therefore closest to the testing ranges.

But when RECA was reauthorized and amended in 2000, the purpose was to expand eligibility. With respect to Arizonans’ eligibility, the definition of the affected areas changed to reflect certain specific counties. Of the five Arizona counties listed in the 2000 act, Mojave County is not among them. Then, in 2002, technical corrections were made to the 2000 act to reflect part of the 1990 language concerning Arizona. So after the 2002 correction, the law listed the five counties that included the language and that part of Arizona that is north of the Grand Canyon. Again, Mojave County is the closest of the Arizona counties to the Nevada border and, therefore, to the nuclear testing ranges. The Arizona counties directly east and southeast from Mojave County are both covered in their entirety.

This omission seems to be a clerical error, which is consistent with the fact that the 2000 reauthorization contained composition errors that had to be fixed in a separate 2002 act. To correct the omission, Congressman Trent Franks, a member of this committee, introduced bills in the 111th and 112th Congresses to include Mojave County as an affected area for RECA purpose. Because I am now the representative of Mojave County, I have reintroduced the



bill in the 113th Congress. It is known as H.R. 424, the Mojave County Radiation Compensation Act. And I am pleased to have Representative Franks as an original cosponsor.

I thank Representative Franks for his continued support for this cause. It is this exact language that I am seeking to have included in the National Defense Authorization Act for the fiscal year 2014. The trust fund associated with these claims has been active since 1992, and the fund will sunset in 2022 by statute. My goal is to ensure that the affected residents of Mojave County, Arizona, have a fair shot at justified compensation before the trust fund is closed. It will not increase costs, it will simply allow constituents who should have been included in the 2002 law to submit a claim.

Each Mojave claimant should be subject to the same burden of proof as any other claimants. But for Congress to deny the rest of Mojave County, Arizona, the right to even file a claim is both inconsistent and careless.

Again, I thank the committee for providing this opportunity to be heard. It is my hope that the committee will favorably adopt this language and ensure that my constituents affected by the government's nuclear weapons testing are eligible for reasonable and justified compensation. I thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Gosar can be found in the Appendix on page 130.]

The CHAIRMAN. I thank the gentleman.

Are there any questions?

I have one. Is this a stand-alone act, this RECA?

Mr. GOSAR. It is a stand-alone act, and it was based upon compensation for those individuals that took on nuclear radiation or worked with the nuclear industry for testing, were in the military coming from Nevada.

The CHAIRMAN. Has it ever been a part of the NDAA?

Mr. GOSAR. That I am not sure.

It has been. Sorry about that. It has been part of the NDAA.

The CHAIRMAN. Does it have jurisdiction in other committees?

Mr. GOSAR. The other one would be Judiciary.

The CHAIRMAN. Okay. Well, we will look into that. Thank you very much.

Mr. GOSAR. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Green. Gentleman is recognized.

#### **STATEMENT OF HON. AL GREEN, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM TEXAS**

Mr. GREEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I thank the ranking member as well. And, Mr. Chairman, I, too, will be brief.

The CHAIRMAN. Is your mike on?

Mr. GREEN. It is now. Thank you.

The view from here is slightly different, Mr. Chairman, I might add.

If I may just take a second, Mr. Chairman, and say this, I know that the time is precious. But I was very much impressed with Mr. Bridenstine's statements about his record. He looks so young. And God has truly been good to him and he has been good to his country. And in his absence, I would just like to let him know that I appreciate his service, and thank you for that moment.

Mr. Chairman, I am here to talk about the HAVEN [Housing Assistance for Veterans] Act. It received bipartisan support in the 112th Congress. It went through the House and through the Senate and made it to conference committee, but it did not make it through the conference committee. This is a piece of legislation designed to assist disabled and low-income veterans, to help them with their housing needs, to modify their homes, their bathrooms, their kitchens, so that they may use them efficaciously.

I am honored to tell you that this legislation will result in a pilot program wherein NGOs [nongovernmental organizations] will have the opportunity to work with our veterans to perfect the renovations necessary.

This is a great piece of legislation, in my opinion, and I have just hope that we will be able to get it into the Defense Authorization Act. I could say a lot more about the number of veterans that may benefit, but you and I know that we have a good many coming home who don't return the way they left. And they need this help. So I am begging, I beseech, I implore that we place this in the NDAA.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Green can be found in the Appendix on page 90.]

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Any questions?

This committee doesn't have jurisdiction or responsibility for the veterans, but we create the veterans.

Mr. GREEN. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. So we feel strongly about the veterans. So we will look into this and see where it fell out last time and if there is some way we can include it this time. So thank you very much.

Mr. GREEN. I thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank the ranking member as well. Thank you both.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Mr. O'Rourke. Gentleman is recognized.

#### **STATEMENT OF HON. BETO O'ROURKE, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM TEXAS**

Mr. O'ROURKE. Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith, thank you for this opportunity to testify about the fiscal year 2014 National Defense Authorization Act. I would also like to thank the chairman and his staff for being so accommodating so that I could testify in person.

I have the honor of representing El Paso, home to Fort Bliss and the Army's 1st Armored Division, along with nearly 33,000 soldiers and their family members. I was reminded again this week of the incredible sacrifice these service members and their families make to our country when five soldiers from Fort Bliss were killed in an IED attack in Afghanistan.

I would like to testify about three things today. Number one, the ability of Fort Bliss to adapt to the changing needs of the Army and the amazing support it has in El Paso. Number two, the new Army hospital at Fort Bliss. And number three, the importance of the Tuition Assistance Program. The Army's ability to field a ready and capable force to meet its mission requirements has been placed at risk by fiscal challenges in fiscal year 2013, especially the se-

quester. Despite these challenges, the Army remains the best trained, best equipped, and best led fighting force in the world. I urge this committee to use the National Defense Authorization Act to guarantee that this remains true.

Even absent the sequester the reality is that the Army is significantly reducing its Active Duty force. This reduction should be carried out in a way that prioritizes readiness, balance, and flexibility. Fort Bliss is well-suited to help the Army meet these objectives. To echo the words of former Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta when he visited the installation, Fort Bliss is the premier post in America.

The El Paso region and the entire Fort Bliss community continue to go above and beyond in their steadfast support of our soldiers and their families. El Paso has invested over \$2 billion in highway projects, new schools, and a children's hospital to support the growth at Fort Bliss. Recently, we agreed to tax ourselves to pay for additional quality-of-life projects around the installation. Civil, political, and business leaders all work closely with Major General Pittard and Fort Bliss leadership to make El Paso a great place for soldiers and their families, and we will continue to do so.

Fort Bliss has always responded swiftly when the needs of the Army have changed. In 2005, it became the new world-class home for Old Ironsides, the 1st Armored Division, providing nearly 1 million acres of maneuver area for this division to train and later seamlessly receiving several brigade combat teams and their supporting units. Fort Bliss is uniquely situated to serve the evolving needs of the Army.

Service members and their families depend on top quality health care from the Army. Thanks to the past work of this committee, the new William Beaumont Army Medical Center stands ready to fill this role. The hospital complex will have a 7-story hospital building with 135 private rooms, 30 specialty clinics, and a 4-story administration building. The hospital is designed to last for the next 50 years and is expected to set a new bar in patient care for the Army. I urge this committee to continue to support this project so that our soldiers, including our wounded warriors returning home, receive the world-class care that they deserve.

I also urge the committee to continue support for the Military Tuition Assistance Program in fiscal year 2014. In the last year alone, this program has allowed service members to take 870,000 classes and earn over 50,000 degrees, diplomas, and certificates. It constitutes 0.1 percent of the Department of Defense's budget. I was proud to work with Joe Wilson from this committee on maintaining tuition assistance during the CR [continuing resolution] debate. Denying our brave men and women access to education programs will negatively impact their ability to carry out their missions while in service and it will also make it harder for them to find jobs after transitioning out of the military.

Recently, I led 68 of our colleagues from both sides of the aisle in submitting a letter to the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee to support full funding in fiscal year 2014. While I don't serve on this committee, I have a very keen interest in seeing these priorities carried out. I thank you for the opportunity to testify.

[The prepared statement of Mr. O'Rourke can be found in the Appendix on page 158.]

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Any questions of the gentleman?

Thank you very much.

Mr. O'ROURKE. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. That concludes Members that have signed up to give testimony before the committee. There are several others who have submitted written testimony. That will be included in the record.

And that concludes our business for today. The committee stands adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 2:31 p.m., the committee was adjourned.]

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**A P P E N D I X**

MAY 8, 2013

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**PREPARED STATEMENTS SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD**

MAY 8, 2013

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**Testimony of  
The Honorable Don Young (AK-AL)  
Before the  
House Armed Services Committee  
Hearing: National Defense Priorities from Members for the FY 2014 National  
Defense Authorization Act  
2118 Rayburn HOB  
May 8, 2013**

Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member Smith, and distinguished colleagues of the House Armed Services Committee, thank you for holding this hearing.

Alaska is a proud state and it is a proud military state. Not only is Alaska home to the largest per capita population of veterans in the country, it is also home to significant force structure for both the Air Force and Army. In Alaska, we appreciate our servicemembers as much as any community in the country. As their lone Representative in the House, I felt it was important for me to share my thoughts on several matters that pertain to Alaskan force structure. Since I have a lot of issues to discuss today, I will keep my remarks brief for each issue. My staff will be happy to follow up and provide additional information on all of these issues, if needed.

Cost-Effectiveness and the Shift to the Pacific:

Understanding that these are tough budget times and significant force structure changes are needed, I would ask the Committee to require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report on all large Asia-Pacific and Arctic-oriented bases which analyzes the possibility of co-locating Department of Defense (DoD) tenants on these installations. This co-location would help make these bases more cost-efficient as we shift our strategic focus towards the Pacific. Additionally, I would ask the Committee to ask the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to issue a similar report on potential federal and state government tenants on Asia-Pacific and Arctic-oriented bases, rather than in leased space, in order to leverage available infrastructure and force protection measures on military bases, any of which could be used to help reduce the operating costs of some of these installations.

Training in Alaska:

Alaska's provides our Armed Forces with unparalleled training opportunities. From Red Flag-Alaska to Northern Edge, Alaska's unique space, topography, and location provide both large and small scale joint training, which our modern fighting force needs to succeed on the battlefield. The Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex (JPARC) is a gem among all of our nation's ranges. It supports both multi-national and U.S.-only training and has the capability of providing an uncluttered electromagnetic training environment. With 65,000 square miles of available air space, which is over five times as large as Nellis Range in Nevada, Alaska's JPARC is becoming more and more critical as the speed of war increases. Additionally, where other training areas have to deal with urban encroachment, Alaska's JPARC is expanding. As the Administration asks for increased funding for our nation's training ranges, I ask the committee to consider applying those

resources to ranges of the future like the JPARC, which support the Administration's focus on the Pacific Rim in its National Military Strategy.

Pre-Placement of Force Structure at Ft. Wainwright and Arctic Training:

Given the nearly 2,500 square miles of land space and 1.5 million acres of maneuver land in the JPARC, I would ask the committee to strongly think about the pre-positioning mobility, and instrumented land warfare equipment at bases like Fort Wainwright for "force on force" training. This would allow the Army to take advantage of the mountainous terrain, cold weather, and long periods of daylight to allow them to train for places like Afghanistan and/or a variety of arctic environments. This pre-positioning of legacy army systems would also reduce the cost of training in Alaska as units would not have to incur the expense of shipping all of their equipment to the state. Arctic training is especially important as the arctic begins to open up to commerce and resource development. The U.S. is an arctic nation, as are other countries in which we have conducted combat operations in our history. Thus, we must be able to project power into the arctic environment.

Northern and Southern Air Bridges in the Pacific:

The Northern and Southern Pacific Air Bridges are critical to our shift in focus to the Pacific Theater. These Air Bridges are at the core of our power-projection and rapid-response capabilities. I ask the Committee to work with the Secretary of the Air Force to produce report that analyzes the capacity of these two Air Bridges and include, within that report, the advantages of adding additional manpower and/or KC-135 or KC-46 airframes to these Air Bridges.

Gray Eagle Basing in the Asia Pacific

Recently, the Army finished its Gray Eagle initial operational and testing and evaluation (IOT&E), which demonstrated the effectiveness of the Gray Eagle platform. As the Committee works with the Army on Gray Eagle Basing, I would like to draw the Committee's attention to Interior Alaska as a strong option for the Gray Eagle in the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. When one considers the importance that the Air Force placed on including Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) operations in their JPARC EIS, the Military Operations in Urban Terrain range in the JPARC, which the Army uses for training, accessibility to the range, and unencumbered air space, and the sheer abundance of range space in the JPARC, Interior Alaska is an ideal spot for the Gray Eagle.

C-23 (Sherpa):

In the FY2013 Defense Authorization, I know the Committee advocated on retaining the remaining C-23s at the current level. I also know that C-23 provision did not become law. As the C-23 drawdown continues, I ask the committee to look for a solution for Alaska's C-23s. Given many of the short runways in our rural areas, the C-23 fills a very specialized role that cannot be filled by any other airframe.

F-35 OCONUS Basing:

Eielson Air Force Base has been noted by many Air Force officials as being particularly suited for the F-35A. As the Committee works with the Air Force on OCONUS Basing

Review for the F-35A, I ask that the Committee note the airspace, range capability and joint warfare training/operations uniquely available in Alaska. I also ask that the Committee secure a firm schedule for F-35A OCONUS Basing. Force posture and deterrence is about positioning. In other words, if you want to maintain a credible threat and provide deterrence, you have to be as close to that threat as policy allows. In my testimony I have included a distance chart that shows Alaska's central and highly strategic position to possible hotspots in Asia, Europe, and the Arctic.

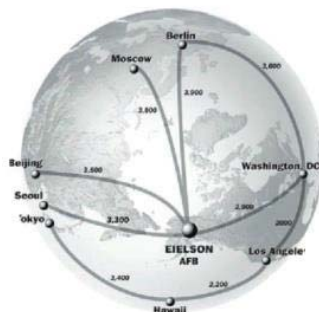
Innovative IED Lane:

Lastly, I'd like to draw the Committee's attention to an interesting piece of Alaskan ingenuity. Recently, two former EOD members decided to construct a realistic IED Lane at JBER in Anchorage. They use this training lane to supplement existing IED training. In a very realistic environment, this lane specifically trains soldiers to identify of numerous types IEDs and the different method in which these IEDs are employed. I encourage the Committee to visit this IED Lane and to consider how best to deploy similar lanes across this country, especially given the very low cost of construction for this IED Lane.

I would like to thank the Chairman, Ranking Member, and other Committee Members for listening to my testimony. Once again, I look forward to working with all of you on these issues.

The following table depicts distances between possible hotspots, Fairbanks and other force locations. The geographic North Pole represents the need to plan for addressing the evolving tension over Arctic resources and possible opening of a northern sea passage between Europe and Asia. As can be seen, *Fairbanks* is closer than installations with **red bolded distances** and nearly as close as those shown in **blue bold font**.

Location	Beijing, China	Pyongyang, North Korea	Seoul, South Korea	Vladivostok, Russia	Serveromorsk, Russia	Geographic North Pole
<i>Fairbanks, AK</i>	<i>3,918</i>	<i>3,717</i>	<i>3,798</i>	<i>3,292</i>	<i>3,199</i>	<i>1,747</i>
Anderson AFB, Guam	2,507	2,121	2,000	2,190	<b>5,881</b>	<b>5,281</b>
Camp Pendleton, CA	<b>6,323</b>	<b>6,020</b>	<b>6,068</b>	<b>5,577</b>	<b>5,211</b>	<b>3,924</b>
Cocos Islands, Australia	<b>3,813</b>	<b>3,995</b>	<b>3,920</b>	<b>4,427</b>	<b>6,393</b>	<b>7,052</b>
Darwin, Australia	<b>3,726</b>	<b>3,568</b>	<b>3,443</b>	<b>3,841</b>	<b>7,222</b>	<b>7,068</b>
Hickam AFB, HI	<b>5,062</b>	<b>4,599</b>	<b>4,576</b>	<b>4,233</b>	<b>6,180</b>	<b>4,750</b>



**Committee on Armed Services  
FY14 National Defense Authorization Act  
Testimony of Congressman Henry A. Waxman  
Submitted for the record  
May 7, 2013**

Thank you, Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith, for allowing me the opportunity to submit testimony as you consider how to approach the Fiscal Year 2014 defense authorization bill.

I would like to express strong opposition to the proposal in the President's Budget for FY 2014 to establish another Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) round in 2015.

As you know, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report last year showing that the 2005 BRAC was the "biggest, most complex, costliest BRAC round ever." Its implementation costs ballooned 86% over the Department of Defense's original estimates and will exceed by billions the anticipated long term savings.

One of my top priorities is to protect the mission of the LA Air Force Base. The significance of the LA Air Force Base is the Space and Missile Systems Center. No other military installation worldwide matches the LA Air Force Base's position as a leader in space systems design and development. The LA Air Force Base contributes to the development of the next generation of ballistic missiles, rockets and satellites. The advancements in technology that were born and developed in the South Bay have made our country safer. The base is the hub of the Southern California aerospace and defense industries, and it supports thousands of jobs in the private sector. Furthermore, as we seek to create jobs to support our economic recovery, the aerospace industry has been one of our nation's largest net exporters. So, the value of the base goes beyond the direct and indirect jobs statewide and annual payroll.

I do not believe that funding a BRAC process is the best use of our limited funds, especially when the 2005 BRAC has yet to earn savings eight years later. I urge you to avoid a new BRAC process and make sensible decisions for our national defense. I look forward to working with you as you move forward with the FY 2014 National Defense Authorization Act.

**FY14 National Defense Authorization Act Testimony**  
**Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen**  
**May 14, 2013**

You have all dedicated much of your careers here in Congress to our nation's service members: active duty, reserve, veterans, and their families.

Those who dedicate their lives to the service of others truly embody the heart and spirit of America, and I thank each of you as I do each and every brave American who serves our country.

Florida is an active state in terms of military presence and is rated among those states most accommodating to servicemen and woman, as well as their families.

As you craft this year's National Defense Authorization Act, I know you will rightly be focused on warfighter wellbeing, here at home as well as downrange.

Heightened security demands on our military installations caused by an increasingly dangerous world is of utmost importance to your Committee.

Many installations still suffer from inadequate security measures, creating a recipe for disaster.

One such example of a facility in dire need of enhanced security measures is Homestead Air Reserve Base.

This installation has two entry gates to allow traffic in and out of the base, but at present one of them has been forced to close due to terrorism concerns.

The remaining gate is substandard and ill designed to function as a primary entry control point.

The single, insufficient guard shack is within close proximity of the base fuel storage compound and is only a 30 second drive to the F-16 ramp which holds \$800 million in F-16 fighter jets.

It simply fails to meet force protection standards.

With the current and projected mission growth at the installation, Homestead Air Reserve Base provides a high visibility target for potential attacks.

Furthermore, truck inspection is currently being conducted outdoors during all weather conditions and within close proximity to the base bulk fuel storage compound.

The location for inspections is also extremely small and limiting when the volume of traffic is high.

Significant traffic backups have been noted up to a mile long during the high volume usage this facility regularly sees.

Overall, Homestead Air Reserve Base serves 2,700 Airmen, Soldier, Sailors, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, Customs and Boarder Protection agents, and Florida National Guardsmen who dedicate their life's work to serving our great nation.

Throughout the country there are projects like this that demand our attention.

Out there, each and every day, our servicemen and women defend the privileges, comforts and freedoms that we, as Americans, enjoy.

These brave men and women deserve the best protection we can provide.

The courage and sacrifice of our service members is unwavering, as our commitment to them must be.

I am personally committed, through my family and my voting record, to the issues affecting service members.

Our country was born of their heroic deeds, and continues to live in freedom through the vigilance of today's warfighters.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to testify before the Committee this afternoon.

Rep. Ken Calvert  
Testimony for FY14 NDAA  
May 7, 2013

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Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member Smith and distinguished Members of the House Armed Services Committee: thank you for the invitation to testify before the committee regarding the fiscal year 2014 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). While my schedule did not allow me to be there in person, I appreciate the opportunity to submit a written statement for the record.

An issue of great importance is the recapitalization of MQ-1s to the MQ-9. As you are aware, the Department of Defense (DoD) has yet to provide a comprehensive plan to recapitalize MQ-1 aircraft in the National Guard with MQ-9 aircraft. Beginning in 2015-2017, Air National Guard squadrons will begin to lose their mission capability simply because of a lack of MQ-1 aircraft that have been lost by attrition. Furthermore, the current recapitalization plan does not place proper emphasis on the importance of current MQ-1 Flying Training Units (FTUs) schoolhouses.

As part of the FY14 NDAA, the Committee should recommend that the Air Force prioritize the replacement of MQ-1s with MQ-9s at locations with an existing FTU schoolhouse, which would allow the Air Force to capitalize on existing infrastructure, trained personnel, instructor expertise, and save taxpayer money. In addition, the Air Force should submit a comprehensive recapitalization plan for the replacement of all National Guard MQ-1 aircraft with MQ-9 aircraft. The plan should include the criteria for beddown, including both the weight and scoring of said criteria that will be given to MQ-1 wings and squadrons with co-located FTU schoolhouse missions. The plan should be submitted to the Committee no later 90 days after enactment of the FY14 NDAA.

The Air National Guard executes global unmanned aerial systems, combat support, and humanitarian missions that greatly augment the Active Duty Component. We should ensure that we are capitalizing on existing infrastructure and expertise as we retire the MQ-1 and replace them with the MQ-9 within National Guard units.

Thank you.



Testimony of the Honorable Chaka Fattah, Member of Congress  
House Committee on Armed Services  
May 8, 2013

Chairman Mckeon, Ranking Member Smith, and distinguished Members of this Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today, and thank you for your support of youth mentoring organizations serving on military installations. It is through organizations such as the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and The First Tee that the children of service members receive the care and guidance they need. Therefore, as you begin consideration of the FY14 National Defense Authorization Act, I ask that you ensure that these organizations have continued access to these installations and the children that they serve. Such access, which is at no cost to the Federal government, is critical for The First Tee to carry out its character development program.

The First Tee was founded in 1997 for the purpose of instilling life skills in young people through the game of golf. Since that time, The First Tee has served 7.6 million participants and engaged 12,000 active volunteers. The program operates in all 50 states and throughout the world.

In 2008, The First Tee received \$3 million from Congress to operate on 100 installations in the United States and 20 installations overseas. On these installations, The First Tee promotes integrity, confidence and perseverance—values the military itself esteems. As a result of The First Tee's work, the children of service members receive the help and support they need to become productive citizens and leaders in American society.

Although this organization's federal funding will soon cease, The First Tee would use private funds, not taxpayer dollars, to operate on military bases. As such, The First Tee would only need permission from this Committee to do so. Therefore, I ask that this Committee ensure The First Tee's continued access to military installations for the purpose of administering its leadership training program. Thank you.

SHEILA JACKSON LEE  
18TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
2180 Hayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3816

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
1918 Smith Street, Suite 3180  
The George "Mickey" Leland Federal Building  
Houston, TX 77002  
(713) 855-0958

ACRES HOME OFFICE:  
6719 West Montgomery, Suite 204  
Houston, TX 77019  
(713) 835-4882

HEIGHTS OFFICE:  
420 West 18th Street  
Houston, TX 77008  
(713) 861-4070

FIFTH WARD OFFICE:  
3300 Lyons Avenue, Suite 301  
Houston, TX 77020

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

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JUDICIARY

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DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

CONGRESSWOMAN SHEILA JACKSON LEE OF TEXAS

STATEMENT BEFORE THE  
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

MEMBER DAY HEARING ON  
FY2014 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT



THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2013

**Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member Adam Smith and  
distinguished Members of the Committee:**

Thank you for all you do for the men and women who willingly risk their lives to keep our nation safe. This Congress has no higher obligation that to ensure that those who wear the uniform of the United States – and those civilians who provide logistical and operational support – have the equipment, training, and resources needed to carry out and complete their mission.

And we must never forget that a grateful nation has a sacred obligation, in the words of President Lincoln, “to care for him who has borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan.”

I know how seriously Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith, and their committee colleagues, take this responsibility and want to acknowledge how much their colleagues in the House appreciate the good work they do.

I would like to add my thoughts and prayers, to those affected by the terror attack in Boston, MA, and also tell you how proud I am of our men and women who were among the first responders. And, of course, I will join my colleagues and provide whatever support they need as this issue evolves.

Mr. Chairman, when I appeared before you last year, I asked the Committee to ensure that the National Defense Authorization Act of 2013 authorize research programs to treat and prevent breast cancer, especially triple negative breast cancer. Triple negative breast cancer disproportionately affects women of color under the age of 50 and thus should continue to be of special concern to the Department of Defense.

**I was very pleased that this Committee included a provision in last year's NDAA that could improve the prevention, early detection, awareness, and treatment of breast cancer among members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty. As such, I am here today to ask you to ensure that the NDAA for Fiscal Year 2014 not only contains the same provision, but also utilizes all necessary resources within the Department of Defense and the National Institutes of Health to identify specific genetic and molecular targets and biomarkers for all types of Breast Cancer, specifically, Triple Negative Breast Cancer (TNBC).**

**I am respectfully asking that research is invested into the scientific information useful in biomarker selection, drug discovery, and clinical trials design that will enable both triple negative breast cancer patients to be identified earlier in the progression of their disease; and the development of multiple targeted therapies for the disease.**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, I am a breast cancer survivor, and as a Member of Congress, a mother, a sister and a wife,

I feel a special responsibility to do all I can to ensure every American can win in the fight against cancer.

As a breast cancer survivor, I was surprised to learn that Triple negative breast cancer is a specific strain of breast cancer for which no targeted treatment is available. The American Cancer Society calls this particular strain of breast cancer, “an aggressive subtype associated with lower survival rates.”

Mr. Chairman, breast cancers with specific, targeted treatment methods, such as hormone and gene based strains, have higher survival rates than the triple negative subtype, highlighting the need for a targeted treatment. And I ask you today to tap into the best and brightest scientific minds to identify the specific genetic and molecular targets and biomarkers for Triple Negative Breast Cancer so we may understand the occurrence of the triple negative tumor. Then we will be able to create better treatments for those kinds of tumors.

