



APRIL 15, 2015

MEMBER HEARING DAY

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
DEFENSE

ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

HEARING CONTENTS:

WITNESS TESTIMONY

Alan Lowenthal [\[view PDF\]](#)
Member of Congress

Ted Lieu [\[view PDF\]](#)
Member of Congress

David Jolly [\[view PDF\]](#)
Member of Congress

James McGovern [\[view PDF\]](#)
Member of Congress

Denny Heck [\[view PDF\]](#)
Member of Congress

Henry "Hank" Johnson [\[view PDF\]](#)
Member of Congress

Jeff Miller [\[view PDF\]](#)
Member of Congress

Paul Cook [\[view PDF\]](#)
Member of Congress

Bradley Byrne [\[view PDF\]](#)
Member of Congress

Earl "Buddy" Carter [\[view PDF\]](#)
Member of Congress

Keith Rothfus [\[view PDF\]](#)
Member of Congress

Brenda Lawrence [\[view PDF\]](#)
Member of Congress

Ann Wagner [\[view PDF\]](#)
Member of Congress

AVAILABLE WEBCAST(S):*

Full Hearing: <https://youtu.be/weSjEwqZol4>

COMPILED FROM:

- <http://appropriations.house.gov/calendararchive/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=394094>

** Please note: Any external links included in this compilation were functional at its creation but are not maintained thereafter.*

Testimony for Rep. Lowenthal House Committee on Appropriations

Chairman Frelinghuysen, Ranking Member Visclosky, and Members of the committee, thank you for allowing me this time to discuss with you the importance of STEM education for the Department of Defense, specifically the STARBASE program.

Providing Science, Technology, Education and Math education to America's youth is critical to the global competitiveness of our nation. The STARBASE program engages local fifth-grade elementary students by exposing them to STEM subjects through an inquiry based curriculum and is currently active in 56 Congressional Districts throughout the country. The program is carried out by the military services because **the lack of STEM educated youth in America has been identified as a future national security issue by the DoD**. However, for the last two years both the House and Senate have had to rebuke the Office of Management and Budget's proposal to terminate this critical program.

And today I ask that you join me to again restore the STARBASE program at a modest funding level of \$30 million.

The DoD STARBASE program is one of the most cost-effective programs across all of federal government, costing an average of only \$343 per student. Last year 3,062 classes were conducted in 1,267 schools, among a diverse 413 school districts, across the country. More than 70,000 students attended the program, bringing the total to 825,000 since its inception in 1993.

STARBASE is one of the most educationally effective STEM programs as well. Studies show pre- and post-STARBASE youth demonstrate an undisputed improvement in STEM fields. Just as crucial is the positive disposition change the youth experience after participating in the exciting, hands-on, experiment-based program. Changing our children's' attitudes on math and science from negative to positive is a paramount achievement. Research shows that students begin to lose interest in STEM subjects as early as fourth grade and as a result, are not motivated to select the necessary high school courses that will allow them to pursue STEM careers in college.

As a member of Congress, I fully appreciate OMB's desire to consolidate STEM programs across the spectrum into one funding line. However, this **IS** a national

defense issue and has been identified by the joint chiefs as such. STARBASE was created under the auspices of the Department of Defense to meet its critical needs in STEM-related fields. Fully, 67 percent of all those who entered the fields of science and engineering in the U.S. between 1995 and 2006 were immigrants. And many immigrants cannot acquire the national security clearances necessary to work on vital defense projects.

Again, I respectfully request that this committee reinstate the STARBASE program and authorize it at \$30 million for this and for future years to come.

STARBASE inspires America's youth to discover technical career fields that are imperative for future national security challenges. We cannot lose this battle and concede our technical edge to the rest of the world.

Thank you.

Testimony of Representative Ted Lieu (D-CA)
Member of Congress
33rd Congressional District of California
Before the House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense
April 15, 2015

Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member, and Members of the Subcommittee, I want to thank you for the tireless work and effort that you and your staff put forward to ensure that our Nation remains safe. As a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force Reserves who previously served on active duty, I have firsthand experience with the support this Subcommittee provides to our men and women in uniform.

I want to particularly thank the Subcommittee's work on aerospace and space issues. As the representative for California's 33rd Congressional District, I work in both military and civilian capacities with Los Angeles Air Force Base and its Space and Missile Systems Center, which is tasked with researching, developing, acquiring and launching our country's military space systems. Surrounding the base is a unique and incredible array of institutions and companies focused on space and aerospace, ranging from the federally-funded research and development center Aerospace Corporation to world-class universities. Together, they have driven the growth of one of the largest hubs of aerospace industry in the country, employing thousands of technical workers, PhDs, and manufacturers, and producing more engineering graduates than any other region in the country. Adjacent to the base is the production line for the F/A-18 fuselage, which is the program I am here to testify about today.

I would like to add my strong support for the F/A-18 program as you consider the Fiscal Year 2016 defense appropriations bill. This program has an estimated annual economic impact of

\$1 billion throughout California, 40 percent of which occurs in my district, with 274 vendors and suppliers and thousands of employees. From a national security perspective, the program is at a critical pivot point as the Navy considers its warfighting requirements and the strength of its aviation fleet.

As you know, the F/A-18 program has provided the United States Navy with two unique and essential aircraft for our Nation's warfighter, the F/A-18E/F Super Hornet and EA-18G Growler. The Super Hornet remains the Navy's premier operational strike fighter, flying from forward deployed aircraft carriers. These aircraft flew the first missions against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), and they serve as the workhorse of naval aviation for all missions, and all threat environments. With a plan to be part of the fleet into 2040, the Super Hornet is a key component of the Navy's aviation plans for the next three decades.

Additionally, the Growler is the Department of Defense's proven airborne electronic attack asset, providing jamming not just for the Navy, but all the services. We are in a time when control of the electromagnetic spectrum is a key discriminator in battle. The Growler is truly a national asset and the Department's only resource for airborne electronic attack. Today, the Department is finalizing a study that could indicate the need for a greater requirement of Growler aircraft in order to prosecute missions of the future in highly contested environments.

Unfortunately, the Fiscal Year 2016 budget does not include funding for continued production of either the Super Hornet or Growler. After the budget submission, the Navy added 12 "F Model" Super Hornets to its unfunded priority request, highlighting that it does not have a sufficient amount of aircraft in its inventory.

The most immediate challenge is that the F/A-18 confronts the difficult decision to keep open or close its production line may need to close without aircraft in FY16. The Subcommittee

must weigh many factors as it crafts its budget, but if F/A-18 aircraft are not added this year, the Navy may not have the ability to address its shortfall in future years. The Nation would also be left with a single tactical aircraft manufacturer, eliminating competition that has driven efficiency and innovation in aviation, and negatively affecting 60,000 workers that contribute to the F/A-18 program, including many in my own home State of California.

This Subcommittee has been incredibly responsive to the needs of the warfighter. From procurement of the best weapons to funding health programs that affect the lives of countless members of our military and their families, the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee looks beyond the budget documents and always considers what is best for the women and men in uniform. I ask that you once again take that approach. Please consider the Navy's unfunded priority this year of an additional 12 F/A-18 aircraft.

Once again, I thank the Subcommittee for its work, and your time today. I look forward to working with you to ensure that our Nation retains the strongest military in the world, and that our servicemen and women have the finest resources available.

Thank you.