As many of you may know, today, Breast cancer accounts for 1 in 4 cancer diagnoses among women in this country. It is also the most commonly diagnosed cancer among African American women. Please consider the following facts:

- Triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) is a term used to describe breast cancers whose cells do not have estrogen receptors and progesterone receptors, and do not have an excess of the HER2 protein on their cell membrane of tumor cells;
- African-American women are more likely to be diagnosed with larger tumors and more advanced stages of breast cancer;
- Triple Negative Breast Cancer (TNBC) cells are usually of a higher grade and size, onset at a younger age, more aggressive and more likely to metastasize;
- TNBC also referred to as basal-like (BL) due to their resemblance to basal layer of epithelial cells
  - There is not a formal detailed classification of system of the subtypes of these cells

- TNBC is in fact a heterogeneous group of cancers; with varying differences in prognosis and survival rate between various subtypes; And this has led to a lot of confusion amongst both physicians and patients;
- Apart from surgery, cytotoxic chemotherapy is the only available treatment, targeted molecular treatments while being investigated are not accepted treatments;
- Between 10-17% of female breast cancer patients have the triple negative subtype;
- Triple-negative breast cancer most commonly affect African-American women, followed by Hispanic women;
- African-American women have prevalence TNBC of 26% vs. 16% in non-African-Americans women
- TNBC usually affects women under 50 years of age;
- African American women have a prevalence of premenopausal breast cancer of 26% vs. 16% for Non-African American Women
- Women with TNBC are 3 times the risk of death than women with the most common type of breast cancer
- Women with TNBC are more likely to have distance metastases in the brain and lung and more common subtypes of breast cancer

I am confident, the resources provided through the Department of Defense and the National Institutes of Health will enable them to target treatment for the triple negative breast cancer strain and help identify triple negative breast cancer earlier in the progression of the disease. This will in turn lead to the development of multiple targeted therapies for the disease. I look forward to working with all of you to identify the specific genetic and molecular targets and biomarkers for all types of Breast Cancer, specifically, Triple Negative Breast Cancer.

Mr. Chairman, along with traumatic brain injury (TBI), the signature wounds from the following wars: Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, is post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

I am here again to request that this committee ensure that programs designed to treat this grievous injury and the appropriations needed to fund them continue to be authorized. The sequestration has impacted our military and our families across the board, especially those served by urban hospitals. For example, to take just one such case, the Riverside General Hospital of Houston, which is in my congressional district, no longer is able to treat depression and posttraumatic stress disorder symptoms of mental illness, including suicidal thoughts or behaviors. As a result, more over 200 families in my congressional district will suffer due in part to the reduction in funding.

The need for mental health services for service members and their families will continue to grow in coming years as the nation recovers from the effects of more than a decade of military conflict.

**And so I ask that you increase funds at the Department of Defense Office of Health Affairs for TRICARE partners such as Riverside General Hospital so VA hospitals across the country can provide health care services for patients suffering from mental health and substance abuse.**

I made a promise to my constituents to work with my colleagues across the aisles to deliver healthcare services to the area. And my testimony before you today is simply a matter of keeping my word. The men and women who serve this country with such courage and skill understand how important it is to keep one's word.

Mr. Chairman, the Riverside General Hospital, is the oldest serving VA hospital in Texas. It was established in 1926 as the Houston Negro Hospital in memory of Lt. John Halm Cullinan, 344<sup>th</sup> FA, 90<sup>th</sup> Division of the American Expeditionary Forces, and one of the thousands of African Americans who risked life and limb to defend America and its allies at a

time when those of his race did not enjoy the legal rights they fought so hard to secure for others.

A PTSD facility at Riverside General Hospital was established in 2010 to treat PTSD for veterans, whether on active duty, discharged, or on leave in the metropolitan Houston area, including Harris and surrounding counties. There are nearly 200,000 military veterans in Harris County alone, and Riverside General Hospital has proven itself capable of providing psychiatric, medical, emergency medical, inpatient, and outpatient services to crisis populations.

As a Member of Congress from Texas, a State which has sustained more casualties in the ongoing conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq than all but one other, I am committed to addressing the urgent need for more post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) treatment and counseling facilities servicing veterans living in some of the more distressed areas of our country.

There is an unmet need for more medical facilities specializing in post-traumatic stress disorder located in underserved urban areas. Access to post-traumatic stress disorder treatment is especially important since veterans living in such areas are less likely to be diagnosed and treated for post-traumatic stress disorder. Riverside General Hospital is uniquely positioned to meet this need, and I look forward to working with you to provide the necessary healthcare to our men and women and their respective families around the world.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for your leadership and your commitment to protecting our communities and leading our Nation. I welcome your questions.

**Testimony of Congressman Brad Sherman  
National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2014  
in support of Hybrid Airship Development**

Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member Smith and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on what I believe to be a critical research and development effort at a crossroads, namely the development of an airship for heavy lift capabilities. The government recently concluded a very promising RDT&E program known as Project Pelican. I am testifying here to urge that the efforts to develop hybrid airships for heavy lift continue in FY2014.

Recent technological developments in hybrid airships have the potential to revolutionize not only military cargo transport and logistics, but also civilian transportation, international trade, and humanitarian relief. I will focus on the military benefit, of course, but will also touch on some of these wider impacts that airships may have because of their implications for the Department of Defense and other government agencies.

It is critical that the efforts that have been undertaken from 2008-2012 be continued. The specific purpose of my testimony, and that submitted for the record by Congresswoman Judy Chu, is to support the inclusion of language requested by Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez, Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittee Ranking Member, directing the Transportation Command and the Air Mobility Command to develop an operational prototype hybrid airship vehicle. Congresswoman Grace Napolitano also supports this request.

**The Airlift Capabilities of Hybrid Airships – What are the Benefits to the Military?**

Airships have the potential to carry perhaps hundreds of tons of materiel and personnel anywhere on the globe, at a fraction of the *cost per ton-mile* of fixed wing aircraft, and without the need to tackle inter-modal challenges associated with ship-borne cargo transit. You do not need roads, railroads or ports. All of these things, as we know from the Afghan experience, are either unavailable where you need them to be, can be destroyed by man or nature, or are politically difficult to secure and thus subject to blackmail.

These modes can also be very dangerous in a conflict area. In addition to the obvious tragedy of losing U.S. troops and civilians on the roads of a conflict area, the need to protect vital transit routes for cargo in places like Afghanistan and Iraq bogged down resources that could have been spent on fighting enemy forces and training our allies in those countries for the day when they would take over their own security. A hybrid airship airlift capability would not eliminate all needs for ground transit, obviously, but would certainly reduce the amount of time our men and women are in harm's way on dangerous roads very significantly.



The airships under development today will have the ability to take off and land vertically with little or no ground infrastructure. They do not need a runway. Cargo can be taken directly where it is needed and unloaded, directly from where it sits. All you need is open space to land and unload.

As TRANSCOM Commander General William Fraser told the Committee on March 6, “Hybrid Airships represent a transformational capability bridging the long standing gap between high-speed lower capacity airlift and low-speed higher capacity sealift.” He further noted that hybrid airship technology has the potential to fulfill “Factory to Foxhole” cargo delivery.

While it is too early to be certain of exact operating costs, a hybrid airship with a large cargo capacity (66 tons or greater, up to 500 tons) is estimated to have a per-mile cost of about 20 cents per ton. By contrast, fixed wing costs run approximately 80 cents per ton-mile, not including, of course, the costs of getting the materiel from the airfield to the battlefield when on the ground.

As a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I am well aware of the burden faced by our Armed Services in the face of humanitarian catastrophes. No one in the world can deliver food, medicine, medical personnel, and other needed supplies like the United States military. These efforts are often nothing short of heroic. They save lives, and build goodwill for the U.S.

We all remember the 2010 Haiti earthquake, where the port facilities and the airport were heavily damaged. We all remember the earthquakes in 2005 that affected remote areas of northern Pakistan. Thousands of additional victims died due to inaccessibility in the days after these disasters struck. These problems would be greatly reduced with an airlift capability like this, one that can deliver aid where it is needed without those damaged or nonexistent facilities.

#### **Non-Military Benefits and Cost-Sharing**

Not only will hybrid airships reduce DoD fuel consumption, they may play a role in the development of domestic energy supply and help the development of wind power. Large equipment that is impossible or economically impractical to ship via ground transit is needed for the development of wind power. You cannot ship the massive blades needed for a wind farm easily on truck or train to the remote areas where it is most windy. You can do so in the cargo hold of a large airship. You cannot just build roads across environmentally sensitive lands to reach some of our best domestic energy sources. An airship, on the other hand, leaves no environmental footprint.

I mention these not only to show that there are non-military benefits to this technology, but to demonstrate that there are significant commercial interests in the continued development of hybrid airships. As a result, the government should not have to bear the

costs on its own if it chooses to fund airship development. The DoD does remain essential to the effort, however.

**Where Are We? – Follow on Needed to Pelican and other Efforts**

**The Key is Buoyancy Control.** The recently-completed Project Pelican demonstrated that it is possible to overcome previous challenges to hybrid airship development. Most importantly, the technology in Pelican allows an airship to take off and land, as well as moderate altitude in flight, without taking on and unloading ballast, or releasing helium (which cannot then be recaptured) in flight. Put simply, prior to Pelican, airships could go up, they could go down, but they could not go up and down repeatedly while in flight. They also needed to be able to take on ballast, such as water, and/or needed to be tethered while on the ground, which means they needed a lake or significant ground infrastructure and crew.

Pelican demonstrated a technology that allows for an airship to moderate its buoyancy through increasing and decreasing the pressure of the helium needed for lift, without jettisoning ballast or helium. This technology is known as control of static heaviness (COSH). The program began in 2008 as a cooperative effort of NASA Ames and the Office of the Secretary of Defense Emerging Capabilities Directorate (formerly Force Transformation).

An Advanced Demonstrator was constructed in a hangar in Tustin, CA. That demonstrator was tested in January 2013. It met the objectives set at the onset of the program and was given a technical readiness level of 6-7 by NASA Ames.

There is no effort proposed at this time for FY2014. In order to build on the successes of the Project Pelican, the government needs to move forward with funding for a prototype vehicle that can carry approximately 60-70 tons. It is important to note that this tonnage capability is not a ceiling – far from it. It appears that lift capabilities of several hundreds of tons are possible, but the next step is a smaller but still very significant prototype.

Therefore, I respectfully request that the Committee include the language requested by Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez calling for the development of this operational prototype.

Thank you again for this opportunity and for your consideration.

**STATEMENT OF**  
**CONGRESSWOMAN BARBARA LEE, OF CALIFORNIA'S 13<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT**  
**REGARDING: DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FY14**  
**BEFORE THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE**

May 8, 2013

Thank you, Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith for affording me the opportunity to explain my requests for you to consider including in the FY14 Defense Authorization Act. I have a number of requested changes that I will quickly address and for which I strongly urge you to support and include.

My requests are straightforward and will send a message that will be welcomed by the American people, who in the face of daunting economic challenges, believe that the era of perpetual warfare is over and that no government agency should get a pass from financial oversight and accountability.

**No Permanent Bases**

Mr. Chairman, I am concerned that this bill may not contain language prohibiting permanent bases in Afghanistan.

As signed into law on numerous occasions by both former President Bush and President Obama, Congress has maintained a longstanding prohibition on the establishment of permanent military bases in Afghanistan.

I request you consider and include in the FY2014 Defense Authorization Act be brought clearly in line with the "no permanent bases" provisions historically incorporated into Defense Authorizations and related Appropriations measures.

No one believes it is in the strategic interests of the United States to have permanent military bases based in Afghanistan.

We should guard against the perception amongst the Afghan people, who historically have displayed a strong resentment and violently resisted outside forces occupying their country, by making it crystal clear that we do not intend on permanently stationing our troops in Afghanistan.

**Withdrawal from Afghanistan :**

Mr. Chairman, it should come as no surprise that I share the belief of many in the Congress that there is no military solution in Afghanistan.

I have stated publically many times that a boots-on-the-ground, military-first strategy in Afghanistan is not in our economic or national security interest.

As the daughter of a military veteran, I also know firsthand the sacrifices and the commitment involved with defending our nation.

Our troops have done everything that was asked of them and more.

But the truth is that their mission in Afghanistan is far past its expiration date and we should be withdrawing all our troops and military contractors as soon as safely possible, and certainly we should not be considering extending our military presence in Afghanistan beyond 2014.

That is why I request you consider and include incorporating language ending combat operations in Afghanistan well before the current December 31, 2014 timeframe and limiting funding to the safe and orderly withdrawal of all U.S. troops and military contractors.

And we know that regardless of the situation in Afghanistan by the end of 2014 and beyond the Pentagon will come back to us asking for more time, more troops, and more resources.

The American people overwhelmingly agree that it is time to bring an end to this long war and my amendment will do just that.

**Pentagon Budget Reforms:**

In addition to auditing the Pentagon, which I will touch on in a few moments, it is important that the Pentagon face the same financial constraints that all other government agencies are being subjected to.

I am deeply concerned that the Pentagon is already seeking an exemption from the sequestration cuts mandated by Congress as part of the deeply flawed legislation I voted against last year.

I urge the committee consider common sense defense spending reforms outlined by many organizations across the political spectrum.

With billions each year lost to waste, fraud, and abuse at the Pentagon, we need to ask for the same of the Department of Defense that we ask of our other agencies.

**AUMF Extension**

Mr. Chairman, I am deeply concerned to hear about a possible expansion of the 2001 AUMF.

As you know, Congress has a solemn Constitutional obligation to deliberate and authorize all war making and hostilities abroad.

If the Executive branch is seeking expanded war making authority, let them request it and let us engage in a full and transparent debate, with the proper committees holding hearings and Members of Congress afforded the opportunity to consider the full implications of an expanded AUMF.

I am as deeply opposed to expanding the 2001 AUMF as I was against authorizing the original AUMF on September 14, 2001, when I made the lone vote in opposition because I knew it was blank check to wage war.

I am also deeply concerned that without a proper debate that such a measure deserves, we will irrevocably damage our nation's foundation of checks of balances as they relate to U.S. national security.

Unfortunately, rather than a reevaluation of the overly broad Authorization from 2001, this committee is reportedly considering a far reaching new declaration of war against an undefined enemy, giving unchecked authority to the executive branch now and in the future.

Passing these provisions as part of a comprehensive defense authorization bill, and without a full and comprehensive debate on the consequences of such an action, is a disservice to our military service members, our nation, and our democracy.

**AUMF Repeal:**

Mr. Chairman, in addition to my opposition to expanding the 2001 AUMF, now is the right time to repeal the overly broad 2001 AUMF.

The AUMF is the underlying legal justification for extrajudicial killings, and has been invoked to justify a wide range of activities including warrantless surveillance

and wiretapping activities, indefinite detention practices that fly in the face of our constitutional values.

I am particularly disturbed by the rapid expansion of extrajudicial targeted-killing operations conducted by unmanned, armed drones.

I am preparing to introduce legislation to bring much needed oversight and accountability over the executive branch's use of lethally armed drones and am committed to bringing sunlight and proper deliberation into the drones debate that Congress needs to have.

We must repeal this authorization for use of military force, end the perpetual state of war anytime anywhere, and re-focus our energy and efforts into creating jobs and nation building here at home.

With the end of the Afghanistan war on the horizon in 2014, now is the right time to sunset the AUMF and end the blank check for war without end along with our military presence in Afghanistan.

#### **Congressional Approval of Attack on Iran**

Mr. Chairman, as we draw down from over a decade of fighting wars in two countries, we need to ensure that any potential war with Iran receive congressional approval or authorization.

I share President Obama's deep commitment to ensuring the Iran does not obtain nuclear weapons.

However, we must make sure that all diplomatic alternatives to war are exhausted before another major war is contemplated, and the Constitutional authority of Congress to declare war is clear and must be respected.

#### **Audit the Pentagon**

Finally Mr. Chairman, I ask your committee to consider creating financial consequences for the Pentagon unless the Defense Department subjects itself to an audit, as it's required to do by law and as all other federal agencies regularly do.

I urge the Committee to take a first step toward compelling the Pentagon to act with urgency in assuring fiscal responsibility in our defense dollars.

As the only federal agency not subject to an audit, the Pentagon has lost tens of billions of dollars to waste, fraud, and abuse.

It is past time to check the wasteful practices with little oversight that weakens our financial outlook and ultimately our national security.

The Pentagon is the only agency that cannot be audited or predict realistically when it will do so.

The Pentagon admits the problem and agrees it has a duty to pass an audit. The Pentagon's Office of the Comptroller wrote in 2008, "Our financial problems are pervasive and well documented."

This failure of oversight and accountability is unacceptable and it is time to bring the Pentagon up to the same standards that prevail throughout the private and public sector.

**Conclusion/Thanks:**

Mr. Chairman, thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

I strongly urge you to adopt these requested changes.

**Written Statement for the Record**  
**Congressman Michael M. Honda**  
**Priorities for National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2014**  
**May 7, 2013**

Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on several items that I believe are national defense priorities that should be reflected in the Fiscal Year 2014 National Defense Authorization Act.

**Grid Resiliency, Reliability and Security**

The DoD invests in research on micro-grid applications that potentially provide improved fault tolerant operation and efficiency; next-generation devices to provide high temperature, voltage, and current conversion for micro-grid applications; and devices such as smart switches, to provide more efficient, robust, and reliable power delivery for vehicle power applications. Technologies such as superconductors increase grid resistance abruptly in response to overcurrents from faults in the system, limiting the overcurrents and protecting the grid from damage. If the Committee recommends that the DoD strongly further support this Program, it would enable the development and deployment of technologies that provide a rapid, automated reaction that would allow DoD installations and bases to reset after the overload is cleared, providing a self-healing feature that enhances grid reliability and military energy security. (Defense-wide RDT&E, Line #52 Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program)

**Special Forces Electronic Warfare System Program**

Currently and in the future, our opponents are using radio-controlled IED's and standard radio tactics to coordinate attacks on our troops & personnel. In many cases, small unit Special Forces operators and Military Intelligence units in forward operating areas do not have small, compact, lightweight EW systems capable of responding to these threats. What is needed is a next generation, compact, tactical EW system that provides more adequate soldier protection from wireless threats, target finding, and combat situational awareness all in one. This Army R&D Program is developing just such a next generation EW technology that will give our troops Counter-IED, Threat Avoidance, and Intelligence Gathering capabilities, in small soldier-worn packages. Threats will be detected, located, monitored and jammed during dismounted tactical combat operations. The Program is thus vital to Special Forces and national security as it will save lives. This program applies to all branches of the DoD such as Joint Special Forces, Army/Navy EWO's, and Army Intelligence since the technology is also applicable to ground mobile, fixed site, rotary wing, and UAV operations. If the Committee recommends that the DoD strongly further support this R&D Program, deployment can be accelerated. This Program is applicable to multiple DoD Services, and there is great potential for commercial sector technology spin-off to the Nation's mobile computing and aircraft/device EMC compliance markets. (Army RDT&E, Line #44 Electronic Warfare Technology)

**Advanced Cyber Operations Sensor Program**

Every day, cyber threats are attacking our government networks. They are evolving, distributed, and forever escalating. The nation spends more and more money, time, and effort yet the damage still accelerates. One of the problems with our nation's efforts to combat cyber attacks is that we too often look at cyber as an IT process, with software-only solutions & approaches.



What is needed are new innovative hardware and hybrid technology approaches. The Army's Cyber Offensive Operations Division is presently working on such advanced cyber hardware/hybrid techniques. This R&D Program focuses on converging the traditional Electronic Warfare (EW) with Computer Network Operations (CNO) fields, which is very unique and no other DoD group is addressing. This Division has special knowledge, history, and experience with both fields (EW and CNO), and is converging the two. The Program substantially advances the U.S. Government's ability to provide critical cyber hardware sensor technologies and techniques. If the Committee recommends that the DoD more strongly support this Program, it will be able to accelerate cyber R&D efforts using new specialized EW/Cyber hardware approaches that no other DoD group is currently investigating. It will broadly benefit the DoD and the national defense contractor industrial base. (Army, RDT&E, Line #53, Advanced Tactical Computer Science and Sensor Technology)

**Secure/Covert Wireless Network Program**

The DoD has requirements across all Services for new secure, short range, wireless combat networking technologies. Such a technology would have wide-ranging, multi-Service application to the DoD. For example, Special Forces operators utilize a collection of equipment connected by many wires. Other needs include reducing the wires onboard aircraft and vehicles and replacing them with this new secure wireless technology. This would save many millions of dollars of operation & maintenance costs for the Government, every year. Still other applications are covert communications, intra-team networking, and intra-site networking. The Air Force's Secure/Covert Wireless Network Program is an on-going effort. This R&D Program is will eliminate the cables from Special Forces operators, and replace them with new secure/covert wireless transceivers that are small form factor. Future goals of the Program are to network the sensors onboard aircraft to reduce the operational costs. Many other applications are envisioned. The impact of this new technology is broad based across the entire DoD and the federal government. There is great potential for commercial spin-offs as well to the nation's commercial wireless networking markets. If the Committee recommends that the DoD more strongly support this Program, it can accelerate development of a short range, covert wireless networking technology that will greatly enhance the operations of all Services of the DoD. (Air Force, RDT&E, Line #10 Conventional Munitions)

**Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Test and Repair**

Tobyhanna Army Depot is the only DoD depot dedicated to C4ISR test and repair for the joint warfighter, White House Communications Agency, and NSA. Much of the equipment currently being used for this work is outdated, costing taxpayers millions of dollars to maintain obsolete equipment and limiting the effectiveness and efficiency of DoD's test and repair work. If the Committee recommends that the DoD more strongly support this program, it will enable DoD to recapitalize and refresh this Test & Measurement Equipment, which would save taxpayer money and increase the C4ISR readiness level, and create a future capability to refresh at the modular level. (Army, Working Capital Fund, Industrial Operations)

**Highly Integrated Photonics**

The Navy has been investing in Highly Integrated Photonics (HIP) technology, which will provide for next-generation network architectures and processing capabilities in E6B Airborne

Strategic Command and Control Aircraft and similar advanced platforms while dramatically cutting purchase and lifecycle costs. HIP can be readily be adapted across Naval and Department of Defense platforms and data centers at marginal cost. The key integrated chip components for avionics networks create a common optical backplane of nearly unlimited growth capacity to supersede existing point-to-point data links, which use expensive copper and multimode fiber architectures. If the Committee recommends that the DoD more strongly support this Program, it can achieve advancements in optical links in semiconductors leading to tremendous increases in information transfer onboard military platforms and reduction of land based data centers, saving substantial energy resources. (Navy, RDT&E, Line #30 Aircraft Systems)

#### **Hazing in the Military**

In recent years, there have been a number of reports of hazing in the military, about which the public and Members of Congress are gravely concerned. Hazing is inconsistent with the values of the military, and such behavior should not be tolerated within the military. I thank you for including a provision in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 requiring the Secretary of Defense to report on efforts that the Services are undertaking to better report incidents of hazing and to discipline service members involved in such incidents, and I ask that you review this report closely when you receive it and that the NDAA for Fiscal Year 2014 reflect its findings. (Office of the Secretary of Defense)

#### **Economic Adjustment**

The mission of the Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) is to assist communities impacted by DoD program changes by helping those communities to develop comprehensive strategies to adjust to events like the closures of bases and the transfer of those facilities to local control, and we greatly appreciate the assistance OEA has provided for this purpose to communities nationwide. Before many of these facilities can be put to beneficial use, however, they require extensive infrastructure improvements and remediation, including the removal of abandoned structures and the cleanup of toxic materials. While much has been accomplished on these cleanup and reuse efforts, in a number of instances the work has moved at such a slow pace that the communities in which these facilities are located remain without the full benefit of the use and economic redevelopment of these facilities. If the Committee recommends that the DoD allow the OEA to award grants to the local governments and the private, nonprofit and educational organizations that are now responsible for these properties, it would accelerate the remediation and reuse activities and allow these properties to be put to full beneficial use. (Defense-wide, Operations and Maintenance)

#### **Individual Soldier Power Systems**

Individual Soldier Power Systems (SPSs) enable dismounted Soldiers and squads to execute their missions with significantly less battery weight and enable longer missions without a daily unit re-supply of batteries. These power solutions include, but are not limited to, individual Soldier worn systems, integrated power vests, wireless power technology, and small unit charger/power supplies intended for use in the most austere operating environments. A portable power system will equip the Squad with power to the forward edge. Soldier portable power platforms reduce the weight and logistical risk and burden associated with moving fuel and primary (disposable) batteries. By using renewable energy and power scavenging technology, Infantry Squads will be

able to operate independently for longer durations without being tethered to a large generator, vehicle, or supply train. If the Committee recommends that the DoD more strongly support this Program, it can accelerate the work to develop, test, and deploy soldier portable renewable energy solutions such as portable chargers and power scavenging technology capable of supporting the variety of batteries used in the tactical formations. (Army, RDT&E, Line #113 Soldier Systems - Warrior Dem/Val)

**Trusted Foundry Program**

The DoD Trusted Foundry Program was initiated in 2004 to ensure that mission-critical national defense systems have access to leading-edge integrated circuits from secure, domestic sources. While the program has more than 50 accredited suppliers, in practice work is concentrated among a limited number of suppliers, which could jeopardize the dependable, continuous long-term access to trusted mission critical semiconductors. The Committee can help ensure the health of the program by recommending that DoD take steps to promote competition within the Trusted Foundry Program. (Defense-wide, RDT&E, Line #53 Advanced Technology Development, Microelectronics Development and Support, Trusted Foundry)

**Hybrid Airship Development**

The recently-completed Project Pelican demonstrated that it is possible to overcome previous challenges to hybrid airship development. Most importantly, the technology in Pelican allows an airship to take off and land, as well as moderate altitude in flight, without taking on and unloading ballast, or releasing helium (which cannot then be recaptured) in flight. Pelican demonstrated a technology known as control of static heaviness (COSH) that allows for an airship to moderate its buoyancy through increasing and decreasing the pressure of the helium needed for lift, without jettisoning ballast or helium. An Advanced Demonstrator was constructed and was tested in January 2013. It met of the objectives set at the onset of the program and was given a technical readiness level of 6-7 by NASA Ames. If the Committee recommends that DoD more strongly support his program, we can build on the successes of the Project Pelican by developing a prototype vehicle that can carry approximately 60-70 tons, a step towards a vehicle that can lift several hundreds of tons. (Air Force, RDT&E, Line #5 Air Vehicle Technologies)

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of these important priorities.

Testimony of Darrell Issa

Chairman, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee

House Armed Services Committee Hearing

2014 National Defense Authorization Act

May 8, 2013

Mr. Chairman, ranking member Smith, thank you for this opportunity to discuss the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act, or FITARA. FITARA is a major Government-wide information technology acquisition reform bill recently reported from my committee by unanimous voice vote. Although FITARA does not directly amend Title 10, the Department of Defense is an enormous user of the government-wide acquisition resources that are at the heart of the FITARA legislation. I believe the bill would therefore significantly enhance the Department's acquisition capabilities.

Major acquisition reforms have often advanced as part of the National Defense Authorization Act. In fact, the original Clinger-Cohen legislation that FITARA updates was enacted as Sections D and E of the National Defense Authorization Act in 1996.

FITARA is the outgrowth of oversight by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform concerning the means and methods by which the federal government acquires a critical resource - those IT systems essential to its operation. Starting in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress<sup>1</sup>, we began a detailed inquiry into the organizational structures and processes that continue to impede the implementation of this critical infrastructure.

IT is indeed a critical pathway to efficient and responsive government. Information technology plays a pivotal role in the efficient operation of government. Without modern IT systems, government is incapable of providing basic services, curtailing waste, fraud and abuse or managing internal operations.

These failures directly impact progress towards improving citizen services and conducting effective oversight. Approximately \$80 billion is spent annually by the Federal Government on information technology, and these expenditures impact the entire \$3.5 trillion dollars of annual federal outlays. For example, without state-of-the-art IT-- and the oversight

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<sup>1</sup> Starting in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress, the Oversight and Government Reform Committee began a detailed reexamination of the basic framework by which the government acquires and deploys IT assets. Our oversight hearings confirmed that despite spending more than \$600 billion over the past decade, too often federal information technology (IT) investments run over budget, behind schedule, or never deliver on the promised solution or functionality. Indeed, some industry experts have estimated that as much as 25 percent of the annual \$80 billion spent on IT is attributable to mismanaged or duplicative IT investments.

capability it brings --the Government cannot tackle the \$108 billion lost to improper payments in fiscal year 2012 alone.<sup>2</sup> In terms of potential cost savings to be had in this area, some in industry have estimated that more than one trillion dollars could be saved over the next decade if the Government adopted the "proven" IT best practices currently in use by the private sector.<sup>3</sup>

The existing legal framework for IT acquisition and deployment is now 17 years old<sup>4</sup>, a virtual eternity in terms of the evolution of IT technology. While our Government stands by, industry is experiencing tectonic shifts in IT, such as the transition to cloud computing; the shared services model of IT delivery; and the need for data center optimization. Although modest revisions have been made to the procedures used to acquire and deploy modern IT, increasingly the management structure and acquisition procedures currently in place are causing the Government to fall further behind.

The Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act (FITARA) addresses this rapidly changing landscape by addressing key underlying issues. First, it creates a clear line of responsibility, authority, and accountability over IT investment and management decisions within each agency.

Second, it creates an operational framework to drastically enhance government's ability to procure commonly-used IT faster, cheaper, and smarter. The majority of IT needs such as infrastructure or back office systems and applications are common throughout the Government and could be met by commercially-available solutions. A meaningful IT transformation must target such common and expensive problems.

Third, it strengthens the IT acquisition workforce. No matter how many laws we pass, the effectiveness of our federal acquisition system ultimately depends on a vital human

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<sup>2</sup> For example, without state-of-the-art IT and the oversight capability it brings, the Government cannot tackle the \$108 billion lost to improper payments in fiscal year 2012 alone.<sup>2</sup> In fiscal year 2012, federal agencies reported a government-wide improper payment rate of 4.35%.

Source: <http://www.paymentaccuracy.gov/about-improper-payments>

<sup>3</sup> "One Trillion Reasons," The Technology CEO Council, Page 1. Executive Summary. <http://www.techceocouncil.org/clientuploads/reports/ICC%20One%20Trillion%20Reasons.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> The Clinger-Cohen Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-106)

component – the acquisition workforce. Each failed IT procurement a better-trained acquisition professional manages to prevent will save the taxpayers tens of millions of dollars. If IT contract overspending is reduced just one percent, taxpayers will save more than \$800 million each year.

Title I of FITARA increases the responsibility, authority, and accountability of the Chief Information Officer (CIO) for each of the major civilian federal agencies by providing them with budget and personnel-related authority over IT investments within the entire agency.

Currently, CIOs in most agencies lack the necessary oversight over how the agency's IT budget is allocated and executed. Many large federated agencies such as Department of Homeland Security or Department of Commerce have numerous CIOs at their component organizations with little or no accountability to the central agency CIO.<sup>5</sup>

As a result, the primary role of agency CIOs has been typically limited to policymaking and infrastructure maintenance. An agency CIO should play a central role in all aspects of IT within the entire agency. CIOs must be able to design and deliver transformational enterprise-wide IT solutions that support the mission and business function while overcoming bureaucratic impediments and parochialism. With increased stature and authority, each CIO can be held accountable for success or failure of the agency's overall IT management. As an extension of this intra-agency leadership, FITARA expands the role of the CIO Council to encompass a more active role in cross-agency shared services and collaboration.

Title II of FITARA is designed to optimize the usage and efficiency of federal data centers. As of September 2011, 24 CFO Act agencies had identified almost 2,900 data centers.<sup>6</sup> Operating such a large number of centers is a significant cost to the federal government, including hardware, software, real estate, and cooling costs. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the electricity cost alone is about \$450 million annually.<sup>7</sup> My committee

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<sup>5</sup> According to the research conducted by the Congressional Research Service (CRS), there are currently more than 240 CIOs in 24 major departments and agencies that are subject to the Chief Financial Officers Act. The Department of Transportation alone has 35 CIOs.

<sup>6</sup> GAO, "DATA CENTER CONSOLIDATION: Agencies Making Progress on Efforts, but Inventories and Plans Need to Be Completed"; GAO-12-742 (Washington, D.C.: July 2012).

<sup>7</sup> Ibid, p2.

recognizes that there is an on-going Administration initiative to consolidate data centers.<sup>8</sup> FITARA requires such initiative to place greater emphasis on performance and savings, rather than merely focusing on the number of data centers closed or consolidated.

FITARA's use of the term "optimization," rather than "consolidation" is used to make this important distinction. As required in the bill, there should be appropriate consideration of utilizing commercially owned data centers where appropriate. The government IT managers must evolve from the mindset of IT hardware ownership to outcome-based citizen service delivery.

Title III of FITARA aims to eliminate wasteful duplication in IT assets, processes, and contracts. Unnecessary duplications and unaccounted or underutilized IT assets cost both the government and the industry money and administrative effort. This not only redirects resources away from other needed investments, it hampers the adoption of new and innovative solutions. The bill requires an inventory of IT assets with particular focus on software licenses. It directs the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to reshape government web strategy to facilitate the creative use of government data by the public. I recognize that commercial cloud computing services may offer a critical part of such consideration. The flexibility offered by cloud technology necessitates appropriate re-consideration of how Government should consume and pay for needed software and services while keeping pace with technology upgrades.

Title IV of FITARA focuses on acquisition operations. Recognizing that there currently is and will continue be a severe shortage of skilled IT acquisition personnel in the foreseeable future,<sup>9</sup> the Government must better leverage its current IT acquisition capabilities while

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<sup>8</sup> In 2010, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) launched the Federal Data Center Consolidation Initiative (FDCCI), a Government-wide effort to consolidate data centers.

<sup>9</sup> Testimony of Daniel I. Gordon, Associate Dean for Government Procurement Law Studies, the George Washington University Law School and Stan Soloway, President & CEO, Professional Services Council, before the House Committee on Oversight & Government Reform, February 27, 2013.



strengthening the IT acquisition workforce. Experts from both Government and industry have pointed out that particular weakness exists in IT program management.<sup>10</sup>

Almost all major IT acquisition failures stem from poorly drafted requirements<sup>11</sup> and federal agencies often pursue individualized approach for common problems, without building upon collective knowledge and experiences. Mandatory centralized acquisition, however, may hamper a specific agency's need to support its mission and inappropriately dilute its ownership of its own acquisition decisions. Therefore, the bill takes a balanced approach by creating central acquisition resources and capabilities for common IT requirements that individual agencies are allowed the choice to utilize.

The most notable IT waste and duplication exists in the area of infrastructure and common IT systems and business applications.<sup>12</sup> For example, in the fiscal year 2011 budget submissions, agencies reported 622 separate investments or \$2.4 billion in human resource management systems, and 580 investments or \$2.7 billion in financial management systems.<sup>13</sup> Considering most of these back office systems perform similar functions, there are opportunities to consolidate them into smaller, manageable numbers within each major agency, and even share services across multiple agencies.<sup>14</sup>

FITARA aims to eliminate unnecessary duplication and streamline IT acquisitions by first targeting numerous, commonly-used IT commodity-like investments such as these. FITARA requires establishment of a Federal Infrastructure and Common Application

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<sup>10</sup> Ibid. Also see testimony of Richard A. Spires, Chief Information Officer, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, before the House Committee on Oversight & Government Reform, February 27, 2013.

<sup>11</sup> GAO, "INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: Critical Factors Underlying Successful Major Acquisitions"; October 2011.

<sup>12</sup> See OMB M-13-09, "Fiscal Year 2013 PortfolioStat Guidance: Strengthening Federal IT Portfolio Management." This is referred to as "commodity IT" by OMB. "Commodity IT" was defined in the memorandum as including services such as, "IT infrastructure (data centers, networks, desktop computers and mobile devices); enterprise IT systems (email, collaboration tools, identity and access management, security, and web infrastructure); and business systems (finance, human resources, and other administrative functions)."

<sup>13</sup> Testimony of David A. Powner, Director, Information Technology Management Issues, GAO, Before the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, House of Representatives, January 22, 2013.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

Collaboration Center (Collaboration Center) to serve as a focal point for the program and technical expertise necessary for coordinated IT acquisition best practices. In developing such common requirements, it is imperative that the Collaboration Center keep its focus on "common" -- the so-called 80 percent solution required by all agencies -- and not non-standard or non-commercial features desired by each individual agency. This Center will be funded by *existing* interagency acquisition fees, without the need for any additional appropriation or agency expense.

With respect to the formation of specific contracts for commonly-needed IT, FITARA recognizes that individual agency contracting personnel often lacks the relevant experience and knowledge of market conditions to get the best value for taxpayer dollars. FITARA therefore provides for OMB to designate fee-for-service Assisted Acquisition Centers of Excellence (AACEs) to promote expedient, best value procurement practices. By engaging in repeated acquisitions of the same basic IT requirement, the contracting personnel in the AACEs will develop a keen acquisition expertise and market awareness that can benefit multiple agencies and promote demand aggregation where possible and appropriate.

The Committee expects that AACEs will ultimately be able to expedite the acquisition cycle for common IT requirements to a matter of months rather than years. When used properly, an individual agency should be able to obtain a well-constructed IT requirement "template" from the Collaboration Center, customize to its specific needs, and then avail itself of expert contracting support from an AACE. This would enable the agency to fulfill its purchasing need by leveraging acquisition expertise and resources it does not alone possess..

Between fiscal years 2002 and 2012, acquisition spending by the federal government expanded by 95 percent, from \$264 billion to close to \$514 billion. While contract spending has risen dramatically, the number of acquisition professionals did not keep pace. Moreover, a significant portion of the current acquisition workforce will be eligible to retire over the next decade. Statistics from the Office of Personnel Management show that there are seven times as

many IT workers in government over 50 as under 30 -- the diametric opposite of the commercial world.<sup>15</sup>

The complexities and challenges in rebuilding the acquisition workforce under the current budget-constrained environment make an acquisition workforce plan essential. FITARA directs OMB to prepare and implement a 5-year strategic plan, to be accompanied by annual implementation reports to Congress and GAO verification.

Title V of FITARA makes additional reforms to improve acquisition practices and transparency. The Committee reaffirms that government IT managers must maintain technology neutrality and should fairly consider open source solutions, alongside proprietary ones, when making procurement decisions. I agree with the report language accompanying the FY 2009 National Defense Authorization Act that there are many instances where the use of open source software and its attendant business model would greatly benefit the Government while promoting transparency and engagement with and by the public.

Mr. Chairman, we believe that FITARA will significantly advance the effective, timely and cost-effective adoption of emerging IT capabilities by the federal government. While we may never reach the day when the Government is called "state-of-the-art," at least we can ensure that it is not left behind as a technology backwater in the face of tectonic shifts in the IT landscape.

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to testify, and I look forward to discussions with this Committee concerning the inclusion of FITARA in the 2014 National Defense Authorization Act.

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<sup>15</sup> Ibid. Testimony of Stan Soloway.

**Congressman Marsha Blackburn**  
**House Armed Services Committee:**  
**Member Day**  
**Opening Statement**  
**May 8, 2013**

Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member Smith, and Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify this afternoon.

As you may know I represent the Seventh Congressional District of Tennessee which is home to the brave men and women of Ft. Campbell.

Ft. Campbell is home to the storied 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne, the 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group and the Army's 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment which piloted Navy SEAL Team Six during the raid on Osama Bin Laden.

Each soldier who calls Ft. Campbell home has gone through some of the most intensive training on the planet which pushed their minds and bodies to their physical limits. In the end, those who made the cut

have truly earned the right to be part of our United States military and serve on the frontlines in the fight against global terrorism.

However due to the extreme cuts to our military under Sequestration some of the military readiness programs that they depend upon are in jeopardy of facing cuts.

One program that I am especially concerned about is the Flying Hour Program. This vital program provides aviation training resources for individual crewmembers and units according to approved aviation training strategies. In addition, it also provides individual and collective proficiency in support of ongoing combat and non-combat air operations.

For aviation units like the 101st Airborne, this training is not only vital to mission success but to the safety of our soldiers.

As a result of sequestration, the Army has already begun curtailing training, cancelling training center rotations, ending collective training above the

platoon level except for the next-to-deploy units, reducing flying hours, leaving many units unprepared for possible contingencies both at home and abroad.

Many military specialties, such as pilots, are acutely affected, with many set to lose their currency in a matter of months.

The Army could have to cut 37,000 flying hours from aviation training creating a shortfall of over 500 aviators just this year.

I urge the House Armed Services Committee to pay close attention to restoring the Flying Hour Programs to their full capacity in FY 14.

Without it, vital national security assets like the 101st Airborne will find their important mission at risk. More importantly, the lives of the soldiers we count on to deploy in our defense will be put at much greater risk.

I thank the committee again for allowing me to testify this morning and hope that we can work

together to protect this vital program to the Ft.  
Campbell community.

**Rep. Michael Burgess, M.D. NDAA FY14 HASC Testimony**

Good Morning,

I am writing to request the Committee include clarifying language as part of the FY 2014 National Defense Authorization Act to assert that certain rehabilitative therapies are included as covered services for TRICARE beneficiaries.

The President's FY 2014 Budget states that it aims to "promote health of service members and their families". I applaud the Administration's focus on supporting service-members and their families. However, there continues to be inadequacies in the health care services provided to our military members and their families.

Certain physical therapy services have been denied to TRICARE beneficiaries because TRICARE has determined the services do not fall within "traditional" physical therapy services. Specifically, therapies utilizing tools, such as a horse, have been denied to TRICARE beneficiaries because they have been misclassified as "hippotherapy".

It is crucial that TRICARE provides rehabilitative therapies that are prescribed by a patient's physician and included in a patient's individualized plan of care, authorized by his or her physical therapist. In the TRICARE Policy Manual, Section 18.2, Chapter 7, 2.1, physical therapy is described to include "The treatment by physical means, hydrotherapy, heat, or similar modalities, physical agents, bio-mechanical and neuro-physiological principles, and devices to relieve pain, restore maximum function, and prevent disabilities following disease, injury or loss of a body part."

Therefore, I would like to formally ask my colleagues on the Committee to include specific language in the Fiscal Year 2014 National Defense Authorization Act to allow TRICARE beneficiaries to receive therapies that are prescribed by a patient's physician and included in a patient's individualized plan of care, authorized by his or her physical therapist, including those performed on a balance board, ball, bolster, horse, and bench.

Thank you for your consideration and your time.

Sincerely,

Michael C. Burgess, M.D.



**Rep. Phil Gingrev, M.D. – FY14 HASC Testimony Submission**

May 8, 2013

Mr. Chairman, as you and the other Members of the House Armed Services Committee work to craft the Fiscal Year 2014 National Defense Authorization Act, I want to bring forward an issue of critical importance to the safety of our troops in theater.

Over the past decade, while many servicemen and women have survived an initial ballistic or blast event in a combat or combat support vehicle, many of them ultimately sacrificed their lives due to post-event fire. Since 2003, according to U.S. Army reports, over 800 military burn casualties have occurred in support of Overseas Contingency Operations. This is simply unacceptable when technologies are available today – and in development – that can prevent these horrendous occurrences.

Unfortunately, in addition to physical and psychological trauma that is associated with post-event fires, thermal injuries cause significant impact ranging from loss of tactical freedom of maneuver, and there is a subsequent negative ramifications on recruitment and retention efforts, equipment losses, and the aggregate cost to the military, particularly when the consequences of these events could be avoided.

The aviation community adopted standards and specifications (such as MIL-DTL-27422) to define survivability that have successfully prevented thermal injuries. I would ask the Committee to consider similar measures department wide through Thermal Injury Prevention Strategies (TIPS). TIPS will model its focus on thermal injuries as other efforts have focused on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). Much like the consequences from these conditions, the problems associated with Thermal Injury are intolerable to the individual, the Department of Defense (DOD), and our country.

This is why I am making this request of the Committee for language to be included in the FY14 NDAA. Survivability enhancements have been applied to aviation and ground platforms to protect our troops from injury and deaths due to fires. Technologies like fuel containment, fire retardants, fire suppression, fire prevention, and personal fire protection can improve occupant safety and the chances for vehicle survivability.

Accordingly, I would ask the Committee to direct the DOD to establish threshold and objective survivability requirements and standards for TIPS on ground platforms using demonstrations and analysis to ensure that in otherwise humanly survivable events, lives are not lost to post-event fires. This should include, but not be limited to: fuel containment, fire retardants, fire suppression, and personal protection. Furthermore, DOD must be compelled to report back to all Congressional Committees with a plan for implementation of TIPS requirements and standards into ground platforms within six months of enactment of the FY14 NDAA.

Mr. Chairman, we owe that to the men and women who put themselves in harm's way to defend our freedom. Thank you for your consideration.

**Statement for the Record  
Rep. Devin Nunes  
Hearing before the House Armed Services Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
On  
The FY14 National Defense Authorization Act  
May 8, 2013**

Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Before I begin, I'd like to submit this letter for the record, signed by myself and five other congressmen, raising concerns about the Air Force's decision to draw down forces at Lajes Field on Terceira Island.

Lajes has an unparalleled strategic value. Located on the Azores island chain between Europe and the United States, it is like the Hawaii of the Atlantic Ocean – only closer to the American mainland. The islands belong to Portugal, a strong U.S. ally since World War II that has never prevented us from conducting operational missions.

The base at this crucial location has bolstered the United States' control of the Atlantic since World War II, proving critical to our tracking of Soviet submarines during the Cold War. It allows for U.S. access to Europe, the Middle East, and western and sub-Saharan Africa, and enables the expeditionary movement of warfighters, aircraft, ships, and global communications to AFRICOM and CENTCOM's joint, coalition, and NATO operations.

It is also a vital site for countering a major regional threat, al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, which has known ties to al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and other violent groups. In fact, from Lajes, ten of the eighteen African countries that hold State Department Travel Warnings can be reached within six hours. Further, Lajes is well-positioned to act as a logistical hub not only for the Defense Department, but also for USAID, the State Department, and other agencies.

Having engaged with Portuguese officials for years on the issue of Lajes, I bring it to your attention today due to the dire consequences of the decision to draw down at the base. Our strategic planners may believe we can leave a mere skeletal operation at the base and retain access there, but in reality, this decision means a total end to the U.S. presence at Lajes. Scaling back the base according to current plans will severely impact the Azorean economy, forcing Portugal to find a new tenant for the site. In light of the weak Portuguese economy, we do not want to make Azoreans choose between their loyalty to the United States and their ability to feed their families.

While our strategic planners may not want to be in the Azores anymore, leaders of other nations feel differently. Several high ranking Chinese officials have visited the Azores in recent years,

culminating in a June 2012 visit to Terceira by then-Premier Wen Jiabao. The Chinese did not divulge what all these delegates were doing there, but I can assure you they weren't sipping port and enjoying the pleasant climate.

In the wake of our decision to wind down Lajes, we cannot assume the Portuguese will exclude China or other bad actors from the site simply out of allegiance to the U.S.; the recent decision to send 500 U.S. Marines to Moron, Spain – a contingent that would have much more flexibility at the logistics hub of Lajes – could easily be interpreted as a calculated insult to our Portuguese friends.

I fully understand the budgetary reality we face. However, as we reduce our European footprint – comprising 110,000 personnel and twenty-nine military installations – we need to base our decisions on each site's global strategic value and tactical and strategic flexibility. It would cost billions to build a base like Lajes today, and if our strategic planners insist on giving up something this vital, then at the very least, this committee should encourage the creation of a pilot program to privatize its operations, to keep them running round-the-clock, and to guarantee 24/7 access to the site for TRANSCOM.

In conclusion, the retention of Lajes was not an issue for seventy years because prior planners never contemplated surrendering something so crucial to U.S. interests. This committee must understand that the decision to cut the base's operations means closing the site and losing our access there. I leave this committee with three questions:

1. If we withdraw from Lajes, should we assume that Chinese and Russian submarines will suffer some mishap that prevents them from sailing in the Atlantic Ocean?
2. If we withdraw from Lajes, should we assume that sub-Saharan Africa – which has the youngest population on Earth and includes countries like Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, and others with known al-Qaeda affiliates – will not be used as a training site for the next generation of jihadists?
3. Finally, I draw your attention to this map and ask an extremely simple question: if the U.S. government wants to fulfill its responsibility to protect the United States, its people, and its interests, then which of these bases should it deem as having the highest geostrategic value?

Thank you for your time today. I'd be happy to answer any questions you have.

CHARLES W. DENT  
15TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-3815

May 7, 2013

**OFFICE LOCATIONS:**

2455 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
D222 225-6411  
FAC: (202) 225-0778

3850 HAMILTON BOULEVARD, SUITE 207  
ALLENTOWN, PA 18103  
(610) 770-3400  
FAC: (610) 770-3498

290 WEST CHOCOLATE AVENUE, SUITE 2  
HERSHEY, PA 17033  
(717) 653-3800  
FAC: (717) 653-0979

Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith:

As the Committee begins to draft the Fiscal Year 2014 Defense Authorization bill, I request the issue pertaining to the treatment of American citizens carrying out or suspected of acts of terror be an active part of the Committee's dialogue this year, particularly in the wake of the Boston attacks on 15 April 2013. I submitted testimony to the Committee on this matter last year, and I am committed to remaining engaged in a productive policy discussion again.

In recent years, Members have participated in an animated debate over the lawful arrest and detention of terror suspects (Sections 1021 and 1022, P.L. 112-81), with the explicit exclusion of United States citizens and individuals arrested on U.S. soil. With each year that passes in this post-9/11 era, it becomes more evident that the war against terrorism demands our nation's attention and commitment if we are to remain successful in securing our homeland and preserving the American way of life. Individuals or lone wolf actors, as well as extremist organizations, prove to be bent on altering, at the very least, the rhythm and freedoms of our daily lives in the United States. Our federal laws must evolve to reflect the national security challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Similar to my position articulated to you in the testimony I submitted during the FY 2013 NDAA discussion, I believe the policy conversation we have here in Congress must advance beyond "the lawful arrest and detention of terror suspects." Specifically, I believe it is critical for the Committee to consider ways to modernize current law to ensure the State Department has the latitude to review the actions of an American citizen or naturalized citizens should he or she engage in or purposefully and materially support hostilities against the United States.

In October 2011, I introduced the bipartisan, bicameral Enemy Expatriation Act. I also introduced legislation with the same intent in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress. As you know, current federal statute, 8 U.S.C 1481, identifies seven categories of acts for which U.S. or naturalized citizens can lose their citizenship if it is determined they performed one of those acts "with the intention of relinquishing United States nationality." Examples of acts listed in the statute that would trigger this review are: taking an oath to a foreign state, serving in the armed forces of a foreign state, or committing acts of treason. Legislation like the Enemy Expatriation Act would only update the current statute first adopted in 1944 to clarify that any person who engages in hostilities against the United States whether or not they are formally serving in the armed forces of a foreign state may be reviewed for loss of nationality. The State Department would still need to investigate the individual's actions and determine if he or she intended to renounce his or her


citizenship. The individual could appeal determination in federal court if necessary. The original statute was adopted when our Armed Services were engaged with the forces of Imperial Japan and Nazi Germany. Federal law should reflect the global, asymmetric conflict the United States faces today.

For several years leading up to his death, the late Anwar al-Awlaki, an American citizen, incited the violent overthrow of the United States and worked within terrorist networks to coordinate attacks against the American people. His revolting actions served as the impetus for my pursuit of this revision of the law.

Now today, the Boston attacks are fresh in the minds of the American people and will forever impact the families of those who lost loved ones and the hundreds of victims dealing with life altering injuries. The deadly explosions unleashed at the Boston Marathon on runners, their families and spectators should be a stark reminder to lawmakers, as well as the general American public, that radicalized individuals – whether they are Americans acting as lone wolves or connected with an extremist group – are committed to bringing pain and suffering to innocent bystanders, families and communities.