Congressman Jolly – FL-13
Testimony on the Defense Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2016
April 15, 2015

Chairman Frelinghuysen, Ranking Member Visclosky, and other Members of this Subcommittee:

Thank you for providing me with this opportunity to share my thoughts on matters that I believe the Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16) Department of Defense Appropriations Act should thoroughly consider. The work of this subcommittee is no small task, and I am grateful for your steadfast dedication to fulfilling the most important Constitutional responsibility of Congress, to provide for our common defense.

Firstly, I would like to discuss the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) program and Condition Based Maintenance capabilities. As described by the Navy, LCS “is a fast, agile, focused-mission platform designed for operation in near-shore environments yet capable of open-ocean operation. It is designed to defeat asymmetric ‘anti-access’ threats such as mines, quiet diesel submarines and fast surface craft.” Funding through the Rapid Innovation Fund program has been utilized by the Navy for the development and testing of an advanced Condition Based Maintenance and distance support capability for the LCS. This capability will increase combat readiness, streamline LCS’ ability to perform combat system element advance maintenance planning and execution, and enable reliable and secure transmission of combat system data to meet current and future Navy cybersecurity advancements. I urge the subcommittee to ensure continued funding for this program and technology.

Secondly, on a recent visit to MacDill Air Force Base, I had the opportunity to meet with military personnel at U.S. Special Operations Command (SOCOM) and U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM). Mr. Chairman, I know that you understand and appreciate the work and security that these Commands provide to the American people. This has been evident through the support you've provided SOCOM and CENTCOM over the years. I wholeheartedly thank you and the subcommittee for that. On this occasion, I would like to draw your attention to the importance of SOCOM's Special Operations Forces Acquisition, Technology and Logistics (SOF AT&L) Science and Technology (S&T) Accounts. SOCOM SOF AT&L's aim is to apply and invest resources to provide asymmetric advantage for our Special Operations Forces (SOF). During the past few years, S&T accounts have provided capabilities of decisive importance that directly support SOF missions, to include: 4 major types of tags/taggants; unattended ground sensors; 8 communications/dissemination capabilities; 1 portable biometrics/forensics rapid DNA device; 2 technical support systems; Military Information Support Operations (MISO) program projects; and 5 Geospatial Intelligence (GEOINT)/Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) payloads/devices. It's of the utmost importance that we provide adequate resources to ensure our men and women in uniform maintain the technological advantage on the battlefield, and for this reason I urge the subcommittee's continued support of SOCOM Science and Technology programs.

Thirdly, with the sophistication behind cyber threats growing on a daily basis, it is critical that we provide our Armed Forces with the capabilities and resources necessary to maintain effective cyber defenses. Sufficient resources are necessary for maintaining and improving CENTCOM's

cyber operations, which include cybersecurity technical support, Computer Network Defense products and solutions, Identity Management, and Cyber Situational Awareness/Common Operating Picture (SA/COP) capabilities. Throughout the CENTCOM Theater, any shortfalls in cybersecurity will hinder the Commander's ability to detect adversarial activity and maintain real-time situational awareness, which is a necessity for posturing and maneuvering cyber forces. I urge the subcommittee to consider this issue when finalizing Department of Defense funding.

In closing, I would like to express my appreciation for this opportunity to provide testimony as to what I believe our FY2016 Defense Appropriations bill should encompass. I look forward to working with you and the other members of the subcommittee during the 114th Congress to ensure that our nation's defense spending is thoroughly debated and is carried out in the most responsible way to protect our nation and her people.

TESTIMONY OF
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE JAMES P. McGOVERN (MA-02)

SUBCOMMITTEE ON DEFENSE
HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

FISCAL YEAR 2016 APPROPRIATIONS
DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAMS

I want to thank Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Visclosky for allowing me this opportunity to testify today in support of funding a competitive grant program for nonprofits that train service dogs for our veterans. Specifically, I ask the Committee to support a \$5 million request for the Wounded Warriors Service Dog grant program.

In addition, I request the Committee to insert language addressing the benefits of canine therapy for the treatment of PTSD and TBI symptoms. I will include this language with my official statement.

I also want to express my gratitude to the Chairman and Ranking Member for their assistance in securing the initial funding for this program during the FY15 appropriations process. Last year this program was awarded \$1 million and we are hoping to build upon that initial funding and continue to grow this competitive grant program.

Mister Chairman, so many of our veterans are returning from war bearing both physical and emotional scars, we must do what we can to ensure that they have access to treatments that work. Service dogs have shown to have a positive effect on the treatment of PTSD and TBI symptoms, and it is not coincidental that we have seen a significant growth in demand for the service dogs as more of our veterans are returning home in need of this assistance.

During the last Congress I had the opportunity to visit the National Education for Assistance Dog Services – or NEADS – located in Princeton, Massachusetts, I heard amazing stories about how service dogs are helping to treat veterans with physical disabilities, as well as those suffering from post-traumatic stress. This nonprofit organization has connected many deserving veterans with service dogs over the past few years with incredible results.

In the last few years NEADS, like many of the other nonprofits providing this crucial service, have struggled to meet these growing levels of demand. Many nonprofits that train dogs for use by veterans are underfunded. The cost of training a service dog varies, but estimates range between \$15,000 and \$60,000 per dog, and training can take up to two years. Too often does a veteran's need for a service dogs often unmet due to financial constraints. This competitive grant will help ease the increased financial burden that these organizations are facing.

In January, the VA launched a study on the potential benefits of service dogs for individuals with PTSD, they expect this study to end sometime during 2018 or 2019. But, if you

sit down with just a handful of our veterans who have received a service dog for PTSD, it will become as clear as day how helpful these dogs are.

Mister Chairman, with so many of our are veterans coming home from war suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and other physical disabilities, it is critical that we offer them multiple treatment options. Connecting veterans with lifesaving service dogs should be one of those comprehensive care options.

I ask this Committee and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to this competitive grant program at the levels requested for FY 2016 so that our veterans can receive the treatment they deserve.

Language Request for FY 16 Defense Appropriations

“The committee is aware that canine therapy for treatment of PTSD and TBI symptoms is a promising alternative or adjunct to pharmaceutical treatment, which can have harmful side-effects. In testimony before Congress, witnesses from the Services were positive about the potential for this treatment, calling canine therapy for PTSD "an emerging area of alternative therapy" that is "beneficial in the support of people with either physical or mental health diagnoses," and that can "help reduce anxiety, lower emotional reactivity, and provide a sense of security." While still experimental, canine therapy has shown effectiveness in treating PTSD and other psychological disorders, from hospitalized psychiatric patients to children with developmental disorders, patients with substance abuse problems, and victims of trauma. The Services' report that service members who participate in their canine programs for PTSD and TBI show more positive social interactions, a decrease in suicidal thoughts, an increased sense of safety, independence, motivation, and self-efficacy. The committee notes that canine therapy is a promising area for further research as a complementary or alternative treatment for the signature wounds of the ongoing conflict. Therefore, the committee provides funds and continues to encourage the Services to initiate or expand their research into canine therapy to validate its therapeutic effectiveness in the treatment of PTSD and TBI.”

TESTIMONY

CONGRESSMAN DENNY HECK (WA-10)

“National Defense Priorities from Members for the FY 2016 Defense Appropriations Bill”

April 15, 2014

House Appropriations Committee – Subcommittee on Defense

SUBJECT: The need for transportation improvement programs in and around military installations impacted by 2005 round of Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission.

Thank you Chairman Frelinghuysen, Ranking Member Visclosky, and other members of this subcommittee for allowing me to testify today about national defense priorities for the upcoming fiscal year.

I represent Joint Base Lewis-McChord, one of the largest military installations in the country. In the vicinity of JBLM is Interstate-5. This highway is the most heavily traveled north-south freight corridor in the state of Washington, carrying 145,000 vehicles per day. Nearly 80 percent of traffic to and from JBLM relies on I-5. Local travelers in neighboring cities have no other option except to use I-5 as an arterial. When incidents occur, it can take hours to recover. Backups of six miles or more starting at 6 a.m. are not rare, rather they have come to be expected.

This isn't just happening in my district. Floridians are stuck on Florida's State Route 85. People here in the beltway are stuck on Interstate 95, 395 and 495. The almost daily question has become: “What is the hold up?”

The truth is military installations are still adapting to base realignment, and short-term growth caused by troops passing through before being deployed. Installation growth has had a significant effect on regional transportation, particularly when an installation is located in or near an urban area. Even acknowledging the potential for drawdowns on military bases, those reductions would not nearly come close to alleviating the problem.

Surrounding roads play an important role in preserving military readiness. Our armed forces need to instantly deploy and we need functional roads in order to do that. If military personnel are caught in a jam, efficiency goes out the door. The domino effect of delays due to congestion impairs our national security.

This leaves not only military activities on base stranded, but also commerce in the community stranded as well. When we don't have a reliable roadway, economic activity halts. Goods can't move and companies lose money. This cascading inaction affects productivity and balance sheets, putting strain on business owners and workers alike.

To be clear, the military is not to blame for this. In fact, based on the direction of this committee, they've done a lot to help mitigate the problem. They know the opportunity costs involved when their soldiers and civilian workers are stuck in traffic and can't be where they need to be. Bases have come up with innovative approaches to ease the pain, but the problem remains severe and unavoidable without more investment. It is a Band-Aid over a wound that needs stitches.

Let's heal this mess by upgrading the transportation infrastructure around these bases as part of the FY16 Defense Appropriations Bill. I respectfully request that the 2016 bill provide \$25 million in appropriated funds for transportation infrastructure improvements associated with congestion mitigation in urban areas related to 2005 BRAC recommendations.

As you may recall, the defense appropriations bill for 2011 appropriated \$300 million for these purposes. These funds were available through the Office of Economic Adjustment.

Mr. Chairman, while I've been sitting here talking to you today, people that were in gridlock when I began speaking have probably barely budged. They're already late to work or their assignment. They might still be in gridlock when this hearing ends.

We are all too familiar with the horrible feeling of approaching an unexpected slow crawl on the road. But when this affects our military's ability to get to base, do the job, and be ready for anything, that is when we can't just sit and wait for it to get better. We must do more.

Finally, I'd just like to thank you for listening to me at this time last year when I made a similar request to finish improvements to public schools located on military installations. I truly appreciate your attention to that important issue and your work to make that possible.

Thank you for your time.

**Members Hearing on Fiscal Year 2016 Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Wednesday, April 15, 2015**

**Joint Testimony of the Honorable Hank Johnson (D-4th GA) and Marc Veasey (D-33rd TX)
FY 2016 Request: \$40 Million for the Historically Black Colleges and Universities and
Minority-Serving Institutions Program**

Chairman Frelinghuysen, Ranking Member Visclosky and Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony today. As members of the House Armed Services Committee, we have been intimately involved in overseeing the Department of Defense's mission, programs and activities. Thus, we feel especially well qualified to provide this statement in support of the Department of Defense (DOD) Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Institutions (HBCU/MI) Program and the need to increase DOD research capabilities at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

Funding for the HBCU/MI Program is a national security issue. Our nation and DOD, in particular, are in need of talent to fill jobs across the national security workforce. The opportunities and experiences that minority students gain from exposure to DOD research labs are critical. This program provides important science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) research opportunities not just for HBCUs but for all Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs), including Hispanic Serving Institutions and others.

HBCUs, in particular, provide enormous value for students, the nation, and the STEM workforce related to DOD priorities. HBCUs represent only 3 percent of all two- and four-year colleges and universities. However, HBCUs enroll 10 percent of all African American college students; confer 18 percent of bachelor's degrees awarded to African Americans; and generate 25 percent of the STEM bachelor's degrees awarded to African Americans. Moreover, HBCUs accomplish this while serving students with greater financial need; 71 percent of students who attend HBCUs today are low-income students who depend on federal Pell Grants for their education, a substantially greater share than the 40 percent of students at other nonprofit colleges and universities. Yet HBCUs educate students more cost effectively than their counterparts. In fact, the total cost of attendance at HBCUs is 30 percent lower, on average, than other nonprofit institutions.

Despite this demonstrated track record of success, the federal government has decreased STEM and research and infrastructure investments in HBCUs. The National Science Foundation reports that HBCUs received 10 percent *less* in federal science and engineering funding in FY 2012 compared to FY 2011. This is the second consecutive annual decrease in science and engineering obligations to HBCUs. Additionally, the HBCU/MI Program, funded under the Defense-wide Research, Development, Test and Evaluation account, has been cut dramatically from \$67 million in FY 2010 to \$34 million in FY 2015.

We thank the Subcommittee for rejecting the deep, 33 percent cut included in the Defense Department's FY 2015 budget request, and restoring most of the funding with a final FY 2015 appropriation of \$34 million for this activity. We also greatly appreciate the Subcommittee's action to reject the Defense Department's FY 2014 reprogramming request to divert \$5 million from the HBCU/MI appropriation to other activities within DOD.

FY 2016 Appropriations

Looking forward to FY 2016, we are again greatly disappointed that the Department of Defense continues to overlook this valuable program. The DOD FY 2016 budget request proposes once again to slash the HBCU/MI Program by 25 percent, from \$34 million to only \$26 million. The proposed disinvestment counters the DOD's goal to expand partnerships with HBCUs and develop new Centers of Excellence focused on DOD priorities. We ask this Subcommittee to not only reject this ill-advised budget cut, but also to increase the HBCU/MI Program appropriation to \$40 million to grow important research and partnership opportunities between the DOD and HBCUs.

Funding History of the HBCU/MI Program

HBCU/MI Funding History	
FY 2010	\$67 million
FY 2011	\$23 million
FY 2012	\$18 million
FY 2013	\$36 million
FY 2014	\$36 million
FY 2015	\$34 million
Administration FY 2016 Request	\$26 million
HBCU Coalition FY 2016 Request ¹	\$40 million

The DOD HBCU/MI Program plays a critical role in assisting HBCUs and Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) with cultivating and strengthening their scientific and technical infrastructure, capabilities and curriculum that are important to national defense. For example, the HBCU/MI Program provides support for research and collaboration with DOD facilities and personnel, research grants for further knowledge in the basic physical scientific and engineering disciplines through theoretical and empirical activities, and collaborative research that allows HBCU faculty and students to work directly with military laboratories in technical areas of interest to DOD, such as cyber security. Program funds also are used to support STEM education by funding scholarships, the STEM Prep Project with HBCUs (a program that provides academic training to young students for degrees in STEM fields), cooperative work/study opportunities, and other innovative academic programs that increase the number of students of color completing undergraduate and graduate STEM degrees.

The HBCU/MI Program has a strong research and educational collaboration with the Naval Air Warfare Center in support of the Avionic Enabling Technology Development for Manned and Unmanned Airborne Systems. The HBCU/MI Program also focuses on addressing the Army's research needs through new

¹ The HBCU Coalition consists of the United Negro College Fund, Thurgood Marshall College Fund, and the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education.