The war on terror will continue despite the deaths of Anwar al-Awlaki and Osama Bin Laden. With that, we must remain dedicated to combating extremism – willing to ask the difficult questions and analyzing how our federal laws rightfully protect our country and the American people against the threats we face today.

Thank you, once again, for carefully considering engaging in this policy discussion within the framework of the FY 2014 Defense Authorization bill.



Charles W. Dent  
Member of Congress

**Written Testimony of the Honorable Al Green  
Hearing before the House Armed Services Committee**

**Wednesday May 8, 2013**

Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member Adam Smith, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on the priorities that should be considered in the FY 2014 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

The Housing Assistance for Veterans Act of 2013 (HAVEN Act) aims to modify and rehabilitate the homes of low-income veterans and veterans with disabilities. The HAVEN Act was included in the FY 2013 Senate NDAA but was removed in conference. This initiative is important as the Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that there are 22.2 million veterans in our country. In addition, according to the 2010 American Community Survey, 4.3 million veteran homeowners have disabilities and 2.7 million of our veterans are elderly.

Finally, many of those veterans who have disabilities and disproportionate housing costs are either at risk of becoming homeless, or are already experiencing homelessness.

**What the bill does:**

This bill authorizes the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to establish a pilot program that provides grants to nonprofit organizations to rehabilitate and modify homes of disabled and low-income veterans. The bill has a strong outreach component since it is administered through HUD, and veterans service organizations that have experience working with veterans. This program is competitive and when applying, organizations will need to detail their plans for working with VA and veterans service organizations to identify veterans who can benefit from the program.

**Examples of the work to be done:**

Examples of work that can be done under this bill include: installation of wheelchair ramps, bathroom reconfiguration, or other modifications that the veteran requires as a result of their disability. Organizations will be required to provide matching funds of no less than 50 percent of the grant award; and the repairs or adaptations will be provided at either no cost or at very low cost to the veteran.

**Authorization:**

To carry out this Act, \$4,000,000 will be authorized for each of the fiscal years from 2013 through 2017.

**How it complements existing programs:**

The HAVEN Act complements other existing federal programs as it provides for veterans who are not eligible for existing VA programs and thus, have fallen through the cracks. Under the HAVEN Act, the definition of disability considers the physical and mental limitations that veterans may face, regardless of whether the limitations are connected to the veteran's service.

**Goal of the Program:**

The goal of the HAVEN Act is to provide sustainable housing modifications for veterans who currently do not qualify for existing VA programs and cannot receive assistance even if they have dedicated their lives in service of their country. The HAVEN Act brings awareness to the needs of veterans by allowing more organizations to become involved in the cause of housing for veterans.

**Importance of the bill and steps taken in the last Congress:**

This bill is supported by veterans organizations like Rebuilding Together and Vets First. This bill had bipartisan support in the 112th Congress, passed the House by a voice vote, and was added to the FY 2013 National Defense Authorization Act. However, it was taken out of the FY 2013 National Defense Authorization Act during the conference committee. Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member Smith, we can all agree that helping our veterans is the right thing to do. We know that



veterans do not always seek out help, even when they need it. Thus, helping these low-income and disabled veterans, by repairing their homes before they come too dilapidated, is smart policy that can help to keep veterans self-sufficient and independent.

**House Armed Services Committee  
National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014  
Wednesday, May 8, 2013  
2118 Rayburn House Office Building  
Statement for the Record by Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers**

I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony to the House Armed Services Committee. While America stands at a crossroads, our commitment to freedom, security, and to our service men and women and their families who have and continue to protect our nation must remain. As such, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 must continue to further these commitments despite the fiscal challenges ahead.

Afghanistan and the Middle East – along with turmoil in Asia-Pacific region and Africa – demonstrate the need to ensure that our total force has the tools they need to remain successful. This includes support for the National Guard members and Reservists who play an instrumental role in our nation's military strategy. We also need to translate these successes here at home – strengthening TRICARE, increasing support for spouses and children, and providing support to our veterans who have honorably served.

In my district, there is no better example of these contributions and needs than Fairchild Air Force Base. Home to more than 4,700 military members and 1,100 civilian personnel and their families, Fairchild houses the Air Force's 92<sup>nd</sup> Air Refueling Wing and the Washington Air National Guard's 141<sup>st</sup> Air Refueling Wing. As such, Fairchild is vital to our nation's aerial refueling effort and a key component to the Air Force achieving global-level reach. Additionally, over time, the aviation missions at Fairchild have been complemented by the development of the Air Force Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) school and the Joint Personnel Recovery Center.

Recently, I have had the privilege of meeting with members of Fairchild Air Force Base, military and community stakeholders to discuss future needs. In the course of these meetings, the following key issues have been emphasized.

First, the importance of authorizing funding for the KC-46A refueling tanker program. The Air Force currently maintains two refueling tankers, the KC-135 and KC-10. A recent inventory conducted by Air Mobility Command reveals that the newest of the 395 KC-135 were delivered to the Air Force in 1965, nearly *fifty* years ago. We know that refueling tankers play an integral role in our military operations, allowing the Air Force to achieve global-reach, and asking the current tanker fleet to support a 21<sup>st</sup> century defense operation is inappropriate.

While the Air Force and the Department of Defense will continue to operate in a restrained fiscal climate for the upcoming fiscal year, the importance of funding key modernization programs cannot be understated. The KC-46A refueling tanker program is the Air Force's first step to recapitalize the aging KC-135 fleet. It is the Air Force's number one acquisition program. Additionally, the Air Force has worked closely with the contractor to ensure that the program remains on schedule and the fixed-price incentive firm contract continues to be a model of a sound fiscal approach to an acquisition program of this magnitude. Therefore, I urge the Committee to authorize funding for this program at a sustainable

level in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 to ensure that our air mobility operations remain superior.

Second, the importance of maintaining the Air National Guard (ANG). The ANG has and continues to play a critical role in our air operations—particularly as it relates to national security and emergency response operations. Members of the ANG have served and continue to serve on the front lines of our overseas military operations, at the same time responding to the needs of their local communities. I urge the Committee to continue to examine the contribution and cost savings associated with the ANG and provide appropriate authorization levels.

Third, the importance of investing in the Air Force SERE school. The 336th Training Group, located at Fairchild Air Force Base, is home to the Air Force's *only* SERE school. The SERE School offers 22 different courses to 20,000 students each year.

The SERE school also houses the 36<sup>th</sup> Rescue Flight (36 RQF) which services two purposes. First, the 36 RQF provides additional training to more than 3,000 students, including live rescue hoist training, para drop demonstrations, and combat rescue procedures training for students in the basic Combat Survival Course. Additionally, an aircraft and crew are on stand-by twenty-four hours a day, six days a week to provide medical evacuation coverage for students and instructors.

The 36 RQF also supports the National Search-and-Rescue (SAR) plan by conducting SAR and medical evacuation missions in a four state region (Washington, Northern Oregon, Idaho, and Western Montana). The unit utilizes the *only* hoist-equipped aircraft and Night Vision Goggle-qualified aircrews in the Inland Northwest. On average, the unit responds to 15-20 calls for assistance each year and has been credited with saving over 650 lives since its inception in 1971. I urge the Committee to continue its efforts to support the SERE school and the 36 RQF.

While I recognize the need to reduce costs, I do not believe the reduction should come at the expense of maintaining a strong national defense. I appreciate your consideration of these issues.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY  
CONGRESSWOMAN GWEN MOORE

**“National Defense Priorities from Members for the FY 2014 National Defense  
Authorization Act”**

**May 8, 2013  
House Armed Services Committee**

Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony as your Committee begins its work on the FY 2014 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

The National Defense Authorization Act provides an opening to consider needed policy changes and reforms to help provide for our nation’s national defense and support the men and women who are the backbone of those efforts. As your Committee begins this process, I would urge you to keep in mind the need to continue to address the following issues impacting our men and women in uniform.

**Military Sexual Assault**

I applaud the committee for its ongoing work to make sure that the Defense Department effectively and aggressively combats sexual assault, prosecuting such crimes when they occur, and supporting and assisting victims. Ensuring the safety and protection of our men and women in uniform must remain a priority.

Yet, we know there is a long way to go before the military truly “gets it” as recent episodes demonstrates, including attacks on recruits at basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas along with the widely condemned decision by Lt. Gen. Craig Franklin, commander of the 3rd Air Force at Ramstein Air Base in Germany, to overturn a sexual assault conviction. The Congress and the military must remain committed to eradicating this scourge and creating a culture of zero tolerance for such vicious crimes. As the Committee weighs the FY 2014 bill, I urge you to consider:

- Including H.R. 1593, which would amend Title 10, United States Code, to improve the prevention of and response to sexual assault in the Armed Forces by establishing a Sexual Assault Oversight and Response Council and an enhanced Sexual Assault Oversight and Response Office and by requiring the appointment of a Director of Military Prosecutions for sexual-related offenses committed by a member of the Armed Forces.

- Including provisions from H.R. 1079 to address the ability of commanders to unilaterally and without justification overturn sexual assault convictions approved by military courts.

#### **Benefits Equality for all Military Spouses**

I hope you also share my commitment to doing all that is possible to ensure that no military spouses and families are denied benefits that they are entitled to and rightly deserve. All military families sacrifice and should be treated equally when it comes to the benefits that our nation makes available to them in recognition of that sacrifice.

With 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' repealed and while court challenges to the Defense of Marriage Act are pending, there is more that Congress can do to ensure that the rights of all of our service members and their spouses, regardless of whether they are of the same-sex or opposite-sex as the service member, are protected.

- I would urge the Committee to make military personnel policies and military and veterans' benefits available to any marriage recognized by a state, regardless of sexual orientation. This change would ensure that in states which do not discriminate in their definition of spouses, military spouses are able to have access to key benefits, including the military health care program and funding to allow that spouse to accompany the servicemember when he or she is assigned to a new duty station, which may otherwise be prohibitively expensive.

#### **Mental Health Care Needs**

- I know improving access of our servicemembers to quality mental health care has been a priority for the Committee and I urge you to continue to support existing and authorize new, innovative, and effective tools to address the mental health needs of our men and women in uniform.
- I support bills like H.R. 1464 that will boost education efforts about services that are available and try to erase the pervasive stigma attached with mental health treatment that continues to stymie efforts to improve access.
  - H.R. 1464 would require notice to all members of the Armed Forces, beginning with recruit basic training and the initial training of officer candidates, about the availability of mental health services, to help eliminate perceived stigma associated with seeking and receiving mental health services, and to clarify the extent to which information regarding a member seeking and receiving mental health services may be disclosed.
- In providing this information, the Department should be required to take all steps to eliminate any stigma associated with seeking and receiving mental health services and to promote the use of mental health services on a basis comparable to the use of other medical and health services.

**STARBASE**

STARBASE (Science and Technology Academies Reinforcing Basic Aviation and Space Exploration) is a program aimed at promoting Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education among urban, rural, and disadvantaged elementary school students through partnerships with military volunteers who provide them instruction and hands on learning. After 23 years of operation building partnerships between the military and local communities, the STARBASE program—authorized under 10 U.S.C 2193b—currently has 76 Academies supported by the different branches on military installations in 40 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

In 2012, DoD STARBASE employed 367 personnel and served 2,659 classrooms of students in 365 school district across the Nation. In its FY 2013 request, the Administration noted that “The DoD STARBASE Program is a productive investment in the future of our youth and will help build and enlarge the talent pool of potential workers needed to support the DoD workforce consisting of civilian and military personnel.”

This successful partnership has resulted in a waiting list of installations seeking to join the program and open up new learning opportunities for thousands of young children. The partnership with the military is a key component of this program. Given its success, I urge the Committee to continue to support this program in the FY 2014 NDAA and to reject proposals to remove this program from the Defense Department.

I thank you again for your consideration of these request and all you do for our men and women in uniform and their families.

Testimony for National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014  
Congressman Gus M. Bilirakis (FL-12)  
May 7, 2013

Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith, thank you for taking the time to solicit and consider the testimonies of you fellow members of Congress as you begin considering the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014. The United States' Armed Services are the preeminent military forces in the world and this bill is crucial for the safety and security of American citizens.

As the Vice-Chair of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, I am constantly in awe of the members of our Armed Forces and their work as they protect the freedoms that Americans enjoy. It is critical that we support these men and women and their families while they serve and I support military pay raises that take into account inflation and maintain living standards.

There are two pieces of legislation that I have introduced and believe should be taken into consideration by the Committee. The first is H.R. 164, "To amend title 10, United States Code, to permit veterans who have a service-connected, permanent disability rated as total to travel on military aircraft in the same manner and to the same extent as retired members of the Armed Forces entitled to such travel." This legislation would allow veterans with service related disabilities rated as "total" to utilize no-cost, space-available travel on DoD aircraft. These veterans have bravely served our country and have made enormous personal sacrifices that follow them in their daily lives.

Space-A travel is a program that allows for active duty service members and certain others to fill empty seats on scheduled DoD flights. While active duty members and their families will remain the primary beneficiaries of this program in order to assist them with the rigors of military life, H.R. 164 will allow the pool of potential passengers to now include veterans who were permanently disabled while serving their country, and is supported by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the National Federation of the Blind.

The second piece of legislation seeks to honor military divers who have bravely served our country in a number of specialties, including combat diving, rescue operations, salvage, harbor clearing, and ordinance disposal, among other significant diving disciplines. H.R. 165 authorizes the Secretary of the Navy to designate an appropriate site at the former Navy Dive School at the Washington Navy Yard for a memorial to honor the members of the Armed Forces who have served as divers and whose service in defense of the United States has been carried out beneath the waters of the world. The legislation specifies that the memorial is to be paid for with private funds and retains the authority to approve the design and site of the memorial with the Secretary of the Navy. H.R. 165 builds upon the sense of Congress expressed in section 2855 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 that the Secretary of the Navy may permit such a memorial to be built. I urge the committee to build on its sense last year so that we might demonstrate our nation's gratitude to this special segment of heroes, both past and present.

Thank you for your consideration of these issues.

**The Honorable Peter J. Roskam of Illinois**  
**Testimony on U.S.-Israeli Missile Defense Cooperation**  
**House Armed Services Committee**  
**May 8, 2013**

Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member Smith, distinguished Members of the Committee: thank you for the opportunity to testify at this critical hearing on our national defense priorities for the Fiscal Year 2014 National Defense Authorization Act.

Mr. Chairman, I appear before you today to discuss U.S.-Israeli missile defense cooperation, an issue of critical importance to our national security. I am grateful to this committee for its past support of this component of America's partnership with our ally Israel. The reality is that we live in dangerous times. The situation in Syria continues to deteriorate, Iran is hurdling toward a nuclear weapons capability, and its proxies— Hamas and Hezbollah—continue to stockpile advanced missiles that pose a deadly threat not only to Israel, but our brave men and women serving overseas. In light of these challenges, we must continue to work closely with our allies to maintain a qualitative and quantitative military edge over our enemies. A robust missile defense apparatus is a strategic imperative in confronting these evolving threats.

Over the past two decades, the United States and Israel have worked seamlessly to develop, produce and implement cutting-edge missile defense programs. These systems are lifesaving, war preventing, and, most importantly, a joint venture. Israel matches U.S. funding and technology and intellectual property is shared. And certain aspects of these systems are produced here in the United States, which creates well-paying manufacturing jobs. Simply put, it is a win-win.

Mr. Chairman, many of us here have visited the Israeli city of Sderot along the Gaza border, which has endured literally thousands of Hamas rockets over the years. On my visit, the brave residents told me how they have just 15 seconds to take shelter from an incoming rocket. One woman explained that she dreamed of a "normal" life for her family without the constant fear of attack. That dream has become a reality thanks to Iron Dome. Iron Dome shields Israel from short-range rocket threats like those posed by Hamas and Hezbollah. Last November, during Operation Pillar of Defense, Iron Dome intercepted 500 Hamas rockets with a success rate of nearly 85%. With help from the United States, Israel has already deployed five Iron Dome batteries, with plans for a sixth by the year's end. Ultimately, Israel hopes to operate 10 to 13 batteries to protect the entire state.

Iron Dome has exceeded expectations, but it is unable to defend against more advanced, long-range missiles, which are becoming an increasingly viable danger. Therefore, the United States and Israel have teamed up to jointly develop David's Sling, which is designed to intercept short and medium-range ballistic missiles, long-range rockets, and cruise missiles. In its first test this past November, the system successfully intercepted an inert medium-range rocket, and defense officials expect the program to be fully operational in 2014.



The Arrow Weapons System has been operational since 2000 and targets medium-range ballistic missiles. This system, co-developed by Israel Aircraft Industries and Boeing, is manufactured by subcontractors here in the United States in Mississippi and Alabama. Together, Iron Dome, David's Sling, and Arrow create a strong force field capable of defending against nearly any rocket attack. However, the outstanding threat to Israel, the United States, and the world remains a nuclear-armed Iran. As a result, the United States and Israel are developing the Arrow 3, a long-range, exo-atmospheric interceptor designed to catch missiles in high altitude to minimize leakage from a nuclear or chemical warhead. A successful fly test of Arrow 3 was conducted in February, and the system is expected to be operational within the next few years.

This multitier missile defense system is in the direct national security interest of the United States, and I'm pleased that this commonsense investment has enjoyed strong bipartisan support in both the House and Senate. I want to commend and express gratitude to the entire committee for its past support for U.S.-Israeli missile defense cooperation, and I look forward to working with you to maintain and expand this partnership. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify today.

JOHN P. SARBANES  
3RD DISTRICT, MARYLAND

COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-2003  
www.sarbanes.house.gov

2044 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
(202) 225-4016  
FAX: (202) 225-9219

500 BALTIMORE AVENUE  
SUITE 303  
TOWSON, MD 21284  
(410) 832-8998  
FAX: (410) 832-8998

44 CALVERT STREET  
SUITE 349  
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401  
(410) 295-1979  
FAX: (410) 295-1682

**House Armed Services Committee**

**National Defense Priorities from Members for the  
FY 2014 National Defense Authorization Act  
May 8, 2013**

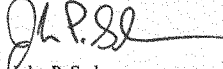
**Pilot Program on Comprehensive Medication Therapy Management Services  
Requested by Congressman John P. Sarbanes**

Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith,

As you begin to craft the FY 2014 National Defense Authorization Act, I request that you consider including a pilot program to provide medication therapy management services to TRICARE beneficiaries. Providing these services to the TRICARE population could have a positive impact on their overall health care and reduce Department of Defense (DOD) spending on prescription drugs. The potential cost savings are significant considering that DOD spent approximately \$8 billion on prescription drugs in 2011 – a 400 percent increase over the previous decade. Medication therapy management services have proven successful in civilian settings. Because TRICARE is one of the largest health systems in the country, the potential value to DOD is tremendous.

For these reasons, I hope you will consider adding the enclosed bill language to the FY 2014 National Defense Authorization Act.

Sincerely,



John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress

**Fiscal Year 2014 National Defense Authorization Act**

**Title VII. Health Care Provisions**

**Subtitle A -- TRICARE and Other Health Benefits**

**Draft Bill Language**

**Sec. \_\_\_\_ Pilot Program on Comprehensive Medication Therapy Management Services.**

**(a) PILOT PROGRAM-**

(1) **IN GENERAL-** From within available funds for operation and maintenance, the Secretary of Defense shall conduct a pilot program to provide Comprehensive Medication Therapy Management services to a pool of up to 10,000 TRICARE beneficiaries in one or more prescribed geographic areas.

(2) **COMMENCEMENT-** The Secretary shall commence the pilot program under paragraph (1) by not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) **DURATION-** The Secretary may not carry out the pilot program under subsection (a) (1) for longer than a 48-month period from the date of the pilot's initiation.

(c) **PILOT REQUIREMENTS-** The Secretary shall select competitively one or more appropriate entities to conduct this pilot and shall include as eligible Academic Health Centers which have a School of Pharmacy, but must guarantee in any selection that the entity has the necessary experience in the provision and management of comprehensive medication therapy management to lead the pilot program under subsection (a)(1). The pilot program shall include the following partners:

- (1) At least three Military Treatment Pharmacies located on bases in the same metropolitan geographic area.
- (2) At least two pharmacy chain stores who participate in TRICARE.
- (3) Local community pharmacies who participate in TRICARE.
- (4) Department of Defense Pharmacoeconomic Center.

(d) **SERVICES PROVIDED-** The Secretary shall require that the Comprehensive Medication Therapy Management pilot program under subsection (a) (1) provide the following services to each enrolled member:

- (1) A comprehensive, updated medication list and an individualized medication action plan;
- (2) An updated medication action plan at least once per year; and
- (3) Comprehensive on-going management of the beneficiaries' medication and medical conditions which includes face to face interaction with a pharmacist to regularly solve potential and actual drug related problems.

(e) TARGETED BENEFICIARIES – The Secretary shall ensure that TRICARE identify as candidates for these services beneficiaries who meet one of the following criteria:

- (1) Receive multiple medications or have multiple medication prescribers;
- (2) Have recently changed medication regimens;
- (3) Have experienced an acute event such as a hospitalization or emergency room visit;
- (4) Have difficulty adhering to their medication regimen; or
- (5) Have one or more chronic conditions requiring medication management

(f) LOCATIONS- The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program under subsection (a)(1) at not less than two military installations of different military departments, including at least one facility in the National Capitol region that meets the following criteria:

- (1) Contains a military medical treatment facility that has inpatient and outpatient capabilities at the installation and an on-base Pharmacy.
- (2) Provides medical treatment to a range of active duty and retired military personnel and their families.

(g) REPORT- Not later than 180 days after the date on which the pilot program under subsection (a) (1) concludes, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the pilot program. The report shall include the following:

- (1) An assessment of the average cost and overall health care savings of providing Comprehensive Medication Therapy Management services to TRICARE beneficiaries in the pilot program.
- (2) An assessment of the level of improvement in clinical outcomes from the beneficiaries who received Comprehensive Medication Therapy Management services versus a control group of similar beneficiaries who did not received these services.
- (3) A post-implementation analysis which evaluates the feasibility of further expansion of the program.

(h) DEFINITIONS- In this section:

- (1) The term 'TRICARE program' has the meaning given that term in section 1072(7) of title 10, United States Code.

**Statement for the Record**

**The Honorable Paul C. Broun, M.D. (GA-10)**

**Committee on Armed Services, U.S. House of Representatives**

**Hearing On: National Defense Priorities from Members for the FY 2014 National Defense Authorization Act**

**Wednesday, May 8, 2013**

Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member Smith, Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

There are two issues which I would like to briefly discuss before the Committee. The first relates to the continued controversy over the U.S. government's ability to indefinitely detain, without trial, U.S. citizens who are accused of terrorism or collaboration with terrorist groups. The second issue is related to the first, regarding the government's use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs or "drones") to kill suspected terrorists, either in the U.S. or overseas. These issues are related insofar as they both raise the question of how, under the Constitution, suspected terrorists ought to be treated, particularly those who are U.S. citizens. While past versions of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) have attempted to shed light on this question, it seems that there remains significant doubt over what the legal process should be when suspected terrorists are identified by our government.

Central to this debate is language in the Authorization for Use of Military Force in Afghanistan (AUMF) giving the U.S. government the authority to indefinitely detain individuals suspected of terrorism. The AUMF became law in 2001 and was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2004 in *Hamdi v. Rumsfeld*. While both the 2012 and 2013 NDAA bills stated that nothing in the underlying bill gives the U.S. government the authority to detain U.S. citizens suspected of terrorism without due process, neither bill included language to repeal the authority granted under the AUMF. This apparent disparity has resulted in widespread concern about whether the U.S. government may, in fact, indefinitely detain U.S. citizens accused of terrorism. If the government does have this power under the law, it is unclear under what circumstances it may use this potentially sweeping power against its own people.

Last year, I supported an amendment to the NDAA offered by Ranking Member Smith which would have ensured that individuals arrested on U.S. soil under either the AUMF or the FY13 NDAA would be provided with due process, as guaranteed by the Constitution. Unfortunately, this amendment did not pass in the House, and it was not included in the final bill language. I urge the Committee to include similar language in the FY14 NDAA, so that individuals who are accused of terrorism are afforded their right to a fair trial, either via the

criminal justice system or the military court system, depending on the situation and the citizenship of the accused.

Moreover, I urge the Committee to work towards perfecting the definition of “enemy combatant,” a broad designation which lacks a clear meaning and may be placed on individuals under the AUMF in order to allow for their indefinite detention. Allowing any administration to use such a vague designation to punish individuals without due process opens the door to exceedingly dangerous scenarios, including classifying dissenters as potential terrorists who may be punished without regard to their constitutional rights.

At the same time, I am very concerned about the “white paper” recently released by the U.S. Department of Justice, which outlines the legal framework for the use of deadly force against American citizens. While this document purportedly relates only to individuals who are suspected of working as forces of al Qaeda, I believe that it is highly dangerous nonetheless. Most significantly, it is unconscionable for the U.S. government to kill any of its own citizens without first allowing them their day in court. As with the designation of “enemy combatants,” I believe that no administration has the right to be the judge, jury, and executioner of American citizens. Our country was founded under the notion that citizens must be protected from this type of tyrannical overreach, and even in these times marred by terrorist threats, it is imperative that we stay true to that important principle.

Unfortunately, the potential for deadly force against Americans has grown with the increased use of drones by the U.S. military. While drones certainly provide a number of benefits to our armed forces, they have also become a symbol of the ease with which our government may infringe upon the constitutional rights of our citizens simply by unilaterally declaring that an individual is a terrorist, that capture is too difficult, and that his immediate demise is the best course of action, regardless of his rights. Of course, drones may also serve non-lethal functions, and as a result, their use has led to questions regarding when they may be used to gather intelligence on citizens without their knowledge or consent. I therefore urge the Committee to address the use of drones by the U.S. military, and to fine-tune the administration’s legal framework to ensure that the constitutional rights of all Americans – even those who are accused of terrorism – are protected at all times.