Centers of Excellence for Battlefield Capability Enhancements. These centers work with Army, industrial, and other academic partners to accelerate Army-relevant research to technology demonstration. In addition, these Centers of Excellence recruit, educate, and train outstanding students and post-doctoral researchers ready to enter fields in science and technology like cyber security, data-to-decisions and autonomy to solve 21st century defense challenges.

In FY 2011, four Centers of Excellence were established at the following institutions: Hampton University (Lower Atmospheric Research Using Lidar Remote Sensing); North Carolina A&T University (Nano to Continuum Multi-Scale Modeling Techniques and Analysis for Cementitious Materials Under Dynamic Loading); Delaware State University (Center for Advanced Algorithms); and Howard University (two centers one for Bayesian Imaging and Advanced Signal Processing and IED Detection Using GPR and another for Extracting Social Meaning From Linguistic Structures in African Languages).

The DOD HBCU/MI Program is a critical asset to cultivating STEM talent to meet our growing national technological and economic needs. HBCUs have already compiled an impeccable record of producing graduates majoring in STEM disciplines. By supporting research, research training, mentoring and other activities that help students enter the workforce in STEM, the DOD HBCU/MI Program is helping America meet the global challenges that face us.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to express our strong support for the DOD HBCU/MI Program.

**Congressman Jeff Miller
Warfighter Safety Initiative Testimony to HAC-D
April 15, 2015**

GOOD MORNING, MR. CHAIRMAN. THANK YOU FOR PROVIDING ME AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ISSUES CRITICAL TO OUR NATIONAL SECURITY, AND IN THIS CASE, CRITICAL TO THE PREVENTIVE CARE OF OUR SAILORS AND AIRMEN.

THE NAVY'S BASIC RESEARCH ON HUMAN RESILIENCE AND PERFORMANCE IN HIGH ALTITUDE AND UNDERSEA ENVIRONMENTS IS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE.

TO ENABLE THE CONTINUED SUPREMACY OF U.S. FORCES IN THE 21ST CENTURY AND TO PREVENT SERIOUS ILLNESS IN LATER YEARS IDENTIFIED TO BE CAUSED BY PROLONGED WORK IN THE RELATED DOMAINS OF AVIATION AND DIVING, IT IS CRITICAL THAT THE NAVY'S RESEARCH INTO THE EFFECTS OF EXTENDED EXPOSURE TO EXTREME PRESSURE ENVIRONMENTS IS FULLY FUNDED.

IN THE NAVY BUDGET UNDER THE WARFIGHTER SUSTAINMENT PROGRAM ELEMENT, THE OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH'S MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIES PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS THIS

RESEARCH AS A REQUIREMENT IN SUPPORT OF SUCH MISSION AREAS.

UNFORTUNATELY, FUNDING FOR THIS RESEARCH IS INSUFFICIENT AND DOES NOT UTILIZE D.O.D.'S PREMIER AEROMEDICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH FACILITY, THE NAVAL MEDICAL RESEARCH UNIT IN DAYTON, OHIO.

RECENT RESEARCH HAS SHOWN THAT THE LOW AIR PRESSURE UNDER WHICH HIGH-ALTITUDE PILOTS WORK AND THE RESULTING HIGH CONCENTRATIONS OF OXYGEN THEY BREATHE LEADS TO DECOMPRESSION SICKNESS, INCLUDING A TYPE KNOWN AS NEUROLOGIC DECOMPRESSION SICKNESS.

THE RESEARCH CITES SUCH SYMPTOMS IN PILOTS AND DIVERS AS TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT COGNITIVE DECLINE, SLOWED THOUGHT PROCESS, AND UNRESPONSIVENESS BEYOND THOSE DUE TO THE NATURAL AGING PROCESS.

OF GRAVE CONCERN TO ME IS THAT THE EFFECTS OF THESE ILLNESSES ARE NOT TOO DIFFERENT FROM WHAT RESEARCHERS ARE FINDING IN TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY VICTIMS.

OUR MILITARY NEEDS TO FUND MORE BASIC RESEARCH INTO THE CAUSES AND METHODS OF PREVENTING THESE ILLNESSES IN OUR PILOTS, DEEP SEA SAILORS, AND SPECIAL OPERATORS

EXPOSED TO PROLONGED PERIODS OF EXTREME PRESSURE CONDITIONS.

THERE IS A PROMISING SIDE TO THIS ISSUE.

IN 2005, THE DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION DIRECTED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NAVAL MEDICAL RESEARCH UNIT IN DAYTON AND ITS JOINT CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR AEROMEDICAL RESEARCH AT WRIGHT PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE.

SINCE THAT TIME, DOD HAS SPENT MORE THAN \$40 MILLION TO DEVELOP A WORLD-CLASS RESEARCH FACILITY SUPPORTED BY A COLLECTION OF STATE-OF-THE-ART EQUIPMENT FOUND AT NO OTHER LOCATION ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.

THIS UNIQUE ASSORTMENT OF CAPABILITIES ENABLES THIS FACILITY TO TRANSITION VALIDATED KNOWLEDGE AND EFFECTIVE TECHNOLOGIES TO THE WARFIGHTER THAT WILL MITIGATE AND PREVENT THE EFFECTS OF HIGH ALTITUDE AND UNDERSEA ENVIRONMENTS.

HOWEVER, SINCE THE CREATION OF THIS INCREDIBLE FACILITY, THE NAVY HAS BEEN UNABLE TO FUND CRITICAL RESEARCH THAT WOULD CAPITALIZE ON D.O.D.'S INVESTMENT AND MAXIMIZE RESEARCH INTO ESTABLISHED NAVY AND AIR FORCE REQUIREMENTS.

I THINK YOU'LL AGREE THAT FUNDING THE EFFICIENT UTILIZATION OF THIS FACILITY IN SUPPORT OF ESTABLISHED AIR FORCE AND NAVY REQUIREMENTS IS GOOD FOR OUR SAILORS, AIRMEN, VETERANS, AND THE TAXPAYER.

AS YOU BEGIN WORK ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2016 DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL, I RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THAT YOU PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL \$8.9 MILLION FOR WARFIGHTER SUSTAINMENT, MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIES PROGRAM, IN THE NAVY BUDGET.

ALL MONIES PLACED ON CONTRACT WILL BE DONE SO THROUGH A ROBUST COMPETITION AND WILL INCREASE UTILIZATION OF RESEARCH FACILITIES BY ADDRESSING REQUIREMENTS CURRENTLY ESTABLISHED IN THE F.Y.16 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET.

I THANK YOU AND RANKING MEMBER VISCLOSKY FOR HAVING THIS HEARING AND I URGE YOU AND THE SUBCOMMITTEE TO LOOK CLOSELY AT THIS ISSUE DURING YOUR DISCUSSIONS.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME TODAY, AND I APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE MY THOUGHTS ON THIS IMPORTANT RESEARCH WITH THE SUBCOMMITTEE.

STATEMENT BY REPRESENTATIVE PAUL COOK

8th DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

BEFORE THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON DEFENSE

Chairman Frelinghuysen, Ranking Member Visclosky, and Members of the Subcommittee. Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify today about an opportunity to improve Marine Corps tactical intelligence and support combat operations.