In the aftermath of the recent bombing in Boston, it is more important than ever to ensure that we have a system that will work to punish those who wish to do us harm, while working within the protections established by our Constitution. One of the most challenging dilemmas of our time is how to balance individual liberties with providing the military with the tools it needs to keep our nation safe. However, a free society demands limits on these tools, and these limits are clearly stated within the Constitution. I ask that the Committee do all it can to ensure that Americans’ God-given, constitutional rights are protected as it begins work on this important legislation. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify before you today.

May 8, 2013

**STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD  
BY  
THE HONORABLE TOM MCCLINTOCK**

**FISCAL YEAR 2014 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BUDGET REQUEST  
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES**

As the Air Force prepares to sustain and modernize its Intercontinental Ballistic Missile fleet, I believe that competitive process among suppliers should be a fundamental consideration in future acquisition decisions. I have enclosed draft report language to reflect the need for this priority and would appreciate its inclusion in the Fiscal Year 2014 National Defense Authorization Act.

The Air Force is currently evaluating propulsion alternatives to sustain the only land-based ICBM in service (Minuteman III) until 2030. Additionally, the Air Force is also conducting its alternative analysis to develop options for modernization or replacement of the ground-based leg of United States' nuclear arsenal post 2030.

My requested language would direct the Air Force to report to Congress on efforts it will undertake to enhance and maintain a viable, competitive evaluation process in regards to future acquisitions.

Mr. Chairman, I ask that the language (below) be made part of the record:

*“The Committee directs the Air Force, within 180 days, to provide a report on specific efforts it will undertake to enhance and maintain competition between multiple providers when evaluating propulsion alternatives in order to sustain the Minuteman III ICBM strategic weapon system until 2030, and what specific efforts it will undertake to enhance and maintain a competitive process when evaluating whether to modernize or replace the Minuteman III ICBM strategic weapon system post 2030.”*

Mr. Chairman, I hope you and the Committee share my views on this matter and will give this request favorable consideration. Thank you for your efforts to improve our national security.

House Armed Service Committee  
FY14 NDAA Member Day Hearing  
Testimony of Congresswoman Chellie Pingree (ME-01)  
May 8, 2013

Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member Smith: Thank you for this opportunity to testify today on the Fiscal Year 2014 National Defense Authorization Act.

As a former Member of the Armed Services Committee, I want to thank the Committee for providing this opportunity to weigh in on the upcoming defense bill. Having spent my first four years in Congress on this Committee, I know the work that goes into crafting this legislation and I thank you and the staff in advance for your hard work and dedication to America's service members.

My Congressional District in Maine has a strong and proud tradition of support for America's Armed Forces. More than 20 percent of the population is veterans and service members. We have a very active shipbuilding base at Bath Iron Works and we continue to provide Naval support through the work done at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine. In fact, as you may know, Portsmouth was founded over 200 years ago and is the oldest continuously operating shipyard in the United States Navy.

I support the President's budget request for Navy Shipbuilding and Construction.

In particular, I was pleased to see the funding levels for the Zumwalt Destroyer (the DDG-1000s) and the Arleigh Burke Destroyers (the DDG-51). Also, I support the multiyear advanced procurement in the DDG-51 account. I urge the Committee to at least provide the President's budget request in these areas.

Additionally, I am very supportive of the effort to contract additional Arleigh Burke-class destroyers this summer, with work to be completed over the next five years. This would provide significant and meaningful jobs in Maine and many others.

I want to urge the Committee to support the rebuilding of the USS Miami nuclear submarine that is currently being done at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. Currently, this project has been supported by the Navy and I am eager to ensure that Congress provide the Navy with the resources to make sure the repair of the Miami is completed.

Some of the best shipbuilders in the world live and work in Maine. Both BIW and the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard have well-earned reputations for their efficiency, on-time delivery and world-class quality. The public and private investment in both of these yards has been considerable, and it shows. It is vitally important for the Navy to keep these yards fully operational and keep the highly skilled and experienced workers on the job. If we were to lose the industrial capacity at Bath and Kittery, it would be very hard to ever get it back.

Another issue of concern is the economic redevelopment of closed military installations, like the Brunswick Naval Air Station, which was selected for closure in the 2005 BRAC round, before I came to Congress. Congress enacted a number of different incentives to help these bases recover economic vitality. One incentive is the inclusion of a BRAC'd base in the list



of areas eligible for assistance under the SBA's HUBZone program, which provides improved federal contracting opportunities. However, in order to obtain these preferences, 35% of a business' employees must live within the HUBZone itself.

For many BRAC'd bases, this presents an obvious problem because there isn't necessarily sufficient housing at closed bases for new employees to reside in and as a result, the HUBZone designation for BRAC'd bases is very difficult to use. Modifying the residency requirement for BRAC'd installations to the immediate surrounding communities is a common sense solution to this technical problem.

Although the loss of the Brunswick Naval Air Station has had a significant impact on the local economy, the community has done a tremendous job taking what the Navy has left behind and transforming it into a *civilian* economic engine for the region. But there is a lot of work still to do, and this simple and common sense reform to the way HUBZones are designated will help develop businesses and create the good-paying jobs that will grow the economy in the area.

Lastly, I want to call attention to the issue of Military Sexual Assault. Just this week we heard of yet another horrific incident of sexual assault that reportedly occurred in the Air Force. We all know the lasting consequences of sexual assault and I'd like to talk about one of those consequences very briefly.

Many victims of military sexual assault need and want to seek mental health counseling, but for many years, service members who sought counseling had that used against them when they applied to renew or get an initial security clearance.

I was pleased that on April 5<sup>th</sup> the Director of National Intelligence issued Interim Guidance for victims of military sexual assault who seek to obtain or renew a security clearance. Question 21 of the Security Form 86 (SF86) *formerly asked* if you have consulted a health care professional regarding an emotional or mental health condition in the last seven years. In the past, many victims of military sexual assault refrained from seeking counseling because they feared it would prevent them from obtaining a security clearance. Under the Interim Guidance, victims of military sexual assault who received counseling strictly related to the assault are now directed to answer No to Q21.

I request that the Committee support language that directs the service departments to include information about this new guidance at the earliest stages possible, so sexual assault survivors can be comforted that we want them to seek mental health counseling and it won't be used against them as they continue their military careers.

Thank you Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith for the opportunity to speak today on these critical issues.

**Testimony of Rep. Bill Posey (FL-8)  
House Armed Services Committee  
May 8, 2013**

Dear Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in advance of the Committee's consideration of the FY2014 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). National defense is the federal government's greatest Constitutional responsibility. I appreciate the challenges faced by the Committee, especially after sequestration, with its impact falling significantly more on defense as compared to all other federal spending.

In regards to the FY2014 NDAA, I have a letter that I am submitting with a number of priorities, and I would appreciate the Committee's attention to those requests.

I would like to address in my remarks my concern about the Administration letting slip from its budget the important Range Communications Building ("XY Building") at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. This building must be updated for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The XY building is the hub for command, telemetry and radar for Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Kennedy Space Center, Wallops Island, and all down range space launch sites. It is indispensable for military and NASA launches.

I've been inside the XY Building and not much has changed since the 1970's. Despite its importance for national security, it feels like a museum. The original structure predates the Apollo era, and the facility still utilizes vacuum tubes. I think there are Members not even old enough to remember vacuum tubes! The building is also prone to flooding, which can render it unusable. There are safety concerns with the structure. If you think I am exaggerating, I would be happy to tour it with you.

Our national security and our leadership in space depends on a capable and functioning XY Building. I am informed the Air Force has indicated in previous years that a new facility is a very high priority, but the FY 2014 President's Budget Request did not address this. I understand that the Air Force may place a request for a new facility in the FY2015 Budget, but I've heard some in the Pentagon are looking to put off this critical project until 2017 or beyond.

I am concerned that this can keep getting kicked down the road. I would ask that the Committee include Report language expressing interest in ensuring that a safe, secure, reliable and modern range communications building be operational in accordance with the needs of the U.S. military and NASA. Such language should direct the Air Force to report back to the Committee the steps being taken to ensure that this upgraded facility, critical to national security, is not being unnecessarily delayed or that the delay in any way jeopardizes U.S. space launch capabilities.

There are other defense priorities, which I believe merit your attention. In separate correspondence, including the letter below, I have outlined these for your consideration. Thank you again for the opportunity to bring these issues to your attention.

BILL POSEY  
8th District, Florida

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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

www.posey.house.gov

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
120 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 226-3671  
FAX (202) 226-3616

14TH DISTRICT OFFICE:  
2726 JUDGE FRANK JAMESON WAY, BLDG. C  
MELBOURNE, FL 32940  
(321) 624-1776  
FAX (321) 629-8986

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
ROSMAN RIVER COUNTY ADMIN. BLDG. A  
1722 226-1701

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
BREVARD COUNTY GOVERNMENT OFFICES  
20 TRUSSARD  
(321) 383-6090

May 8, 2013

The Honorable Howard "Buck" McKeon  
Chairman  
House Committee on Armed Services  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman McKeon:

As the Committee works on the 2014 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) please consider including the following items.

**Report Language on the Range Communications Building, Cape Canaveral Air Force Station**

This building is the hub for command, telemetry and radar for CCAFS, Kennedy Space Center, Wallops Island and all down range sites including networks for our warfighters. The facility is indispensable for launches. The original building predates the Apollo era, and despite several expansions over the years is prone to flooding and structural deficiencies. I am informed the Air Force has indicated that a new facility is a very high priority, but the FY 2014 President's Budget Request did not address this. I understand that the Air Force may place a request for a new facility in the FY2015 Budget. I would ask that the Committee include Report language expressing interest in ensuring that a safe, secure, reliable and modern range communications building be in operation in accordance with the needs of the U.S. military and NASA. The Air Force should report back to the Committee on the steps being taken to ensure that this upgraded facility, critical to national security, is not being unnecessarily delayed or that the delay in any way jeopardizes U.S. space launch capabilities.

**Report language to retain the T-3 Test Aircraft for JSTARS**

The E-8 Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System (JSTARS) is a critical national security asset that detects and tracks moving targets over land and water. The President's FY2014 Budget Request places the JSTARS T-3 test aircraft into preservation storage. However, the T-3 is important to support the reliability of the Joint Stars fleet through test and development activities. Please consider including report language directing retention of the T-3 test aircraft to ensure the JSTARS fleet is being utilized to its full potential.

In written testimony for the Senate Armed Services on April 24, 2013, Lt. General Charles Davis described JSTARS as a world premier platform. JSTARS has performed in Iraq and Afghanistan, and is dependable for early deployment to monitor emerging crisis situations. General Davis mentioned that critical near term diminishing manufacturing sources (DMS) would not cause grounding of any Joint STARS platforms until 2025 or later. Modernization efforts are keeping JSTARS viable to support the National Military Strategy.

#### **Report Language on Cyber and Cellular Security**

In separate correspondence, dated March 21, 2013, I asked the Committee to consider Report language on 1) cyber defense technology, and 2) threats related to the exploitation of commercial cellular networks. I understand House Armed Services Committee professional staff are in the process of reviewing these requests. Suggested language was included in my earlier correspondence.

#### **Support President's FY2014 Request for the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye Program**

In separate correspondence, I joined colleagues in supporting the President's request for the Navy's multi-year procurement of the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye program. Fiscal Year 2014 is the first of a planned five-year procurement, which would provide the Navy with 32 E-2D aircraft while generating considerable savings for the taxpayer. As stated in a letter sent to the Committee on May 7, 2013: "The E-2D program, which is currently in development, has met every major milestone on schedule since the program's inception in 2003. Full funding for the E-2D ensures that the carrier air wings will fully realize the power and protection provided by this state-of-the art early warning and battle management command and control weapons system."

#### **Funding for Bradley Fighting Vehicles**

As you are aware, the FY2013 NDAA and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act for 2013 provided an additional \$140 million to maintain the Bradley Fighting Vehicle Production Base. I am informed that manufacturers of the Bradley are asking for Congressional support to direct the Army to move forward out-year funds from FY2015 and FY2016 to help the Army better meet its needs for modernized vehicles with M3 to M2 conversions. Although such changes would likely require consent by the Appropriations Committee, to the extent that the Armed Services Committee is taking into consideration the Army's industrial base and production and supply chain network, please consider the best distribution of these funds over the three-year period.

#### **Report Language on the Public-Public and Public-Private (P4) Initiative**

I am encouraged that the Air Force is being proactive and looking for innovative partnerships with local governments. The 45th Space Wing and the Economic Development Commission (EDC) of Florida's Space Coast are currently in dialogue regarding opportunities for public-private partnerships. This form of collaboration has great potential for all parties involved, not least the taxpayer, as we face challenges posed

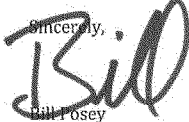
by tighter budgets. Please consider including the suggested report language as the Air Force continues to move forward with these partnerships.

*The Committee is impressed with the Department of the Air Force's efforts in trying to reduce operating and service costs through the Installation-Community partnerships. The Intergovernmental Services Agreement approach was authorized in the Fiscal Year 2013 National Defense Authorization Act and we believe it provides the necessary authority for the military services to proceed with these innovative and cost-cutting agreements that are especially effective in the severe budget environment. In fact, these are good management practices that should always be pursued regardless of the fiscal climate. The shared services approach is a 'win-win' for the military as well as for local government when approached in the proper manner and we applaud the Air Force for their efforts to date and would look to them for a report on their activities in by March 31, 2014. We understand that the DoD is formulating the necessary policies and procedures for administering this effort, but we are encouraged with the progress being made.*

**Bill Language for Space A Transportation**

Please consider including language in the NDAA from a bill I recently introduced, H.R. 1756, the Deployed Troops Support Act. The bill authorizes the Secretary of Defense to transport to any country, without charge, supplies furnished by a nonprofit that are intended for distribution to members of the Armed Forces. The Secretary would have authority to determine that there is a legitimate need for the goods being shipped, that supplies are suitable for distribution, and that adequate arrangements have been made for distribution. There is already a policy, the "Denton Program" under Section 402 of Title 10, which allows nonprofits to ship humanitarian goods overseas at the discretion of the Secretary. This legislation would extend this discretionary authority for goods to be shipped to U.S. service members on a space available basis.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,  
  
Bill Posey  
Member of Congress

**Statement of the Honorable Glenn ‘GT’ Thompson, Representative,  
Pennsylvania’s Fifth Congressional District**

**Before the House Armed Services Committee**

**Hearing on, “*National Defense Priorities from Members for the FY  
2014 National Defense Authorization Act*”**

**As prepared for delivery  
May 8, 2013**

Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member Smith, Members of the Armed Service Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify before you today.

This Committee has done an excellent job supporting the brave men and women who serve our country, which is a passion I share with each of you.

Two years ago, I worked very closely with the Committee to include the Servicemembers Telemedicine and E-Health Portability Act, or STEP Act, in the Fiscal Year 2012 National Defense Authorization Act, which was signed into law in December of 2012.

The STEP Act was a positive step forward in modernizing how the Department of Defense delivers health care. Specifically, it made widespread telemedicine possible and accessible by expanding the state licensure exemption to all DOD health care professionals, regardless of where they, or the patient, are located.

Many Committee Members have worked closely on the issue of mental health and suicide prevention, and know just how important it is for our service members to get treatment – without delay. Of equal importance, is ensuring that our service members can access care without the stigma that is often associated with seeking mental health treatment. The STEP Act is assisting with achieving these very goals.

Last year after passage of the STEP Act, the Army was able to perform nearly 36,000 teleconsultations, which included over 31,200 tele-behavioral health clinical encounters. This is an incredible achievement, and great start.

Since passage, I have worked closely with the Department of Defense to monitor its implementation.

In large part, the Services have embraced these changes. In a new memo to the service chiefs this year, the DOD presented the first part of STEP Act implementation with a broad waiver to expand telemedicine. This waiver was a tremendous step forward.

However, there remain two areas which the DOD needs to address:

- First, the waiver does not allow service members to use telemedicine from their homes, only “fixed facilities.”
- Second, TRICARE providers were not included as a part of this waiver for licensure portability.



However, the STEP Act already clearly addressed both of these waiver issues. This is my concern. The DOD has not fully implemented the spirit or letter of the law.

We need to make health services and care as convenient and accessible as possible, especially when it comes to mental health. There is no better way to remove the stigma of seeking mental health from a bricks and mortar facility, in plain sight of colleagues, than to allow our service members to access care in the comfort and privacy of their own homes.

As for TRICARE, the exclusion of these providers equates to the categorical exclusion of thousands of mental health care workers from being able to provide assistance, at a time when there is a recognized lack of qualified providers.

Yesterday I had the opportunity to speak with Dr. Jonathan Woodson, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, and relayed some of my concerns to him. Dr. Woodson has done a great job with many of the licensing details of the STEP Act and has promised to reexamine the waiver issue, in order to address some of these concerns.

We face serious challenges when it comes to meeting the health care needs of our returning services members. We also face escalating costs in health care, during a time of budgetary constraints. The STEP Act law is allowing us to effectively navigate both of these challenges – providing quality and expanded care while simultaneously reducing costs.

As I mentioned earlier, over 31,000 tele-behavioral health clinical encounters took place last year. This represents a nearly

800% growth since 2009, and is still only between clinical locations. These numbers will continue to increase and would undoubtedly have a tremendous impact if allowed to further expand.

With this in mind, I respectfully request the Committee's assistance in working with the Pentagon to fully implement this law. If full implementation is not or cannot be achieved under the existing authorization, further legislative clarification or additional statutory guidance may be needed.

Again, I would like to thank the Committee and distinguished members for the opportunity to provide testimony today. I look forward to working together to achieve these goals.

**Statement of  
Congressman Diane Black  
Before the House Armed Services Committee  
National Defense Authorization Act of 2014**

**May 8, 2013**

Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member Smith, Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the House Armed Services Committee to highlight the importance of hypersonics technologies as it relates to the 2014 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). As Chairman of the Congressional Range and Testing Center Caucus, I urge my colleagues to consider the applications of hypersonics for the defense of the United States.

The development of hypersonic systems—flying at Mach 5 and above—would yield unique “game-changing” capabilities for U.S. national security interests.

Advances in propulsion, structures, thermal protection systems, guidance, and other areas will allow the U.S. to field high-speed time-critical strike (HSTCS) weapons. These weapons would be able to strike targets from several hundred miles away faster than adversaries could react and defend against them and from longer “stand-off” ranges still fast enough to be effective. Recent U.S. Government studies indicate that HSTCS weapons are almost in our grasp—“the low-hanging fruit on the tree.”

A second application of hypersonics is conventional prompt global strike (CPGS)—striking high-value or “fleeting targets” thousands of miles away deep inside adversary countries in as little as one hour after launch without using forward-based assets.

Hypersonics technologies may also allow developing high-speed intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities. Both airbreathing and rocket powered vehicles are envisioned to provide responsive, unwarned, and survivable ISR. Sub-orbital trans-atmospheric vehicles (TAVs) would provide global non-invasive coverage of other countries by flying through space above them.

Progress in hypersonics technologies and developing the systems described above would also bring closer to reality the hypersonics “holy grail” of hypersonic air-breathing space access, a capability with far-reaching implications for national defense as well as our civil space sector.

Although hypersonics technologies offer these exciting capabilities, it is important to ask in these times of strained budgets whether we should pursue them.

The answer to that question is that other countries are investing in hypersonics. India now has cruise missiles and surface-to-air missiles that exceed Mach 2.8, and the European Meteor air-to-air missile is to be fielded as early as this year with a Mach 4+ capability. England, France, Germany, Japan, and Sweden are also known to be interested in hypersonic technology.

Potential adversaries such as China, Russia, and Iran are pursuing the strategic advantages hypersonic systems offer. China in particular is striving to develop an Anti-Access/Area Denial (A2/AD) capability, using Integrated Air Defense Systems (IADS) and tactical ballistic missiles (TBMs) to deny access and freedom of action to U.S. forces. China clearly wants to counter the Obama Administration's "Pivot to the Pacific", which is a response to China's increasingly assertive behavior in that region.

The U.S. has historically benefited from robust testing and evaluation (T&E) infrastructure in developing cutting edge military technologies. Successful development of hypersonics technologies will—like all new technologies—have new T&E requirements. I urge my colleagues to consider our ability to meet these requirements in composing this year's NDAA.

The federal government's most important responsibility is to protect U.S. citizens from foreign threats. The potential for hypersonics technologies to maintain our strategic and tactical military advantages and our ability to field such a technology must be considered with the current threat environment in mind.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to submit this statement. I look forward to working with the Committee on this issue to protect U.S. citizens and our national security interests.

Congressman Rick Crawford

**Testimony before the House Armed Services Committee:  
EOD Priorities for the FY2014 NDAA**

Good morning Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member Smith, and distinguished members of the Committee. Thank you for the work you do to preserve the security of our great nation and for allowing me to testify before the full committee regarding Explosive Ordnance Disposal priorities for the Fiscal Year 2014 National Defense Authorization Act. I served in the Army as an EOD tech and I am proud to be a co-founder, along with Committee member Susan Davis, of the House EOD Caucus.

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines are the military's preeminent team of explosive experts. They are trained and equipped to identify and neutralize explosives used by terrorist networks across the globe. The military's EOD mission is to defeat globally emerging threats using explosive. EOD techs protect their fellow military personnel and innocent civilians from these threats while providing support across a wide range of military and civilian national security operations.

EOD forces have proven to be game changers in attacking and dismantling terrorist cells and associated networks. These forces will continue to be indispensable assets for the foreseeable future, supporting counterterrorism operations, building the capacity of partner nations and protecting the homeland through providing support to civilian law enforcement agencies at federal, state and local levels.

Thank you for the Committee's support of the EOD, beginning with the Fiscal Year 2008 NDAA that inquired into the health and viability of the EOD force. I am especially appreciative of the Committee's direction to the Secretary of Defense in the last three NDAs to provide reports to the Committee to develop a better understanding of the Services' plans for EOD force structure and funding. It is critical that the EOD is provided with adequate levels of funding for procurement; research, development, test and evaluation; and operations and maintenance to carry out their mission. A GAO Report from last month concluded that the DOD needs better resource planning and joint guidance to manage the EOD. The report also reveals that the Army and the Marine Corps still have not established a Program Element for their respective EOD force since the Committee's initial inquiry in the 2008 NDAA.

The Boston bombings serve as a stark reminder of the threat of the terrorist detonation of explosives in the United States and have revealed gaps in the Nation's ability to defeat a sustained bombing campaign in the homeland. Following the attacks, the Army Forces Command issued guidance that the local Staff Judge Advocate must review every civil authority request for emergency EOD response prior to sending aid to ensure that the support does not violate the Posse Comitatus Act of 1878. In addition, the guidance requires that a general officer must then approve each of these EOD immediate responses and must ensure that civil authorities will reimburse the Army as a condition of immediate response.

There is an estimated 66,000 “call outs” annually across the United States on explosive ordnance by interagency, military EOD and public safety bomb squads. Army EOD units responding under immediate response authority have historically departed their home station installation within 30 minutes of notification during duty hours and within 60 minutes of notification after duty hours, 365 days a year. On these civil support missions, the EOD has provided support to civilian law enforcement agencies but they do not perform law enforcement activities.

In one of the most significant examples of the EOD civil support missions, the 387<sup>th</sup> Ordnance Company from Camp Edwards, Massachusetts, responded to 64 “call outs” during the Boston bombing. This support was critical in the aftermath of the attack. I understand the need to ensure that the EOD is compliant with the Posse Comitatus Act in any of its civil support missions, but it is vital that we do not overcorrect for a non-existent violation and negatively impact the ability of our EOD forces to provide increasingly needed and immediate support to our civilian law enforcement agencies.

We must also ensure that our EOD units, like the 387<sup>th</sup> out of Massachusetts, are properly equipped to respond to explosive threats in cities and towns throughout the U.S. Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles, or MRAPS, are critically needed vehicles for EOD operations in Afghanistan, but I feel that Army National Guard EOD units, comprising one third of the Army EOD Force, need response vehicles like those used by WMD-Civil Support Teams. These units also need portable containment magazines to safely store explosives as well as communications

capable of integrating with the civilian law enforcement agencies that they're supporting. These National Guard units should also receive Training Readiness Oversight and active duty Soldier support from FORSCOM / 20<sup>th</sup> Support Command. Most importantly, they need to receive funding from an Army Program Element for EOD.

I feel that there are a number of issues that we can address in this year's NDAA that can help strengthen our preeminent explosive experts. As you draft the NDAA, please consider including language to:

1. Direct the Secretary of Defense to Establish a Program Element on "Emerging Threats – Explosive Ordnance" under the OSD Combating Terrorism Technical Support Office.
2. Clarify that the EOD's immediate response authority saves lives and protects property and is not viewed as a law enforcement activity under the Posse Comitatus Act.
3. Emphasize that the Commander of U.S. Northern Command's Joint Force Land Component Command and U.S. Army North must work closely with the Army Forces Command's 20<sup>th</sup> Support Command (CBRNE) and the 52d, 71<sup>st</sup> and 111<sup>th</sup> Ordnance Groups (EOD) on EOD activities in coordination with the Department of Justice Joint Terrorism Task Forces.
4. Direct the Secretary of the Army to Establish a Program Element on "Army EOD Program", managed by the Headquarters Department of the Army G-38, to consolidate functions and



achieve savings for EOD procurement, research, development, test and evaluation, and operations and maintenance.

5. Direct the Secretary of the Navy to Establish a Program Element on "Marine Corps EOD Program", managed by the Headquarters, Marine Corps, Logistics Plans and Operations, to consolidate functions and achieve savings for EOD procurement, research, development, test and evaluation, and operations and maintenance.

Thank you again for the opportunity to present my testimony today. I look forward to working with the Committee in the near future to craft legislation that supports the critical Joint Explosive Ordnance Disposal Forces in their mission to defend the homeland and our interests aboard. I remain available to the Committee for further assistance on EOD matters, and I thank you for your consideration.

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

May 7, 2013

The Honorable Howard P. "Buck" McKeon  
Chairman  
House Armed Services Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith  
Ranking Member  
House Armed Services Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith:

We respectfully request your support for a report from the Secretary of Defense pertaining to the current use and opportunities for enhanced electronic contracting.

Doing business with the federal government should not be a burdensome or daunting task. Thanks to technological advancement in recent years, including the development of FedBizOpps, the Federal procurement process has been greatly improved. While FedBizOpps currently provides universal access to contract opportunities and solicitations electronically, the public should also be enabled to respond to the solicitations electronically.

Congress recognized the need to adapt federal procurement policy to 21<sup>st</sup> century realities when it adopted Section 850 of Public Law 105-85 – the National Defense Authorization Act for FY1998. This Act placed the responsibility on government agencies to establish, maintain and use, to the maximum extent practical and cost effective, procedures and processes that employ electronic commerce in the conduct and administration of its procurement system.

The NDAA not only directed federal agencies to provide universal access to contract opportunities and solicitations through a single, Government-wide port of entry (FedBizOpps) but also directed the agencies to **"permit the public to respond to the solicitation electronically."**

The attached legislative and report language would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report outlining the Department's plans to address the requirement in Section 850 of the NDAA for FY1998 regarding the use of electronic commerce in federal procurement. We respectfully urge you to include language to this effect in the NDAA for FY2014.

Sincerely,



Bob Gibbs  
Member of Congress



Tom Rice  
Member of Congress

**Proposed Title**

Report on Current Use and Opportunities for Enhanced Electronic Contracting

**Proposed Language (Bill)**

- (a) Report – Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report outlining the Department's plans to address the requirement in Section 850 of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY1998 regarding the use of electronic commerce in federal procurement.
- (b) Matters Included. – The report submitted under subsection (a) shall include, with respect to the two fiscal years before the fiscal year in which the report is submitted, the following information:
1. An enumeration of the number, type, and dollar value of Department solicitations in which the public was permitted to respond to the solicitation electronically. This enumeration shall differentiate between solicitations that allow full or partial electronic submissions.
  2. An analysis of the ability of the data collected through electronic submissions to be used for broader reporting and data usage by the Department.
  3. An analysis of the potential benefits and obstacles to implementing fuller use of electronic submissions, including cost savings, reduction in errors, paperwork reduction, broader bidder participation, competition, and the enhanced use of data collection for management and timely reporting to Congress.
  4. An analysis of the available options and technologies for broader implementation and the suitability of each option, by contract type and size, for implementation.

**Proposed Accompanying Report Language**

The Committee has long been involved in and successful in improving the federal effort to modernize the contracting process. In fact, the statutory language creating FedBizOpps was included in the Fiscal Year 1998 National Defense Authorization Act.

The Committee recognizes the efforts made government wide and by the Department to make contract postings more accessible to a larger section of the public, encouraging competition, small business participation, and securing best value for the taxpayers.

The Committee is aware that the Department does receive electronic submissions for some portion of its solicitations, and that the amount of data received electronically varies. It also is aware that many contract solicitations still require a paper only submission.

More than 15 years ago, Congress included language in the FY1998 National Defense Authorization Act that effectively initiated the FedBizOpps program as a single government-wide venue for federal agencies to advertise business opportunities. In addition to establishing a single, Government-wide port of entry, that same Act also required "permitting the public to respond to the solicitation electronically."

The Committee is aware of the experience of many local and state jurisdictions in allowing the electronic submission of responses to solicitations, and is interested in the potential for cost-savings, enhanced use of data for management and timely reporting to Congress, the reduction of data errors and completeness of responses, and for enhanced competition and reduced thresholds for broader small business participation.

The Committee seeks a report from the Secretary on the number, type, and dollar volume of electronic submission availability on solicitations posted over the past two fiscal years, as well as the Secretary's analysis of the potential benefits, challenges to implementation, and potential technological solutions to broader implementation.

**Proposal Justification**

Section 850 of Public Law 105-85, also known as the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998, detailed the requirements for the use of electronic commerce in Federal procurement. This Act placed the responsibility on government agencies to establish, maintain and use, to the maximum extent practical and cost effective, procedures and processes that employ electronic commerce in the conduct and administration of its procurement system.

Other key elements of the FY988 NDAA included:

- Applying nationally and internationally recognized standards.
- Facilitating access for small businesses to Federal Government procurement opportunities.
- Providing agency requirements or solicitations for contract opportunities in a form that allows universal access through a single, Government-wide port of entry.

Over the course of the next few years, FedBizOpps became the recognized single government-wide venue for federal agencies to advertise business opportunities.

The NDAA not only directed federal agencies to provide universal access to contract opportunities and solicitations through a single, Government-wide port of entry (FedBizOpps) but also directed the agencies to **“permit the public to respond to the solicitation electronically.”** This was done with the goal of providing an easier way to access and respond to federal solicitations and contract opportunities and to encourage greater participation in the federal procurement process, thereby making it more user-friendly, more competitive and cost-effective. Electronic submissions also reduce errors, facilitate bidding, and allow for data to be more easily reviewed, tracked, and assessed by the agency.

FedBizOpps is now the gold standard in terms of providing the “entry” into the federal procurement marketplace, as Congress intended. However, the ability to respond electronically is limited. In most cases, interested vendors must submit proposals and bids on paper requiring mail, courier or other delivery methods. Or, they can electronically submit information via document attachments to e-mail. In neither case are submissions being truly delivered electronically.

Based on the experience of local and state governments implementation of true electronic submissions, significant benefits have accrued to both those governments and their counterparts in the contracting community. With the ability to submit bid information over the internet, federal contractors could streamline their workflows and reduce their cost of submitting and delivering bids. Online bidding also benefits public agencies resulting in a win-win situation for all parties involved. Benefits may include:

- *Simplifies and Standardizes*
  - online bidding allows an agency or buying command to standardize and simplify the bidding or grant submission process through a secure online format
  - Submissions can be configured to not mark a bid form as complete unless designated areas are checked, or without an appropriate calculation.
- *Simplifies Contract Planning and Management, Reduces Overhead, Reduces Paperwork & Simplifies Review Process*
  - Grant/Bid review teams would be able to seamlessly receive and review electronically applications/proposals and compare apples to apples.

- *Reduces Errors, Protects the Agency Buyer*

There are options available to online bidding would include the ability to provide math computations and checks for bid completeness to alert the user before they submit an incorrect or

incomplete bid that might get rejected as unresponsive. At the same time, to protect the taxpayer, technology is available that also would not allow incomplete or inaccurate calculations, or calculations outside a preset range. This important feature would protect the federal buyer from potential cost overruns and will reduce the possibility of bid protests based on technical miscalculation.

- *Empowers Small Business*
  - Accessible simple online bidding process allows more small businesses to access federal procurement easier.
- *Encourages Competition*
  - Online facilitation of the RFP process will increase bidding and weed out unresponsive proposals.
- *Greater Transparency*
  - For all parties to protect the taxpayer and to honor full and open competition requirements.
  - The Committee has asked, required, and otherwise encouraged the Department to do more fulsome tracking of contracted items

**Congressman Paul A. Gosar**

Statement for the Record

House Armed Services Committee Hearing: FY14 National Defense Authorization Act

*Wednesday, May 8, 2013*

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Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the committee—I thank you for allowing me to testify before you all. I appreciate the fair and open process that is taking place here today. I come before you to highlight a serious issue facing a group of my constituents.

By way of background, the *Radiation Exposure Compensation Act of 1990*, or RECA, established a trust fund to provide compassionate lump-sum payments to individuals—commonly referred to as “down winders”—who have contracted certain cancers and other serious diseases that are presumed to be the result of their exposure to ionizing radiation from above-ground nuclear weapons testing or from various activities in connection with uranium mining. Though the testing in question was performed in Nevada, radioactive elements affected people in Utah and Arizona as well.

The original language in the 1990 RECA used a broad definition of the affected areas in Arizona. That language reads “that part of Arizona that is north of the Grand Canyon and west of the Colorado River”. That definition therefore included northern Mohave County, Arizona in its definition, as it is the county in Arizona that is closest to Nevada and therefore closest to the testing ranges.

But when RECA was reauthorized and amended in 2000, the purpose was to *expand* eligibility. With respect to Arizonans’ eligibility, the definition of the affected areas changed to reflect specific counties. Of the five Arizona counties listed in the 2000 Act, Mohave County is *not* among them.

Then in 2002, technical corrections were made to the 2000 Act to reflect part of the 1990 language concerning Arizona. So, after the 2002 corrections, the law listed the 5 counties and included the language “and that part of Arizona that is north of the Grand Canyon”.

Again, Mohave County is the closest of the Arizona counties to the Nevada border and therefore to the nuclear testing ranges. The Arizona counties directly east and southeast from Mohave County are both covered in their entirety. This omission seems to be a clerical error—which is consistent with the fact that the 2000 reauthorization contained composition errors that had to be fixed in a separate 2002 Act.

To correct the omission, Congressman Trent Franks, a member of this Committee, introduced bills in the 111<sup>th</sup> and 112<sup>th</sup> Congresses to include Mohave County as an affected area for RECA purposes. Because I am now the representative of Mohave County, I have re-introduced the bill in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress. It is known as H.R. 424, the *Mohave County Radiation Compensation Act*, and I am pleased to have Representative Franks as an original cosponsor. I thank Representative Franks for his continued support for this cause. It is this exact language that I am seeking to have included in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014.

The trust fund associated with these claims has been active since 1992, and that fund will sunset in 2022, by statute. My goal is to ensure that the affected residents in Mohave County, Arizona have their fair shot at justified compensation before the trust fund is closed. It will not increase costs, it will simply allow constituents who should have been included in the 2002 law to submit a claim. Each Mohave claimant would be subject to the same burden of proof as the other claimants. But for Congress to deny the rest of Mohave County, Arizona the right to even file a claim is both inconsistent and careless.

Again, I thank the Committee for providing this opportunity to be heard. It is my hope that the Committee will favorably adopt this language and ensure that my constituents affected by the government's nuclear weapons tests are eligible for reasonable and justified compensation.

**Rep. Richard Hanna FY14 NDAA HASC testimony – May 8, 2013**

Good Afternoon,

Thank you Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the Committee for this opportunity and for your bipartisan support of our armed forces.

I come before you today to formally request the Committee's support for programs of monumental value to our nation's modern defense capabilities as you prepare the Fiscal Year 2014 National Defense Authorization Act.

Specifically, I request that the Committee support the President's Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Request for the Air Force's Dominant Information Sciences and Methods program and the Air Force's Battlespace Knowledge Development and Demonstration program.

These programs fulfill an essential mission that is critical to our national defense and our information management. The work completed by this funding is vital to developing and maintaining our defensive and offensive capabilities in the cyber security realm. In order to preserve secure networks and the technologies that allow us to deter enemy attacks against our systems, adequate funding of these programs is essential.

Equally important, these programs provide crucial services for our service's advanced communications, battlefield command and control, and intelligence exploitation abilities. As our services work to become more efficient and unified, these assets are central to the establishment of joint operations.

I believe the funding levels laid out in the President's Budget Request acknowledge the critical nature of these important programs. The technologies that are developed and demonstrated through this funding are essential to our continued 21st century national defense priorities. Their importance is clearly recognized by those who utilize the technologies and practices developed under these programs: including the services of the Defense Department, the intelligence community, and other federal agencies.

Therefore, I would like to formally ask my colleagues on this Committee to at least maintain the President's recommended funding levels for both of these programs within the Fiscal Year 2014 National Defense Authorization Act.

Thank you for your consideration and your time.



**Testimony of Congressman Robert Hurt (VA-5)  
Before the House Armed Services Committee**

**HEARING: National Defense Priorities from Members for the FY 2014 National Defense  
Authorization Act**

**Room 2118 Rayburn House Office Building  
May 8, 2013**

Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to testify before you today regarding our national defense priorities.

I come before you today to emphasize the important role that science and technology research play in advancing the mission of the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), and to encourage the development of an integrated science and technology campus with the University of Virginia (UVa) in Charlottesville and DIA Rivanna Station in Charlottesville.

DIA has reorganized its science and technology programs to adapt and better respond to increasingly sophisticated threats. In addition, DIA is transforming its operation to include more analysts and intelligence gathering activities in regions beyond the Middle East where it has focused so much of its energy over the last several years. In order to quickly adapt, DIA will need to work in collaboration to leverage assets already available in the academic and industrial research community to address new challenges expected to arise.

With four of its science and technology offices active in the Charlottesville region, Congress has called upon DIA to better integrate its activities into an integrated science and technology campus. This vision was encouraged to enhance DIA's abilities overall and to protect against fragmentation of its science and technology efforts. As threats become increasingly more complex and sophisticated, DIA science and technology programs will need to work together and leverage assets available in the academic and industrial research community to address new interdisciplinary challenges. An integrated science and technology campus would create an environment for these collaborative efforts to thrive.

Specifically, I urge the Committee to direct the DIA to submit to the House and Senate Armed Services Committees a strategic plan to complete this integration within 120 days of enactment of the FY2014 National Defense Authorization Act. This plan should address how the DIA is utilizing or plans to utilize academic, industry, and non-profit research organization capabilities to enhance its science and technology focus. It should also consider current facilities and what needs to be designed or constructed to realize the integrated campus.

Thank you again for inviting me to testify here before you today. I believe this process provides members an invaluable opportunity, and I appreciate the Committee's time and consideration.

Statement of  
Representative Steve Stivers  
National Defense Priorities from Members for the FY14 NDAA  
May 8, 2013

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I want to thank Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith for holding this hearing to allow Members to testify on behalf of their military personnel, assets, and community in our districts around the country – I would like to speak to Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base (RANGB), specifically.

As many are aware, the President submitted his fiscal year (FY) 2014 budget to Congress on April 15, 2013 to fund the government – including the Department of Defense (DoD). I was troubled to learn that the President and the Pentagon are again requesting a new round of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) in 2015.

In its latest review of the 2005 BRAC program the Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that the estimated cost of \$21 billion to implement the program had grown to \$35 billion by September 30, 2011. With these figures, it should give Congress pause in granting a new round of BRAC in 2015.

I would urge the committee to seriously consider the implications a new round of BRAC would have on our military and civilian personnel and particularly the potential impact it would have on the 121<sup>st</sup> Air Refueling Wing located at RANGB in Columbus, Ohio. The 121<sup>st</sup> is part of an operational reserve that can be called upon daily to conduct refueling and other missions around the world. I respectfully ask the committee to carefully review any proposal calling for a new round of BRAC.

Last year, the 2013 National Defense Authorization Act permitted the Air Force to retire six of the 18 KC-135 refueling aircraft currently stationed at RANGB. In addition to the short-term impact — the loss of nearly 200 jobs — I am concerned that the force structure change will negatively impact the economies of scale achieved at the base. The most recent findings of a RAND Corporation study show that RANGB, in its current configuration, is the second most cost-effective refueling operation in the Air National Guard. Compared to the active duty, the Air National Guard across the nation only costs 30 cents per dollar, where as active is dollar for dollar.

Being so cost-effective, I ask the committee's support for my Central and Southeast Ohio community that provide the manpower for RANGB and is well positioned strategically and economically to base the new KC-46 refueling aircraft mission. The Air Force announced January 9, 2013 that RANGB is one of five Air National Guard bases to be nominated as a candidate for the new aircraft and the site review process has begun. This month, the Air Force will announce the final two bases and I urge the committee to support Rickenbacker being the first KC-46 Air Refueling Wing in the Air National Guard. This would be a tremendous boost for the base, would help solidify the mission there in the long-term, and would help secure the tens of millions in economic impact derived from having the Air National Guard mission located at Rickenbacker.

Also, I would like to bring to the attention of the committee the opportunity to give the DoD guidance and direction on the possibility of future cost-sharing ventures with civilian aviation authorities to modernize joint military/civilian air traffic control towers.

I would request that the committee consider policy that would allow collaborative funding between the DoD and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to provide the best opportunity to manage critical aviation infrastructure investments by stakeholders with a joint military/civilian control tower – like Rickenbacker in my district.

Lastly, if a BRAC occurs in 2015 or DoD seeks programmatic changes, the committee should consider the impact of current criteria standards that disproportionately cause a negative rankings for Air Guard and Reserve bases – such as Rickenbacker – as compared to active duty bases. As you thoroughly review and craft the FY2014 National Defense Authorization Act, I request that this committee seek separate criteria standards to rank active Air Force and Air National Guard/Reserve bases.

Again, I appreciate the Chairman and Ranking Member for allowing me to testify today in support of my community and the Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base.

**Statement for the Record  
Congresswoman Suzan DelBene  
Washington's 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District**

HASC Member Testimony Day  
Wednesday, May 8, 2013

Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith, thank you for the opportunity to submit a statement to the Committee today. As you work towards the markup of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY 2014, I urge you to consider supporting the expansion and integration of Solar Electric In-Space Propulsion (SEP) technology, an advanced, highly efficient method of propulsion used in space to place and reposition spacecraft in orbit, for National Security Space missions.

The benefits of this SEP technology are significant. SEP technology has the potential to maximize the size and lifespan of space assets, as well as reduce the costs to launch them. For the Air Force, advanced SEP systems are successfully flying on the first two Advanced Extremely High Frequency (AEHF) satellites. These technologies, in the form of Hall current thrusters (HCT), associated power processing unit, electronics, hardware and solar arrays were, in fact, used to save the AEHF-1 mission when the vehicle's bipropellant propulsion system intended to raise AEHF-1 to its final Geosynchronous Orbit (GEO) failed. The AEHF-1 HCTs, intended for only the last 20% of orbit-raising in addition to all station keeping for the life of the satellite, were successfully used to perform the full orbit raising portion of the mission and did so without loss of satellite service life. By preventing this loss, SEP technology has already provided a significant savings to the U.S. Government.

Particularly in light of the current budget climate, we must prioritize high-value and cost-saving technologies that will provide a great return on our investment. Continuing our nation's leadership in developing these technologies is critical to our national security, and will also play a key role in driving our nation's economic growth through the creation of high-technology jobs. I hope you will agree that SEP's importance to national security and job creation merits further investment. Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your support of technology advancement in the NDAA.

Written Testimony  
Congressman Andy Barr (KY-06)

Thank you Chairman McKeon for providing me the opportunity to speak before the House Armed Services Committee today. I come before you in support of our Active, Guard, and Reserve components, as well as our veterans to ensure they receive the needed equipment and support they deserve.

The United States must be capable of proactively protecting the nation and its citizens. Our Armed Forces must maintain a superior military force and be ready to act anywhere in the world where our vital national interests are threatened. I believe this can be achieved by giving our military the resources it needs to keep us safe and maintain freedom. Today, I want to particularly focus on the National Guard, which faces mounting challenges regarding how to replace equipment that is obsolete and worn out through normal wear and tear, as well as strengthening family readiness programs.

I stand beside the Commonwealth of Kentucky's Adjutant General, Major General Edward Tonini in requesting that we fully fund the FY14 National Guard and Reserve Equipment Account (NGREA) request in order to remain mission capable, and a valuable asset towards maintaining our national defense. I know that appropriations are not within this Committee's jurisdiction, but I do want to commend Chairman McKeon for his persistent and strong efforts when it comes to advocating for our military to have the funding resources it needs to do its job and maintain readiness.

I also would like to address the alarming increase in suicides which, as you know, are quickly becoming an epidemic throughout the U.S. military and among veterans. The VA reports that 22 veterans take their lives every day.

Service members and veterans that are at high risk of suicide and dangerous behavioral health conditions need appropriate access to mental health professionals for screening, care, and referrals. On-site access to mental health professionals has proven successful in overcoming time, geographical, and stigma barriers that have saved countless lives. I ask that this committee work to strengthen programs that will aid in stabilizing our service men and women's mental health.

Additionally, one of the greatest concerns that I am hearing from the Veterans Coalition I have formed in my district is distress over retirees and their dependents, who are not yet Medicare-eligible, being transitioned from TRICARE Prime to TRICARE Standard. Many in my district have voiced concerns that this forces retirees to pay higher out of pocket expenses, increases co-pays, and creates higher deductibles.

We need to ensure that we keep our commitments to current retirees and family members from whom we have asked for such extraordinary sacrifices. I encourage the Committee not to move forward in changing Prime Service Areas (PSA's) which would have the effect of limiting TRICARE options. Or as a solution, consider a onetime TRICARE Prime opt-in option for

current retirees not living in PSA's, which is all of Kentucky with the exception of Fort Campbell.

Separately, a number of concerns have been brought to my attention regarding the Blue Grass Chemical Activity (BGCA), which is taking place at the Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD) located in Richmond, Kentucky.

As you know, the United States is legally obligated to ensure the destruction of all chemical weapons under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction Treaty (CWC Treaty).

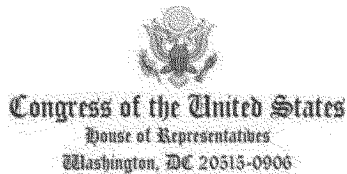
Many are concerned that the Blue Grass Chemical Activity at the Blue Grass Army Depot is not receiving the resources needed to complete the chemical demilitarization operations. The main funding source for BGCA is the Operation and Maintenance, Army (OMA) funding. OMA funds have been reduced from \$23 million to \$18 million.

This cut in funding comes at a very critical time in addition to hiring freezes, furloughs, and a Reduction of Force (RIF) that have taken place at the Depot. Due to these cuts, BGCA will be challenged to continue supporting vital chemical demilitarization operations obligations demanded by the CWC Treaty, and so I hope to work further with the Committee to address these concerns, and provide the necessary response.

Further, I would like to personally thank Chairman McKeon and this Committee for your leadership and strong support for increasing public-private partnerships at arsenals and depots. As someone who recognizes that public-private partnerships can play an important role in bringing long-term stability and jobs to communities, I certainly encourage this Committee to continue to take an active role in this area.

By providing increased opportunity for additional business – not limited to the defense industry – to locate or relocate to the Depot, it would not only increase revenue to the Army Working Capital Fund but also allow for additional jobs to the people of the community. I look forward to working with this Committee, the DOD, and the BGAD in my District, in order to help the Depot reach its fullest potential.

I am humbled and inspired every day by the patriotism and dedication to duty that resides in the hearts of the men and women who chose to serve in our nation's Armed Services. I look forward to working with this Committee to help address the matters I have raised today. Thank you.



Testimony of Congressman Matt Cartwright  
House Armed Services Committee  
2118 Rayburn House Office Building

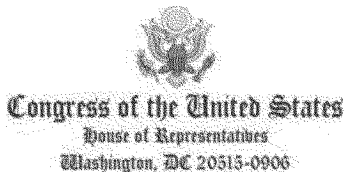
Wednesday, 8 May, 2013 – 12.30 PM

## I. Introduction

Members of the House Armed Services Committee, I come before you today to testify about the importance of our defense industrial base, and, specifically, about military depots. Right now, we stand at the tail end of two long wars that have stretched our budgets and severely strained our all-volunteer force. As the committee is aware, hard choices about defense spending will have to be made in the near future. In order to shrink our defense budget to fit a peacetime force, this committee will have to identify programs that are no longer vital to American safety, while, at the same time, maintain funding for readiness for a myriad of continuing threats. I hope you will join me in supporting replacing the sequester-level cuts with a defense budget policy that thoughtfully and appropriately reshapes our fighting forces.

## II. Depots

Our military depots are a fiscally prudent tool in maintaining readiness. As you set their budget, I urge you to consider the value of depots to the warfighter, the return on the investment that the American taxpayer receives from depots, and the indispensable economic role these facilities play in communities where they are located. In my district alone, Tobyhanna Army Depot, the army's only C4ISR depot, generates \$1.68 in economic activity for every dollar invested. Additionally, every job at Tobyhanna generates two and half jobs in the larger local community. Letterkenny Army Depot, also in my state, generates over one and half local jobs for every employee who goes to work for the base. In many cases, as with Tobyhanna, depots are the largest employers in their respective congressional districts. Dramatic reductions would economically devastate these communities.



I would further ask you to consider the impacts sequestration and the FY 2013 Continuing Resolution have already had on Tobyhanna. Five hundred people have lost their jobs. Projected funding is about \$100 million below what was originally planned, and funding actually received by the depot is now only about 72% of the revised, scaled-back plan. Work stoppages on several key systems will begin occurring next month. To maintain cost competitiveness, the depot has curtailed contracts and cancelled its capital investment program for this fiscal year.

As the ability of depots to refurbish essential supplies becomes lost because of such cuts, the outlook for better integrating our forces through upgraded communications networks and equipment becomes bleaker. This is simply unacceptable. As Army Chief of Staff General Raymond T. Odierno stated last August: network upgrades remain the Army's "number one modernization priority."

### III. Going Forward

Last year, the House voted to cut nearly \$2 billion from our military depot budget. Depots are required to run like businesses: they must win work and remain cost-competitive with the private sector. If they cannot do so, they have to cut costs. Slashing their operational funding means they are able to do less work. If overhead costs become too great a percentage of total costs, the facility becomes less competitive when bidding for new work. That leads to further reductions in total work, which can lead to a so-called "death spiral" where this process repeats itself until the depot is no longer viable.

In addition to increasing operational funds, this committee should seek to enforce the 50/50 rule and ensure that the essential "go to war" items are identified so that depots maintain sufficient workload. Also, we should use the oversight power of Congress to ensure that the service branches move quickly to establish new systems that will be supported by depots and that will support depot workloads for decades to come.

The justification for last year's cuts to depots was that they had too much "extra" work to do. But, this year, we should listen to them. They are now fighting for their long-term survival. I urge you to authorize an expansion of the electronic





Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0900

technology that tomorrow's warfighter will need along with increased direct funding for our nation's military depots. Only a well-equipped, well-supported force will allow America to meet all of its future threats.

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY  
BY CONGRESSMAN KEVIN CRAMER, NORTH DAKOTA (AL)  
TO THE  
HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**MAY 7, 2013**

Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member Smith, and distinguished Members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony for the fiscal 2014 National Defense Authorization Act. I thank you for your service as you guide the U.S. House of Representatives on the most important job of our federal government. National defense is not only our top priority, but our only mandatory function, as laid out in the Constitution.