The Marine Corps' Director of Intelligence published a document last September called the Marine Corps Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Enterprise Plan for 2015-2020 which is a roadmap for improving the quality and timeliness of intelligence passed to Marine units conducting combat operations. The plan addresses the intelligence warfighting function across all echelons of the Marine Corps, the Intelligence Community, and the Joint Force. It implements the principles of Expeditionary Force 21 (the Marine Corps' capstone concept for America's Force in Readiness) and to quote the document, it's all about "providing the right intelligence at the right place and the right time."

I would like to share with the subcommittee a few of the observations made by the Marine Corps Director of Intelligence in this plan:

All around us we see that the currents of instability not only extend, but also accelerate. New enemies, state and non-state alike, will bring sophisticated new challenges to the field of conflict. The technology available to our opponents will continue to develop and proliferate at the pace of Moore's law, eroding our firepower dominance. Social transformations, enabled by the information age, move even faster than that. Opponents will challenge us through technological innovation, precision fires, information operations, deception, camouflage, and fighting in the vast urban slums that dot the littoral. To a higher degree than in the past the technological, social, political, and information context of warfare demands that we out-think our enemies as well as out-fight them.

Our Marine Corps operating concepts in this environment fundamentally rest on the battlefield understanding that our intelligence enterprise must provide. As a force, we've demonstrated our ability to finish the enemy. We must now invest in capabilities for finding and fixing. Raising the bar for our professional enterprise, making better investments in our people, and ensuring deeper integration of the intelligence warfighting function into planning and operations has never been more necessary for battlefield success. Right now is the time for us to rethink how we rise to that challenge.

The Marine Corps requested \$13.2 million for USMC Intelligence/Electronic Warfare Systems in fiscal year 2016, a decrease of 7 percent compared to the amount appropriated in fiscal year 2015. Within that amount, \$1.8 million is for Intelligence Analysis System Support which integrates advanced analytics tools into the Intelligence Analysis System Family of Systems.

A high priority for the Marine Corps is organizing and sharing of all-source spatial information products across the Marine Corps Intelligence organizations to reduce the production timeline, provide a greater understanding of the battlespace, and support interoperability through the use of open standards.

Providing warfighters with these “smart maps” will allow them to understand intelligence data better.

I don't think that the fiscal year 2016 budget provides the Marine Corps Intelligence community the resources to implement this thoughtful and innovative vision. I recognize that the subcommittee has a very difficult task this year of balancing the needs of our military, who have spent more than a decade at war, with the need to restrain federal spending and reduce the national debt. As you craft your fiscal year 2016 bill, I am urging you to closely examine whether the Marine Corps Intelligence community has sufficient resources needed to transform its warfighting intelligence process using modern commercial tools and technologies.

I appreciate the warm welcome you've given me today and the opportunity for me to highlight for you a small but very important Marine Corps initiative.

Thank you.

**STATEMENT OF
BRADLEY BYRNE (AL-1)
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON DEFENSE
ON
16 APRIL 2015**

INTRODUCTION

Chairman Frelinghuysen, Ranking Member Visclosky, distinguished members of the committee; it is my pleasure to appear before you today to testify on two issues important to our national security: the Department of Defense's Littoral Combat Ship program and Joint High Speed Vessel program.

LITTORAL COMBAT SHIP

The Littoral Combat Ship, or LCS, is essential to missions in the world's littorals, and it is critical if the Navy is to support the Department's pivot to the Asia-Pacific region.

Much of the concern surrounding the LCS today is focused on issues other than the sea frame. In fact, the LCS program is currently realizing substantial efficiencies and savings. Production is stable and costs have reduced significantly due to the learning that has been achieved on the ships built to date. The LCS is easily the most affordable surface vessel

in our fleet today, but the LCS is not just affordable, it is also very capable.

Some of the LCS's largest critics contend that the Navy has not effectively laid out its plans for the vessel. They have questions about the ships survivability and lethality.

These are important questions, many of which the Navy already knows the answers to. And although the survivability testing for the vessel will not officially be completed until 2018, this does not mean the Navy does not understand how survivable or lethal the LCS is in different threat environments. In fact, the Navy's Small Surface Combatant Task Force recently studied in great detail how the current LCS operates in certain environments and how additional capabilities added to the platform would enhance its ability to operate in these areas.

Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus described this study as “exhaustive,” and upon its completion, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel agreed with the results and authorized the Navy to proceed with its plan to transition the LCS into the Frigate, validating the need to build out the program to 52 ships.

32 of these ships will be needed to complete the mine counter measures mission, which is vitally important to operations in the Fifth Fleet and Seventh Fleet areas of operation. The remaining 20 Frigates will be designed to carry out anti-surface and anti-sub missions. These ships remain essential to the Navy’s ability to project power by providing forward deployed presence and greater interoperability with our allies.

Last month, in testimony before the Armed Services Committee, Secretary Mabus said that, “any change to the production rate of three LCS per year [for the next three fiscal years] will significantly impact the transition to the Frigate.” This is an obvious but frightening

observation. It's become abundantly clear that delaying the production of the LCS would significantly reduce the size of our fleet and damage America's national security, forcing the Navy to cover the same geographic area with significantly fewer assets.

The LCS is the rare military program that has seen costs decrease instead of increase over time. The LCS has adhered to stringent contractual and budgetary constraints and is locked into fixed price contracts and a congressionally mandated cost cap. Littoral Combat Ships are being built today at an average cost of \$350 million per hull, well under the Cost Cap and at half the cost of the first ships of class.

Any further reductions will lead to cost increases and, more importantly, put the Frigate Program at significant cost and schedule risk.

Reductions will also greatly impact the shipyards in Alabama and Wisconsin, and the broader shipbuilding industrial base. Because of these considerations, I ask the Subcommittee to support the President's

budget and provide the funds necessary to procure three Littoral Combat Ships in this year's budget.

JOINT HIGH SPEED VESSEL

Next, I'd like to share my support for the Joint High Speed Vessel, or JHSV. The JHSV is a shallow draft, high-speed catamaran used for the intra-theater transport of personnel, equipment and supplies, providing access to shallow water and often times austere off load points. The JHSV is the only Navy asset that combines high-payload capacity with high-speed, providing combatant commanders a unique sealift mobility capability. In automotive terms, the vessel has been compared to a pickup truck – able to support a wide range of missions for all the services.

The JHSV has demonstrated the ability to transport military forces, as well as humanitarian relief personnel and materiel. Since delivery of the initial JHSV, these ships have deployed globally and supported a wide

range of operations, including supporting disaster recovery operations after the Indian Ocean earthquake and Tsunami in 2004 and the Japanese earthquake and Tsunami in 2011. As we meet, USNS Spearhead is completing her second deployment to the 6th Fleet Area of Responsibility to support operations in EUCCOM and AFRICOM. She is scheduled to make her second deployment to SOUTHCOM later this year. Clearly, the JHSV is effectively filling a critical gap.

The Department of Defense places a premium on the ability of U.S. military forces to deploy quickly to a full spectrum of engagements. In addition, the Department values the ability of U.S. forces to debark and embark in a wide range of port environments, from modern to austere. The JHSV has demonstrated the ability to effectively support both of these needs.

Furthermore, the Navy, Marine Corps and Special Forces have all expressed interest in increasing the capability of the JHSV to support

additional missions. Studies are currently underway to accommodate the MV-22 Osprey and to provide increased capability to support Navy/Marine Corps sea-basing requirements.