If to “provide for the common defense” of our nation is not hard enough, we must do so in a situation of unprecedented debt. While it may be possible to make more strategic spending cuts from our military, which has done more with less, we know that reforming entitlement programs is where the significant spending cuts will have to come from. According to the Congressional Budget Office, spending on health programs and Social Security is projected to equal 10.9 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during the coming decade, compared with a 40-year average of 7.2 percent, whereas defense spending is projected to average 3.0 percent of GDP, compared with a 40-year average of 4.7 percent.

Historically low defense spending alone is not necessarily a bad thing, but when the threats facing our nation are steady, if not increasing, it warrants cause for concern. Iran and North Korea continue to advance their ballistic missile and nuclear programs. Syria has shown a willingness to use chemical weapons. Pakistan continues to increase its nuclear capabilities with the threat of terrorist take over. Russia and China show no signs of slowing the development of their respective military assets. Our adversaries sense our uncertainty and they grow emboldened. Lastly, there is no shortage of terrorist groups who want to do harm to American people. Mr. Chairman, are we prepared for the challenges of this century?

We need military assets that project strength, swiftness, and superiority. We need assets that deter attack. This means maintaining our nuclear arsenal, flying the best planes, driving the best ground force, and sailing the best ships. This means giving our soldiers the best training and equipment around. The most expensive price tag is the loss of American lives, and the best way to avoid that cost is deterrence. The words of Ronald Reagan still ring true, “peace through strength.”

I’m very proud of our veteran, guard, reserve, and active military personnel. My own state, North Dakota, has a long history of service to our nation and continues to stand ready to face new challenges. Minot Air Force Base operates two of the three legs of our nuclear triad, B-52 bombers and Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles, the most cost effective deterrent. Grand Forks Air Force Base currently flies the Global Hawk unmanned system and stands ready to serve with the next generation of aerial refueling tanker, the KC-46a. The North Dakota Air National Guard, The Happy Hooligans, based out of Fargo has a long history of excellence in defense of our nation. The Happy Hooligans were recently awarded their 15<sup>th</sup> Outstanding Unit award. The North Dakota Army National Guard has served numerous missions domestic and abroad with great success. The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 188<sup>th</sup> Air Defense Artillery Regiment will soon arrive in Washington D.C. to defend our nation’s capital from airborne attack.

We must support our military with the resources they need to protect the significant freedom and prosperity we enjoy. Thank you for this opportunity.

**Testimony of Congressman Ron DeSantis (FL-6)**

**May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**House Armed Services Committee**

Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member Smith, Members of the House Armed Services Committee, thank you for having me here to testify today. I know this is a particularly busy period for this committee, and I appreciate your time.

I'm here to talk about the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye – which as you know is the Navy's carrier-based Airborne Early Warning and Battle Management Command and Control system. Variants of this aircraft have been serving our military well since the 1960's. The most advanced version – the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye – has now been cleared for full production.

The E-2D is equipped with new, cutting-edge communications capabilities and radar systems. These advancements will enable the E-2D to synthesize information from multiple onboard and off-board sensors to provide increased missile protection to our carrier defense groups, while also improving the aircraft's offensive capabilities; key capabilities in support of our combatant commands.

The E-2D program has met every major milestone on schedule since the program's inception in 2003. As the program moves forward, I urge you to support the Navy's multi-year procurement of the E-2D in the President's FY14 budget.

FY14 is the first year of a planned five-year fixed-price multi-year procurement, which would provide the Navy with the full complement of 32 E-2D aircraft in the Program of Record over the next five years. Multi-year procurement will yield a 10% savings over annual single-year contracts – an expected savings of more than \$522 million over the length of the contract term.

This program is critical for our Navy and our military. As our friend, and E-2 pilot Rep. Bridenstine puts it:

“Given the threats to the strike groups, multiyear procurement of E2-D is absolutely necessary. The only question is, “Are we purchasing enough E-2Ds and missile interceptors to counter the high volumes of incoming missiles that our sailors and soldiers could face?”

Thank you for your consideration of support for the multi-year procurement of the E-2D. This procurement method will ensure that this vital aircraft is produced in a timely, and cost-effective way.

As an appendix to my submitted written testimony, I've attached a May 7<sup>th</sup> letter from myself, Rep. Bridenstine, Rep. Crenshaw, Rep. Mica, Rep. Brown, Rep. Posey, Rep. Rooney, Rep. Miller, Rep. Yoho and Rep. Diaz-Balart to Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith in support of the E-2D program.

The role technology plays in modern warfare can never be discounted, and the technological advances of the E-2D will ensure that our military maintains its critical edge. There are other ways we can and should maintain that edge.

I would also like to encourage the Department of Defense to examine the advantages of acquiring simulation capability using short term, fee for service contracting, thereby rewarding and expanding innovation and commercial-off-the shelf offerings.

Likewise, DoD should encourage common commercially-developed, commercially supported R&D investments by industry.

These common standards would reduce cost, eliminate duplicative government R&D, create a competitive industry base, ensure that simulation components can plug and play regardless of original equipment manufacturer and most importantly eliminate the long acquisition cycle.

Thank you again for having me here today, and thank you for all you do for our warfighters and our country.

APPENDIX

Letter to Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith from: Rep. Ron DeSantis, Rep. Ander Crenshaw, Rep. Jeff Miller, Rep. John Mica, Rep. Bill Posey, Rep. Thomas Rooney, Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart, Rep. Corrine Brown, Rep. Jim Bridenstine, Rep. Ted Yoho

RON DESANTIS  
6TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND  
GOVERNMENT REFORM  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0906

427 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2706  
1000 CITY CENTER CIRCLE  
SECOND FLOOR  
PORT ORLANDE, FL 32129  
T: (386) 765-9708  
3840 LEWIS FREEWAY  
SUITE 2104  
ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32084  
T: (904) 827-1161

May 7, 2013

The Honorable Buck McKeon  
Chairman  
House Armed Services Committee  
2120 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith  
Ranking Member  
House Armed Services Committee  
2120 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith:

As you consider Fiscal Year 2014 authorizations for the Department of Defense, we request your support for the Navy's multi-year procurement of the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye program in the FY14 President's Budget. FY14 is the first year of a planned five-year fixed-price Multi-Year Procurement (MYP), which would provide the Navy with the full complement of 32 E-2D aircraft in the Program of Record and yield 10% savings over annual single-year contracts. The savings attributed to this MYP is estimated to be just over \$522 million. We represent constituents across the country who engineer, manufacture, maintain, and operate the E-2D system.

As you know, E-2D is the Navy's carrier-based Airborne Early Warning and Battle Management Command and Control (BMC2) system. The E-2D provides Theater Air and Missile Defense, synthesizing information from multiple onboard and off-board sensors, making complex tactical decisions, and disseminating actionable information to Joint Forces in a distributed, open-architecture environment. Using the newly-developed radar, the E-2D works with surface ships to provide force protection and allow the Navy to project forces into the littorals and overland to ensure access in contested areas.

The E-2D program, which is currently in development, has met every major milestone on schedule since the program's inception in 2003. Full funding for the E-2D ensures that the carrier air wings will fully realize the power and protection provided by this state-of-the-art early warning and battle management command and control weapons system.

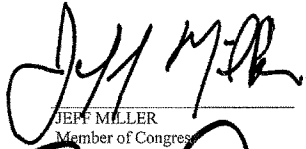
E-2D is a critical asset to our military. It provides thousands of manufacturing jobs and billions of dollars to communities nationwide. Your support for the Navy's multi-year procurement of the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye program included in the FY14 President's Budget is essential to the start of the Navy's MYP, which is the most cost-effective and efficient way to provide the military with this critical-airborne capability.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and your support for our men and women in uniform.

Sincerely,

  
RON DESANTIS  
Member of Congress

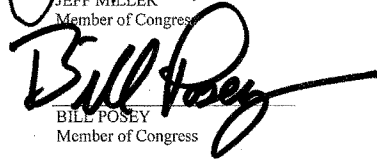
  
ANDREW CRENSHAW  
Member of Congress



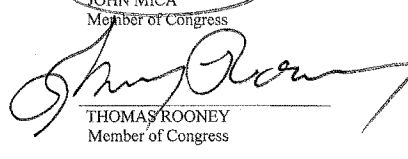
JEFF MILLER  
Member of Congress



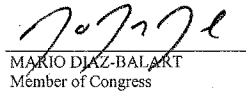
JOHN MICA  
Member of Congress



BILL POSEY  
Member of Congress



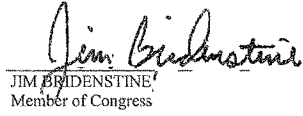
THOMAS ROONEY  
Member of Congress



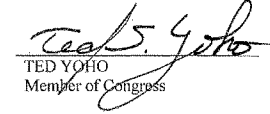
MARIO DIAZ-BALART  
Member of Congress



CORRINE BROWN  
Member of Congress



JIM BRIDENSTINE  
Member of Congress



TED YOHO  
Member of Congress



**Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard**

Testimony before the House Armed Services Committee:  
*National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014*

Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the committee, I appreciate the opportunity to testify before you today.

I echo words from last year's Priorities for 21st Century Defense Strategy "we are in a moment of transition". Under this committee's leadership, the United States has made significant progress in the drawdown of the costly and protracted wars in the Middle East that have consumed the resources and attention of our Armed Services for the past decade. Indeed, this is no easy task and your leadership seeing it through is greatly appreciated.

The Priorities for 21st Century Defense Strategy also emphasized the importance to focus a broader range of challenges and opportunities, including the security and prosperity of the Asia Pacific which has matured into our Rebalance Strategy.

The regional instability created by the recent North Korean provocations as well as the slow-boiling territorial disagreements around the Senkakus and South China Seas underscore the growing need to strengthen our nation's military and diplomatic presence in this region where our economic and national security interests are inextricably linked.

A region where our greatest security adversary is not a nation or a specific threat, but the distance we must overcome to ensure open and secure access to the global domains and our national security interests. Hawaii is a critical link in addressing this challenge.

We must keep Hawaii safe. In today's threat environment, this translates into ballistic missile defense.

With the increased operational tempo that our naval forces are experiencing, the Pearl Harbor Naval shipyard and Regional Maintenance Center provides full-service support to the surface fleet and the new Virginia Class submarines which cover more than 60% of the world's surface and are essential to maintaining the robust presence called for in our national military strategy.

As we continue to realign our force posture in the Asia-Pacific, it is important we ensure that we provide the very best training facilities enabling combat readiness. This additional presence comes on the heels of the Marine Corps' decision to base two squadrons of its latest transport aircraft, the MV-22 Osprey, and one light attack helicopter squadron to Kaneohe Bay.

The Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) is the world's largest multi-environmental range capable of supporting surface, subsurface, air, and space operations simultaneously. PMRF's work with the Aegis Ashore Missile Defense Test Complex is vital to enhancing our nation's ballistic missile defense capabilities and protecting the United States and its territories from any future attack.

In addition, the Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA) serves as the premier combined arms training facility in the Pacific region. Ground and air units from all U.S. military services are able to train at PTA because it offers realistic training opportunities not found elsewhere and thus vital to our armed forces readiness.

Each of these key enablers is critical to this committee's efforts to provide oversight to the ongoing military transformation that is starting to take place. I look forward to working with the committee as we continue to build on the progress we have made in executing the US rebalance to this vitally important region.

Once again, thank you Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Smith for allowing me the opportunity to testify today about the strategic importance of Hawaii in this process.

**Statement to the House Armed Services Committee****Representative Denny Heck****May 8, 2013**

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for the opportunity to testify before you today.

I represent the Congressional district that contains Joint Base Lewis-McChord, the third largest military installation in the United States. Thousands of families in my district are connected to this Joint Base in some way. They are the families of active duty service members, reservists, civilian workers, veterans, and more. In the past few months, many of these families have begun to feel the negative effects of decisions the Department of Defense has had to make as a result of the sequestration cuts.

I want to read you part of a letter I received from one of the members of one of these families. It comes from a woman named Lacey, who lives in Olympia, the same city I do. Lacey's husband is stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McChord. He has been deployed multiple times overseas during the last decade. Lacey and her husband have two young sons, aged 3 and 1. She writes of her family:

*Our lives together have held surprises, both good and bad, thanks to my husband's military commitment. But I support my husband in his service - I know that for the bad days he has at "the office" that he has far more good days. He truly enjoys his job. My husband was put on orders to come here to Fort Lewis and we were told that this particular assignment, though chaotic, would actually result in more time home for him. More time with our two young boys, 3 and 1.*

*The first portion of my husband's assignment was wonderful. He was home for dinner. We could actually eat a family meal (for the first time since we've had children, I might add). He was able to actually do the whole bedtime routine for our oldest son, instead of barely skidding in the door to read him part of a story and put him in bed. My sons blossomed with this "extra" time with their father. My 3-year-old started actually talking: stringing together words and phrases, articulating complex thoughts, explaining feelings. My 1-year-old started to talk period, mostly saying, "Dada." It took my 1-year-old nearly six months to warm to my husband as he did not know his father.*

*In the few short weeks that these sequester cuts have been coming downhill, I can tell you that there has been a significant and miserable change in my children. Both of them are moody and*

*angry; at the gym, I am called in my often to get my children from care because they are unhappy and inconsolable. What had been great progress at potty training suddenly regressed back into diapers. My husband wakes up at 5:00 and isn't getting back home from work until 6:00 pm on a good day. Many days he is barely getting through the door at 7:30 pm at night, and that is with leaving tasks incomplete on his desk. We have barely two hours together before he is falling asleep exhausted on the couch. While I cook us a meager dinner, he works on his graduate course (he just started his master's degree in January).*

*I know my husband is a hard-working man. I have supported him through two Iraq tours, two assignments in Africa, and an assignment in a former Soviet territory. I have brought two children into this world with him. I have moved completely across the country with him, and I am putting my graduate degree and career on hold in order to support him and raise our children until they are of school-age. I know what kind of hours he works when he is deployed; it is the same daily hours as he is working now. My job, as I see it, is to hold this family together, to make sure that my children are connected to their father. But how can I keep them connected to a husk of a person? This schedule, this pace, will turn my husband into a shell of himself.*

Mr. Chairman, often this town gets lost in the numbers and percentages and statistics that go into our federal budgeting process. We lose focus on the fact that the decisions we make here impact families in real ways. There are real people out there who have to deal with the consequences of this Congress's actions – or in this case, it's inaction in regards to replacing the sequestration cuts with a balanced, responsible alternative.

I know the committee does not have jurisdiction on this issue. I can guarantee that sequestration has affected the district of each member of this committee. Congress can still get this right. Congress can stop the unnecessary hardships that Lacey speaks about in this letter. It just needs to muster the will to act. I hope, for the sake of military families around the country like Lacey's, that this happens soon.

Thank you.

May 8, 2013

**Prepared Statement of Congressman Richard Hudson on Fiscal Year 2014 National Defense Authorization Act before the House Armed Services Committee**

Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member Smith, I want to thank you and this Committee for the opportunity to share with you some of the priorities I hold for the upcoming year, of which I am here to emphasize on behalf of the Eighth District of North Carolina.

As a new Member of the House, I strongly support the call of the American people to reduce government spending and bring our staggering national debt under control. I firmly believe that our failure to do so is the single greatest threat to America's national security. As I have traveled around communities in North Carolina, people have consistently told me that restoring fiscal responsibility is their number one priority, and that they sent me to Washington to force the government to live within its means. Accordingly, I am committed to cutting spending, reducing the size of government, promoting economic growth, and putting our budget on a path to balance.

Today, I would like to discuss a number of things: namely, the challenges that we must face along with our allies and partners; the commitments we have made to our men and women in uniform, and the importance of ensuring accountability and transparency when trying to maintain a strong national defense in a tough budget environment.

**Challenges Facing the United States**

The past decade has taught us that many threats no longer come from traditional nations, but rather from determined groups of extremists who seek to wreak havoc on the American dream. We can never forget how the attacks of 9/11 changed the way America operates in the world and how we must be vigilant against any threats of terrorism.

While the War on Terror is an ongoing battle against evil, in most cases, states continue to pose the greatest threat to our national security whether through the sponsor of terrorist groups or outright provocation. A failure to exercise US diplomatic and military leadership means nuclear states like Iran and North Korea will be able to bully the international system. The US cannot stand idly by while rogue states continue to test, build, and refine their nuclear capabilities. We must be prepared to take all actions necessary to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and cannot afford the cost of failing to back up our claims.

**Promises Made and Kept**

North Carolina is fortunate to be home to over 700,000 proud veterans, and I am lucky to represent a District that has a strong military presence given its proximity to Fort Bragg. I continue to be involved with those communities most associated with Fort Bragg and have joined the Army Aviation and Special Operations Forces Caucus in order to keep up to date with the issues these units face on a daily basis.

I also just returned from a productive visit to the base and am proud to report on their fine work there on behalf of this great nation. As a member of the North Carolina delegation very concerned about Ft. Bragg's mission and their future, I look forward to working with the base to ensure that their priorities are met. Among these are a number of new centers including a skills sustainment course building for the Joint Special Operations Medical Training Center, an engineer training facility for the 1st Special Warfare Training Group, a language and a cultural center for the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School.

As the United States increases its Special Operations and Airborne operations tempo and presence, it is critically important that we support in depth training and techniques, an area where Ft. Bragg continues to excel. I look forward to working with you and this Committee to provide the necessary resources to ensure the utmost success for our dedicated men and women in uniform there.

America has made promises to the men and women who have made countless sacrifices for our nation, and we must guarantee those promises are kept. I will work tirelessly to ensure that these veterans are treated with the dignity and respect they have earned. Our men and women in uniform represent the best our nation has to offer, and I am proud to serve and support them in Congress as they serve our great country.

As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Transportation Security, I have worked for and support the Transportation Security Administration's decision to offer less-invasive screening to members of the military who have sustained severe combat-related injuries. This update, which allows wounded warriors to keep their shoes, light jackets and hats on when undergoing screening at airport checkpoints, provided they contact TSA in advance of traveling, builds upon other changes promoted by the Homeland Security Committee.

**Properly Budgeting for Strong National Defense**

Finally, I would like to discuss the defense budget. In tough economic times it is critical that we hold every federal agency accountable for taxpayer dollars and the Department of Defense is no exception. I applaud the work of my colleagues **Congressmen Conaway and Andrews** who have long urged DOD to make financial management a priority within the department. Under the current budget environment, I think we can all agree that the DOD must be audit ready in order to make certain every dollar appropriated and spent is accounted for and used to its fullest potential.

With that said, it is important to remember that Defense spending represents approximately 19 percent of the federal budget, yet has been forced to absorb nearly half of the spending reductions occurring in the past two years. Given the defense community's already disproportionate contribution to deficit reduction, I encourage the committee to use all means necessary to certify that our military has the resources it needs to properly defend the United States and keep its citizens safe in the future. We must always ensure that our military's readiness is not compromised by an inability in Washington to properly set spending priorities.

I would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to speak here today. I am eager to support your efforts to reduce the size of government, promote economic growth, and put our nation's budget on a path to balance in the near future.

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**Congressman Dan Kildee's Testimony before the House Armed Services Committee  
Regarding the Fiscal Year 2014 National Defense Authorization Act**

Thank you Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member Smith, and distinguished members of the committee for holding today's hearing and allowing me the opportunity to share some of the defense priorities I hope you will consider in preparing the Fiscal Year 2014 National Defense Authorization Act. Although I do not serve on the Armed Services Committee, all Members of Congress have a responsibility to protect our nation, and your gracious invitation reflects that. It is an honor to be here.

I respectfully ask that you fully fund the National Guard to enable it to continue to play a critical role as a member of the total force. The National Guard provides a significant portion of the active duty services' capabilities. Since September 11, 2001, individual National Guard members have mobilized over 750,000 times in support of overseas operations – including over 17,000 individual deployments from my home state of Michigan. The Air National Guard supplies 35 percent of the Air Force's capability at a fraction of the active duty Air Force's budget. Moreover, the Army National Guard provides 32 percent of the total Army force, again with a significantly smaller portion of the active duty components' budget.

In addition to providing the military combatant commanders with fully deployable capability, the National Guard continues to fulfill its critical state mission. Last year, the National Guard responded to over 100 natural disasters, including deploying 12,000 personnel to assist with the Hurricane Sandy relief efforts. Further, the National Guard—particularly in my home state of Michigan—has started to take a leading role in strengthening our cybersecurity at both the state and national levels.

Finally, National Guard members serve as military ambassadors in our communities. As less than one percent of the population has served in the military, many citizens' largest connection to our service members, and their sacrifices, is via the citizen soldiers of the National Guard.

For these reasons, fully funding and supporting the National Guard is both sound fiscal and defense policy. I also ask that the committee consider some additional priorities particularly relevant to individual service members.

A smart and well-educated military is a more effective and adaptable force. Thus, I ask that you fully fund the military tuition assistance program. This program enables service members to pursue educational opportunities while serving. Members of the military use this critical program to advance their military careers as well as prepare for their transition back to civilian life.

Further, to address the significant veterans' unemployment rate, the Department of Defense must improve the assistance it provides to service members as they transition from the military. Improving opportunities to transfer military credentials and training to the civilian sphere, job training and assistance, and implementing programs to ensure that service members are aware of the support and benefits available to them would all be positive initial steps.



Finally, as the committee is well aware, military suicide and mental health issues are major problems facing service members and recent veterans. I ask that you continue to explore ways to address these issues and increase funding for programs that help treat and identify mental illness. In this area in particular, our service members deserve our nation's best.

Thank you again for this wonderful opportunity to testify before the committee.

**Statement of Representative Beto O'Rourke (TX-16)**  
**May 8, 2013**  
**Armed Services Committee**

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Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith, thank you for this opportunity to testify on the FY 2014 National Defense Authorization Act. I would also like to thank the Chairman and his staff for being accommodating in allowing me to testify in person.

I have the distinct honor of representing the 16th Congressional district of Texas, which is home to Fort Bliss and the Army's 1st Armored Division along with nearly 100,000 Soldiers and military families. I was reminded again this week of the incredible sacrifice these service members and their families make to our nation when five Soldiers from Fort Bliss were killed in an IED attack in Afghanistan. I am truly humbled by their service.

I would like to testify about three things today: (1) the current budget situation facing the Army and the ability of Fort Bliss and the surrounding community to adapt to the changing needs of the Army; (2) the importance of the new William Beaumont Army Hospital being constructed on Fort Bliss; (3) the vital role that the tuition assistance program plays in the lives of our service members

The Budget Situation

As many of you have heard from Secretary of the Army McHugh and Chief of Staff General Odierno, the Army's ability to field a ready and capable force to meet its mission requirements has been placed at risk by fiscal challenges in FY 2013. The combined effects of sequestration and the fiscal uncertainty caused by multiple continuing resolutions has impacted Army readiness and has placed 11,000 civilian employees at Fort Bliss at risk of furlough or job loss. Despite these challenges, the Army remains the best-trained, best-equipped, and best-led fighting force in the world. I urge this committee to use the National Defense Authorization Act to guarantee this remains true.

Congress needs to move forward with a plan to end the sequester in a responsible manner. Even if we do, the reality is that the Army will continue with its plan to reduce its active-duty force from 562,000 to 490,000 by 2020 while also looking at other possibilities such as eliminating a minimum of eight brigade combat teams. This reduction in Army end-strength should be carried out in a way that avoids a hollowing out of the force, while simultaneously enhancing readiness, balance, and flexibility. Fort Bliss is well suited to help the Army meet those objectives. And, as the largest power projection installation in the nation, Fort Bliss demonstrates daily its ability to deploy and redeploy Soldiers wherever they are needed. To echo the words of Former Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta when he visited the installation, "let me be clear – Fort Bliss is the premiere post in America."

Additionally, the El Paso region and the entire Fort Bliss community continue to go above and beyond in their steadfast support of our Soldiers and their families, investing heavily in improvements to infrastructure, quality of life projects, and education. We invested over \$2 billion in highway projects, new schools, and a children's hospital alone. Recently we agreed to tax ourselves to pay for additional quality of life projects around Fort Bliss. The community's support of this Army post is second to none. The recent \$5 billion of federal investment into the growth and expansion of Fort Bliss will also ensure that both the Army and surrounding community continue to benefit from this relationship well into the future.

In the past, Fort Bliss has always responded swiftly when the needs of the Army have changed. In 2005, this post quickly adapted itself into a new, world-class home for "Old Ironsides," the 1st Armored Division, providing nearly 1 million acres of maneuver area for this division to train. This transition from an air defense mission to a heavy armor mission serves as proof that Fort Bliss is capable of training virtually any type of unit in the Army force structure. Along with the re-stationing of the 1st Armored Division, the Ft. Bliss post also seamlessly received several brigade combat teams and numerous supporting units.

#### Beaumont Hospital

Service members and their families depend on top quality health care from the Army. Thanks to the past work of this committee, the new William Beaumont Medical Center stands to fill this role. The hospital complex will have a seven-story hospital building with 135 private rooms; two, six-floor buildings with 30 specialty clinics; and a four-story administration building. Along with the generation of nearly 3,000 civilian and contractor jobs, the hospital is designed to last for the next 50 years. This timeline guarantees that the Army will have access to state of the art equipment and medical care well after we have all left Congress. The facility is expected to set a new bar in patient care through the combination of best strategies in hospital construction and patient care, including evidence-based design, the Leadership in Energy and Environment Design guidelines (or LEED), and the military's new gold standard for medical facilities, "World-Class design." As a result, I urge this Committee to continue to support this project so that our Soldiers and their family members can continue to carry out their mission.

#### Tuition Assistance

I also urge the committee to continue support for the Military Tuition Assistance program in FY 14. In the last year alone, this program has allowed Service Members to take 870,000 classes and earn over 50,000 degrees, diplomas, and certificates. In FY 2012, the Military Tuition Assistance program constituted only 0.1% of the Department of Defense's budget, or \$570 million. Current unemployment rates for post-September 11 veterans are at 9.4%, which is considerably higher than the national unemployment rate. Denying our brave men and women access to education programs will negatively impact their ability to carry out their missions while in service, and also make it harder for them to find jobs after transitioning out of the military. Recently, I led 68 of our

colleagues from both sides of the aisle in submitting a letter to the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee to support full funding of this program in FY 14. The overwhelming bipartisan support serves as evidence that Congress must continue to uphold its promise and support our Service Members in the classroom as well.