The JHSV is currently in serial production with a stable and highly trained work force; we are benefiting from the efficiencies gained through the construction of the initial six vessels. In order to ensure the capability to build these ships to meet Fleet demand, and maintain the affordable price, we need to keep the production line open.

Unfortunately, without further procurement in FY16, the line will close.

Like the LCS, the JHSV program provides the Navy with a very affordable and capable ship. At roughly \$180M per ship, the JHSV costs a fraction of what other shipbuilding programs cost, and with production steaming along, new JHSVs are rolling off the line every six months. The program has clearly matured into what can only be

considered efficient, serial production. We shouldn't let that go to waste.

Thank you very much for your time today. I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts on these two valuable ships with the Subcommittee.

Members' Day Testimony- Rep. Earl L. 'Buddy' Carter (1st District of Georgia)

Thank you for this opportunity to share with you my concerns and priorities for the military installations within Georgia's First Congressional District. It's an honor to represent a district which houses four major military installations, every branch of the military, and thousands of veterans who have served our country so honorably. With this unique military footprint, the district's defense elements are important not just to our state and region but to the nation and America's interests around the world.

The First District is the proud home of Ft. Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield. As the largest Army installation east of the Mississippi River and home to the "Rock of the Marne," the 3rd Infantry Division (ID), Ft. Stewart has a long and storied past as well as a vibrant role in today's national defense missions. Its level of significance and contributions continues to be a point of pride for the district, from spearheading of the advance into Baghdad during Operation Iraqi Freedom to the deployment of soldiers to West Africa to help contain the Ebola outbreak. Today, as I speak, the 3rd ID is deployed to Afghanistan and Eastern Europe.

With the Army's planned manpower drawdowns, the maintenance of effective troop levels and missions sets at Ft. Stewart has become a very concerning issue. I've heard discussions about reducing the total number of Army Brigade Combat Teams (BCTs) nationwide and additional manpower cuts which could affect the 3rd ID by the reduction of one or even two BCTs. Such reductions would be a severe blow to the ability of the 3rd ID, Ft. Stewart and Hunter to provide their extraordinary capability to our national defense.

Fort Stewart and Hunter are uniquely equipped and strategically located to deliver a devastating blow to our adversaries world-wide. It has vast training areas, modern facilities and

an extraordinary network of intermodal deployment options through nearby ports and on-base and nearby airports. For those reasons and more, I am requesting that the Army broaden its evaluation of Fort Stewart and Hunter with regard to BCT reductions. That should include factors such as cost efficiencies of operations and speed of deployment, the regional training capabilities with other installations, and community support.

The regional capabilities and multi-service resources include another unique resource of national significance located in the First District-- the Townsend Bombing Range (TBR). TBR is itself owned by the Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort and operated by the Georgia Air National Guard. Townsend is integral not just to the State of Georgia but also to the Air Force, Navy, Army, Air National Guard and Marine Corps elements that use it. Recently, I've learned that the Air National Guard (ANG) Headquarters has signed over the operational control of TBR to the USMC because of the apparent ANG inability to devote the necessary personnel resources for the expansion of the range. While we're excited that the range is expanding to accommodate 5th generation fighters like the F-35, there are concerns about access to the range by other services and the provision of adequate resources to address community concerns. Two counties in my district, Long and McIntosh, are in discussion with the USMC about compensation for losses to their tax digests, and I am working with the Marine Corps to secure clarification on a number of related questions and issues.

Nearby Fort Stewart, my district proudly includes the Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base, located in St. Mary's, Georgia. Kings Bay is the home port for the Atlantic ballistic missile submarine fleet. The fleet of submarines located at Kings Bay plays an indispensable role in our nation's security as an element of the nation's nuclear triad. It is currently home to 8 Ohio-class submarines, 6 of which are ballistic missile submarines and 2 of which have been converted to

guided missile submarines. While these submarines fulfill a critical role in nuclear deterrence and readiness, they will soon be reaching the end of their expected timeline and a replacement will be needed. The last guided missile submarine is expected to be retired in 2028, leaving the Navy with a 60% reduction in in undersea strike capacity.

The first Ohio-class replacement submarine was originally scheduled to be procured in FY2019, but necessary deferments by the Navy have pushed back that timeline. This means that there may be a gap in the retirement of the Ohio-class boats and the procurement and production of its replacement class of boats. Because of this, I submitted a programmatic request in support of the Department of Defense's budget line of \$1.391 billion for the Ohio replacement development in accordance with the President's budget.

The Virginia-class fast attack submarine is another major program with a critical role in the defense of our nation and our Navy. With the Ohio-class replacements on the horizon, Virginia-class submarines will continue to fulfill a larger role in the submarine fleet, especially with their life expectancy projected to reach as far as 2070. The Virginia Payload Module (VPM) is a cost-effective way to preserve our undersea strike capacity by adding expanded capabilities and armaments to the Virginia-class submarine fleet. With the rise in development and procurement of anti-access and area denial systems, undersea strikes will, through necessity, assume a more dominant role in future conflicts. It is through an expansion program, like the Virginia Payload Module, that we would be able to effectively maintain our capabilities while assuming cost savings until a guided missile replacement can enter service. The development of the Virginia Payload Module must continue to ensure that all Block 5 boats procured in Fiscal Years 2019 through 2023 can incorporate the capabilities of the expansion. This will help to ensure that we don't have a loss in undersea strike capabilities between the retirement of the

Ohio-class submarine and the procurement and construction of its replacement boat. It is for all these reasons discussed that I am requesting \$168 million for the development of the Virginia Payload Module.

Moody Air Force Base located in Lowndes County is currently home to the 23rd Wing of the Air Combat Command as well as the 94rd Air Ground Operations Wing. The A-10s, operated by the 23rd Wing, have been providing critical close air support (CAS) for our ground troops since they first entered service in the 1970s. It is this unique ability to perform effective close air support that has garnered the A-10 with high accolades in recent theatres of conflict, including Iraq and Afghanistan. As we speak, A-10s are flying CAS missions against ISIS advances in Iraq. In an article dated from January of this year, Iraqi News reported that “the aircraft sparked panic in the ranks of ISIS after bombing its elements and flying in space close to the ground.” This combination of abilities and its record of survivability against defensive platforms have earned it many supporters over the years and has elevated the airframe to a level of CAS that is unmatched by anything in our fleet of aircraft, including the untested F-35 in CAS missions.

Plain and simple, the A-10 is the only aircraft of its kind that can effectively accomplish its mission of protecting our troops while loitering around the battlefield for any additional support that may be needed by ground forces. The A-10 platforms provide a cost-effective and proven mission set that is fully capable of filling a role that no other airframe can accomplish to that degree. With the F-35 untested in the CAS role, we cannot afford to retire the A-10 airframes, especially with no how much life is left in the planes. That’s why I am requesting your support of full funding for the A-10 fleet in the Fiscal Year 2016 Defense Appropriations bill.

I also would like to discuss United States Marine Corps (USMC) procurement. The Marine Corps is a service that has learned to do more with less. Their procurement process is often different than the other services because they service a wide range of missions for a smaller force. The engineer equipment currently in use by Marine Corps operators is insufficient in today's wartime environments and doesn't provide adequate protection for those Marines who are in harm's way. In addition, the committee has previously recognized the need for versatile engineer vehicles, especially backhoes, for expeditionary forces and for homeland support missions. It is for this reason that I am requesting to provide an additional \$15 million for the USMC's Engineer and Other Equipment procurement account.

Lastly, I want to address improved camouflage systems and their role to the services in future conflicts. Current camouflage netting systems do not afford proper concealment against enemy threats, specifically short-wave infrared (SWIR) sensors. Research and development of next generation systems is essential for our military to maintain the edge against our adversaries in multiple environments. For that reason, I have requested report language encouraging development of new and improved camouflage netting systems that will thoroughly provide protection for our troops.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony to the Subcommittee today. With our rich military heritage, these issues are extremely important to me and my constituents in the First District of Georgia. I'm very proud of the men and women who serve in our military and it is my intention, as I am sure it is yours, to do everything possible to ensure they continue to be the best equipped, most highly trained, and well cared for fighting force in the world. I appreciate your attention to these requests and thank you again for the time today.

Member Testimony Submission
Congressman Keith Rothfus (PA-12)
House Appropriations Committee, Defense Subcommittee
Wednesday, April 15, 2015

Chairman Frelinghuysen, Ranking Member Visclosky, and Members of the Subcommittee:

Thank you for holding this hearing today and for receiving my testimony on the Fiscal Year 2016 Defense Appropriations bill. To be sure, with increased budgetary pressure, your work in crafting this important legislation will be filled with difficult choices about which programs to fund and where to cut.

It would have been my preference that Congress would have addressed this issue directly during the budget process and taken steps to responsibly fund our national defense, on-budget and with offsetting cuts. Unfortunately, that did not come to pass, and we are left with the present task of trying to fulfill our greatest responsibility while hampered by unnecessary fiscal constraints.

It is a result of these constraints that our military has been forced to implement policies like the Army's Aviation Restructuring Initiative (ARI). As you know, this policy will result in the Army eliminating all single-engine rotary wing aircraft (for example, OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopters) from its inventory and transferring all National Guard AH-64 Apaches to the active component. Army officials have stated that this restructuring is necessary to generate savings and make the remaining aviation fleet more affordable. I have long opposed this plan and for the second year in a row ask, Mr. Chairman, savings at what cost?

Since 9/11, the National Guard has repeatedly risen to the occasion. They have answered the call and fought bravely in Iraq and Afghanistan. At the height of these wars, nearly fifty percent of the Army's total force was a mix of reservists and members of the National Guard. The Pennsylvania National Guard alone contributed more than 42,000 individual deployments. They have fought side-by-side with the active component, all while continuing to achieve their important mission here at home. As the National Governors Association put it best, the modern National Guard has become "a highly experienced and capable combat force and an essential State partner in responding to domestic disasters and emergencies."

ARI will have devastating impacts on all that the National Guard has achieved. By stripping the National Guard of its Apache helicopters, the Army is ensuring that the National Guard will be less combat-ready and less able to provide operational depth. It will also deprive our nation of an operational reserve for these aircraft, which is essential to retention and management of talented aircrews. This represents a fundamental shift in the nature and role of the National Guard. It runs counter to the wisdom and preference of many members of Congress and their constituents.

This issue is important in Pennsylvania and to the 1-104th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion (ARB) in Johnstown. These highly-trained airmen and crew played an invaluable aerial support role in Afghanistan, where they flew their Apache helicopters and fought alongside the active component. The Army now proposes to replace these Apaches with a smaller

number of Blackhawks. This reduction will deprive the National Guard of both highly-trained personnel and equipment. It will result in the National Guard being less effective, less combat-capable, and less able to heed the call to defend this nation, both at home and abroad. Major General Wesley Craig, former-Adjutant General for the Pennsylvania National Guard, summarized this well when he stated that this “does not make sense for our community, commonwealth, or country.”

I offered similar criticism of ARI last year and joined my colleagues in urging for the creation of the National Commission on the Future of the Army. I also advocated that there should be no transfers or divestment of any Army aircraft, including Apaches, until after the Commission has had sufficient opportunity to examine ARI. I applauded the House Armed Services Committee for including those important provisions in the FY15 National Defense Authorization Act. But I was disappointed to see that, at the insistence of the Senate, the legislation also contained a glaring exception that allows the Army to transfer up to 48 Apaches beginning on October 1, 2015, prior to the Commission releasing its findings and recommendations.

When this legislation passed, many justifiably understood that the National Guard could comply by transferring a small number of Apaches from many different ARBs. The Army disagreed with that approach, however, and demanded that the National Guard inactivate two ARBs in their entirety. That is why, on April 1st, National Guard Bureau (NGB) announced that the 1-104th and 1-135th ARBs, located in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, and

Whiteman Air Force Base, in Missouri, would be shut down. To me, it is unconscionable that these decisions are being made before the Commission has even held its first meeting.

The Commission was established to offer a deliberate approach to addressing force structure issues like ARI. So how does it make any sense to permit the Army to transfer these Apaches before the Commission has done its work? The answer is simple: It doesn't, and we need to put a stop to this before it is too late. Even NGB Chief General Frank Grass admits that once these transfers begin, it will be all but impossible to reverse them.

For that reason, I respectfully request that this Committee include a simple provision in this year's Defense Appropriations bill that prohibits funding to transfer any Apaches until the end of Fiscal Year 2016. This will provide sufficient time for the Commission to release its report, for the Army and the National Guard to respond, and for Congress to make a reasoned and well-informed decision.

Again, I recognize that this Committee will be forced to make many difficult decisions over the next month. But this isn't one of them. Providing a temporary freeze on the transfer of Apaches just makes sense and will ensure that irreparable harm is not done to our National Guard without due deliberation.

Thank you for the opportunity to address you this morning, and I am happy to address any questions that you may have.

STATEMENT BY

THE HONORABLE BRENDA L. LAWRENCE

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE OF THE 14TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON DEFENSE

FIRST SESSION, 114TH CONGRESS

ON DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

APRIL 15, 2015 AT 9:30 A.M.

H-140, THE CAPITOL

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Visclosky, for having me here this morning. I would also like to thank all the members of the committee for allowing me the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

I was still a teenager when we pulled out of Vietnam. Yet, I remember vividly the impact it had on our country and how it changed our thoughts on war and diplomacy. The role of women in this country was changing as well.

The women's movement of the 1970s was in part a reaction to the type of happy homemaker that was often portrayed in television sitcoms in the 1950s. Young women coming of age in the 1950s were only exposed to housewives like those in *Leave It to Beaver*, *The Donna Reed Show* and *Father Knows Best*. A working woman as a role model did not come along until the late 1960s and early 1970s, with shows such as *Julia* with Diahann Carroll or *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*. A new social movement took center stage in the 1970s. It followed the lead of the civil rights movement, and allowed women to push not just for more educational opportunities but for equality in all aspects of their lives.

The military moved much slower than private industry to include women beyond the role of caregiver, nurse, or administrative assistant. Yet it has come a long way from only having women serve in supportive, secondary roles to their male counterparts.

Now more than 200,000 women are in the active-duty military, including almost 70 generals and admirals. That number comprises approximately 74,000 in the Army, 53,000 in the Navy, 62,000 in the Air Force and 14,000 in the Marine Corps. Women make up about 14.5 percent of the active-duty force of almost 1.4 million.

Among the top ranks, only 7.1 percent of the 976 generals and admirals are women. Broken down this number remains way too small with 28 female generals in the Air Force, 19 in the Army, 21 female admirals in the Navy, and only 1 in the Marine Corps. Among the enlisted ranks, 60 percent of women are still in either the medical or administrative specialties; another 30 percent are in the supply units or part of the communications staff. The numbers are not much different for female officers.