While I don't serve on the committee, I have a very keen interest in seeing these priorities carried out in FY 14. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

May 7, 2013

The Honorable Howard P. "Buck" McKeon  
Chairman  
House Armed Services Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith  
Ranking Member  
House Armed Services Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith:

We respectfully request your support for a report from the Secretary of Defense pertaining to the current use and opportunities for enhanced electronic contracting.

Doing business with the federal government should not be a burdensome or daunting task. Thanks to technological advancement in recent years, including the development of FedBizOpps, the Federal procurement process has been greatly improved. While FedBizOpps currently provides universal access to contract opportunities and solicitations electronically, the public should also be enabled to respond to the solicitations electronically.

Congress recognized the need to adapt federal procurement policy to 21<sup>st</sup> century realities when it adopted Section 850 of Public Law 105-85 – the National Defense Authorization Act for FY1998. This Act placed the responsibility on government agencies to establish, maintain and use, to the maximum extent practical and cost effective, procedures and processes that employ electronic commerce in the conduct and administration of its procurement system.

The NDAA not only directed federal agencies to provide universal access to contract opportunities and solicitations through a single, Government-wide port of entry (FedBizOpps) but also directed the agencies to **"permit the public to respond to the solicitation electronically."**

The attached legislative and report language would require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report outlining the Department's plans to address the requirement in Section 850 of the NDAA for FY1998 regarding the use of electronic commerce in federal procurement. We respectfully urge you to include language to this effect in the NDAA for FY2014.

Sincerely,



Bob Gibbs  
Member of Congress



Tom Rice  
Member of Congress

**Proposed Title**

Report on Current Use and Opportunities for Enhanced Electronic Contracting

**Proposed Language (Bill)**

- (a) Report – Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report outlining the Department's plans to address the requirement in Section 850 of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY1998 regarding the use of electronic commerce in federal procurement.
- (b) Matters Included. – The report submitted under subsection (a) shall include, with respect to the two fiscal years before the fiscal year in which the report is submitted, the following information:
1. An enumeration of the number, type, and dollar value of Department solicitations in which the public was permitted to respond to the solicitation electronically. This enumeration shall differentiate between solicitations that allow full or partial electronic submissions.
  2. An analysis of the ability of the data collected through electronic submissions to be used for broader reporting and data usage by the Department.
  3. An analysis of the potential benefits and obstacles to implementing fuller use of electronic submissions, including cost savings, reduction in errors, paperwork reduction, broader bidder participation, competition, and the enhanced use of data collection for management and timely reporting to Congress.
  4. An analysis of the available options and technologies for broader implementation and the suitability of each option, by contract type and size, for implementation.

**Proposed Accompanying Report Language**

The Committee has long been involved in and successful in improving the federal effort to modernize the contracting process. In fact, the statutory language creating FedBizOpps was included in the Fiscal Year 1998 National Defense Authorization Act.

The Committee recognizes the efforts made government wide and by the Department to make contract postings more accessible to a larger section of the public, encouraging competition, small business participation, and securing best value for the taxpayers.

The Committee is aware that the Department does receive electronic submissions for some portion of its solicitations, and that the amount of data received electronically varies. It also is aware that many contract solicitations still require a paper only submission.

More than 15 years ago, Congress included language in the FY1998 National Defense Authorization Act that effectively initiated the FedBizOpps program as a single government-wide venue for federal agencies to advertise business opportunities. In addition to establishing a single, Government-wide port of entry, that same Act also required "permitting the public to respond to the solicitation electronically."

The Committee is aware of the experience of many local and state jurisdictions in allowing the electronic submission of responses to solicitations, and is interested in the potential for cost-savings, enhanced use of data for management and timely reporting to Congress, the reduction of data errors and completeness of responses, and for enhanced competition and reduced thresholds for broader small business participation.

The Committee seeks a report from the Secretary on the number, type, and dollar volume of electronic submission availability on solicitations posted over the past two fiscal years, as well as the Secretary's analysis of the potential benefits, challenges to implementation, and potential technological solutions to broader implementation.

**Proposal Justification**

Section 850 of Public Law 105-85, also known as the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998, detailed the requirements for the use of electronic commerce in Federal procurement. This Act placed the responsibility on government agencies to establish, maintain and use, to the maximum extent practical and cost effective, procedures and processes that employ electronic commerce in the conduct and administration of its procurement system.

Other key elements of the FY988 NDAA included:

- Applying nationally and internationally recognized standards.
- Facilitating access for small businesses to Federal Government procurement opportunities.
- Providing agency requirements or solicitations for contract opportunities in a form that allows universal access through a single, Government-wide port of entry.

Over the course of the next few years, FedBizOpps became the recognized single government-wide venue for federal agencies to advertise business opportunities.

The NDAA not only directed federal agencies to provide universal access to contract opportunities and solicitations through a single, Government-wide port of entry (FedBizOpps) but also directed the agencies to “**permit the public to respond to the solicitation electronically.**” This was done with the goal of providing an easier way to access and respond to federal solicitations and contract opportunities and to encourage greater participation in the federal procurement process, thereby making it more user-friendly, more competitive and cost-effective. Electronic submissions also reduce errors, facilitate bidding, and allow for data to be more easily reviewed, tracked, and assessed by the agency.

FedBizOpps is now the gold standard in terms of providing the “entry” into the federal procurement marketplace, as Congress intended. However, the ability to respond electronically is limited. In most cases, interested vendors must submit proposals and bids on paper requiring mail, courier or other delivery methods. Or, they can electronically submit information via document attachments to e-mail. In neither case are submissions being truly delivered electronically.

Based on the experience of local and state governments implementation of true electronic submissions, significant benefits have accrued to both those governments and their counterparts in the contracting community. With the ability to submit bid information over the internet, federal contractors could streamline their workflows and reduce their cost of submitting and delivering bids. Online bidding also benefits public agencies resulting in a win-win situation for all parties involved. Benefits may include:

- *Simplifies and Standardizes*
  - online bidding allows an agency or buying command to standardize and simplify the bidding or grant submission process through a secure online format
  - Submissions can be configured to not mark a bid form as complete unless designated areas are checked, or without an appropriate calculation.
- *Simplifies Contract Planning and Management, Reduces Overhead, Reduces Paperwork & Simplifies Review Process*
  - Grant/Bid review teams would be able to seamlessly receive and review electronically applications/proposals and compare apples to apples.
- *Reduces Errors, Protects the Agency Buyer*

There are options available to online bidding would include the ability to provide math computations and checks for bid completeness to alert the user before they submit an incorrect or

incomplete bid that might get rejected as unresponsive. At the same time, to protect the taxpayer, technology is available that also would not allow incomplete or inaccurate calculations, or calculations outside a preset range. This important feature would protect the federal buyer from potential cost overruns and will reduce the possibility of bid protests based on technical miscalculation.

- *Empowers Small Business*
  - Accessible simple online bidding process allows more small businesses to access federal procurement easier.
- *Encourages Competition*
  - Online facilitation of the RFP process will increase bidding and weed out unresponsive proposals.
- *Greater Transparency*
  - For all parties to protect the taxpayer and to honor full and open competition requirements.
  - The Committee has asked, required, and otherwise encouraged the Department to do more fulsome tracking of contracted items



**National Defense Authorization Act Testimony  
Before the House Armed Services Committee  
Congressman Mark Takano (CA-41)  
May 8, 2013**

Recently, a crew from the California Air National Guard that was operating a remotely piloted aircraft out of March Air Reserve Base was able to locate a survival life raft less than two minutes after being given a rough approximation of its position. Not two days, not two hours – two minutes! We are on the cusp of a new era – Remotely Piloted Aircraft or “RPAs” simply perform some tasks better than manned airplanes do. The majority of the United States’ RPA expertise, both combat and Defense Support of Civil Authorities, is located in the Air National Guard.

Unfortunately, that previously mentioned California Air National Guard unit will be out of business in less than four years unless they are included in the Air Force’s RPA Upgrade Plan. A plan they are not currently even mentioned in. Similar fates threaten ANG units flying the soon-to-be-phased out MQ-1 Predator in Arizona, North Dakota, Texas, and Ohio. The United States is on the verge of incorporating RPAs in the National Airspace System and these Air National Guard units have the most experience of any RPA operation. They are the true experts on how to do this right. In light of this, the Guard should be at the top of the list for conversion to safer, higher flying follow-on RPAs like the MQ-9 Reaper, rather than an afterthought.

America needs to capitalize on the Air National Guard’s expertise to truly reap the benefits of seamless RPA support for Search and Rescue efforts, Disaster Relief, and Emergency Services. Converting to the MQ-9 swiftly will also protect the thousands of jobs and countless small businesses that support these units.

The next five years will see substantial, maybe even exponential growth in Remotely Piloted Aircraft operations worldwide and America cannot afford to squander the significant advantage we have in this arena. As the MQ-1 nears the end of its service life, it is absolutely imperative that the Air Force revises its RPA Upgrade Plan and upgrades the forgotten Air National Guard MQ-1 units in California, Arizona, North Dakota, Texas, and Ohio to the MQ-9 as quickly as possible to prevent a gap in mission coverage. This will also ensure we capitalize on, rather than lose, the ANG’s critical expertise, and maintain America’s lead beyond the approaching RPA horizon.

While the Air Force does have a strategic basing process for the recapitalization of MQ-1s to MQ-9s, the criteria do not place proper emphasis on the importance of current MQ-1 Flying Training Units (FTUs) schoolhouses. The Air Force should prioritize the replacement of MQ-1s with MQ-9s at locations with existing FTU schoolhouses, which would allow the Air Force to capitalize on existing infrastructure, trained personnel, instructor expertise, and save taxpayer money.

We need to see a formal recapitalization plan for the replacement of all National Guard MQ-1 aircraft with MQ-9 aircraft. That plan should contain the criteria for beddown, including both the weight and scoring that will be given to MQ-1 wings and squadrons with co-located FTU schoolhouse missions.

WASHINGTON OFFICE  
1805 LONGWORTH HOB  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-8045  
FAX: (202) 225-9073

CHULA VISTA OFFICE  
333 F STREET, SUITE A  
CHULA VISTA, CA 91910  
(619) 422-5963  
FAX: (619) 422-7290  
VARGAS.HOUSE.GOV



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

Juan Vargas  
51st District, California

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA  
TERRORISM, NONPROLIFERATION, AND TRADE  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES AND  
RISK MANAGEMENT  
HORTICULTURE, RESEARCH, BIOTECHNOLOGY  
AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURE  
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

May 8, 2013

The Honorable Howard P. McKeon, Chairman  
The Honorable Adam Smith, Ranking Member  
House Committee on Armed Services  
2120 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014. There are several priorities I would like to bring to the Committee's attention that are important to my district and to the security of our nation.

As the United States continues to "rebalance" our efforts to the Asia-Pacific, we must provide the adequate resources to our global commitments, particularly by investing in our naval capabilities. My district is home to Naval Base San Diego (NBSD), which is the largest Navy base on the West Coast and provides comprehensive fleet support for 58 home ported ships and 180 tenant commands. The economic benefit to my district and the surrounding community cannot be overstated, with military funding supporting thousands of job in the greater San Diego County area. As the Navy's premier Pacific Fleet surface force installation, NBSD has played an integral role in the Global War on Terrorism and will be a strategic asset as we expand our presence in the Pacific. In order to fulfill this mission, I request from your committee that the Navy remain a key priority in the NDAA for FY 2014. This would include funding for base operations and the maintenance and modernization of ships, and building a strong research and development core to support technological innovation.

Last month, I introduced H.R. 1691, the Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range Security Enhancement Act, which would transfer the administrative jurisdiction of certain public lands in the Chocolate Mountain Gunnery Range from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to the Secretary of the Navy. Due to the current checkerboard pattern of administrative jurisdiction, I believe this bill offers the necessary solution to the existing land withdrawal and cooperative management arrangement between BLM and the Department of the Navy. Approximately 227,000 acres is withdrawn public land which is set to expire on October 31, 2014. Consolidating the land management under a sole federal agency would provide regulatory relief and certainty to the Department of the Navy while maintaining the spirit of the land withdrawal

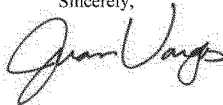
program. This bill preserves the environmental integrity of the land and supports our national security interest. I look forward to working with this committee to ensure that H.R. 1691 is included in the FY 2014 NDAA.

Additionally, the Department of the Navy is currently seeking to replace the aging Navy Pacific Fleet FA-18 aircraft with the F-35C aircraft. Two potential locations are being examined to homebase the F-35C in the Naval Pacific Fleet. Of the two alternatives being analyzed, I believe that the Naval Air Facility (NAF) El Centro, in my district, offers the Navy a fiscally sound option along with world class operations and facilities. Located in the heart of Southern California's Imperial Valley, NAF El Centro's close proximity to San Diego's Pacific Fleet and Yuma, Arizona's Marine Joint Strike Fighter has allowed it to be an integral part in Naval Aviation Training. Before any final decision is made, I would request that this committee consider the long-term comparative operational cost of both alternatives. During these difficult budget times, we must ensure that we make fiscally responsible choices that maintain our national security while protecting the taxpayer.

Finally, I would like to take a moment to express my concerns with the effects of this year's sequestration cuts will have on our military readiness, on our support for our allies, and on the lives of the men and women who proudly and honorably serve in the armed services. Many of the personnel who live and work in my district have faced furloughs and worry about any future pay decreases. We must keep our commitments to the men and women in uniform, and their families, by authorizing the pay they deserve and have earned. I also urge this committee to continue to support our key ally Israel by buttressing our cooperative missile defense program. Israel is faced with a very difficult security situation and cuts to programs, such as the Iron Dome, hinder its ability to protect the Israeli people. Lastly, and most importantly, in light of the Pentagon's recent report on the rise of sexual assault in the military, I would kindly request that this committee continue to work in a bipartisan fashion to provide new regulations and procedures to combat and prosecute these terrible acts. The FY 2014 NDAA should reinstate all funding for resources to deal with sexual assault within the military.

Thank you for your consideration of these priorities and for your leadership in providing for our common defense. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide additional information in support of these requests.

Sincerely,



JUAN VARGAS  
Member of Congress  
51<sup>st</sup> District, California

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ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA

**STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA BEFORE THE  
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES**

**May 7, 2013**

Chairman McKeon & Ranking Member Smith:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your leadership and for giving me the opportunity to testify before the House Armed Services Committee this afternoon.

I testify today to request your assistance to include language in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2014. The language will instruct the Department of Defense (DoD) to conduct a feasibility study for the establishment of a National Guard Unit (NGU) in American Samoa.

For your information, American Samoa is one of two U.S. territories that does not have a NGU. The other is the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Recently, I have been in discussions with the American Samoa Government who have expressed great interest in establishing an NGU in the Territory. This comes as a necessity for the American Samoa Government after reviewing and restructuring response plans for state emergencies as a result of hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, and tsunamis.

In 2009, American Samoa was hit by a powerful earthquake that was registered at a high 8.3 on the Richter scale. The earthquake set off a massive tsunami that crashed into the Territory and neighboring countries of the Independent State of Samoa and the Kingdom of Tonga. The tsunami created a devastating trail that wiped out many villages and took many lives. Although an Army Reserve Component is based in American Samoa, it was not able to mobilize or be activated immediately because such a decision had to be made by the Pentagon. The Governor at the time could only make a request for assistance but only after the declaration of emergency.

I strongly believe that much more could have been done to help, save, and support the local residents during the disaster if only the Governor was able to activate such a critical tool of a NGU. As we all know, the National Guard is a vital component of public safety, especially their role as the first responders during state of emergencies and, importantly, supporting our regular armed forces during time of war. The National Guard has been a part of our U.S. military history for hundreds of years. We have witnessed the exemplary response by the National Guard during Hurricane Katrina in 2005 to the recent tragic bombings in Boston.

During the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress, I introduced H.R. 6294 to establish a NGU in American Samoa but the Committee took no further action. Given the recent reduction in federal spending and expected cuts in defense, I prefer that the DoD first conduct a feasibility study for establishing a NGU in American Samoa. The feasibility study will provide a better understanding of costs, funding sources, as well as necessary support that would be needed to establish and maintain such a unit in the Territory. I am hopeful that in the study, DoD can also review other options of possibly creating an attached unit to the Hawaii National Guard. This is viable given the close relationship between American Samoa and the State of Hawaii, and the Army Reserve infrastructure that already exists.

I know that this Committee understands deeply the sense of service and contributions that American Samoa has made to our U.S. military. Being one of the highest enlistment rates per capita in any State or U.S. Territory, our sons and daughters have served in record numbers in every U.S. military engagement from World War II to our present operations in Afghanistan. We have stood by the U.S. in good times and bad, and I know that taking this initial step in establishing a National Guard Unit in American Samoa will make our relationship even stronger.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify this afternoon and I look forward to answering any of your questions.



Congressman Pedro R. Pierluisi  
Submission for the Record  
Member Day Testimony on the Fiscal Year 2014 National Defense Authorization Act  
House Armed Service Committee  
*May 8, 2013*

Chairman McKeon, Ranking Member Smith, and Members of the Committee: thank you for the opportunity to testify. I will briefly summarize my three priorities for the FY14 National Defense Authorization Act.

**Cleanup of Culebra, Puerto Rico (Title III)**

First, under the Formerly Used Defense Sites program, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is conducting cleanup operations in limited areas of Culebra, Puerto Rico—which was used as a military training range for decades. However, the Department of the Army has asserted that a 1974 law prohibits the use of federal funds to clean a 400-acre parcel of land that was part of the former bombardment zone and that was conveyed to the government of Puerto Rico in 1982. Because the Army argues—wrongly, in my view—that the 1974 law has not been superseded by federal cleanup authorities enacted in the 1980s, this parcel on Culebra is the only former defense site—of several thousand across the country—that the federal government claims it is not authorized to decontaminate.

To its credit, this Committee has recognized that this state of affairs is not only illogical, but that it poses a threat to human safety—since this parcel contains popular beaches, pedestrian walkways and campgrounds. In Section 2815 of the 2010 NDAA, the House repealed the relevant provision in the 1974 law to authorize federal cleanup of the parcel. But the Senate—where Puerto Rico has no representation—did not include a similar provision, and the House receded in conference.

In the 2011 NDAA, Congress directed DOD to conduct a study to assess the amount of unexploded ordnance on this parcel, the risk it poses to safety and the environment, and the cost of its removal. Unfortunately, DOD completed this study after this Committee marked up the 2012 NDAA. To preserve the issue for conference, I offered a floor amendment—which was accepted by voice vote—expressing the sense of the House that, if this parcel could be

decontaminated at a reasonable cost, the 1974 law should be relaxed or repealed. Once again, and despite the efforts of Senator Blumenthal, the Senate failed to act.

On March 21<sup>st</sup> of this year, the consequences of the Senate's inaction became terribly clear. A young girl who was visiting a Culebra beach with her family suffered burns and was taken to the hospital after she picked up an artillery shell containing white phosphorous. Law enforcement officials responding to the incident reported finding six other pieces of UXO, including six-inch naval gun rounds that were detonated and removed by the FBI. This incident, which could have had a truly tragic ending, underscores the need for congressional action. I ask this Committee to include language to relax or repeal the 1974 law and, if necessary, to fight for this provision in conference.

**Defense Department Counter-Drug Activities In and Around Puerto Rico (Titles X, XIV)**

My second request concerns DOD counter-drug activities in and around Puerto Rico. I have worked hard to raise awareness about drug trafficking and related violence in Puerto Rico, and to urge the federal government—DHS, DOJ, and DOD—to dedicate the resources necessary to alleviate this problem.

The homicide rate in Puerto Rico is about three times higher than any state, and most of these murders are linked to the drug trade. As the federal government has allocated substantial resources to combat drug trafficking organizations operating in the Central American corridor, those organizations have returned to smuggling routes through the Caribbean region. The Coast Guard seized or disrupted over 17,000 pounds of drugs in the vicinity of Puerto Rico in 2012, an 800 percent increase over the previous year. DEA seizures rose nearly 100 percent. CBP seizures were up nearly 40 percent, and the agency seized more drugs in Puerto Rico than it did along the 180-mile border between Mexico and New Mexico. Meanwhile, the street price of drugs in Puerto Rico has decreased. This is a security problem of national scope, given that 80 percent of the drugs that enter Puerto Rico are transported to the U.S. mainland.

On March 20<sup>th</sup>, this Committee heard testimony from the commanders of NORTHCOM and SOUTHCOM. Upon questioning from Ms. Bordallo, both generals stated that the matter was of great concern to them. General Jacoby of NORTHCOM noted that JTF-North was responsible for responding to requests for support made by law enforcement agencies, and that it would make this issue a priority if such requests were forthcoming. I have urged DOD, DHS and DOJ to communicate constantly about how, in this constrained budget environment, they can maximize the effectiveness of counter-drug operations in Puerto Rico. While there has been some improvement, I continue to believe that not nearly enough is being done.

As part of my efforts, I have asked this Committee, in the report accompanying this year's NDAA, to direct DOD to prepare a written report for the Committee on the detection, monitoring

and other counter-drug activities it is undertaking, or intends to undertake, to support law enforcement operations in and around Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

**The 156<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing of the Puerto Rico National Guard (Item of Special Interest)**

Finally, I would like to work with the Committee to encourage the Air Force and the Air National Guard to ensure that the 156<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing of the Puerto Rico Air National Guard retains a flying mission and is provided with the aircraft it needs to conduct that mission.

Over the last several years, the 156<sup>th</sup> AW has had the highest operational tempo of any C-130 unit in the Air National Guard, conducting Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) and humanitarian relief missions in AFRICOM, CENTCOM and SOUTHCOM and fulfilling its commitments under Operation CORONET OAK, all while flying the oldest C-130s in the Air Force inventory. The unit has unmatched operational experience in its AOR, is strategically located, and is fully bilingual. It could—and should—become the unit of choice serving the Americas.

Yet, for reasons I cannot fully understand, its future is uncertain. Currently, the 156<sup>th</sup> has three C-130Es, all of which are scheduled to be retired this year, and recently took delivery of five WC-130s, which are not combat-coded. The Air National Guard has consistently assured me that these planes are simply intended to be a temporary stop-gap measure until the 156<sup>th</sup> can be provided with newer H or J models that are fully mission capable. Every time I inquire about the expected delivery date of these new planes, however, no clear response is provided.

There are multiple options for the 156<sup>th</sup>. The unit could keep its current tactical airlift mission or, alternatively, pursue a strategic airlift or tanker mission. Allowing the unit's flying mission to lapse would be a terrible mistake, and inconsistent with the repeated assurances I have been given by top Air Force officials, including the Secretary of the Air Force, since 2009. Therefore, I respectfully ask the Committee to work with me on this matter, either through the NDAA or in other ways.

Thank you.



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**DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD**

MAY 8, 2013

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**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 22, 2013

The Honorable Leon Panetta  
Secretary of Defense  
1400 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Panetta,

We take this opportunity to raise an issue broached by the Regional President of the Azores, Vasco Cordeiro, and discussed during your recent visit to Portugal: the Air Force's decision to adjust the force structure and operational capability at Lajes Field on Terceira Island, Azores, Portugal. We appreciate the time and attention you and your staff have dedicated to this issue.

Having bolstered the United States' and its allies' control of the Atlantic since World War II, Lajes Field is a valuable asset that enables the expeditionary movement of warfighters, aircraft, ships, and global communications to AFRICOM and CENTCOM's joint, coalition, and NATO operations.

Today, amid the proliferation of terrorist groups in unstable countries in West and Sub-Saharan Africa, Lajes is a major strategic military location. It is a crucial site for countering the biggest regional threat, al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), which has known ties to al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), Boko Haram, and al-Shabab. While we commend the step forward to provide the needed resources to create a Commander's In-Extremis Force (CIF) within the AFRICOM AOR, its current staging does not allow for rapid deployment. Nor does the placement of the CIF in Stuttgart allow for the strategic flexibility needed.

The terrorist hot-spots in western Africa can all be reached from Lajes Field in less than five hours' flight time and with few if any over-flight concerns. From this strategic location, ten of the eighteen African countries that hold State Department Travel Warnings can be reached within six hours. There are few other military bases in EUCOM or AFRICOM that can match Lajes' unique capabilities.



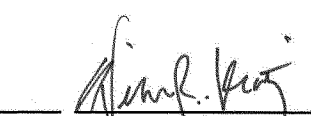
Amid growing regional instability, Lajes offers the opportunity to expand our strategic reach and force projection into the AFRICOM theater of operations. Further, Lajes is well positioned to act as a logistical hub for the Department of Defense, USAID humanitarian aid, the Department of State and other agencies. Therefore, we urge the Department of Defense not to reduce Lajes' operational capabilities. Unlike some of our other European allies, Portugal has never denied us the ability to conduct operational missions. We should work closely with our Portuguese allies to retain a sufficient force structure at the base to expand operational capabilities.



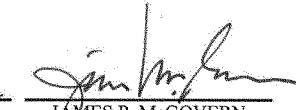
Secretary Panetta  
February 22, 2013  
Page Two

With the United States' critical focus on the Pacific now underway, the need to ensure retention of a strong Atlantic position at reasonable cost is a vital and delicate aspect of strategic re-positioning. We are aware of the reality that the high cost of Continental European deployment must be reduced. In this process the retention and even expansion of Lajes basing and capabilities become vital for the maintenance of United States' abilities to reinforce Europe at some future time, while at the same time allowing AFRICOM to bolster its efficacy.

We certainly realize this is a difficult decision. However with more than 110,000 troops and civilians stationed and employed at 29 military installations in Europe, we should be able to prioritize assets to ensure the strategic location of Lajes Field is maintained. We stand ready to work with you to address this situation.

Best regards,

		
DEVIN NUNES Member of Congress	JIM COSTA Member of Congress	BILL KEATING Member of Congress

		
DAVID G. VALADAO Member of Congress	DAVID CICILLINE Member of Congress	JAMES P. MCGOVERN Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Chuck Hagel, Secretary of Defense Nominee