While the move to lift the ban and open combat units in the military to women seemed risky to some, I strongly believe like many others – that it is about time. As former Secretary of Defense, Leon Panetta stated, “If members of our military can meet the qualifications for a job, then they should have the right to serve, regardless of creed or color or gender or sexual orientation.”

To promote gender equality, we have to ensure that our militaries’ tests and training reflect the true nature of combat rather than preconceived and traditional notions of what it means to be a good soldier. Women make up over half the population in the United States and slightly less than half of the workforce. And while the private sector still struggles with the glass ceiling and pay equality is still not realized -- we are making great strides. The military must continue to make great strides as well.

I am pleased that the National Defense Authorization Act removed several barriers to women currently serving and those planning to serve; including:

- 1) More gender-neutral occupational standards that by January 2016 will allow almost all military positions and units to be open to women;
- 2) A requirement that combat equipment for women be properly designed and fitted and meet required standards for wear and survivability;
- 3) The armed forces need to have a strong pool of highly qualified individuals to meet their leadership needs. I am pleased that NDAA requires a review by the Comptroller General to review outreach and recruitment efforts toward women officers. This review should help identify and evaluate current recruiting methods and put forward new ones, including new ways to increase the number of young women into and graduating from the military academies; and
- 4) Finally the attempt to stem the Congress here continues its practice of legislating in various ways in an attempt to stem the tide of military sexual assaults. Thankfully the “good soldier defense”—which considered those of general military character toward the probability of innocence in sexual assault prosecutions was eliminated. Victims can now be consulted regarding their preference for prosecuting offenders by court-martial or through civilian channels.

While these and the other provisions may be beneficial, they do not go far enough. I agree with the National Women’s Law Center that the most effective way to combat sexual assaults would be to create an independent, unbiased system of military justice, as provided in the proposed Military Justice Improvement Act. Issues of retaliation must be addressed. I hope these important aspects of the NDAA are fully funded and monitored by this subcommittee and by the full committee as well.

While issues such as changes in combat equipment and design take time, I respectfully request that a report on timing and cost is submitted to the committee. We would expect the services to move with all deliberate speed if our soldier’s equipment did not allow them to effectively engage the enemy. This should be true for all service-members not just the men.

Mr. Chairman, we are in a time of fighting on multiple fronts using weapons we could not have even imagined during the Vietnam-era. Most of these weapons require more brains and less brawn. They require knowledge of cyber warfare, the ability to use missiles and drones to fight from a distance. These and other modern weapons have equalized the potential for women in combat, since wars are less likely to be fought on a hand-to-hand basis. Many of the new military occupations are or can become gender-neutral. They focus on the service-members intellect not their physical stature.

The fast pace advance of technology is producing changes in the threats we face. How can we keep up? The answer is to be just as innovative with our human resources strategy as we are with our weapons and tactics. We need new ways to recruit the best talent to defend our nation. One of those ways is to better utilize the other half of the population – women.

One young woman so poignantly asked “How can we effect change in the world when only half of it is invited or feel welcome to participate in the conversation?” Women must be a part of the security conversations and this committee has the power to include them by funding provisions that support greater involvement.

Members of this committee know the world is changing, warfare is changing, and our military must change with it or suffer the consequence. Cybersecurity is a gender-neutral occupation. Allowing both men and women to serve our country and protect our nation as equals. I hope we will continue to see this growing area of concern addressed through effective human resourcing and adequate funding for advanced technology.

Just as we fund equality programs for girls in Afghanistan, we must push for that same idea here. Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Pete Visclosky and members of this subcommittee; I am aware of how difficult your job is in these tight fiscal times. You serve to fund a part of our nation that is critical to our very well-being as Americans. This is an awesome power and as such it comes with a heavy responsibility.

As you consider what to provide full funding for or what to decrease, I respectfully ask that you maintain full funding for provisions that address changes to combat equipment, support for sexual assault victims, female outreach and recruitment programs, and gender-occupational policy reviews. I do not say this just because I am a women and a member of congress. I say this because I am also a mother and a grandmother, that taught both her son and her daughter that they could grow up in this great country and be anything they set their mind to. We should not fund programs that push for equality abroad if we are not willing to push for full equality here at home.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Testimony before HACD regarding F/A-18 Super Hornets

Wednesday, April 15 @ 9:50am

Representative Ann Wagner (MO-2)

Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member, and Members of the Subcommittee, I want to extend my appreciation for the work that you do. As the proud mother of a son serving in the United States Army, and representing thousands of constituents that wear the uniform, I know firsthand the importance of this Subcommittee's work for our national security.

The past two years I've become very familiar with the Navy's tactical aviation capabilities. Last year, this Subcommittee responded to the Navy's requirement for more electronic attack capabilities by providing 15 EA-18G Growlers in the Fiscal Year 2015 budget. Those aircraft will provide a warfighting capability that no adversary can match. Growlers will keep our Navy equipped to overcome enemies today and in the future in all threat environments. For that, I would like to say thank you.

Today I am here to support adding F/A-18 aircraft to the Fiscal Year 2016 budget. As you know, the Navy submitted an "Unfunded Requirement" for 12 F/A-18 "F model" aircraft. In testimony, the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), Admiral Jonathan Greenert, stated that the Navy has a "Super Hornet shortfall" of at least two or three squadrons – the equivalent of 24-36 aircraft. An aging fleet of legacy aircraft, the delayed operational deployment of the F-35 program, and the higher than anticipated utilization of Super Hornets in combat are contributing to this shortfall. To this last point, the Super Hornet is truly the workhorse of naval combat operations against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). By some estimates, the Super Hornets today are flying four times the anticipated rate. It is an absolutely critical, in-demand weapon against our enemies. To exacerbate the shortfall challenge, the Navy has lost 15 Super Hornets and Hornets over the past 5 years to battle or training losses – aircraft that have not been replaced by the Navy or Congress.

The strike fighter shortfall identified in the Unfunded Requirement request is not a new issue to the Navy, and it is one identified by this Subcommittee repeatedly. The HACD has been on the leading edge of telling the Navy to address its inventory challenges. We all wish that the President's Budget request included additional F/A-18 Super Hornets, and we all expect the Navy to address the total extent of the shortfall in subsequent budgets. However, without aircraft in Fiscal Year 2016, the F/A-18 program faces a line closure decision. The F/A-18 manufacturing line is the only aircraft production with the ability to build operational strike fighters for the Navy today and AEA aircraft for the entire Department of Defense. Without it, the Navy couldn't address its shortfall, nor could it add Growlers in the future. Recall that there is likely a larger, joint requirement for more EA-18G Growlers that is pending further analysis. I would not be in front of you today if funding additional aircraft were not so vital to our warfighting capabilities. Adding aircraft and keeping the F/A-18 line alive is the right thing to do to keep our military personnel safe and to keep our country and allies safe.

I have provided a copy of a House letter signed by myself and my colleagues requesting additional aircraft. These are Members who have stood by the Subcommittee to support defense appropriations in years past. I have also added a copy of the "Unfunded Requirement"

highlighting the Navy's request for 12 aircraft. I ask that both of these documents be submitted as part of my written testimony.

In closing, I urge you add 12 F/A-18 aircraft to ensure the Navy can protect our nation now and decades to come. I look forward to working with this subcommittee and supporting the Appropriations process as it moves through the House of Representatives. I stand at your service and thank you for yours.